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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

## Government of Madras

Public works. DEPARTMENT

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| G.O. No. 305 b | Press |
| ~~B.P. No.~~ | ~~Mis.~~ |
| 325. 326. | |
| Dated 19-12-1873 | ~~195~~ . |

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

No. 325. Read the following Proceedings of the Government of India in the Public Works Department, (Railway), dated Simla, 23rd October 1873, Nos. 1,551—77 S—R.

*Cutting of Trees which interfere with the construction of Railway lines.*

Read again :—

Public Works Department Resolution Nos. 74—87 T, dated the 4th February 1873.

Read also :—

Letter from the Government of the Punjab, No. 105 F, dated the 11th March 1873, and enclosures.

Public Works Department endorsement Nos. 469—70 S—R, dated the 2nd April 1873, to the Officiating Chief Engineer of the Punjab Northern (State) Railway and the Officiating Director-General of Telegraphs in India.

Office Memorandum from Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce Department, No. 502 F, dated the 31st March 1873.

Office Memorandum to Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce Department, No. 668 S—R, dated the 21st May 1873.

Letter from Officiating Director-General of Telegraphs in India, No. 33, dated 6th May 1873, and enclosures.

Public Works Department endorsement No. 634 S—R, dated the 14th May 1873, to Officiating Chief Engineer, Punjab Northern (State) Railway.

Office Memorandum from Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce Department, No. 835 F, dated the 7th July 1873, and enclosure.

Public Works Department endorsement No. 1,053 S—R, dated the 14th July 1873, to Officiating Chief Engineer, Punjab Northern (State) Railway.

Letter from Chief Engineer of the Punjab Northern (State) Railway, No. 3,258, dated the 30th July 1873, and enclosure.

Letter from ditto . ditto, No. 3,918, dated 13th September 1873, and enclosure.

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OBSERVATIONS.—The Government of the Punjab has represented that, for five miles on the west side of the Grand Trunk Road in the Goojrat District, the trees planted and reared with the utmost trouble and great expense have been cut down by the orders of the officials of the Railway and Telegraph Departments. The Lieutenant-Governor believing this wholesale destruction to have been unnecessary, trusts that no trees will in future be destroyed without the permission of the Deputy Commissioner of the District. On receiving this communication, the Government of India ordered that inquiry should be instituted concerning the circumstances under which the trees were injured.

2. The Telegraph Department explain that their wires were for the use of the Railway, and that they believed the trees were in charge of the Railway Officers, whose permission being obtained, only such trees were removed or pruned as obstructed the setting up of the telegraph wires.

3. The Superintendent of Works on the Chenab Bridge believes that the actual amount of damage caused by the Railway and Telegraph Officers has not been so great as is supposed. He explains that all the trees were young and too close together to permit their proper development, so that the pruning was an improvement. He says that it was absolutely necessary to remove trees which stood on places now occupied by the ballast of the line. He describes the growth near the Railway as keekur bushes, and says that in many of the curves, drivers of engines could not have obtained a sufficiently clear look-out if they had been allowed to remain, and that the removal of some trees was also desirable to prevent accidents in the case of their being blown down across the Railway.

4. The Chief Engineer of the Punjab Northern (State) Railway states that he is impressed with the importance of *protecting* trees in the Punjab as much as possible, and he regrets that the Superintendent of Works did not place himself in communication with the Deputy Commissioner. The Chief Engineer also observes that it was clearly wrong to cut the trees before it became absolutely necessary to do so.

5. The Officiating Chief Engineer of the Punjab Northern (State) Railway has further represented the damage done to trees by the camp followers with troops marching along the road. This matter appears to require the attention of the Military Authorities.

6. The Governor-General in Council believing the removal of the trees to have been unnecessary before locomotive engines were placed on the Railway, is of opinion that the Railway Officers must have acted with undue precipitancy when they pruned and cleared away the young trees along the Grand Trunk Road in the vicinity of Lucknow. The Government of India desire to encourage the growth of trees throughout the Punjab in every way, and the Governor-General in Council expects that all Railway and other Officials will act in concert with the Civil Authorities in the preservation of trees. Circular No. 74 T, on this subject has been issued to the Officers of the Telegraph Department, and His Excellency in Council desires that Officers in charge of Railways will in future consider these orders applicable to themselves in principle and spirit.

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ORDER.—Ordered, that a copy of this Resolution, with copies of accompanying papers, be forwarded to the Government of the Punjab, the Director-General of Telegraphs in India, and to Government of India, in the Department of Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce, for information, and to the Military Department for information and such action as may seem necessary with reference to letter No. 3,918, dated 13th September, and enclosure, from Officiating Chief Engineer, Punjab Northern (State) Railway.

Ordered also, that copies of this Resolution and of Public Works Department Resolution Nos. 74—87 T, dated the 4th February 1873, and of the other papers now read, be forwarded to the Chief Engineer of the Punjab Northern (State) Railway for information and guidance, with the request that he will warn the officials employed under him that no trees are in future to be cut by them in anticipation of the necessity arising, and without the consent of the Local Civil Authorities of the District in which the trees are situated.

Ordered also, that a copy of this Resolution, and of Public Works Department Resolution Nos. 74—87 T, of the 4th February 1873, be communicated to the Local Governments and Administrations and Engineers noted in the margin, for information and guidance.

The Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, and the North-Western Provinces.
The Chief Commissioners of Oudh, Central Provinces, British Burmah, and Mysore.
The Agents to the Governor-General for Central India and Rajpootana.
The Resident at Hyderabad.
The Consulting Engineers to the Government of India for Guaranteed Railways, Calcutta, Lahore, and Lucknow.
The Chief Engineer, Indus Valley (State) Railway.
The Superintending Engineers, Agra and Delhi Districts, Rajpootana (State) Railway, Holkar, Neemuch, Northern Bengal, Western Rajpootana, and Sindia (State) Railways.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND, Colonel, R.E.,
*Offg. Deputy Secretary.*



RESOLUTION by the Government of India, Public Works Department, dated 4th February 1873, Nos. 74—87 T.

Read—

Letter from Rajpootana, No. 974 S, dated 30th March 1872.
" " Hyderabad, " 169 G—W, dated 1st April "
" " Bengal, " 1865 " 6th " "
" " Central Provinces, No. 1865, " 5th " "
" " Central India, " I, 1856, " 23rd " "
" " North-Western Provinces, No. 1,808, dated 1st May 1872.
" " British Burmah, No. 992, dated 20th April 1872.
" " Mysore, No. 133, dated 25th May 1872.
" " Madras, " 1,571, " 28th June "
" " Oudh, " 1,209, " 29th July "
" " Punjab, " 380, C, " 28th August 1872.
" " Bombay, " 13, T—1,634, dated 26th August 1872.
Public Works Department letter No. 385 T, to Agricultural Department, dated 11th October 1872.
Public Works Department letter No. 386 T, dated 11th October 1872, to Director-General of Telegraphs.
Letter from Department of Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce, No. 1,587, dated 25th October 1872.
Letter from Director-General of Telegraphs, No. 321, dated 6th November 1872.

Read again:—

Foreign Department Proceedings for September 1869, No. 51.
Public Works Department Proceedings for February 1870, Nos. 1—13.
" " " for January 1871, No. 15.
" " " for October " Nos. 4—6.
" " " for January 1872, " 10, 12—15.
" " " for March " " 39—46.
" " " for April " " 16—19.

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OBSERVATIONS.—Serious inconvenience has been experienced in consequence of trees being too close to telegraph wires, and thus interfering with the safe transmission of telegraphic messages, and frequent difficulties and delays have arisen regarding the removal of such obstructions; while, on the other hand, the Civil and Public Works Officers have complained of irregular action on the part of Telegraph Officers in injuring trees without permission or consultation with the proper authorities. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council considers it expedient that rules should be promulgated for future guidance, with a view to prevent the recurrence of similar difficulties.

2. The following are the Rules which have been approved by the Governor-General in Council:—

*Draft Rules regarding the planting and cutting of trees, and the cutting of branches which interfere with telegraph wires.*

Rules applicable more especially to new lines of telegraph.

In laying out a new line of telegraph, the Telegraph Officer, charged with the erection of the line, should take care that there is no unnecessary destruction of trees, especially those of old and fine growth, and should avoid, as much as possible, interference with existing avenues, groves and plantations, and even single trees, whether public or private property; he should consult the Civil Authorities and others and satisfy them on this point; and when a new line is to be constructed along a road, the Telegraph Officer should be careful not to place it so as to interfere with the future planting of avenues of trees.

2. Where, after such consultation, it is agreed that interference is unavoidable for the proper construction of the line, the Telegraph Officer will be careful further to consult the Civil Authorities and others concerned, and arrange with them that due compensation is paid to the owners in all cases where the trees are private property.

3. If the trees are the property of Government, they shall on no account be cut down or lopped without the permission of the Officer in charge of the trees, and if this permission is refused, and the Telegraph Officer is not satisfied, the matter must be referred to the next superior Officer in the Telegraph Department, who may then consult the higher Civil or Public Works Authorities, or refer to the head of his own department.

4. When new lines are being constructed in Native States, the Political Agent shall be referred to by the Telegraph Officers to make the necessary arrangements with the Native Durbar for cutting or removing trees, and for granting compensation.

5. Unless under special sanction or agreement with the Local Officers concerned, no line of telegraph shall be erected parallel to an avenue or side of a grove of trees within 25 feet of the edge thereof. Civil and Public Works Officers are, however, requested to give all reasonable consideration to the requirements of the Telegraph Department, as exemplified in the following extract from a letter, No. J. 321, of 6th November 1872, from the Officiating Director-General of Telegraphs :—

"In many parts of India, and in many instances, the only portions of the country not under water in the rains are the main roads, along both sides of which avenues or groves of trees are not unfrequently planted for shades. To place the supports of a telegraph line at a distance not less than 25 feet outside of the boundary of the road, avenues of trees or groves would necessitate the telegraph line being erected well into the fields or jungle liable to inundation, at a distance so considerable as to preclude the possibility of inspection from the road, with, moreover, a deep ditch full of water between the road and the boundary thereof. I am, therefore, of opinion that this paragraph should be either cancelled or altered if future extensions of, or alterations to, telegraph lines are to be worked efficiently. If the avenues of trees is of any age and growth, the trees will be sufficiently high and thick to admit of the supports for the telegraph lines being planted within a few feet of their trunks, and of the wires being carried under their branches without, many of the latter having to be cut off from the one side, the trees being disfigured, or their shade reduced. The telegraph lines in India were at first constructed across the fields and away from the sides of the roads, the result being that at certain times of the year inspection was most difficult and shirked, and involved injury to the growing and standing crops. This system was abandoned when the lines were being re-constructed."

6. When new lines of Telegraph must be taken over avenues, they should be carried across as nearly at right angles as possible. Long slants are objectionable, as they interfere with many trees.

7. The Civil or Public Works Officers are desired to inform the Officers of the Telegraph Department immediately on becoming aware of any cases in which telegraph lines are being constructed within 25 feet of any grove or avenue, or so as to prevent the convenient planting of a road avenue in future, or generally when any arrangement of a line of telegraph is likely to cause inconvenience or injury. In case of failure to arrange with the officer immediately concerned, the matter should be brought to the notice of the local head of the Telegraph Department, and also reported to higher authority in the Civil or Public Works Department.

8. Where existing telegraph lines are within 25 feet of any avenue or grove of trees, the Telegraph Officer shall be primarily responsible that the wires are kept free of contact. To this end he may, without reference to the Officers in charge, keep boughs up to 2 inches diameter clear for a distance of 3 feet from the line of telegraph wire. Likewise, twigs and small boughs easily moved by the wind may be cleared away for a distance of 6 feet from the telegraph line without reference to the Officer in charge.

Rules applicable more especially to existing lines of telegraph.

9. In cases where it is necessary that large boughs or tops of trees should be cut, permission to cut them should be asked in writing from the Officer in whose charge they are. Should no answer be received within ten days of the date of despatch of the letter to the office of the Officer concerned, the Telegraph Officer may intimate his intention to proceed to cut the branches, and one week thereafter shall be at liberty to cut the branches without further reference.

10. Telegraph Officers shall be held responsible that the cutting and lopping of trees is not more than is absolutely necessary for the proper working of the telegraph line.

11. Public Works Officers and other Officers in charge of roads will be held responsible that trees are not planted in positions where they are likely to interfere with the telegraph wires, *viz.*, within 25 feet of them, as laid down in Rule 5.

12. The Officers of the Telegraph Department are required immediately to make a courteous remonstrance in any case where trees are being planted within 25 feet of, or so as to be likely to interfere with, a telegraph wire; and in case of their objection not being attended to, they should report at once to their immediate superiors. The Superintendent of the Division or the superior Officer should represent the case to the local authority in charge of the planting, and endeavour to get the trees removed, failing which, he should report to the head of his own Department.

13. Wherever possible, trees that have been recently planted within the prescribed distance should be removed.

14. It may be necessary in some few cases to remove existing lines of telegraph which interfere seriously, or are likely so to interfere, with groves or avenues of trees, but on account of the expense, no such removal is to take place without a special report to the Government of India of all the circumstances of the case. Such report must distinctly show whether the avenue was first planted, or the telegraph line first erected.

15. The foregoing rules are not applicable to lines of telegraph passing through forest and jungle tracts, but care should, nevertheless, be taken to avoid injury to large trees which are in every situation to be considered as valuable.

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ORDER.—Ordered, that a copy of this Resolution, and copy of the Rules embodied therein, be forwarded to all Local Governments and Administrations for information and guidance, and for communication to all Officers concerned.

Ordered also, that copies be forwarded to the Government of India, in the Home Department, for publication in the *Gazette of India*, and to the Officiating Director General of Telegraphs in India for information and distribution.

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No. 326. ORDER THEREON, 19th December 1873, No. 3,056.

RAILWAY, No. 44.

FORWARDED to the Consulting Engineer for Railways for the information and guidance of the Officers of the Railway Company.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
*Secretary to Government.*

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Exd. T. O'Connor.
Spare Copies

Public Works 1873 Dec
(6) No. 6314-8

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

RAILWAY.

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To

Nos. 1551—77 S—R.

*Dated* SIMLA, *October* 23, 1873.

*Received* 21st Nov/

Encl. 1

*Cutting of trees which interfere with the construction of railway lines.*

P. W. D. Press—31-10-73—464.

With an Order.

Appd
24/11

For the information and guidance of Railway Companies.

To the Chief Engineers and Agents of Railways.

Sd/- [illegible] Secy to Govt

305-b

Forwarded to the Consulting Engr: for Railways.

Agents of Railways.

N: 325-26.

Cir 24/11/73

Ry. 6343

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To the Commissioner &c &c
for Railways

Dated

Recd. Encl. 2 (1)

G. O. 9 Dec 1873. No. 3056.

Nos. 325 & 326.

Railways. Prog of two forms of Rules Communicating copy of Resolutions on the subject of cutting of trees which interfere with the construction of railway lines, for-warded to the Govt of Ind. with instructions.