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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3559

Press

~~Mis.~~

580-581

Dated

26. 11.

1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
24th November 1865.*

No. 580. Read the following letter from the Acting Deputy Consulting Engineer for Railways, in charge, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 14th November 1865, No. 566 :—

1. I have the honor to forward, for the information of Government, Extracts from a letter* from the Agent of the Great Southern of India Railway, to the Board of Directors in England, on the following subjects :—

* Dated 10th November 1865.

“ Removal of Permanent Way ; ”

“ Power of Attorney ; ”

“ Passengers' Fares, ” and

“ Nagore Feast. ”

2. The first subject has reference to Order No. 464, dated 12th August 1865, Financial (Railway) Department, and the third subject to Order of the 2nd instant, No. 3,303.

Extracts from a letter from the Agent and Traffic Manager of the Great Southern of India Railway, to the Railway Board of Directors, dated 10th November 1865.

Removal of Permanent Way.

This appears to have ceased as suddenly as it commenced. Since the 11th August last no case has been reported. A previous letter told you that one of our Gate-keepers had been tried for the 32nd mile case, found guilty, and sentenced to seven years' transportation, the infliction of this punishment has undoubtedly produced a good effect. The Chief Magistrate of Tanjore in reporting the case to Government observed :—“ The culprit's motive was to throw suspicion on his neighbour “ the Mile Watchman, get him dismissed from the employ of the Railway, and then succeed to the “ post himself, he being the next on the list for promotion to that appointment.

The pay of these Mile Watchmen has been very low, from 3 to 3½ Rupees per mensem. It has now been arranged, with the sanction of Government, to give a greater length (a mile and a half) of line to each Watchman to look after, and thereby reduce the number on the staff, increasing at the same time the pay to Rupees 5 per mensem. In addition to this, the line between Negapatam and Salamangalam is divided into four Districts, to each of which a Head Constable of the Mofussil Police has been appointed. These men walk over their Districts daily, and they are under the supervision of a European Inspector, this arrangement is being acted upon in place of the proposal (referred to in previous letters) for watching the places where obstructions had been placed.

Power of Attorney.

On page 13 of my letter No. 128 of the 10th June last, I gave you the following Extract from a letter written by the Secretary and Treasurer of the Bank of Madras * * “ The Power “ should further authorize you to appoint a substitute, to admit of the interest being realized by the “ Bank as your Attorney.”

* The Power of Attorney received from the Board having been sent to the Accountant General for registration, Mr. Macleod replies to the Secretary and Treasurer of the Bank of Madras : “ I have to remark that the Power in question is insufficient for this Office to pass the “ interest on the Government Securities belonging to the Company on your receipt, as Mr. Bett's “ Attorney, even if supported by Mr. Bett's Power in your favor, inasmuch as the Directors of the “ Company have not authorized him to appoint a substitute.”

As it would be very inconvenient for me to proceed to Madras to draw the interest personally, I have obtained the authority of the Accountant General to withdraw interest from the Government Treasury at Tanjore. Business is so much hampered in this country by the many forms and ceremonies which have to be followed, that I would strongly recommend the Directors

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to deal with the "Fire Insurance Fund" at home, where quite as safe and good investments can be made. I could remit to you half-yearly the sum of £250, and the stock now held here could be sold out when the market rises, and the proceeds thereof also remitted to you. Let me know if the Board agrees to the adoption of such an arrangement.

Passenger Fares.

Press copy of a Government paper, which I have just received, will be found in the book parcel. The Secretary to the Government of India, founding his judgment upon the traffic of a year ago and without references to what is doing at present, suggests a reduction of the 3rd class fare from four to two Pies per mile, and of the second class fare from eight to five Pies. I cannot now answer the several points of his letter, but by the next mail I will send you a copy of my reply to the Consulting Engineer. In this reply I shall of course decline to make the suggested reductions.

Nagore Feast.

This has passed over without the slightest accident occurring. During the week about 30,000 people were conveyed over the line, and as nearly all came and went away upon the same two days our resources were taxed to the utmost. From 25 to 30 covered Goods Trucks had to be pressed into the Passenger service. Our accounts are not yet fully made up, but I see the receipts for last week will amount to about Rupees 14,700.

(True Extracts.)

(Signed) H. N. D. PRENDERGAST, Major, R. E.,
Ag. Dy. Consgr. Engr. for Railways in charge.

No. 581. ORDER THEREON, 24th November 1865, No. 3,559.

RAILWAY, No. 54.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

9th Nov 65. Dep^y
to the Secy of the Navy
From the Secy of the Navy

The Ag. Dy. Consq. Engineer
for Rps in charge

To the Secretary to Govt. of India
Fort Saint George

Dated 14 November /65
Recd 15

N^o 566.

Enclosure - 1.

Enclosure

Forwarding
Extracts from a letter
from the Agent of the
G. S. of I. Ry. to the Board
of Directors in England,
on certain subjects.

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