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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2994	Press
~~B.P.~~ No.		~~Mis.~~
Dated	21 - 10 -	1954

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
21st October 1874.*

No. 460. 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, 22nd September 1874, No. 562 :—

IN the Proceedings of Government, under date the 25th August 1874, No. 2,416, the report of an accident which caused the death of a woman near Manaparay on the 22nd February was recorded, with a remark that more care should be taken where excavations are in progress. The order of Government was accordingly communicated to the Agent of the South Indian Railway, and

I have now the honor to lay before His Excellency in Council a letter* from

Mr. Betts, with enclosure from the Chief Engineer, in which Mr. Logan alludes to the several inquiries which have been made regarding the accident in question, and asks for some indication of the direction in which the Railway executive have failed in carefulness in this, or in any other, instance of accident.

2. I have just returned from an inspection of the works in progress along the whole of the Southern Extension of the South Indian Railway, and it is both a duty and a pleasure to bear witness to the success which continues to attend the earnest efforts which, ever since the commencement of operations, have been made by the Chief Engineer and his Assistants to protect their work-people from injury to life or limb.

From W. S. BETTS, Esq., Agent of the South Indian Railway, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, R.E., Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Negapatam, 14th September 1874, No. 96.

IN compliance with the request contained in your letter, No. 146 of the 1st instant, the Chief Engineer was requested to issue the necessary instructions for exercising more care where excavations are in progress.

2. From the attached copy of Mr. Logan's letter, No. 5,524-A, it will be seen he is of opinion there was no absence of want of care, on the part of the Company's servants at the Manaparay accident; and he asks for some indication of the direction in which the Railway executive have failed in carefulness in this, or in any other, instance of accident which has occurred in the Engineering Department.

Letter from the Chief Engineer, to the Agent, dated Camp at Tinnevely, 6th September 1873, No. 5,524-A.

I HAVE to acknowledge receipt of Government Order, No. 2,416 of the 25th ultimo, upon the papers relating to the accidental death of a cooly woman on the Southern Extension near Manaparay in February last.

2. A report of this accident was at once forwarded to Government in the usual form in which, amongst other details, it was stated that the accident was reported to the Police, and that the verdict of the inquest was accidental death.

3. The report submitted "being considered unsatisfactory" was "referred to the Judicial Department with a view to the Magistrate being called upon for a full report of the results of the inquiry into the matter of this accident." This reference resulted in a report from Mr. Lewis Moore, the Acting Head Assistant Magistrate of Trichinopoly, in which (paragraph 2) he states

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
21st October 1874.

"I was at Manaparay a couple of days after the accident took place, and saw the pit in which the woman was killed, and from what I then ascertained, and the facts stated in the 3rd class Magistrate's report, do not consider that any blame can be attached to any one on account of this casualty."

4. After full and careful magisterial inquiries into the facts of the case, and with the foregoing conclusion before me, I was quite unprepared for the order (No. 2,416) thereon, viz. "Recorded," with remark that "more care should be taken when excavations are in progress."

5. With all respect I ask for some indication of the direction in which the Railway executive have failed in carefulness in this, or in any other, instance of accident. In the case under reference the District Magistrate, after careful inquiry, under a reference from Government, reports that blame cannot be attached to any one, and I fail to see therefore upon what grounds we are ordered to be more careful, when under the inquiry no want of care is imputed, or can be inferred.

6. Both by example and by precept, aided by the efforts of my Assistants, I have striven to secure in every way in our power the safety of life and limb; and it seems to me clear, when the apathy, carelessness, and inattention to orders and warnings of native laborers is taken into consideration, this very casualty bears testimony that want of care cannot fairly be attributed to us, being, as I believe it is, the only accident of the kind since the works of the Railway began up to this date, when they are over a length of over 200 miles nearly completed.

No. 461.

ORDER THEREON, 21st October 1874, No. 2,994.

RAILWAY, No. 69.

His Excellency the Governor in Council accepts the assurance, endorsed as it is by the Consulting Engineer, that care is observed to protect the work-people employed in construction operations on the South of India Railway.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

South Indian Railway

Letter from the Chief Engineer to the Agent dated Camp
Tinnevely 6th September 1874 No. 2524

I have to acknowledge receipt of Government Order No. 2416 of the 25th ultimo upon the papers relating to the accidental death of a Cooly woman on the Southern Extension near Manaparay in February last.

A report of this accident was at once forwarded to Government in the usual form in which amongst other details it was stated that the accident was reported to the Police, and that the verdict of the Inquest was accidental death.

The report submitted "being considered unsatisfactory" was "referred to the judicial Department with a view to the Magistrate being called upon for a full report of the results of the inquiry into the matter of this accident." This reference resulted in a report from Mr. Lewis Moore, the Acting Head Assistant Magistrate of Trichinopoly in which (para 2) he states "I was at Manaparay a couple of days after the accident took place, and saw the pit in which the woman was killed, and from what I then ascertained, and the facts stated in the 3rd class Magistrate's report, do not consider that any blame can be attached to any one on account of this casualty."

After full and careful Magisterial inquiries into the facts of the case, and with the foregoing conclusion before me, I was quite unprepared for the order (No. 2416) thereon viz. "Recorded" with remark that "more care should

should be taken when excavations are in progress.
With all respects due for some indication of the direction in which the Railway Executive have failed in carefulness in this or in any other instance of accident. In the case under reference the District Magistrate, after careful inquiry, under a reference from Government, reports that blame cannot be attached to any one, and I fail to see therefore upon what grounds we are ordered to be more careful, when under the inquiry no want of care is imputed, or can be inferred.

Both by example and by precept, aided by the efforts of my Assistants, I have striven to secure in every way in our power, the safety of life and limb; and it seems to me clear, when the apathy, carelessness, and inattention to orders and warnings of native laborers is taken into consideration this very casualty bears testimony, that want of care cannot fairly be attributed to us, being, as I believe it is, the only accident of the kind since the works of the Railway began up to this date when they are, over a length of over 200 miles, nearly completed.

(True copy)
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Chief Clerk

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No. 96

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

Agent's Office.

Negapatam, 14th September 1874

From

THE AGENT,

South Indian Railway,

To

THE CONSULTING ENGINEER

for Railways,

MADRAS.

Sir

In compliance with the request contained in your letter No 146 of the 1st instant, the Chief Engineer was requested to issue the necessary instructions for exercising more care where excavations are in progress.

From the attached copy of Mr. Logan's letter No $\frac{5524}{2}$ it will be seen he is of opinion there was no absence of want of care, on the part of the Company's servants, at the Manapary accident; and he asks for some indication of the direction in which the Railway Executive have failed in carelessness in this, or in any other, instance of accident which has occurred in the Engineering Department.

I have the honor to be

Yours most obedient servant

William R. Pitt
Agent

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S OFFICE

70562

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,

In the Proceedings of Government under date the 25th August 1874, N^o 2416, the report of an accident which caused the death of a woman near Manaparaig on the 22nd February was recorded, with a remark that more care should be taken where excavations are in progress. The order of Government was accordingly communicated to the Agent of the South Indian Railway, and I have now the honour to lay before His Excellency in Council a letter from Mr. Petts, with enclosure from the Chief Engineer, in which

* N^o 96-14th
September 1874

W^o

John

Die Gynäk.

2. *John C. ...*

J. Buckley

Chateau de St. Saphorin
Genève - 16.

11/16

J. M. Bailey

Deputy

accident
Reflected

125. 721 Oct 11/14

der B. Hochsee

2. I have just returned from an inspection of the works in progress along the whole of the southern extension of the South Indian Railway, and it is both a duty and a pleasure to bear witness to the success which continues to attend the earnest efforts which, ever since the commencement of operations, have been made by the Chief Engineer and his Assistants to protect their work-people

Cons. Engineer for Railways

Respectfully,
Dorothy Abbott

S.H.C. 53

Letter from Chief Engineer for
Railways, No. 562, dated 22 Sept 1910.

For Orders.

Submitted for

I accept the assurance
that care is observed in
the use of the Engrs.
Engine 5710 M

orders with originals
of Proceedings referred to.

W. Walker of S.H.C.
Secy: to Government
S.H.C.

460-461

Recd 7/10/10. P.D. 9/10/10.

6001
Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Comr. Engr for Mys.

Dated

Recd.

Encl. 2.

G. O. 21 Oct 1874, No. 2994

Nos. 460-461.

2990
Late accident at Mana:

parade on the Sⁿ.

extension of the Sⁿ India

By - Accepting the
insurance enclosed by the Engr

Engineer

is hereby the Comr. Engr that

are to be allowed to pro

tect the work people em

ployed in construction

operations on the Railway.