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.	3198	Press
~~B.P. No.~~ 188-189		~~Mis.~~
Dated	12--81-1874	~~195~~

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th November 1874.

No. 188. Read the following Proceedings of the Government of India in the Public Works Department, (Railway,) dated Fort William, 8th October 1874, No. 2,540—45-R.:—

Measures for the development of Passenger Traffic.

Read again—

To Consulting Engineer at Calcutta, No. 475 G—R, dated 4th March 1874.
To Secretary of State, Despatch No. 44 R of 1874.

Read also—

From the Secretary of State for India, to the Government of India, dated 6th August 1874, No. 111-R.

UPON receipt of your Excellency's Despatch of the 4th March last, No. 44, I caused extracts from the progress report of the East Indian Railway, by the Consulting Engineer to your Government, received therewith (paragraphs 40 to 45,) and from the letter from your Deputy Secretary, Public Works Department, dated 4th March (paragraphs 11 to 14,) to be sent to the Boards of the several Guaranteed Railway Companies, and I have now received replies from all the Boards, with the exception of the East Indian, who have, however, addressed their Agent on the subject in a letter, dated 17th instant, No. 70.

2. From these communications* copies of which are transmitted herewith, it will be seen that the Boards generally are fully alive to the importance of the adoption of measures calculated to develope passenger traffic, especially that of the third class, and that they have called the special attention of their Agents to the subject. The Great Southern of India and the Great Indian Peninsula Companies, it will be observed, already carry third-class passengers by all trains, and grant return tickets for that class at reduced rates.

3. The East Indian Board deferred considering the matter until they were in receipt of their Agent's remarks on the documents laid before them. Those remarks have now been received; but, as they do not afford such full and distinct explanations as the Board desire, the Agents have been directed to take up the question anew, and to furnish their views on the special points brought to notice.

* Letter from Bombay and Baroda Railway Company, dated 17th April 1874, No. 334.
Letter from Oudh and Rohilkhund Railway Company, dated 17th April 1874, No. 31.
Letter from Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, dated 20th April 1874, No. 45.
Letter from Sindh, Punjab and Delhi Railway Company, dated 21st April 1874, No. 534.
Letter from Great Southern of India Railway Company, dated 24th April 1874, No. 693.
Letter from Madras Railway Company, dated 25th April 1874, No. 2,987.
Letter from Eastern Bengal Railway Company, dated 30th April 1874, No. 1,256.
Letter from Carnatic Railway Company, dated 30th April 1874, No. 29.
Letter† to Agents, East Indian Railway Company, dated 17th July 1874, No. 70.

† Copy sent to Calcutta, a number in the packet, *via* Brindisi, 24th July 1874.

From J. A. BAYNES, Esq, Secretary, London Board, Bombay, Baroda, and Central Indian Railway Company, to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated 17th April 1874, No. 334.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your circular letter of the 15th instant, enclosing extracts from a report by the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India especially with reference to the third-class traffic on the East Indian Railway, and from a letter from the Deputy

Secretary, Public Works Department, to the Consulting Engineer, in which Government express their views in favor of the adoption of measures calculated to encourage passenger and especially third-class passenger traffic.

2. I am desired to say in reference to this matter that the Board and their chief officers in India are fully alive to the importance of encouraging this description of traffic, and that most of the measures proposed are already in operation on our line.

3. The Board will, however, send out to their Agent in Bombay copies of the papers referred to, and call his special attention again to this important subject.

From Major-General C. C. JOHNSTON, Managing Director, London Board, Oudh and Rohilkhund Railway Company, limited, to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated 17th April 1874.

I HAVE the honor by desire of the Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, with extracts from a report by the Consulting Engineer for Railways to the Government of India, and from a letter from the Deputy Secretary to the Government, Public Works Department, on the question of measures calculated to encourage passenger, and especially third-class passenger traffic being adopted by the Railway Companies, and to observe that a copy of the same will be furnished to the Agent of this Company, with a request that he will give his best attention to the matter.

From T. A. WATT, Esq., Secretary, London Board, Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated 20th April 1874, No. 45.

I AM requested by the Board of Directors to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, inviting their attention to the views of the Government of India "in favor of the adoption of measures calculated to encourage passenger, and especially third-class passenger, traffic. This Board being fully alive to the importance of the subject will forward a copy of your communication to their Agent in Bombay, with directions that careful consideration be given to the suggestions of Government, but they would mention that third-class passengers are carried by all this Company's passenger trains; that the plan of issuing return tickets at reduced rates to third-class passengers was introduced experimentally on the 1st July last in the local traffic in the vicinity of Bombay, and that the Board expect shortly to receive a report of the result of the first six months working of that plan.

From W. P. ANDREW, Esq., Chairman, London Board, Sindh, Punjab and Delhi Railway Company, to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated 21st April 1874, No. 534.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Lord George Hamilton's letter of the 15th instant, enclosing papers received from the Government of India, relative to the adoption of measures to encourage passenger, and especially third-class passenger traffic, and inviting the attention of the Board to the subject.

2. In reply, I have to request that you will do me the favor to inform the Secretary of State that the Board are fully alive to the importance of the subject adverted to in these papers, and they will lose no time in commending it to the notice of their Agent and Traffic Manager, with the view of such steps being taken as may appear best calculated to promote the object in view.

From H. W. NOTMAN, Esq., Secretary, London Board, Great Southern of India Railway Company, to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated 24th April 1874, No. 693.

I AM instructed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 15th April, enclosing copies of papers in which the Government advocate the adoption of measures calculated to encourage passenger, and especially third-class passenger traffic.

It has always been the anxious desire of the Directors of this Company to regulate their rates, and to give the public such facilities as will afford every encouragement to the passenger traffic of all descriptions.

Third-class passengers are carried by all trains at a fare of 2 Pies per mile (children under 12, half fare), and it has been the constant practice of the Company to issue special return tickets at reduced fares on occasions of native feasts or other holidays; an experiment was also recently made on one of these occasions of selling tickets in the town, so as to obviate any crush at the ordinary Station Booking Office, and although the result was not so successful as might have been anticipated, this may have been occasioned in some degree by the novelty of the arrangement, and the partial failure in this instance will not be allowed to militate against the experiment being repeated when occasions may require.

The simplification of the goods *classification* has also received attention, and in order to bring the charges within the easy comprehension of the native trader, the mileage rate for goods have practically been reduced to two. The Directors believe that this simplification has given satisfaction to the native community, and that the results have also been favorably viewed by the Government of India.

I am desired to add that the Board will use their continued endeavours to take such measures as will, while conducive to the interest of the public, result in a remunerative return on the capital embarked in the undertaking.

From J. BYRNE, Esq, Secretary, London Board, Madras Railway Company, to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated 25th April 1874, No. 2,987.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, inviting the Board's attention to extracts from a progress report of the East Indian Railway by the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India, and from a letter from the Deputy Secretary, Public Works Department, to the Consulting Engineer, in which latter document Government express their views in favor of the adoption of measures calculated to encourage passenger, and especially third-class passenger traffic.

In reply, I am instructed to state that the Board entirely concur in the views expressed by the Government of India: the subject is one which the Directors are satisfied, engages the watchful attention of their officers at Madras, by whom the measures advocated have been very generally adopted, and the Agent and Manager will be requested to continue to use every endeavour to further the important object in view.

From J. J. WOOD, Esq., Secretary, London Board, Eastern Bengal Railway Company, to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated 30th April 1874, No. 1,256.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of Lord George Hamilton's letter of the 15th instant, inviting the attention of the Eastern Bengal Railway Board to an annexed extract from a progress report of the East Indian Railway Company by the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India (paragraphs 40 to 45), and to the accompanying extract from a letter, dated 4th March 1874, from the Deputy Secretary, Public Works Department, to the Consulting Engineer (paragraphs 11 to 14) in which latter document the Government of India express their views in favor of the adopting of measures calculated to encourage passenger, and especially third-class passenger traffic.

The Deputy Secretary's letter states that "the Governor-General in Council is not aware whether action has followed on the expressed intention of the Agency of the East Indian Railway to take into consideration the question of issuing return tickets to third-class passengers at festival times, the lower classes are, and must be, the mainstay of the passenger traffic. They are carried at a high rate of profit, and the Governor-General in Council desires to impress upon the Agency that here, as elsewhere, there can be but one result if opportunities of making tolerably rapid journeys at low fares with comfort, and at convenient hours are given, if al restrictions as to through journeys are removed, and if facilities for return journeys are afforded.

The English railways have lately increased their profits largely by improvements in this direction, and the Governor-General in Council believes that much may be done in India with a corresponding result to the Companies."

The Board would respectively observe that such facilities as are recommended in the above extract, with the exception of a reduced rate in return tickets for the lowest class of passengers, are offered on the Eastern Bengal Railway, and that the Agent will be desired to consider whether this concession may not likewise be advantageously made, having regard to the passenger train mileage and to the receipts and cost of working per passenger train mile on this Railway.

From M. B. SCOTT, Esq, Secretary, London Board, Carnatic Railway Company, "limited," to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated 30th April 1874, No. 29—74.

I AM desired to acknowledge the receipt of your circular letter of the 15th instant, regarding the adoption of measures calculated to encourage passengers and especially third-class passenger traffic, and to say that the subject will receive the Board's careful attention.

Extract from Progress Report of the East Indian Railway for the half-year ending 30th June 1873.

Passenger Traffic.

40. The third-class passenger traffic shows a satisfactory increase, caused, it appears, by such exceptional traffic as coolie emigrants to Calcutta, and pilgrims to the various sacred shrines up-country.

41. The Traffic Manager, it will be observed, is of opinion that better general results might be obtained if third-class travellers were not so exclusively confined to the slow mixed trains.

42. The present system of two mixed trains, one leaving Howrah in the morning, and the other in the evening, is probably the most economical method of working, but this is not the only point to be considered; and if the Company hope to develope the third-class traffic, they must be prepared to afford increased facilities to induce people to travel, and must make the convenience of the public their first consideration.

43. The timing of the present slow mixed trains is by no means well suited to the districts of Patna, Monghyr, Shahabad, and they are the only trains by which the local third-class passengers are booked. These trains afford very indifferent accommodation in the North-West Provinces also, but third-class travellers have the advantage of travelling by the mail train in the Upper Division, so that the evil is not so great as in the Lower Division.

44. To this extent I concur with the Traffic Manager that better results might be realized from the third-class traffic if the trains by which the above named districts are served were better adopted to the public convenience, and I trust that this matter will have the attention of the agency.

45. Another point for consideration in this connection is the question of the issue of third-class return tickets at reduced fares on occasions of native holidays or special pilgrimages, and as it appears that the pilgrim traffic is showing signs of development, the question should, I think, have the early attention of the Agency.

Extract from letter from Government of India, Public Works Department, to Consulting Engineer to Government of India for Guaranteed Railways, Calcutta, No. 475 G—R, dated 4th March 1874.

11. The Government of India fully concur in the views expressed in paragraphs 10 to 45 of your progress report in favor of the adoption of measures calculated to encourage passenger traffic, and the Governor-General in Council notices with satisfaction that improvements at stations for the convenience of passengers are being carried out.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th November 1874.

12. The Traffic Manager is of opinion that better results might be obtained if third class travellers were not exclusively confined to slow mixed trains, the timing of which is, in your opinion, inconvenient to certain districts. The Governor-General in Council is not aware whether action has followed on the expressed intention* of the Agency to take into consideration the question of issuing return tickets to third-class passengers at festival times.

* See Consulting Engineer's No. 841, dated 15th April 1873.

13. The lower classes are, and must be, the mainstay of the passenger traffic. They are carried at a high rate of profit, and the Governor-General in Council desires to impress upon the Agency that here, as elsewhere, there can be but one result if opportunities of making tolerably rapid journeys at low fares with comfort, and at convenient hours, are given, if all restrictions as to through journeys are removed, and if facilities for return journeys are afforded.

14. The English Railways have lately increased their profits largely by improvements in this direction, and the Governor General in Council believes that much may be done in India with a corresponding result to the Companies. Moreover, irrespective of direct profit to the Companies, India has paid in guaranteed interest and other charges over thirty millions sterling up to the present time towards the introduction of Railways. The people of the country who have contributed this large sum have, therefore, a just claim on the Government to see that the Railways thus created are worked in their interests.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of this Despatch, and of its enclosures and of the extracts referred to in the first paragraph of the Despatch, be forwarded to the Consulting Engineer for Guaranteed Railways, Calcutta, for information and continued attention to the subject.

Also to the Government of Madras, and the Consulting Engineers at Lahore and Lucknow for information.

Also to the Government of Bombay, with reference to Public Works Department, No. 1,171 R, dated 1st June 1874.

Also to the Director of State Railways for information.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND, Colonel, R.E.,
Deputy Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 189. ORDER THEREON, 12th November 1874, No. 3,198.

RAILWAY, No. 28.

RECORDED, and communicated to the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Spare Copiese

P. W. 1874 Department
No: of Govt Jor Nos: 6560.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

RAILWAY.

To

No. 2540—45 R.

Dated October 8, 1874.

Received —— 19

Encl: 1.

No: 2541 R.

Recorded with Govt Communication to the Govt of Madras

No 3198-12 Nov. 1874

Measures for the development of passenger traffic.

P. W. D. Press—8-10-74—107.

No. Corp Cor 8-12-74 to Govt of Madras 18/11/74.

Rec'd 19/10

For Railways

Circular

188-189.

Letter to Govt 19 Oct 74 Rec'd 28/10/74

6560

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Chief Engr. for Rlys.

Dated

Rcvd. Encl. /

G. O. 12 Dec 1874. No. 3198

Nos. 88-89.

Traffic (Railways)

Proceedings of the Govt. of India forwarding correspondence regarding the adoption of measures calculated to develope passenger traffic, comd to the Consng Engr for Railways —