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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 738	Press
87-88	Mis.
Dated 5 — 3 —	18.66.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th March 1866.*

No. 87. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Public Department :—

Communicating Proceedings of the Government
of India, intimating that the claiming unneces-
sarily, for Telegraph messages, the privileges
of "clear the line," "confidential," and
"precedence" should be avoided. (Here enter 28th February 1866, No. 213.)

No. 88. ORDER THEREON, 5th March 1866, No. 738.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 4.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Chief Secretary

Chief Secretary

No. 1283.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Right Hon'ble the Governor General of India in Council, in the Home Department, (Electric Telegraph,) under date the 8th February 1866.

READ the following Extracts from a letter No. 2148, dated the 21st December 1865, from the Director General of Telegraphs in India:—

Para. 4.—*Clearing the line* is a very injurious practice, obstructing as it does all traffic instantaneously, leading to confusion of work, and mutilation and loss of messages from half being sent at one time, and the rest when the line is available again.

Para. 5.—“*Precedence*,” which gives priority to messages, but allows partially transmitted messages to be completed before the precedence messages are brought on, is almost as rapid, and so much less detrimental to the interests of the public, that I am sure that if those officials who think it necessary to send every political message “*confidential and clear line*,” only gave the subject a moment's thought, they would rarely call for one or the other. “*Clear line*,” as I observed before, clears the line used; but “*Confidential*” clears the *Offices also*, and thus stops not only the traffic on the line used, but also the traffic on all the other lines whose wires pass through any of the Offices in that line.

Para. 6.—I have seen a good many confidential messages of late, the contents of many of which were really not of sufficient importance to warrant such grievous obstruction.

Para. 7.—Should the Government agree with me, that this practice is to be strongly deprecated, a Circular to this effect might be transmitted to those officials who are interested, stating briefly the practical injury done, and also calling to their remembrance that Signallers are bound by heavy penalties to keep *all messages* secret.

RESOLUTION.

THE Governor General in Council desires that the attention of Government Officers be directed to the above remarks respecting the inconvenience caused by claiming unnecessarily for Telegraph messages the privileges of “*clear the line*,” “*confidential*,” and “*precedence*.”

2. Officers who have the right to claim the above-mentioned privileges, should be very careful to claim them only where it is really necessary to do so.

3. The distinction between the privileges of “*clear the line*” and “*precedence*,” and the less amount of inconvenience caused by the use of the latter, as pointed out by the Director General, should be borne in mind.

ORDERED, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the several Departments of the Government of India, and to all Local Governments and Administrations in view to the necessary steps being taken for impressing upon the Officers subordinate to them the importance of avoiding the unnecessary use of the privileges referred to.

Ordered also, that a copy be forwarded for information to the Director General of Telegraphs.

(Signed) A. M. Montagu.
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Order in the Public Department 28 February 1866 No. 2148

Communicated to the Revenue, Public Works,
and Military Departments, for information.

(True Extract)

Public Works Department.

G. J. Cunningham
Chief Secretary

Dr 1886 & 1887
Genl of Genl for Genl.

Dr of the Medical Board
in the Medical Dept.

Dr 1887 & 1888
Genl of Genl for Genl.

Dr 1887 & 1888

Communicating
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-refugees, the findings
of "the line" "con-
-fidential" and "re-
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