

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1495	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
70-71		
Dated	5. 6.	1873.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 70. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, R. E., Consulting Engineer for Railways, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 2nd May 1873, No. 251 :—

I HAVE the honour to enclose a letter* from the Agent of the Carnatic Railway Company, requesting to be furnished

* No. 133, 25th April 1873.

with a copy of the Order of Government, dated the 26th March 1873, No. 947. The order in question reached this office upon the 27th March, and upon its receipt the Agents of the Great Southern of India and the Carnatic Railway Companies were asked to submit the reports called for in the 2nd paragraph. In accordance with the special instructions of Government, the 8th paragraph of the letter from the Government of India was also communicated to Mr. Fisher. It did not seem to me advisable to furnish either Agent with a copy of the Proceedings of Government, inasmuch as they contained a reference both to the confidential opinion which I submitted upon the future arrangements for the amalgamated Companies, and to an important question which had been submitted to the Secretary of State through the Government of India, and which had not been disposed of. Another reason, which of itself would have prevented me from communicating to the Agents the order of Government in question, was that the wording of the order seemed calculated to convey to them an erroneous impression of the measures which I had recommended. In my

† *Vide* G. O., 6th March 1873, No. 720.

letter† dated the 6th February 1873, I specially insisted on the importance of having only one responsible representative of the United Board, whereas in the order of Government the continued employment of two Agents, as at present, seems to be contemplated.

2. Mr. Fisher states that the Proceedings of Government to which reference has been made were published in the *Madras Mail* of the 24th ultimo, and he concludes therefrom that they have been placed at the disposal of the press. I am not aware whether this is the case. In the *Fort St. George Gazette*,* dated the

* Page 804.

29th ultimo, in the "list of papers placed at the disposal of the press on the 21st April 1873," I observe one entitled "construction of a Railway from Madras to Cuddalore;" but it seems improbable that this could refer to the Proceedings of Government now in question.

3. In the Order of Government, dated the 27th September 1872, No. 2,280 A, His Excellency in Council was pleased to observe that it would be discretionary with the Consulting Engineer to furnish the Railway Authorities with copies of the Proceedings of Government, or merely to communicate to them by letter the purport of the order of Government. As far as possible it has always been my desire to furnish the Agents with full information as to the views of the Government, and as to my own opinions, upon all questions, but in cases such as the following, I have felt it my duty to communicate no more than is absolutely necessary :—

When the Proceedings of Government refer to questions under reference to the Government of India.

When they contain strictures upon the conduct of officers, either in Government employ, or in that of a Railway Company.

When they refer to questions regarding which there has been a difference of opinion between this Government and the Government of India, or when the Government have not been able to support the Consulting Engineer's views.

When they contain reports of a confidential nature.

4. I beg however with all due respect to point out that the discretionary power vested in the Consulting Engineer has been in some measure removed by the somewhat indiscriminate manner in which the Proceedings of Government in the Railway Branch have of late been placed at the disposal of the press. This circumstance has at times placed me in a difficult position, as the Agents have seen in the public newspapers Proceedings of Government which would not otherwise have been communicated to them. I allude to such Orders of Government as the following, all of which have been placed at the disposal of the press within the last few months:—

No. 901, dated 12th April 1872.

„ 988, „ 16th „ „
„ 1,321, „ 14th May „
„ 1,674, „ 12th July „
„ 2,584, „ 2nd Nov. „
„ 343, „ 3rd Feb. 1873.
„ 348, „ „ „ „
„ 482, „ 14th „ „

In almost all these cases the Railway Authorities became aware, through the medium of the public newspapers, of the views held by this Government upon questions which had been laid before the Government of India.

5. I beg respectfully to point out that in many cases there are reasons why certain Proceedings of Government in the Railway Department should not be made public through the medium of the newspapers, and that such reasons are often not apparent excepting to those who are conversant with the difficulties constantly experienced in carrying out the work of this office. Bearing this in view I suggest, for the consideration of Government, that the list of the Proceedings of Government in the Railway Branch to be placed at the disposal of the press should be prepared every week in this office, and submitted for the approval of His Excellency in Council.

6. In the particular case referred to in the enclosed letter, I solicit instructions as to whether, under the circumstances, the Government desire that the Agent of the Carnatic Railway Company should be furnished with a copy of their Order No. 947, dated the 26th March 1873.

From J. T. FISHER, Esq., Agent and Manager of the Carnatic Railway Company, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, R. E., Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 25th April 1873, No. 133.

With reference to your letter dated 27th March 1873, No. 93, conveying the sanction of the Government of India to the amount of the estimates, as revised in your office, for the construction of the line between Madras and Cuddalore, and calling for certain reports to be made in communication with the Agent and Chief Engineer of the Great Southern of India Railway Company,

I perceive from the *Madras Mail* of the 24th instant that the Proceedings of the Government of India on this subject, or at least the letter from the Deputy Secretary to the Government addressed to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, and the order thereon, have been placed at the disposal of the press, and as I think it desirable it should be on record in the Company's offices, I have the honour to request you to be so good as to favour me with a few copies of the papers referred to for record here, and for the information of my Board of Directors.

No. 71.

ORDER THEREON, 5th June 1873, No. 1,495.

RAILWAY, No. 8.

His Excellency the Governor in Council having given the Consulting Engineer's letter above recorded his careful consideration, sees no reason for making any change in the practice which now obtains in reference to the selection of papers for the press.

2. There seems no objection to supplying the Agent of the Carnatic Railway with copy of G. O., No. 947 of 26th March.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Railway Department.

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CONSULTING ENGINEER'S OFFICE,

No. 251

From

LIEUT.-COLONEL J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, R.E.,

Consulting Engineer for Railways,

To

COLONEL G. W. WALKER, R.E.,

Secretary to Government,

Public Works Department,

Fort Saint George.

SIR,

N^o 35-25th
April 1873.

I have the honour to enclose
a letter^x from the Agent of the Carnatic
Railway Company requesting to be furnished
with a copy of the Order of Government
dated the 26th March 1873, N^o 947. The
Order in question reached this Office
upon the 27th March; and upon its receipt
the Agents of the Great Southern of India
and the Carnatic Railway Companies were
asked to submit the reports called for
in the second paragraph. In accor-

- dance

-danced with the special instructions of Government, the eighth paragraph of the letter from the Government of India was also communicated to Mr. Fisher. It did not seem to me advisable to furnish either Agents with a copy of the Proceedings of Government, inasmuch as they contained a reference both to the confidential opinion which I submitted upon the future arrangements for the amalgamated Companies, and to an important question which had been submitted to the Secretary of State through the Government of India, and which had not been disposed of. Another reason, which of itself would have prevented me from communicating to the Agents the Order of Government in question, was that the wording of

* vide G.O. 6th March 1873. No 720.

* page 804.

of the order seemed calculated to convey to them an erroneous impression of the measures which I had recommended. In my letter dated the 6th February 1873 I specially insisted on the importance of having only one responsible representative of the United Board, whereas in the Order of Government the continued employment of two Agents, as at present, seems to be contemplated. 2. Mr. Fisher states that the Proceedings of Government to which reference has been made were published in the "Madras Mail" of the 24th ultimo, and he concludes therefrom that they have been placed at the disposal of the Press. I am not aware whether this is the case. In the "Port Saint George" Gazette dated the 29th ultimo, in the "list of papers placed at the disposal

disposal of the press on the 21st April 1873; I observe one entitled "Construction of a railway from Madras to Budhalore"; but it seems improbable that this could refer to the Proceedings of Government now in question.

3. In the Order of Government dated the 27th September 1872, N^o 2289 A, His Excellency in Council was pleased to observe that it would be discretionary with the Consulting Engineer to furnish the Railway Authorities with copies of the Proceedings of Government, or merely to communicate to them by letter the purport of the Order of Government. As far as possible, it has always been my desire to furnish the Agents with full information as to the views of
the

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the Government, and as to my own opinions, upon all questions: but in cases such as the following I have felt it my duty to communicate no more than is absolutely necessary:

When the Proceedings of Government refer to questions under reference to the Government of India.

When they contain strictures upon the conduct of Officers, either in Government employ, or in that of a Railway Company.

When they refer to questions regarding which there has been a difference of opinion between this Government and the Government of India, or when the Government have not been able to support the Consulting

Engineer's

Engineers' views.

When they contain reports of a confidential nature.

4. I beg however with all due respect to point out that the discretionary power vested in the Consulting Engineer has been in some measure removed by the somewhat indiscriminate manner in which the Proceedings of Government in the Railway Branch have of late been placed at the disposal of the Press. This circumstance has at times placed me in a difficult position, as the Agents have seen in the public newspapers Proceedings of Government which would not otherwise have been communicated to them. I allude

to

to such orders of Government as the following, all of which have been placed at the disposal of the Press within the last few months:-

- N. 961 - dated 12th April 1872.
- 988 ——— 16th April 1872.
- 1321 ——— 14th May 1872.
- 1674 ——— 12th July 1872.
- 2584 ——— 2nd November 1872.
- 343 ——— 3rd February 1873.
- 348 ——— 3rd February 1873.
- 482 ——— 14th February 1873.

In almost all these cases, the Railway authorities became aware, through the medium of the public newspapers, of the views held by the Government upon the questions which had been laid before the Government of India.

5.

I beg respectfully to point out that in many cases there are reasons why certain Proceedings of Government in the Railway Department should not be made public through the medium of the newspapers, and that such reasons are often not apparent excepting to those who are conversant with the difficulties constantly experienced in carrying out the work of this office. Bearing this in view I suggest, for the consideration of Government, that the list of the Proceedings of Government in the Railway Branch to be placed at the disposal of the

Pref

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Prefs should be prepared every week in this Office, and submitted for the approval of His Excellency in Council.

6. In the particular case referred to in the enclosed letter, I solicit instructions as to whether, under the circumstances, the Government desire that the Agent of the Carnatic Railway Company should be furnished with a copy of their Order N^o 947, dated the 26th March 1873.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant.

Wm. Stewart L. Esq.,
Comr. Engineer for Railways

Madras

2nd May 1873

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.]

20th May 1873

Shirley

GE 26 "Wardle 173.1" 6353
 " 6 " Wardle " 136-137. 6363
 " 12 " Wardle " 29.44 173
 GE 27 "Wardle 172. 27.38 173
 " 12 " Wardle " 182-185- 389-401
 " 16 " " " 233-234.
 " 14 " Wardle " 426-427
 " 12 " Wardle " 211-212
 " 2 " Wardle " 38-39
 " 37 " Wardle 173. 26-27
 " 35 " " 35-37
 " 14 " " 305-306.

Dated 3 May 1873
 Recd. 5 May 1873
 No. 251
 GE 14955 "Wardle 173
 The Secretary to Government,
 P. W. Department,
 Fort Saint George.

The Secretary to Government,
 P. W. Department,
 Fort Saint George.
 The Secretary to Government,
 P. W. Department,
 Fort Saint George.

P.W.D. 15^c
 No. 1495
 Pro. of the Madras Govt.
 Read the following.
 From the Comr. for P.W.D. (K.R. No. 251 of 3rd May 1873)

ML

His Excellency the
 Governor in Council
 having given the
 Consulting Engineer's
 letter above recorded
 his careful considera-
 tion, sees no reason
 for making any change
 in the practice which
 now obtains in refe-
 rence to the selection
 of papers for the Press.
 There seems no objection

to supplying the Agent
of the Carnatic Rail-
way with a copy of S.O.
No 947 of 26 March
GMM

No 70-71.

To,
The General Manager
for Railways
Dated 12/6/73

Mr. 2771

Govt. of 1873

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Consulting Engineer
for Railways.

Dated

Recd.

Encl. /

G. O. 5 June 1873, No. 1495.

Nos. 70 & 71

Selection of Railway papers
for the Press. The / Mr.

Supr. informed that Govt.
has no reason for making
any change in the practice
which now obtains in re-
ference to the selection of
papers for the Press and
that there is no objection
to the Agent of the Patriotic

Railway being supplied
with a copy of G. O. No.
of 28 March 73 regarding
Railway from Madras to
Quadrilateral.