M.R.O. 1—10,006—28-2-50.

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2891	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
7-8		
Dated	1-12-	1951873

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 7. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Judicial Department, dated 28th October 1873, No. 1,719 :—

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. S. DREVER, Acting Inspector-General of Police, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Ootacamund, 24th October 1873, C. No. 85.

REFERRING to G. O., No. 1,613, of 8th October 1873, on the subject of emergent telegraph messages, I have the honour to submit the following remarks.

2. As Mr. Burke truly says messages may be and are deemed "informal" in so many ways, by the Telegraph Department, that it is impossible for any other department to provide against such informalities, and it is solely on this account that I brought the subject to the notice of Government.

3. In the particular instance which gave rise to my previous remarks, a message was refused at the Railway Station at Puttamby for being "insufficiently paid." Had it been despatched, neither police nor troops would have been moved the following day.

4. There is no doubt, as Mr. Burke remarks, "that no State message, properly signed and countersigned, would in any case be refused at any Government Telegraph Office," provided, I venture to think, it were also properly paid for; but it is precisely these "proprieties" (any one of which is fatal at either a Government or a Railway Telegraph Station), which, as things now are, cannot be sufficiently regulated beforehand.

Who is the Chief Civil or Military Authority in Madras Town, or in a Mofussil village?

Is His Excellency the Governor to countersign an emergent telegram from the Commissioner of Police on a Sunday? Or is a Police Inspector to obtain the autograph of a village head prior to despatch of a call for aid?

5. The responsibility of sending an emergent State message should, I respectfully submit, rest entirely with the sender, not the receiver; such messages should never be refused by the Telegraph Department under any circumstances whatever.

Were this principle accepted, it would be easy to instruct the subordinate Magistracy and the Police Inspectors, throughout the Presidency, with whom and how to communicate by wire, should certain emergencies arise. This seems to me a right which Government may fairly demand of both Railway and Telegraph Departments.

But until it is admitted, these officers cannot be taught how to avoid the many difficulties now in their way.

ORDERED that these papers be forwarded for the consideration of the Government of India.

2. The Governor in Council entirely agrees with the Inspector-General of Police in opinion that the use of the telegraph for emergent State purposes, should be freed as much as possible from all hinderance and complications.

3. It would be very simple to ensure that all the claims of the department for cost of transmission should be promptly satisfied after despatch of messages.

4. It is observed that, on the occasion of the late Moplah outrage in Malabar, neither troops nor police need have been moved from Calicut had a message been despatched, which was refused at the Puttamby Railway Telegraph Office, under the Departmental Rules, because "insufficiently paid."

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. STURROCK,
Acting Under Secy.,
for *Chief Secretary.*

No. 8. ORDER THEREON, 1st December 1873, No. 2,891.

RAILWAY, No. 4.

COMMUNICATED to the Consulting Engineer who will inquire into the circumstances under which Departmental Rules interfered with the despatch of an emergent State message at the Puttamby Railway Station, and ascertain whether arrangements cannot be made for receiving in future all messages tendered by public officers on the guarantee of the Government that claims connected therewith shall be promptly adjusted.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railway.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies.

No 2891 P.W. Dept

Proceedings of the Madras Government.
Under date the November 1873.
Read the following.

Proceedings of Government
Judicial Dept.
Fort St George No 1795 28th October 1873

Communicated
to the Consulting Engi-
neer who will enquire
into the circumstances
under which departmental
rules interfered with the
despatch of an emergent
State message at the
Puttamby Railway Station
and ascertain whether
arrangements cannot
be

be made for receiving in future all messages tendered by public Officers on the guarantee of the Government that a claim connected therewith shall be promptly adjusted.

Agreed

30

To the Lords of Executive for Public

Read 2/12/7

Officers on the guarantee of the Govt. that claims connected therewith shall be promptly adjusted.

11-7-8

N 5999

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Consulting Engr for Railways

Date

Recd. Encl.

G. O. 1st Dec 73, No. 2891.

Nos. 1 & 8

Telegraph Despatch. The Consulting Engr. directed to enquire into the circumstances under which departmental rules interfered with the despatch from Government State Despatch at the Pattambay Railway Station & to ascertain whether arrangements can be made for receiving in future all Telegrams tendered by public