M R O 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 1-201

(2) Date of repair 10·11·43

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1927 Press Mis.

286-87

Dated 14. 6 1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No 286. Read the following letter from the Consulting Engineer for Railways, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 19th May 1869, No. 163:—

I HAVE the honour to request that you will have the goodness to lay before Government a letter* in which the Agent of the Madras Railway Company desires to be informed whether, under the provisions of Clause 19† of the Company's Contract, "the Postmaster General is authorised to despatch stores of every "description which can be made up within the usual dimensions and weight of a "banghy parcel, free of charge on "Her Majesty's Service"

* No 248, 8th May 1869, with enclosures

† Erroneously quoted in Agent's letter as Clause 20

2. Before addressing you, I asked the Postmaster General to let me know the general character of the stores in question, and the maximum weight within which the Post Office authorities were in the habit of sending packets free by banghy post. From Colonel Pears' reply‡ it will be seen that the parcels in question generally contain blank registers and forms, mail-bags, stamps, seals, clocks, and scales and weights: that their weight varies from 10 to 600 tolahs, rarely exceeding 300 tolahs, while the maximum weight of a banghy parcel is 2,000 tolahs

‡ No. 1,415/636, 18th May 1869, enclosed

3. Under Clause 19 of their Contract, the Company are bound to convey free of charge all the Government mails and post-bags, &c, &c. There can be no doubt that under these denominations are included all packets on the public service, such as were sent by Mail before the opening of the Railway. A reference to the new Indian‖ Postal Guide, published by order of the Director General, will show that although the Post Office does not now undertake to convey parcels between places connected by Railway when the Railway Companies have intimated their readiness to undertake the conveyance and delivery of parcels, an exception is distinctly made in favour of such parcels as may be sent on the public service, which are conveyed free by the Post Office. As it is also laid down in the Postal§ Guide that all "privileged offices" can send, without payment of postage, all letters and packets *bona fide* on Her Majesty's Service, and as the Post Office is one of the "privileged offices," I fail to see how the right of the Postmaster General to avail himself on behalf of Government of the privilege can be called in question.

‖ Page 6, paragraph 28

§ Page 117, paragraph 113, Clause (I)

From the Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company, to the Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 8th May 1869, No. 248

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the views of the Government, a copy of some correspondence which has passed between the Postmaster General and myself, arising out of a communication received from Mr Logan (copy annexed), on the subject of the conveyance of two bundles containing scales for the Post Office, as banghy parcels on "Her Majesty's Service"

2. The clause in the Contract relating to the conveyance of mails is as follows —

Clause XX —"That the said Railway Company will, at all times, during the said determi-"nable term, convey on the said Railway the Government mails and post-bags, and the guards and

"other servants of the Post Office, in charge thereof, free of charge, and when they are on duty, "all Officers and persons in the administration of the Post Office also free of charge

3 The question I wish settled is whether, under the provisions of Clause XX. above quoted, the Postmaster General is authorised, as stated in his letter of the 7th instant, No 1,120-187, to dispatch stores of every description which can be made up within the usual dimensions and weight of a banghy parcel free of charge on "Her Majesty's Service."

4 My reading of the Contract is certainly opposed to such a construction, as Clause XX. provides only for the free conveyance of the Government mails and post-bags, and the guards and other servants of the Post Office in charge thereof, and when they are on duty all officers and persons in the administration of the Post Office I shall be glad, therefore, to be favored with the views of His Excellency the Governor in Council

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From the Postmaster General, to the Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 18th May 1869, No 1,415-636

In reply to your letter No 313, of the 10th instant, I have the honour to inform you that the Stores sent in Banghy parcels per Railway by this office to the Post Offices in the interior, usually consist of blank registers and forms and mail bags, stamps, seals, clocks, and scales and weights. The parcels usually weigh from 10 to 600 tolahs, and rarely above 300 tolahs The maximum weight of a banghy parcel is 2,000 tolahs.

2 The stores, for the conveyance of which payment is made to the Railway, consist of articles of furniture, such as almirahs, tables, chairs, &c

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From the Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company, to the Postmaster General, Madras, dated Madras, 27th April 1869, No 997.

I HAVE the honour to solicit your attention to the accompanying copy of a communication from the Acting Agent of the Great Southern of India Railway and its enclosure, having reference to the conveyance of scales, &c, &c, by the servants of the Post Office in charge of Her Majesty's mails

2 May I ask you to be kind enough to inform me, at your early convenience, whether packages, other than those which the Railway Company, by the terms of their Contract, are called upon to carry free, are conveyed by the Post Office guards with your knowledge and consent

3 Hitherto mail bags have not been scrutinized, or indeed interfered with in any way by the Railway Company; but a necessity for some such measure, if only to guard against an abuse on the part of the Post Office servants, would appear to be necessary.

From the Acting Agent of the Great Southern of India Railway, to the Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company, dated Negapatam, 15th April 1869, No 4,427-2,078.

REFERRING to the attached copy of letter from the Assistant Traffic Manager at Trichinopoly, will you be good enough to let me know if articles of the kind alluded to are passed over your line, and how they are dealt with, and oblige

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From the Assistant Traffic Manager, to the Acting Agent of the Great Southern India Railway, dated Trichinopoly, 14th April 1869

"Two bundles containing scales"
Post Office Department.

Your No. 1,973 of 12th instant

As I informed you in my telegram of Saturday, two bundles containing scales for the Post Office were received by the No. 7 Train from Madras As it was only by accident that the bundles were discovered whilst being taken away with other banghy parcels, it is possible a great many

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2 On the face it would appear that the Post Office authorities are guilty of a breach of Contract, and as they have great facilities for conveying goods in their vans under the Post Office stamp, without the knowledge of the Railway Company, will you kindly take the matter up

3. I allowed the two bundles in question to be taken away, but retained proof of their having been brought, and shall feel obliged by your letting me know how you wish the charge to be dealt with in the Trichinopoly books (In the usual course of business the charge would have been made paid at Madras for the Trichinopoly ones) Also the charge for some which our Guard states he thinks he noticed at other stations, which the Post Office authorities will doubtless acknowledge if called upon.

From the Postmaster General, to the Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company, dated Madras, 7th May 1869, No 1,120-187

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No 997, of the 27th ultimo, and, in reply to inform you that as the Railway are obliged to convey free of charge all banghy parcels on "Her Majesty's Service," stores of every description, which can be made up within the usual dimensions and weight of a banghy parcel, have always been sent as service banghy parcels, enclosed in or with the banghy mail, but stores of size and weight beyond the limits of a banghy parcel have been separately sent and paid for.

2 I have no reason to think that any abuse can be practised by the Mail Guards, as other than *bona fide* service banghy parcels can be distinguished by the absence of the Post Office seal or stamp

3 I have no objection to the parcels in question being scrutinized when there is ground for suspicion of any abuse by the Mail Guard

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No. 287. ORDER THEREON, 14th June 1869, No. 1,927.

RAILWAY, No. 18.

As the limit of weight assigned to banghy parcels is 2,000 tolahs, the Government are not of opinion that the Railway Officers have any ground on which to dispute the right of the Post Office to require any parcel *bona fide* despatched on the Public Service to be carried free of charge under the terms of the Railway Company's Contract, without reference to its contents, provided it does not exceed the prescribed weight.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways

Exl S T. Augustin.