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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

121

Press
Mis.

Dated

19-1-1875 196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th January 1875.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 256. From R. SMITH, Esq., District Engineer, Nellore, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Nellore, 3rd December 1874, No. 81.

I HAVE the honor to bring to your notice that the removal of the Telegraph Office from this station to Ongole, a town 73 miles from the Nellore Anicut, will deprive us of the means of obtaining timely information from Cuddapah regarding floods in the Pennair, and as this will be very necessary during the extension of the anicut, I trust Government will be pleased to reconsider their Order, No. 1,367, dated 22nd May 1874, acquiescing in the transfer of the Telegraph Office from Nellore to Ongole.

2. I would take this opportunity of suggesting, for the consideration of Government, the advisability of requesting the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company to contribute towards the support of the Telegraph Office here; for if it is abolished they would no doubt very often lose a considerable volume of water

* *Vide* paragraph 4 of Colonel Mullins' note embodied in G. O., No. 1,805, dated 6th July 1874.

before a letter from this office * could reach their Manager, intimating that a supply might be drawn off from the Pennair for the Company's irrigation.

Endorsement of the Revenue Department, dated 17th December 1874.

No. 257. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th December 1874, No. 3,567.

Read the following letter from G. VANSAGNEW, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 7th November 1874, No. 2,608.

I HAVE the honor to draw the Board's attention to the marginally noted Board's Miscellaneous No. 863 of 12th, on G.O., correspondence on the subject of the R. D., of 5th February 1873, No. 30. Telegraph Office at Nellore, and to request them to move the Government to reconsider their assent to the proposal to close the Nellore Office and open one in lieu at Ongole.

Board's No. 2,487 of 24th on G. O., R.D., of 21st April 1873, No. 181.

Board's No. 3,696 of 3rd June, on G. O., P. W. D., of 22nd May 1874, No. 1,367.

Board's No. 7,619 of 2nd November, on G. O., R.D., of 21st October 1874, No. 158.

2. By the first quoted Government Order, I was called on to report on the question of the retention of the office at Nellore, the Superintendent having represented the same to be a constant source of loss. He further asked whether, if the closing be deemed inadvisable, free quarters could not be supplied.

3. From the second quoted Proceedings, it will be seen that I reported from the data then before me that, the Municipal Commissioners having agreed to provide free quarters, the anticipated annual deficit would be Rupees 640. The Board expressed their opinion that it was very desirable to maintain telegraphic communication with Nellore, and recommended Government to accept the arrangement proposed; and, under the circumstances, the Government concurred in considering it expedient to retain the office, and ordered a report on the financial result to be submitted after a year.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
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4. From the third Proceedings, the Board will observe that on the Superintendent reporting the loss on the year to have been Rupees 1,402 instead of Rupees 640, as anticipated by me, and stating that there was no prospect of the office ever being self-supporting, Government authorized its abolition.

5. Up to this time (22nd May last) the idea had not been mooted of opening another office in lieu of the Nellore one between Madras and Guntoor. It is, however, pretty obvious that, if only for departmental purposes, there must be an intermediate office between Madras and Guntoor; for, from the fourth quoted Proceedings, the Board will observe the Superintendent asking Government for a building at Ongole on the ground that "a Telegraph Office at Ongole will be useful for the purpose of maintaining telegraphic communication along this coast, and the loss on the working of an office at that place will probably be less than the loss incurred at Nellore." The Government agreed to lend the building pending the result of the experiment.

6. It will thus be seen that the only economy likely to be effected by depriving the head-quarters of one of the chief provinces in the Madras Presidency of telegraphic communication is the difference between the certain loss there and the equally certain loss at an unimportant place like Ongole.

The Superintendent is not even sure that the difference will be in favor of Ongole, and it is most improbable that it will equal the deficit of Rupees 640, which, when I anticipated it last year, I think I may argue that the Government were prepared to meet on the ground of the expediency of retaining telegraphic communication with Nellore.

7. I venture to doubt whether the Government would have consented to the abolition of the Nellore Office had the Ongole project been then before them, and chiefly on this ground I beg the Board to urge upon the Government a reconsideration of their decision. Recent events here will also serve to illustrate the importance of retaining the Telegraph Office at head-quarters, in the vicinity of which the Government hold so heavy a stake. It is very necessary, moreover, for financial reasons, as the Accountant-General would testify if asked.

8. Nellore would, I believe, be the only head-quarters of any district that would be thus isolated. Ongole and Tripaty, the two nearest telegraph stations, (if the Ongole project is carried out) are both between seventy and eighty miles from Nellore.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. It seems to the Board obvious that if there is to be a Telegraph Station anywhere in the Nellore District it should be at Nellore.

3. The advantage of having a Telegraph Station at the head-quarters of an important district like Nellore seem to the Board to far outweigh the cost which in this case is but trifling.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secy. to Govt. R.D.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th January 1875.*

No. 258.

ORDER THEREON, 15th January 1875, No. 120.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 16.

It is correctly surmised by the Collector of Nellore that had the necessity of one Telegraph Station for departmental purposes in the Nellore District been clearly laid before Government, instead of the abolition of Nellore Station on economical grounds, and the establishment of one at Ongole, without any similar objection being hinted, being separately brought before them, they would never have approved of the substitution of the latter for the former. They now desire that the station be retained at Nellore where it subserves useful public purposes in every department; an advantage which will be entirely lost by the transfer to Ongole, which present no better financial prospect.

(True Extract.)

Connelley Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Nellore.
.. Revenue Department.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

2 Spare Copies

N^o 159
Revenue Department
Govt. of (1875) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
THE DISTRICT ENGINEER, NELLORE,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated January 15th.
Recd. — 16. Encl.

G. O., 15th January 1875, No. 120.

JANUARY.
Nos. 256-258

L. M. S.

Telegraph Office at Nellore. — Ordering
the retention of the — with certain obser-
vations.

N^o 121
Comm. to the
Board of Revenue
19 January 1875 *W*

14. To the Board of Revenue do Jan