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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3481	Press ~~Mis.~~
412-413	
Dated 18-11-	1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
18th November 1865.*

No. 412. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Public Department :—

Concurring in the objections urged by the Railway
authorities against the proposed alteration in
the time of departure of the 5 p.m. train from
Madras, and furnishing the Postmaster General
with copies of the correspondence containing
these objections. (Here enter 8th November 1865, No. 1,165.)

No. 413. ORDER THEREON, 18th November 1865, No. 3,481.

RAILWAY, No. 42.

Communicated to the Consulting Engineer for
Railways.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Erd. S. T. Augustin.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
8th November 1865.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 38. From the Postmaster General, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 16th October 1865, No. 5037.

I have the honor to request that you will bring to the notice of Government the inconvenience which arises from the night train leaving Madras at the early hour now fixed, 5 P. M., and the very great advantage which the public would gain if it could be made to start at 8 P. M.

2. With some trifling exceptions, all letters, &c., sent by post now leave Madras by Railway, but as those only which are posted at the General Post Office, by 3-15 P. M., or in the suburbs by about noon, can be sent by the night train, it follows that the great bulk of the correspondence of Madras (which is posted of course later) is necessarily detained a whole night in the Madras Post Office, and the time required for the transmission of a letter to any part of India is thus 12 hours more than it would be if the change which I suggest could be made.

Referred to the Consulting Engineer for Railways, for report, after communication with the Railway authorities.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

17th October 1865.

No. 39. From the Consulting Engineer for Railways, to the Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 30th October 1865, No. 592.

In reference to the docket on a letter* from the Postmaster General of Madras, requesting an alteration in the time of the night train leaving Madras, I have the honor to forward, for the information of Government, copy of my letter† to the Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway, and of his reply,‡ and to state that

I do not approve of the alteration suggested by the Postmaster General.

1st.—Because it would subject travellers to much inconvenience, and defeat, in a great measure, their object in travelling by the night train.

2ndly.—Because it would be detrimental to the interests of the Railway Company.

From the Consulting Engineer for Railways, to the Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company; dated Madras, 19th October 1865, No. 720.

I have the honor to forward, for an expression of your own and the Traffic Manager's views, copy of a letter from the Postmaster General to the Chief Secretary to Government, requesting that an alteration be made in the time of starting the night train from Madras from 5 to 8 P. M.

2. There can be no doubt that the alteration would greatly facilitate the Despatch of letters up-country; but it appears to me very doubtful whether it would suit those travellers who use the night trains with a view to escape the heat.

3. Under existing arrangements, passengers leaving Madras at 5 P. M., do not get to Bangalore before 7 A. M., Salem before 6-30 A. M., and Coimbatore before 12-20 P. M., the following day; and a delay of three hours would of course defeat, in a great measure, the object of travelling by the night trains.

4. The night train being moreover a goods' train, its late despatch from Madras would probably, for many reasons, be objectionable.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department.
8th November 1865.

From the Agent and Manager, Madras Railway Company, to the Consulting Engineer for Railways; dated Madras, 27th October 1865, No. 761.

In reply to your letter of the 19th instant, No. 720, I have the honor to forward the following Extract from a communication, No. 417, dated the 25th instant, from the Traffic Manager, in whose views, as to the undesirability of starting the afternoon train from Madras, at 8 P. M., as proposed by the Postmaster General, I beg to express my concurrence.

"I am quite of Major Shaw Stewart's opinion that a change in the hour of starting the night train from 5 to 8 P. M., would be found inconvenient by passengers leaving Madras for Salem and Bangalore, but this is not the only or most serious objection to such a change.

"The 5 P. M. train from Madras runs through to Beypore, and is due at that Station at 6-30 P. M., on the following day. If the hour of starting from Madras be changed to 8 P. M., the train would not reach Beypore until 9-30 P. M., and this would necessitate the employment of night Line Watchmen between Shoranoor and Beypore, at an extra cost to the Railway Company.

"This objection, however, might be met, if the Postmaster General would consent to pay this extra cost, but we have another difficulty to contend with.

"Between Salem and Beypore, 3rd Class passengers are conveyed by the "through" train, and the local traffic between Paulghat and Beypore is considerable. Nine-tenths of the passengers going into Beypore are bound to Calicut, and as they have to cross the backwater, and then travel a distance of 7 miles by road, it is not improbable that we should lose the greater part of these travellers, if the time of arrival of the train at Beypore was changed from 6-30 to 9-30 P. M.

"In order to retain the present traffic, we should be compelled to run an extra train between Coimbatore and Beypore at a more convenient hour, but this would be attended with additional cost, which the Railway Company cannot be asked to bear, seeing that there are no corresponding advantages to be derived.

"Under these circumstances I am of opinion that the change sought to be introduced could not be effected without prejudice to the Railway Company's interests, and the inconvenience of the best paying portion of our passenger traffic."

(True Copies).

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, Major, R. E.,
*In charge of the office of the Consulting
Engineer for Railways.*

No. 40.

ORDER THEREON, 8th November 1865, No. 1165.

The Governor in Council directs that copies of Major Shaw Stewart's letter, and its enclosure, be furnished to the Postmaster General.

2. His Excellency in Council concurs in the objections which have been urged by the Railway authorities against the proposed alteration in the time of departure of the night train.

(True Extract).


Chief Secretary.

To the Postmaster General.

„ Public Works Department.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Pro: of Govt: for November

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Pric^e of Govt in the
Public Depotto

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Rec'd B. J. Jones

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Concurring in the
objections urged by the
Railway Authorities
against the proposed al-
teration in the time of
departure of the S.P.M.
train from Madras &
furnishing the Post-
master General with copies
of the correspondence con-
taining these objections.
1931-18 Nov/65
With an order

objections
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Communicated to the Conducting

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To the Postmaster General.

„ Public Works Department. „

Exd. J. H. Burns.