

(1) Number of pages. _____

(2) Date of repair. _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer. _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 562	Press ~~Mis.~~
376-377	
Dated 17 - 2 - 1866.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
17th February 1866.*

No. 376. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department:—

Passing orders on a Memorandum from the Consulting Engineer for Railways, recommending for approval a suggestion of the Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway, that when pensioners employed on the Railway are convicted of theft or embezzlement, they should forfeit their pensions. (Here enter 9th February 1866, No. 541.)

No. 377. ORDER THEREON, 17th February 1866, No. 562.

RAILWAY, No. 28.

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.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

Memorandum from the Consulting Engineer for Railways, Madras, 17th January 1866, No. 23; to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Fort Saint George.

I would strongly recommend Mr. Elwin's suggestion for the approval of Government.

2. It will be observed that the watchmen at all the stations on the Madras Railway—excepting Beypoor—are pensioned sepoys, and that they have been entertained under the impression that the Railway could depend on their honesty.

3. In cases of simple neglect of duty, the men would suffer sufficiently from the award of the Magistrate, but theft is an offence of so disgraceful a character—a man who has been a soldier—that, I think, Government should inflict the severest punishment in their power for it. The withdrawal of pension would, I believe, have a most wholesome effect. It could not deter honest men from taking service in the Railway, while it would induce those who were doubtful as to whether honesty or dishonesty was the best policy, to prefer the former.

4. There has lately been a very great number of robberies on the Madras Railway, and Captain Weldon, the Superintendent of Police, who has been occupied in tracing the offenders, informs me that the watchmen must, as a rule, have connived at, if they did not actually participate in the thefts, and that they are prepared to run the risk of detection and consequent loss of employment, from their imagining that they will have their pension to fall back upon. A severe example by the deprivation of pension of those who are convicted is thus required, to bring them to a proper sense of their duty.

5. The suggestions brought forward in G. O. of the 23rd November 1865, No. 3543, that the line should be guarded by a detachment of police, is under the consideration of the Railway authorities, and will, I hope, be adopted. The Agent and Manager does not appear to be unfavorably disposed towards the principle of the measure, but reserves his opinion, until the cost of the arrangement can be ascertained. This is now forming the subject of investigation.

From the Agent and Manager, Madras Railway Company, 15th January 1866, No. 22; to the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

I have the honor to submit, for the information of Government, copy of a communication from Captain Weldon, Superintendent of Police, Coimbatore, reporting the successful prosecution of two Railway watchmen (pensioned sepoys), who were charged with stealing rice from a waggon, standing at the Poothanoor station, on the night of the 31st December last.

2. I beg again to bring particularly under the notice of the Government, the good which in my opinion, would result to society at large, and to the Railway especially, if forfeiture of pension followed the conviction of a pensioner, of theft or embezzlement.

3. With the exception of Beypoor, at which station the Police find watchmen, and watching establishment is composed of pensioned sepoys, selected especially under the impression, that their pensions are a guarantee for their good behaviour, and therefore it is, that I urge the necessity of prompt forfeiture of pension, in case of theft.

4. The Government will remember, that on the 10th August, two pensioned sepoys, Ponnappen and Narrainasawmy, were sentenced by the High Court at Madras, to 15 months and 12 months rigorous imprisonment, respectively, for stealing cloths from a waggon of which they were placed in charge, at the salt Cotor junction, and as these sentences, though severe in themselves, have not deterred servants of this class from committing robberies, I can but think, that the announcement of forfeiture of pensions, upon conviction, would have the desired effect.

From the Superintendent of Police, Coimbatore, 5th January 1866; to the Agent and M
Madras Railway Company.

I beg to report the successful prosecution of two Railway watchmen, (pensioned sep) were charged with theft of rice from a waggon at Poothanoor on the night of 31st Deceml

Constable Mahomed Padshah, 466B, deserves credit for the manner in which he carried out his instructions, and I venture to suggest that if some trifling reward was given for the successful completion of such cases, it would tend to extra vigilance. The duty is in a measure additional to the ordinary Police employed on general duty, and considerable tact and perseverance is required.

I subjoin a precis of the case for your information.

In the Assistant Magistrate's Court at Coimbatore, on 5th January 1866.

Mootgosawmy and *Venketsawmy*, two Railway night watchmen were charged respectively with theft by a servant, having stolen a quantity of rice from a waggon in their charge on the 31st December 1865.

Both prisoners convicted and sentenced each to nine months' rigorous imprisonment.

Police Constable Mahomed Padsha'h stated :—

In consequence of instructions, was watching the road leading from the Railway Station village of Poothanoor—between 11 and 12 on night of 31st December 1865, saw two men halt and questioned them—they gave no answer—blew his whistle and seized them for assistance. One prisoner struggled free, but Constable held on to the other and secured him. Second prisoner was stopped by a shopkeeper, and another man who came on hearing the call. Found two bags of rice in prisoners' possession—reported to Station Master. On turning the prisoners found more rice concealed between one man's thighs, (about a measure large packing needle also inside this man's cap. Had waggons examined, found two bags with—in one case bag was cut—in the other the sewing had been ripped. The second prisoner seized after going a few paces towards his house—charged both with theft. Had previous night watching but had not been hitherto successful.

(Signed) T. WELDON.

Superintendent of I

~~Referred to the Military Department~~

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
18th January 1866.

(Signed) C. A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.
Secy. to Govt., P.

ORDER, No. 541, 9th February 1866.

The Governor in Council is so far disposed to meet the views of the Agent-Manager of the Madras Railway, and the recommendation of the Consulting Engineer, as to direct that in future, cases of the description referred to, shall be submitted to the consideration and orders of Government by the Superintendent of Penitentiaries at the time the sentence is reported to him instead of at the expiration of it; but His Excellency is not prepared to declare the forfeiture of pension absolute in all cases of convictions.

2. The Superintendent of Pensions will accordingly call for the extracts from the calendar and summary of evidence on the case of these men*, at the same time ascertaining and reporting to the Government, whether any appeal has been lodged, or revision of the sentence taken place since the conviction, when orders will be passed.

(True Extract.)

Miss Milton

Deputy Secretary to Govt

To the Public Works Department.
 „ Superintendent of Pensions.
 „ Adjutant General.
 „ Judicial Department.

Exd. J. E. Cashart.

To the four Esqrs for Payal

Sweet St George's

17th Nov 1886

doe p. 19

H. H.

for Railway

Comm. to the Town Esqr

at 3/6. 3/4.

List. P. W. 1886 Sept
 No. of Quarts for February
 No 6/10

Proc of Govt
Mil Dept.

Dated 9. }
Recd 13. } Feb

960 541

no. 562-17th Feby 1886

Packing orders
on a memo from the
Genl. Insp. for Railway
recommending for
approval a sugges-
tion of the Agent &
Manager of the Madras Ry.
that when persons
employed on the Railway
are convicted of theft
or embezzlement, they
should forfeit their pension.