

(1) Number of pages 28(2) Date of repair 1869(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <i>1462</i>	Press
<i>73-74</i>	Mis.
Dated <i>4-5-</i>	<i>1869.</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th May 1869.*

No. 73. Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, (Railway,) to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort St. George, dated India Office, London, 24th March 1869, No. 5.—

1. In Sir Stafford Northcote's Despatch to your Government, No. 4, of 24th February 1868, it was explained that, when in a previous despatch it had been directed that Railway Companies should "be left free to make, within a "maximum limit to be assigned by Government, such alterations in their scale of "rates and fares as they may think desirable," it was meant that "within the "specified limits the Companies should fix the rates for actual use, according to "their own discretion."

2. In a subsequent Despatch, No. 48, of 25th June last, to the Government of India, Sir Stafford Northcote desired that "the maximum rates fixed by the "Local Governments should leave a reasonable margin for the exercise of a discre- "tion by the Company in varying the working rates, as circumstances might in "their opinion require," and again in his Despatch, No. 49, of the following day, he remarked that the rate of three pies per mile, sanctioned as third class fare for the Great Southern of India Railway, scarcely seemed to be such as to allow the Company any of the discretion contemplated.

3. Thereupon a Resolution was passed by the Government of India declaring that the "maxima of all fares and rates shall henceforth be fixed by Local "Governments; that the actual charges within such maxima shall be regulated by "the Railway Companies, and that the maxima shall leave a reasonable margin for "the exercise of a discretion by the Companies in varying the working rates, as "circumstances may, in their opinion, require."

4. Copy of this Resolution, which bears date 6th October 1868, was immediately communicated to your Government "for information and guidance." Nevertheless, on 2nd December following, your Consulting Engineer for Railways reported to you that the first, second, and third class fares of the Great Southern of India Railway had been fixed at 18, 5, and 3 pies per mile respectively, and, though acknowledging that the first and second class fares "certainly left no margin to the Railway authorities to raise the existing fares," expressed his decided opinion that "any extension of the maxima scale was uncalled for," and your Government, in consequence, by Resolution recorded on 11th January last, confirmed the exist- ing scale of maxima fares, and declined to authorize any departure from it.

5. It must be obvious to your Excellency, on reconsideration, that this Resolution is in direct contravention of the orders issued both by the Secretary of State and by the Government of India. I must desire, therefore, that you will take the steps necessary to carry these orders into effect.

No. 74. ORDER THEREON, 4th May 1869, No. 1,462.

RAILWAY, No. 3.

Communicated to the Consulting Engineer for Railways who, in commu- nication with the Agents of the Madras and Great Southern of India Railways, will prepare a scale of maximum rates and

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th May 1869.

fares, and submit it for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council,
in compliance with the instructions of the Right Honorable the Secretary of State
for India.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Public Works Department

N. 11, 62

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 11 May 69.

Read the following

From The Secretary of State
for India

A. S. No. 5 dated 24th March 1869

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W. H. C.
W. H.
A. A.

in

Instructions of the Right
Honble the Secretary of
State for India

Ab.
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To the Hon Secy
for Railways
Dec 25/99

[illegible]

The Consulting Engineer
for Railways

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Rates and fares (Pg) The City of
Birmingham, in connection
with the Great Northern
and Great Eastern Railways, a
scale of maximum rates & fares.