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. 3006		Press
~~B.P. No.~~ 234.235		~~Mis.~~
Dated	13 - 12. 1873	~~195~~

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 234. Read the following letter from J. BURKE, Esq., Superintendent of Telegraphs, Madras Division, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 28th November 1873, No. 2,013 :—

With reference to Madras Government Order, No. 2,705, dated 5th November 1873, I have the honour to forward copies of the letters noted in the margin, addressed by me to the Chief Auditor of the Madras Railway Company.

Letter No. 1,034, dated 19th July 1873.
" " 1,102, " 29th " "
" " 1,153, " 5th Aug. "

2. I have informed the Chief Auditor that heavy stores are never despatched by, or consigned to me, and that bills for the carriage of stores should be presented either to the officerby whom they were delivered for despatch, or to the officer to whom they were consigned. It is manifestly wrong to debit the amounts of bills to the "Telegraph Department." Telegraph stores are frequently sent by, or consigned to, officers over whom I have no control.

3. If the Railway Company will bring to my notice any instance of serious delay in the settlement of a bill presented to any Telegraph Officer in this division, I shall inquire into the case without delay.

4. The balance of Rupees 23-13-0 entered in the statement received under the Government order above referred to is not due by me or by any of my subordinates. The stores, the carriage of which amounted to this balance, were despatched by officers of the Bangalore Division of Telegraphs. This fact was communicated to the Chief Auditor on the 12th September last.

From J. BURKE, Esq., Superintendent of Telegraphs, Madras Division, to F. CHURCH, Esq., Chief Auditor, Madras Railway, dated Madras, 19th July 1873, No. 1,034.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, No. B 3,099, I have the honour to state that as a general rule disbursements on account of work done, or of carriage of stores, are not made by this office. The cost of carriage of stores sent from or to Madras, or other stations, is either disbursed by the Store Branch of this department, or by Executive Officers, and charged to certain estimates. I have no direct control over the departmental Store Branch. Funds for works to be executed under estimates are placed to the credit of Executive Officers and not to mine.

2. Bills for the cost of carriage of stores should invariably be presented to the officer who delivers or who orders the delivery of the stores for transmission. That officer is responsible for the checking of the bills in the first instance, and for their settlement.

3. I quite concur in the opinion that cash payments should be made when practicable. Executive Officers, generally speaking, have treasury credits against the estimates under which work is being executed, and great delay in the settlement of bills should very seldom take place. It happens occasionally that a disbursing officer is not at a station from which stores are sent for the work on which he is engaged. In such a case some delay would be unavoidable.

4. I have been informed by Executive Officers in this division that they frequently experience considerable difficulty in getting bills for the carriage of stores by rail. I understand that up to the present bills for stores sent to Madras from stations on the North-West Line some months since have not been presented to the Assistant Superintendent, Ghooty Sub-division Telegraphs, under whose orders the stores were despatched.

5. I regret the inconvenience which you experience, and if you will be so good as to report to me any instance of unreasonable delay in the settlement of any bill presented to an officer of this division, the case shall be promptly inquired into.

From the same Officer, dated Madras, 29th July 1873, No. 1,102.

In acknowledging receipt of your letter of the 25th instant (received on the 28th), No. B3,302, I have the honour to observe that there must be some mistake regarding the verbal agreement to which you refer. A Superintendent of a division has no accounts, and as disbursements are not made from my office their could be no advantage in sending me bills for the carriage of material delivered to your Company by Store or Sub-divisional officers. As stated in my letter of the 19th instant, funds for the execution of telegraph works are placed to the credit of Executive Officers, and it is by such officers, or by officers of the Store Branch of this department, that telegraph material is delivered for transmission by rail.

2. I should be very glad if the cost of carriage of stores could be always prepaid. Executive Officers of this division fully understand that charges for the carriage of stores should be adjusted with as little delay as possible. It happens, occasionally, that stores are at one end of a Railway and that the Executive Officer requiring them is at the other end. In that case the simplest and most convenient course would be to send the stores bearing. It also happens that Station Masters at small stations are unable to make out bills correctly; they make mistakes regarding the unit of weight, class, etc., and the despatching (Executive) Officer prefers to be furnished with bills from the head office of the Railway.

From the same Officer, dated Madras, 5th August 1873, No. 1,153.

With reference to your letter of the 29th ultimo, No. B 3,426, I have the honour to state that I have been informed that the stores referred to under Bills Nos. 1,719, and 20 have been delivered for despatch by the Assistant Superintendent in charge of the Madras Telegraph Store Depôt. He states that the bills have never been sent to him, and he now requests to be furnished with them or with duplicates. I regret I am not in a position to give you any definite information regarding Bill No. 16. The stores referred to therein appear to have been despatched from Bangalore. I have forwarded a copy of your letter to the Superintendent of that division.

2. It is absolutely necessary that the name, or official designation, of the officer who delivers stores for despatch, or to whom stores are delivered, should appear on the face of every bill.

No. 235. Order thereon, 13th December 1873, No. 3,006.

~~Civil Works~~ Railway, No. ~~W.~~ 3665

Communicated to the Consulting Engineer for Railways, in continuation of G. O., No. 2,705, of 5th November 1873.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R E.,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

P. W. 1873. Department

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

No. 3505

From The SUPERINTENDENT,
Madras DIVISION.

To The Secretary to Govt
Madras P. W. D.

Dated Madras 28th November 1873
Rec'd 1st December 1873.
No. 2913.
Encs. 1

Index No.

ABSTRACT.

PRECIS.

Referring to Madras G. O. No. 2705 of 5th Nov/73, informs that the balance of Rs 23-13-- is not due by any officer connected with the Madras Division of Tels. forwarding Copies of certain letters addressed to the Chief Auditor Madras Railway

With an order

(P. 123)—Govt. Tel. Press.—2,000.—17-4-72.

No. 3005

To the Cons. Engr for Rys

in continuation of G O No. 2705, 5th Nov/73

Rec'd 1st Dec/73

Madras 28th Nov/73

No. 235-35

Ch 505

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

No. 3006

Dated

Recd. 13 Dec. 1873. Encl. /

Nos. 284 1235

Subject. Letter from the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Madras Division, intimating that the Obstructions referred to in G.O. No. 2705 of 1873 do not belong to the Madras Division, communicated to the Consulting Engr.