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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1865	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
208-209		
Dated	11-7-1874	195 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th July 1874.*

No. 208. Read the following letter from Major the Honourable E. R. BOURKE, Postmaster General, Madras, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Ootacamund, 24th June 1874, No. 491-1,877 :—

Now that the travelling post-office has been established on all the Railway lines in the Madras Presidency, serious inconvenience has arisen, endangering the safety of the mails, by reason of information of accidents and breaks on the line (causing detention and transport of mails over the breaks) not being reported immediately to me to my office, Madras.

2. The late break at Vaniembady was not reported to me for several days after it occurred; that near Camalapore, which occurred on the 16th June, had not up to 23rd been reported, and the first information that the Postal Department had of both breaks was gleaned from the public newspapers, many hours after both breaks had caused the detention of the mails passing both ways.

3. Previous to the introduction of the travelling post-office, a break on the line of railway only affected the mails by detaining them till they could be transported over the break, the mails being all closed in sealed bags and properly labelled for their respective destinations, the break did not endanger their safety. Now, since the travelling post-office has been working, any break in the line entails most serious consequence, and immediate steps have to be taken by the Post-office Authorities for the safety of the mails, many of which are actually open and being manipulated by the sorters at the time the mail train reaches the break. Temporary arrangements for closing certain mails at certain stations on each side of the break have to be made. Post-offices along the line have to be telegraphed to, to alter temporarily the manner in which they make up their despatch. Extra hands have at once to be sent to the break to work off the accumulations arising from either sides, and to assist the sorters on duty, and a number of other departmental arrangements are likewise necessary to obviate a dead lock, which it is not necessary for me to particularize in order to illustrate the importance and necessity of all breaks in the railway being without loss of time immediately reported to my office.

4. On the last occasion the break unfortunately occurred the day before both the outward and inward overland mails was to pass; but thanks to the great personal exertions of Mr. Elwin, the Agent, and Mr. Church, the Traffic Manager, the outward overland mail suffered no detention.

5. I would, therefore, ask the orders of Government that the Agents and Traffic Managers of both the Madras and Great Southern of India Railway be directed to communicate immediately to me direct to my office, Madras, all breaks in the line that may in future occur that would affect the mails, in order that all the necessary steps may be taken by this department without loss of time for the safety of the mails, as also for assistance being sent to the sorters that no further unnecessary delay may take place.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th July 1874.

No. 209.

ORDER THEREON, 11th July 1874, No. 1,865.

RAILWAY, No. 27.

COMMUNICATED to the Consulting
Engineer for Railways, who will arrange
for the early intimation to the Post-
master General of all interruptions of Railway communication in future.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.
,, Postmaster General.
,, Public Department.

Postmaster General's office
Kotacamund, 24th June/74.

No. 491
1874
J.

The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department.
Kotacamund.

Sir,

Now that the Travelling Post office has
been established on all the Railway lines in the
Madras Presidency, serious inconvenience has
arisen endangering the safety of the mails
by reason of information of accidents and
breaks on the line (causing detention and
transport of mails over the breaks) not being
reported immediately to me to my office
Madras.

The late break at Vaniembady was not
reported to me for several days after it occurred,
that near Bangalore which occurred on
the 16th June, had not up to 23rd been reported
and

and the first information that the Postal Department had of both breaks was gleaned from the Public Newspapers many hours after both breaks had caused the detention of the mails passing both ways.

Previous to the introduction of the Travelling Post office, a break on the line of Railway only affected the mails by detaining them till they could be transported over the break, the mails being all closed in sealed bags and properly labelled for their respective destinations, the break did not endanger their safety.

Now, since the Travelling Post office has been working, any break in the lines entails most serious consequence and immediate steps have to be taken by Post office authorities for the safety of the mails many of which.

which are actually open and being manipulated, by the porters at the time the mail train reaches the break. Temporary arrangements for closing certain mails at certain stations on each side of the break have to be made. Post offices along the line have to be telegraphed to alter temporarily the manner in which they make up their despatch. Extra hands have at once to be sent to the break to work off the accumulations arising from either sides and to assist the porters on duty and a number of other Departmental arrangements are likewise necessary to obviate a dead lock which it is not necessary for me to particularize in order to illustrate the importance and necessity of all breaks in the Railway being without loss of time immediately reported to my office.

Dr

On the last occasion the break unfortunately occurred the day before both the outward and inward overland mails was to pass; but thanks to the great personal exertions of Mr. Elwin, the Agent and Mr. Church, the Traffic Manager, the outward overland mail suffered no detention.

I would therefore ask the orders of Government that the Agents and Traffic Managers of both the Madras and Great Southern of India Railways be directed to communicate immediately to me direct to my office Madras, all events in the line that may in future occur - that would affect the mails in order that all the necessary steps may be taken by this Department without loss.

loss of time for the safety of the mails as also for assistance being sent to the porters that no further unnecessary delay may take place.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,
Your obedient servant,

M. M. M.

Post Master General

Edw. 1865-7-74