

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	<i>1671</i>	Press	<i>Original</i>
B.P. No.		Mis.	
Dated	<i>20-6-</i>	<i>195</i>	<i>1954</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 458. 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, 20th May 1874, No. 308:—

ADVERTING to the Order of Government, dated the 18th ultimo, No. 1,013, I have the honour to state that the subject of the recent fires on the Madras Railway has been frequently and fully discussed with the Railway Authorities. A letter* from the Agent is enclosed for the information of Government. It will

* No. 424, 16th May 1874.

be seen that it is the general opinion among the officers of the Company that the fires have been caused, not so much by sparks from the chimney as by cinders from the ash-pan. In this opinion I concur; and as the Locomotive Superintendent has undertaken to keep the ash-pan damped, I trust the number of accidents by fire will be materially decreased.

2. There can be no doubt that the unusual number of fires must be attributed, as the Agent observes, to the long-continued drought. A reference to the Proceedings of Government for the months of February, March, April, and May 1868 will show that during that year the cases of fire upon the Madras Railway were even more numerous than they have been during this year. The circumstances attending the fires in the two years were similar; as they occurred during the same months, after long-continued drought, and chiefly on the same part of the line, between Arconum and Ghooty.

3. The Government may rest assured that no measure calculated to put a stop to these fires will be left untried by the Railway officials.

From R. B. ELWIN, Esq., Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, R.E., Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 16th May 1874, No. 424.

With reference to your letter No. 388 of the 28th ultimo, and to the Order of Government No. 1,013, dated the 18th idem, I have the honour to request that you will be so good as to report to the Government that the question of the prevention of fires in trains was fully discussed at the Committee meeting held in my office on the 13th instant, at which you were present.

2. The general opinion of the Committee was that the fires that have been of such frequent occurrence recently may have been occasioned by sparks from the ash-pan of the engine being carried underneath the train by the draught, and finding their way into the wagons through the cracks in the flooring, and it was decided that the Acting Locomotive Superintendent shall contrive to keep the ash-pan continually damped in future by water from the feed pipe.

3. It is hoped that by this contrivance the cases of fire will be considerably decreased, and I beg that you will assure His Excellency the Governor in Council that the importance of the subject to which he has directed attention will not be overlooked by the officers of the Railway.

4. I will, however, observe that the frequent cases of fire which have been reported lately must, in a great measure, be attributed to the unusually dry season which prevailed up to the 6th instant, before which time no rain had fallen for nearly five months, and this of course naturally increased the chances of accidents by fire. Moreover, it must be borne in mind that many of the cases which have been reported are very trifling, and, though they have been reported in accordance with what I understand to be the wishes of Government, in many of the cases no appreciable damage was done to the Company's property.

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

No. 459. ORDER THEREON, 20th June 1874, No. 1,671.

RAILWAY, No. 74.

His Excellency the Governor in Council trusts that the precautionary measures which are being taken for the prevention of accidents by fire on the Madras Railway will have the desired effect, and he gladly accepts the assurance conveyed in the concluding portion of the Consulting Engineer's letter. It will be seen from G. O., No. 1,194, of 5th May, that due credit has already been given by the Government to the unusual drought of the season.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spars Copies.

No 424

MADRAS RAILWAY

AGENT AND MANAGERS' OFFICE.

Madras, 16th May 1874.

From

R. D. Oliver Esq^r
Agent and Manager, M. R. Co.

To

Mr J. B. Melb. Shaw, Stewart, & Co.
Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of 30th of the 28th ultimo and to the order of Government of 10/13 dated the 18th idem, I have the honour to request that you will be so good as to report to the Government that the question of the prevention of fire in trains was fully discussed at the Committee meeting held in my Office on the 13th instant at which you were present.

The general opinion of the Committee was that the fires that have been of such frequent occurrence recently may have been occasioned by sparks from the stack pass of the Engine being carried underneath the train by the draught and finding their way into the Waggon through the cracks in the flooring and it was decided that the Acting Locomotive Superintendent shall

continue to keep the catch pan continually
damped in future by water from the
freed pipe.

3. It is hoped that by this contri-
bution the cases of fire will be considerably
decreased, and I beg that you will assure
His Excellency the Governor in Council
that the importance of the subject to which
he has directed attention will not be
overlooked by the Officers of the Railway.

4. I will however observe that
the frequent cases of fire which have
been reported lately must in a great
measure be attributed to the unusually
dry season which prevails up to the
6th instant before which time no rain
had fallen for nearly five months, and
this of course naturally increased the
chances of accident by fire. Moreover
it must be borne in mind that many
of the cases which have been reported
are very trifling and though they have
been reported in accordance with what
I understand to be the wishes of Govern-
ment, in many of the cases no appreciable
damage was done to the Company's property.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant

J. P. Jones
Agent and Clerk

J. P. Jones

Railway Department.

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

No. 308

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,

Adverting to the Order of Government dated the 18th ultimo, No. 100, I have the honor to state that the subject of the recent fires on the Madras Railway has been frequently and fully discussed with the Railway Authorities. A letter from the Agent is enclosed for the information of Government. It will be seen that it is the general opinion among the Officers of the Company that the fires have been caused, not so much by sparks from the chimney, as by cinders from the ash-pan. In this

opinion

No. 424 - 16th
May 1874.

MADRAS RAILWAY.

From

The Agent and Manager.

To

The Consulting Engineer

for Railways.

Dated

18th

16th May 1874

424

Regarding the recent
accidents by fire
on the Madras Railway

Mr. F. 5003/74

May 20 1874

opinion I concur; and as the Local
-medicine Superintendent has under-
-taken to keep the ash-pans damped,
I trust the number of accidents by
fire will be materially decreased.

2. There can be no doubt
that the unusual number of fires
must be attributed, as the Agent
observes, to the long-continued drought.
A reference to the Proceedings of Government
for the months of February, March,
April, and May etc. will show that
during that year the cases of fire upon
the Malabar Railway were even more
numerous than they have been during
this year. The circumstances attending
the fires in the two years were similar
as they occurred during the same months
after long-continued drought, and
chiefly on the same parts of the line,
between Arcanum and Ghosky.

3. The Government may rest
assured

assured that no measure calculated
to put a stop to these fires will be
left untried by the Railway Officials.

I have the honour to be
Sir

Your most obedient servant

Wm. Stewart
Lt. Col. R. E.

Consulting Engineer for Railways

Malabar
20th May
1874.
B. B.
B. B.

Jul. 17th 1840

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

From

1893

The Consulting Engineer

for Railways;

113

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

Fort Saint George.

Dated 20th May 1911.
 Recd of Wm. H. H. H.

Oct. 30th 1894
C. D. Smith
Instructions will

He was to tell from the
Arch the day when the
subject of the pre-
sency of certain
it find place in
the Madison Building

With the order

Miss Mary H. Brown in Council

think that the precautionary measure which
we have taken for the protection of accident
by the on the above footing will have
the desired effect, and be gladly accepted by the
assurances conveyed in the accompanying for-
-one of the on business letter. I will be
ever firm & a. m. 1904 of 51 may that the
credit has already been given by the
Government to the unusual thought
of the ocean.

To the Hon. Mr. Justice
of the Peace
at the Court House
at the City of New York.

Dec 29/57

65-857

30331

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Comr. Engrs.
for Mys.

Dated

Recd.

Encl. 1

10. 10. 20 June 1874 No 1071

No. 458-459.

Accident (Railway)

Passing orders on a
letter from the Comr. Engrs.
submitting one from the
Agent ~~for the~~
on the subject of the
~~frequency~~ frequency of
accidents of fire of
late on the Madras Ry.