

(1) Number of pages.....

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1877	Press ~~Mis.~~
326-324	
Dated 15-6-	1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department
15th June 1866.

No. 326. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department :—

Requesting that it may be ascertained how far
the Railway authorities are liable for the
recent damage by fire to the Native In- (Here enter 7th June 1866, No. 1,939.)
fantry Lines at Royapooram.

No. 327. ORDER THEREON, 15th June 1866, No. 1,879.

RAILWAY, No. 27.

Communicated to the Acting Con-
sulting Engineer for Railways, for early
report with reference to paragraph 2.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

Memorandum from the Quarter Master General,... Here enter 2nd May 1866, No. ⁸⁴₄₄₅₃.
Report from the Controller of Mily. Accounts, ... " 26th " " A.
Memorandum from the Quarter Master General, Head Quarters, Ootacamund,
2nd May 1866, No. ⁸⁴₄₁₉₃; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department,
Fort Saint George.

Forwarded to Government, through Controller of Military Accounts, in view
to the sum of Rupees 992-13-0, being deducted from the sum which would have
been due to Government, had the huts been handed over to the 3rd Light Infantry,
and in view to such action being taken in connection with the railway authorities,
as may seem required.

From the Officer Commanding Centre Division, Head Quarters, Madras, 6th April 1866, No. 37;
to the Quarter Master General, Fort Saint George.

I have the honor to report that a portion of the unoccupied Lines lately vacated by the 16th
Regiment were burnt down on the 22nd ultimo, and I herewith forward the Proceedings of a
Court of Inquiry assembled the following day to ascertain the cause of the fire. About 245 huts
were destroyed, and a roll is in preparation, shewing the numbers of houses destroyed and the
value of them according to the Proceedings of the valuation Committee assembled on the embar-
cation of the 16th Regiment Native Infantry. I delayed this Report with the hope of being able to
send the roll, above alluded to, at the same time, but as there is some difficulty in preparing a
correct roll, I cannot delay this Report any longer, and the roll will be forwarded when ready.

At a Court of Inquiry held at Madras on the 24th March 1866, by order of Major General
J. R. Smyth, C. B., Commanding Centre Division, to investigate and report on the cause of the
fire in the Lines lately occupied by the 16th Regiment Native Infantry at Royapooram, which
occurred on the 22nd March 1866.

PRESIDENT.

Lieutenant Colonel C. M. SHAKSPEAR, 9th Native Infantry.

MEMBERS.

Captain C. F. J. SKOTTOWE, 2nd Native Infantry.

" A. H. M. DICKEY, " "

The Court having assembled at 6 o'clock A. M. pursuant to order, President and Members all
present, the Order directing the Court's assembly is duly read.

The Court proceeds to investigate the case.

1st evidence.—Private No. 2338, Coondiah, 2nd Native Infantry being called, states:—On
the 22nd March 1866, I was Sentry over the Lines of Royapooram (over the Lines of
Nos 1 and 2 Companies,) at 2 o'clock P. M. the train passed within twenty paces of the Lines,
after the train had passed by about one hundred paces, I discovered that fire had ignited in house
No. 243, I at once called out and gave the alarm to the other men on duty in the Lines, and told
the next Sentry to call the Havildar of the Line Guard; as there was no person near the house
at the time, I am of opinion that the fire must have been caused by sparks from the passing train.

The evidence retires.

2nd evidence.—Private No. 2378, Venketsawmy, 2nd Regiment Native Infantry, states:—On
the 22nd March, immediately after the 2 P. M. train had passed, Private Coondiah called out to
me that fire had broken out in the Lines 16th Regiment Native Infantry, and to call the Havildar
of the Line Guard, I did so at once. At the time of the fire there was no person near the Lines.

The evidence retires.

3rd evidence.—Havildar No. 2724, Shekh Fuckrodeen, 2nd Native Infantry, states:—On the
22nd March, I was Havildar of the Line Guard, over the Lines at Royapooram, about 2 P. M.
Private Venketsawmy called out that fire had broken out in the Lines near the rail road, I at

once turned out my Guard and taking water buckets, &c., proceeded to the spot. I found six houses in flames, and as the wind was very strong at the time, the fire spread rapidly, and before I could get it put out, 245 houses were burnt to the ground.

Opinion of the Court.—The Court after inspecting the spot where the fire is stated to have broken out, finds that the house No. 243, as spoken to by the first evidence, is but twenty paces from the railway, and from the fact of the fire having broken out in the middle of the day, and there being apparently no strangers lurking about the spot, is disposed to believe that the origin of the fire was caused by sparks from the Engine of the train alighting on the thatch of the huts, especially as the fire was first seen immediately after the train had passed the spot where it first broke out.

The Court adjourns till further orders.

MADRAS, 24th March 1866.

With report from the Controller of Military Accounts, 26th May 1866, A.

ORDER, No. 1939, 7th June 1866.

The Governor in Council specially sanctions the sum in question being written off from the amount due from the 3rd Regiment Light Infantry, for huts at Royapooram.

Rupees (992-13-0) nine hundred and ninety-two and Annas thirteen.

2. The papers will be referred to the Financial Railway Department, in view to its being ascertained how far the railway authorities are liable for the damage to the Lines in question.

(True Extract.)

Macmillan C.B.
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.

- .. Controller of Military Accounts.
- .. Military Accountant.
- .. Pay Examiner.
- .. Adjutant General.
- .. Financial Railway Department. *With original copies*
- .. Brigade Major, Fort Saint George, } for information.
- .. Barrack Master, do.

Exd. J. E. Cashart.

sent

26 June 1866

*forwarded to the
Ag. Secy: Engrs for Road
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to June 2*

15 June 1866

to the Secy

26 June 1866

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Opinion of the Court.—The Court after inspecting the spot where the fire is stated to have broken out, at the house No. 243, as spoken to by the first evidence, is but twenty paces from the railway being a fire was as the fire

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No 1939

Requesting that
it may be ascertained
how far the Railway
Authorities are liable
for the recent damage
to the line at Nagpur

No 1879-15 June 1866
With an order

No 326-327

Exd. J. E. Cashart.

For security
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