M.R.O. 1—77,606—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 12

(2) Date of repair 1971

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2963-69 Press Mis.

423-25

Dated 23 11 1871.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 423. Read the following letter from the Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 1st November 1871, No. 475 :—

In March last the Government of India proposed to undertake the maintenance and technical supervision of the Railway telegraphs, or else to take over the telegraph lines, renting to the Companies the number of wires required for their business. The Agent of the Great Southern of India Railway wrote on the 26th June, that, as the Government of India expressed their readiness to receive representations, he requested a reconsideration of their resolution regarding the proposed alteration in the system of working. This letter was forwarded to the Government of India, *vide* G. O., No. 2,186 of the 25th August 1871; but in the meantime the Government of India "decided that the telegraph on the "extension of the Railway to Tuticorin shall be a State line, additional wires as "required being suspended for Railway purposes and leased to the Company."

G. O., No. 1,081, 18th April 1871.

G. O., No. 2,310, 11th September 1871.

A copy of the license of the Oudh and Rohilcund Railway Company was forwarded for any remarks on the part of the Government or the Agent, with a view to the adoption of a similar license on the Great Southern Railway.

Inquiry was made as to the charges for freight incurred by the Company, and a complete price list asked for of the stores to be taken over by the Government Telegraph Department.

2. On the 11th October, the Government of India asked for an early reply to the above, and I have the honour to forward two letters, dated 25th and 27th October, in which the Agent repeats the wish of the Company to retain the sole control of the Telegraph Department according to the arrangement between the Government and the Postal Department in England. Mr. Betts would share with the Government the ownership of the standards, but considers the safe working of the line would be imperilled unless the maintenance of the wires were exclusively in the hands of the Company.

G. O., No. 144, 20th October 1871.

3. I infer from Mr. Betts' letter of the 25th ultimo that he declines to give over the telegraph stores to the officer of the Government Telegraph Department, and from the same sentence it may be inferred that Mr. Betts asserts his right to retain the materials on the authority of the Secretary of State with whose sanction the telegraph wires, etc., were sent out by the Directors of the Company.

4. It thus appears to me that there is a direct appeal to the Secretary of State, and I beg to submit, for the consideration of the Government, that such reference should be made, both as to the legal right according to the contract for the maintenance of the telegraph line being under other control than that of the

Railway Company, and as to the exercise of that right on any portion of the lines of guaranteed Railways.

5. The Agent of the Madras Railway, in a letter dated the 11th October, has referred to the Board of Directors the question of the Government Telegraph Department taking over the materials for re-construction between Madras and Beypoor, and if the Directors concur with their Agent in opposition to the proposal of the Government of India, the expression of their views will not be received till some weeks have elapsed.

Vide G. O., No. 2,321, 14th September 1871.

I forwarded with my endorsement of the 12th October, No. 441, the Agent's letter of the 10th idem, on this subject.

From the Agent of the Great Southern of India Railway, to the Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Negapatam, 25th October 1871, No. 4,240.

I DID not reply to your letter, No. 287 of the 14th ultimo, as you stated therein that the views of this Company regarding the control of their telegraph lines were not forwarded to the Government of India until a date subsequent to that of their last despatch on this subject.

My reply was deferred until the result of the communication of those views was made known; but as this morning an officer of the Government Telegraph Department has asked me to hand over to his charge the telegraph stores sent by my Directors under the sanction of the Secretary of State for India for the southern extension, I consider it advisable to repeat to you the wish of this Company to retain the sole control of their Telegraph Department.

If it be desired that the Government Telegraph Department should alone transmit public messages, this Company is prepared to accept the revocation of the license granted to them for the conveyance of such messages. Clause I of Section I. of the General Regulations framed under Act XVIII. of 1854 compels us to provide an electric telegraph for the working of the Railway, and it is the control of this telegraph which the officers of the Company consider should remain in their hands.

In the arrangement lately made in England between Government and the Railway Companies, the latter retain the sole control of their own system of telegraphs, using it for their own business alone; and the Postal Department exercise a monopoly of the public telegraph business.

From the Agent of the Great Southern of India Railway, to the Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Negapatam, 27th October 1871, No. 4,242.

YOUR memorandum No. 330 has been received this morning. I wrote to you on the 25th instant regarding the desire of this Company to retain, in its own hands, the sole control of its Telegraph Department.

2. We are quite willing to enter into an arrangement with the Government Telegraph Department, which will have the effect of saving expenditure both to that department and to this Company, such as, for instance, the joint use or ownership of the standards required for carrying the wires from Trichinopoly to Tuticorin; but the ownership of the wires required for working the Railway and the maintenance thereof should remain exclusively in the hands of the Railway Officers; any other course, in the case of a single line of Railway worked on the block system, would, in my opinion, imperil the safe working of the line.

No. 424. ORDER THEREON, 23rd November 1871, No. 2,968.

RAILWAY, No. 51.

ORDERED that the Government of India be addressed on the subject of this letter.

(Here enter No. 2,969, dated 23rd November 1871.)
(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways.

No. 4240 GREAT SOUTHERN OF INDIA RAILWAY.

AGENT'S OFFICE,

NEGAPATAM, October 25. 1871

From

THE AGENT

Great Southern of India Railway.

To

The Acting Consulting Engineer
for Railways.
Madras

SIR,

I did not reply to your letter No. 284 of the 14th ultimo, as you stated therein that the views of this Company regarding the control of their telegraph lines were not forwarded to the Government of India until a date subsequent to that of their last dispatch on this subject.

My reply was deferred until the result of the communication of those views was made known but as this morning an officer of the Government Telegraph Department has asked me to hand over to his charge the telegraph stores

Stores sent by my Direction under the sanction of the Secretary of State for India, for the Southern Extension, I consider it advisable to repeat to you the wish of this Company to retain the sole control of their Telegraph Department.

If it be desired that the Government Telegraph Department should alone transmit public messages this Company is prepared to accept the revocation of the Licence granted to them for the conveyance of such messages. Clause I of Section I of the General Regulations framed under act XVIII of 1854 compels us to provide an Electric Telegraph for the working of the Railway, and it is the control of this Telegraph which the Officers of the Company consider should remain in their hands.

In the arrangement lately made in England between

Government and the Railway Companies, the latter retain the sole control of their own system of telegraphs, using it for their own business alone; and the postal department exercise a monopoly of the public telegraph business.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient
Servant.

William Bell.

Agent

No.

GREAT SOUTHERN OF INDIA RAILWAY.

AGENT'S OFFICE,

NEGAPATAM, _____ 18

From

THE AGENT,

Great Southern of India Railway,

To

SIR,

officers. any other course, in the case
of a single line of railway worked
ow the block system, would in my
opinion, imperil the safe working
of the line.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obt. Servant
Williamson & Betts.
Agents

Public Works Department

No. 2968.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read the following

From.

The Actg: Consg: Engineer for Railways

(H.C. No. 475 of 1st November 1871)

Ordered that the Government of India be addressed on the subject of this letter.

To The Chief Engineer for Railways &c.

Endt. 24/11/71

The Secretary to the Government of India

Sir, No. 2969.

With reference to the Correspondence marginally noted, I am directed to forward the accompanying letter from the Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways, giving Cover

From Govt of India - 7th March 71 No 1257
To Do 25th August - No 2187
From Do 9 Do - 3287
From Do 11 Oct - 328

No. H 242.

From

The Agent

G.I.P.R.

To The Chief Engineer & Consulting Engr for Railways

Dated 21st Oct 1871
Rec'd 31st Do

P.P. 5 2 3b/71

Regarding the marking of Telegraph

to letters from the Agent of the Great Southern of India Railway, in which he reiterates the wish of the Company to retain the sole Control of their Telegraph Department; but expresses willingness to enter into any arrangement with the Government Telegraph Dept. by which the joint use or ownership of the Standard of between the Government & the Company shall be secured, the ownership of the wires required for working the Railway, and their maintenance remaining exclusively in the hands of Railway Officers.

It would be desirable

from my letter of the 3rd instant, & 2703, that the Agent of the Madras Railway Company does not consider himself at liberty to transfer to Government the Company's Telegraph lines until he is in possession of instructions from his Board of Directors, & under these circumstances I now again to suggest that the question of the legal right of Government to assume the technical supervision of Railway Telegraphs may be referred for the orders of the Secretary of State.

Case 24/11/71 6 Cells of Gun Cotton

Sd. N. B.

Vol 2 Acct & Traffic Analysis.

Covering orders on the Acct & Traffic Analysis of the Great Southern & Western Rail for the half year ending 31st D 1870

Forwarding the Acct & Traffic Analysis of the G.S.&W. for the half year ending 31st D 1870.

No. 5-236

Govt. of {1871} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To Secy. Consulting Engr. for Railways and To Secretary to the Govt. of India

Dated

Recd. Encl. 2

G. O. 23rd Novr. 1871, No. 2968-2969

Nos. 423-424 & 425

Telegrams. Papers relative to letters from the Engrs for Rys & transmitting correspondence ~~the transmission & control of~~ the Surveys & Railways & Telegraphs by the Company

Forwarding with remarks correspondence relative to control of the Railways Telegraphs by the Co.