

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 218	Press ~~Mis.~~
440-41	
Dated 23. 1.	1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23rd January 1869.*

No 440. Read the following letter from the Consulting Engineer for Railways, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 4th January 1869, No. 1 —

1. I have the honor to submit, for the information of Government, a letter* from the Agent of the Great Southern of India Railway Company, reporting a fatal accident which occurred at Boodalore on the 24th ultimo. It will be seen that a woman and a child fell from an ordinary open goods waggon, in which they were being conveyed during the Sreerungum festival, and that a wheel passed over the child killing it on the spot.

2. Until this report was received, I was not aware that the ordinary goods waggons had ever been used for passenger traffic. The practice was not brought to the notice of the Deputy Consulting Engineer, who inspected the line only three days before the accident occurred. I consider that blame attaches to the Railway authorities for having introduced such a dangerous practice without the permission of Government. I have asked the Agent whether the Assistant Traffic Manager had received permission from him to use goods waggons for such a purpose.

3. Upon receipt of the Agent's letter, I† at once requested, by telegraph, that the practice of carrying passengers in goods waggons should be immediately stopped. I afterwards made an exception in favor of some covered goods waggons, which had been specially adopted for the conveyance of passengers, and of which the Deputy Consulting Engineer in his recent inspection had approved.

4. The Government will doubtless observe that in his letter to the Agent, the Assistant Traffic Manager endeavours to throw upon the woman the entire blame of the accident. This is, I think, directly opposed to fact. In my opinion, the fault lies with those who without authority introduced a dangerous practice. It will also be observed that the Railway authorities do not propose to give any gratuity to the woman, who was herself injured by the accident, besides losing her child.

From the Agent of the Great Southern of India Railway, to the Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Trichinopoly, 26th December 1868

1. I regret I have to report, for the information of Government, an accident which occurred on the 24th instant. This is the first mishap which has occurred to a passenger since the line has been opened for public traffic. A native female travelling in a special cheap train from Trivalore, in consequence of the large number of travellers proceeding to the Sreerungum feast, rode with others in a truck. When the train was shunting at the Boodalore station to allow another train to pass, she fell out of the truck, and the child she was carrying falling over the rails it was unfortunately killed. The woman had a flesh cut on her heel, but received no other injury.

2. None of the Company's servants saw the passenger fall out of the vehicle, but the Magistrate at Tanjore is enquiring into the case, and he may obtain fuller information of the accident.

3. I attach copy of the Assistant Traffic Manager's report and the usual tabular statement.

From the Assistant Traffic Manager, to the Agent of the Great Southern of India Railway, dated Trichinopoly, 25th December 1868, No 6,777

1. I regret to have to report an accident which happened at Boodalore yesterday, whilst the passenger special was shunting.

Agent.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23rd January 1869.

- 2 A woman and child fell from a truck, the child was killed by a wheel passing over it, and the woman injured in the foot They were both taken to the Tanjore Hospital by the Police Head Constable (on my request), who was at the time at the station, and who had cautioned the people to sit down just before the accident happened
- 3 I could not ascertain precisely how the passenger fell, but from her position I am led to believe that the woman, in whose possession the child was, was holding it out and overbalanced herself.
- 4 Our Porters were not in the trucks at the time, as they were busy shunting and signalling.
- 5 I may add, that the Police Constable, who was at the station, expressed his opinion that it was the woman's fault entirely
- 6 I beg to enclose form of accident herewith

GREAT SOUTHERN OF INDIA RAILWAY

Report of an accident on the Great Southern of India Railway, Eastern Section

Collecto rate	Railway Dis trict, Section, and mile	Date on which the accident occurred	Nature of the accident	Nature of assistance afforded	Occupation of the injured or deceased, as the case may be	Gratuity pro posed to be given or not	Reported to the Police authorities
Tanjore	59th	24th Decem 1868	Woman fell from train and receiv ed a flesh wound on one of her heels Her child, which she was nursing, fell with her, and was killed	Taken to Tan jore Hospital			Yes

TRICHINOPOLY,
25th December 1868

(Signed) W S BETTS,
Agent and Traffic Manager.

No 441.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd January 1869, No 218.

RAILWAY, No 29

Before passing final orders on this letter, the Government wish to be in formed of the result of the Magisterial

enquiry which is stated to have been held into the circumstances of the accident on the Great Southern of India Railway which is now reported.

(True Extract)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways

Exd S T Augustin

No. 6777

Great Southern of India Railway,

South Rail Manager's OFFICE,
Trichinopoly, 25 December 1868

My dear Sir,

I regret to have to report an accident which happened at Boodalore yesterday whilst the Passenger Special was shunting -

A woman and child fell from a truck, the child was killed by a wheel passing over it and the woman injured in the foot - They were both taken to the Tanjore Hospital by the Police Head Constable (on my request) who was at the time at the Station and who had cautioned the people to sit down just before the accident happened -

I could not ascertain precisely how the passenger fell but from her position am led to believe that the woman in whose possession the child was, was holding it out, and overbalanced herself -

Our Porters were not in the trucks at the time as they were busy shunting and signalling.

I may add that the Police Constable who was at the station expressed his opinion that it was the woman's fault entirely.

I beg to enclose form of accident herewith

True Copy
W S Betts
William S.

Yours faithfully
W S Betts
South Rail Manager

To the

101110
101110

W. T. G. 1890
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa

[illegible]

Richinosophy.
 Gentl. Traffic Managers' Office.
 25th December 1868.

Walter W. D. D. D.
Kerry Traffic Manager

N^o

Great Southern of India Railway.
Trichinopoly 26 December 1868.

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From the Agent,
of the Great Southern of India Railway

To the
Consulting Engineer for Railways.
Madras.

Sir,

I regret I have to report for the information
of Government an accident which occurred on the
24th Instant. This is the first mishap which
has occurred to a passenger since the line has
been opened for public traffic. A native female
travelling in a Special Cheap Train from
Trivalore, in consequence of the large number
of travellers proceeding to the Seringham Road
rode with others in a truck. When the train
was shunting at the Boodaloe station to
allow another train to pass, she fell out of
the truck, and the child she was carrying
falling over the rails it was unfortunately
killed. The woman had a flesh cut on
her heel, but received no other injury.

None of the company's servants saw
the passenger fall out of the vehicle, but
the Magistrate at Tanjore is enquiring into the
case and he may obtain fuller information
of the accident.

I attach copy of the Assistant Traffic
Manager's report and the usual tabular statement.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

William A. B. W.
Agent.

10/2/69

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CONSULTING ENGINEER'S OFFICE,

Railway Department

No 1

From

Major J. M. Shaw Stewart M.B.
Consulting Engineer for Railways,

To

Colonel G. A. Orr M.B.

Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department,
Fort Saint George

Sir,

I have the honour to submit,
for the information of Government, a letter
from the Agent of the Great Southern of
India Railway Company, reporting a
fatal accident which occurred at Moodalore
on the 24th ultimo. It will be seen that
a woman and a child fell from an ordi-
nary open goods wagon, in which they
were being conveyed during the previous
evening, and that a wheel passed
over the child, killing it on the spot.

The report
to the Com: Engrs
per 10/12

Dated 26th Dec 1888

M.

11/30/89

Regretting to report
for the information of
Govt an accident which
occurred on the 24th
December 1888

2 Until this report was received I was not aware that the ordinary goods wagons had ever been used for passenger traffic. The practice was not brought ^{up} to the notice of the Deputy Consulting Engineer, who inspected the line only three days before the accident occurred. I consider that blame attaches to the Railway Authorities, for having introduced such a dangerous practice without the permission of Government. I have asked the Agent whether the Assistant Traffic Manager had received permission from him to use goods wagons for such a purpose.

3 Upon receipt of the Agent's letter I at once requested by telegraph that the practice of carrying passengers in goods wagons should be immediately stopped. I afterwards made an exception in favour

of some covered goods wagons which had been specially adopted for the conveyance of passengers, and of which the Deputy Consulting Engineer in his recent inspection had approved.

4 The Government will doubtless observe that in his letter to the Agent the Assistant Traffic Manager endeavours to throw upon the woman the entire blame of the accident. This is I think directly opposed to fact. In my opinion the fault lies with those who without authority introduced a dangerous practice. It will also be observed that the Railway Authorities do not propose to give any gratuity to the woman who was herself injured by the accident, besides losing her child.

I have the honour to be
Yours most obedt Servt.
Wm. Mackenzie
Secy. Genl. for Railways

MADRAS
4th January
1869

Public Works Department
 No. 218 218
 Proceedings of the Madras Government
 Under date the 23rd Jan 1869
 Read the following

From The Commr Engrs for Railways (H.E. No. 1.4th Jan 1869)

Before passing final orders on this letter, the Govt wish to be informed of the result of the Magisterial inquiry which is stated to have been held into the circumstances of the accident on the Great Southern of India Railway which is now reported.

The Commr Engrs for Ry.
 Dec 25/1/69

26/1

[Signature]

27th Dec 1869
 Secy of Engrs & Railway
 RAILWAY DEPARTMENT
 No. 30

To
 The Consulting Engineer
 for Railways.
 The Secretary to Government,
 Public Works Department,
 Fort Saint George

No. 1.
 Recd 21st Jan 1869
 No. 18-25-1869
 Recd 21st Jan 1869

Submitting a letter from the Engrs of the G. S. of I. Ry, reporting a fatal accident which occurred at Brookeburn on the 24th Dec 1868.

C-9 Jan 1869.

26/4/69

Cue 30
Govt. of 1869 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To the Consulting Engrs.
for Railways

Dated

1st

P. 2

G. O. 23rd Jan 1869, No 218

Nos. 440-441

Accident (By) The Consulting Engrs.
requested to furnish information
regarding the result of the ma-
jority Enquiry which is stated
to have been held into the
circumstances of the fatal
accident which occurred
at the Boodaloo Station
of the G. S. of S. Ry.