M.R.O. 1—10,006—28-2-50.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1346-47 Press
B.P. No. —Mis.—

Dated 20—5—C874—195—

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
20th May 1874.

Read the following papers:—

No. 418. Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated 26th March 1874.

WHAT is the cause of the serious falling off in the net receipts of the Madras Railway for 1873-74 as reported in your telegram of 25th?

No. 419. 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, 30th March 1874, No. 201.

IN reply to the Order of Government, No. 255, dated 27th March 1874, I have the honour to state that, after allowing for the exceptional receipts during last year from material for the Nizam's State Railway, the falling off in the Madras Railway traffic receipts for January and February 1874, compared with the corresponding period of 1873, is chiefly due to the influence of the famine upon the grain traffic.

2. The further decrease provided for in the final Regular Financial Estimate is due to the same cause.

3. The falling off in the traffic was referred to in my letter No. 153 of 16th March 1874, and in the explanatory memorandum from the Examiner of Railway Accounts.

No. 237-D.

THE Consulting Engineer is requested to be good enough to enter somewhat into detail on the subject of the falling off of the net receipts on the Madras Railway in 1873-74, and to explain, for the information of the Government of India, in what districts it is that famine is acting prejudicially to the interests of the Madras Railway, and what are the ordinary channels of grain traffic which have been diverted by it.

(By Order.)
(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

10th April 1874.

No. 420. 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, 14th April 1874, No. 224.

WITH reference to the Order of Government, dated the 10th April 1874, No. 237-D, I have the honour to state that, after discussing the matter with the Traffic Manager of the Madras Railway, I am of opinion that the large falling off in the ordinary receipts on that line during the last three months is due to a generally bad season throughout the districts traversed by the railway.

2. On comparing the station returns for this period with the corresponding ones for the previous year, a decrease is shown under goods traffic both in tonnage and receipts at nearly every station, the exceptions being very few indeed. It was at first imagined that the merchants were holding their stock of grain with a view to the realization of higher prices on account of the famine in Bengal, but

this is disproved on inquiry, and, looking to the very general nature of the decrease, the only conclusion that can be drawn is that the supplies of grain and other produce have fallen so low that none is available for exportation.

3. A large amount of grain has hitherto been sent to Beypore from Vellore and Arcot, and here the greatest falling off is shown. That this can be only due to scarcity is borne out by the fact that dholl and other food grains have been brought from Sholapore on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway to Vellore, a lead of more than 500 miles.

4. It might be thought that one result of the Bengal famine would be to induce the carriage of grain from Vellore to Madras for shipment in preference to Beypore, but such has not been the case; the decrease in receipts is directly due to diminution in tonnage, and not to shorter distance carried.

5. The third-class passenger traffic shows a large falling off which may also be attributed to the prevalent scarcity: owing to the stagnation of trade, people are not called upon to travel so much on business, and from the high price of food they have but little money to spare for travelling on pleasure.

No. 421. ORDER THEREON, 20th May 1874, No 1,316.

RAILWAY, No. 46.

ORDERED that these letters be forwarded to the Government of India with reference to their telegram of the 26th March 1874, and communicated to the Revenue Department for information.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

No. 422. (DOCKET No. 1,317, dated 20th May 1874.)

COPY of the above forwarded to the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

2

y Department Consulting Engineers office

No 201

from w Stewart R.E

No 255- w for Railways

Madras.

Send to the Con Engr

for Railways with reference

to his letter No. 184 d/24 "March

and with a request that he

will furnish the information

called for.

er R.E.

vernment

to Department.

ent George

To The Con Engr

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Despd 27/3/74.

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No. 421.

RAILW

the 26th March 187

No. 422.

Copy of

Ed. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

Railway Department Consulting Engineer's Office

No 201

From

Lt. Col. J. H. M. Shaw Stewart R.E.
Consulting Engineer for Railways
Madras.

To

Col. G. W. Walker R.E.
Secretary to Government
Public Works Department.
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

In reply to the Order of Government No 256, dated 27 March 1874, I have the honour to state that, after allowing for the exceptional receipts during last year from material for the Nizam's State Railway, the

the falling-off in the Madras Railway traffic receipts for the January and February 1874, compared with the corresponding period of 1873, is chiefly due to the influence of the famine upon the grain traffic.

2. The further decrease provided for in the Trial Regular Financial estimate is due to the same cause.

3. The falling-off in the traffic was referred to in my[t] letter No 153 of 16 March 1874 and in the explanatory Memorandum

Memorandum from the Examiner of Railway Accounts.

Share the honour to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

Lieutenant Lt.Col. RE

Consg. Engineer for Railways

Madras
30 March
1874

Recd.

Railway Department

Consulting Engineer's Office

No. 224

From

Lieut. Col: J. H. M. Shaw Stewart R.E.
Consulting Engineer for Railways

To

Colonel J. W. Walker R.E.
Secretary to Government
Public Works Department
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

With reference to the Order of Government dated the 10th April 1874. No. 237D, I have the honour to state that after discussing the matter with the Traffic Manager of the Madras Railway, I am of opinion that the large falling off in the ordinary receipts on that line during the last three months, is due to a generally bad season throughout the districts traversed by the railway.

2. On comparing the station returns for this period with the corresponding ones for the previous year, a decrease is shewn under goods traffic both in tonnage and receipts

receipts at nearly every Station, the exceptions being very few indeed. It was at first imagined that the merchants were holding their stock of grain with a view to the realization of higher prices on account of the famine in Bengal, but this is disproved on enquiry, and looking to the very general nature of the decrease, the only conclusion that can be drawn is that the supplies of grain and other produce have fallen so low, that none is available for exportation.

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5. The third class passenger traffic shews a large falling off, which may also be attributed to the prevalent scarcity:— owing to the stagnation of trade, people are not called upon to travel so much on business, and from the high price of food they have but little money to spare for travelling on pleasure.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant
W. Bourdillon Lieut: R.E.
for Consulting Engineer for Railways

Madras
14th April 1874
Sd
W.B.

Received 20th April 1874

Public Dept.
1346

Returns of the Madras Government
Under date the April 1874.
Read the following.

From the Chief Engineer
for Railways

To —

Here enter No 2019 of 30 March 1874
Here enter No 2243 of 4th April 1874

Colonel Hall Memorandum

Memorandum as to the Agreement
for the Madras railway
to the Secretary of State
for India in Council
dated 17th
March 1853

Here enter No 1947 of
Secretary of State
Copy of the above
Memorandum as to the Agreement

+ made communication
+ Rec'd 17th. Rec'd
: Each communication
for information
Copies

Dept. W. 1854 Department
Ry. Circular Order for May
Dy com 53. 2214-b

The Secretary Engineer
for Railways

The Secretary to Govt
P.W. Department
Fort St. George

Dated 14 June/July 1854
Received 17th

No 224
G.O. No. 1846. 29-5-74.
Fredericksburg ex-
planation as to the
large falling off in
the ordinary receipts
on the M.R. during
the last three
months.

No 420
Sent to Audit 16 Nov 74

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Govt. of 1874 Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Mr Consg. Engr. for Rys./
Secy. to the Govt. of India

Date[illegible]

Read. Encl.

G. O. 20th May 74. No. 1346
1347

Nos. 418-422.

Receipts - Madras Rys

Ordered that the papers containing explanation as to the cause of falling off in the net receipts of the Madras Rys for 1873.74 be forwarded to the Govt of India & Comd to the Revenue Dept for information -

418-422

Rly Rec 21/5/74 Rd 8/6/74
Noted to Rly 16/12/74 Cir 18/12/74

Forwarding letters ~~recieved~~ from the Comptroller for Rys furnishing explanation as to the cause of the falling off in the net receipts of the Madras Railway for 1873-74

418-422

Dy Rec'r 21/4/74 168 8/5/74
Audr's Rep'y 16/12/74 Cir 18/12/74