PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
FORT ST. GEORGE, 10*th January* 1874.

No. 107.

No. 52.

FROM

COLONEL G. W. WALKER, R.E.,
Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Public Works Department,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
Public Works Department.

RAILWAY, No. 19.

SIR,—With reference to paragraph 1 of your letter, No. 335 A.—G. R., dated 1st July 1873, I am directed to forward herewith correspondence containing the views of the Railway officials and of the Government Consulting Engineer on the desirability and scope of the conference of the Auditors and Government Examiners of Guaranteed Railway Accounts proposed by the Government of India.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that the proposed conference may be held with advantage, but considers that the discussions should not be confined to questions of account and audit. Other subjects of common interest may be usefully brought under the deliberation of the delegates, the selection of whom would depend on the nature of the business to be transacted.

3. The arrangements for regulating proceedings suggested by the Consulting Engineer in paragraph 6 of his letter, appear to His Excellency in Council to be judicious.

4. Adverting to paragraph 2 of your letter, I am to add that the opinions of the Auditors and Examiners of Guaranteed Railways in other parts of India on the system of traffic accounts and audit in force in the Madras Presidency will be submitted as soon as replies from those officers have been received.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies.

No. 903.

MADRAS RAILWAY.

AGENT AND MANAGER'S OFFICE.

Madras, 4th November 1873.

From

W. D. Wright Esqre
Ag Agent and Manager, M. R. Co.

To

Lt Col. J. Hill & Chas Stewart, R.E.
Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Sir,

In reply to your letter dated the 7th of August 1873, I have the honour to inform you that the Railway Conference of Auditors and Government Examiners proposed by the Government of India in my opinion a very desirable object, inasmuch as it would undoubtedly tend to promote uniformity of practice in dealing with accounts, and would also the first step towards the establishment of a Railway Clearing House, the want of which is beginning to occasion great inconvenience and delay in the settlement of Through Traffic Accounts.

2. The scope of such a Conference should I think in the first instance be confined to questions of account and audit; with the view of [illegible]

of establishing uniformity of practice and of settling differences that could not so readily be arranged in correspondence; and if hereafter it were considered desirable to discuss at the Meetings questions connected with the interchange of Traffic the attendance of Traffic Managers would be necessary.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servt.

J. N. Ellis
Actg. Agent & Manager.

CARNATIC RAILWAY CO., (LIMITED.)

AGENT AND MANAGER'S OFFICE,

MADRAS, 18 August 1873.

No. 261

FROM

G. J. Fisher Esqr.

AGENT AND MANAGER, CARNATIC RAILWAY CO.,

Madras.

To

Lieut Col. J. H. M. Shaw Stewart RE.

CONSULTING ENGINEER FOR RAILWAY,

Madras.

SIR,

With reference to your letter dated the 7 Inst, No. 220. I have the honor to state that I am of opinion that a conference of the auditors of State and guaranteed Railway Cos with the Govt. Examiners of Railway Accounts is likely to result in good, and with a view to uniformity of system in the keeping and auditing of Railway Accounts is a desirable arrangement.

The scope of the conference I think may fairly be left to the judgment and experience of the Gentlemen assembled as if unfettered a variety of subjects may be advantageously brought under discussion, which a limit might otherwise exclude.

The fact that the conference is proposed to be one of Auditors and Examiners of Accounts presupposes that the subjects to be dealt with relate to the Accounts department solely, & not to the classification of rates or working of trains or use of stock, which in my judgement belong more especially to the Traffic Managers or General Managers.

MADRAS RAILWAY.

From

The Agent and Manager.

To

The Consulting Engineer

× for Railways.

Dated 4th Nov 1873

Recd. 5.11.73

No. 903.

Requesting the Co's Auditor & Examiner of Railway Accounts may be directed to confer with me on the subject of the Conference.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obed^t Servant.

Jos. T. Fisher
Agent & Manager.

No. 5262 GREAT SOUTHERN OF INDIA RAILWAY.

AGENT'S OFFICE,

NEGAPATAM, 7th November 1873

From

THE AGENT,

Great Southern of India Railway,

To

The Consulting Engineer
for Railways
Madras.

SIR,

Your letter No 473 of the 3rd Instant.— The Government of India in their Proceedings of the 12th August 1872 (Nos 1286–91 Cg. R.) observe "But before "these officers meet to discuss the several systems "in force on their respective railways, it appears "desirable that each Auditor should draw up "a full account of his own system and prepare "a complete set of the forms of accounts, "which should be circulated for discussion "and thorough comprehension by the other "Auditors * * *"

I have forwarded to you a set of the forms in use on this Railway, but I have not yet received any description of the forms in use on other lines than those in this Presidency

I consider it necessary that this information should be furnished before any meeting be held to consider the subject

P.W. 1873 Sept
No 5378

From

The Agent and Manager,
CARNATIC RAILWAY COMPANY, (LIMITED.)
MADRAS.

To

The Consulting Engineer
for Railways.

Dated 18th Oct 1873.
Recd. 18.

P.W. No. 2651.

Refer reference & file
Start Confirmation —
Fd Rec. 5/— 60/—/—

subject of the adoption of a uniform set of traffic forms.

With regard to the proposed Conference I have to state I consider it to be ancillary for so far as this Company is concerned. The system of traffic accounts which has been in force on this line for so many years past is fully suited for the small extent of traffic which has to be dealt with, and to replace it with a system which may be found to be necessary in dealing with the traffic which presents itself at such large stations as Bombay and Calcutta, would entail increased expenditure without any extended benefit.

And regarding the introduction of a Railway Clearing House in India, I have to remark that the only Company with which we have traffic to interchange is the Madras Railway Company, so that no Clearing House beyond the audit offices of the two Companies is needed by the Great Southern of India Railway.

Assuming however that a Clearing House was needed the arrangements for its establishment would be required

to

to be considered by other Officers of a Railway Company beside their Chief Auditor. Such a question should certainly be considered by the Traffic Managers in the first instance.

Should however Government desire the attendance, at the proposed Meeting of this Company's Chief Auditor, I will with pleasure make the necessary arrangements, but at the same time I am not prepared to bind this Company to the adoption of the views of the majority of the Members forming such Conference.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
William Betts
Agent

From W. Betts Esq
The Agent
G. I. P. Ry

To The Secy. Govt.
for Railways

Dated 7th Nov. 73
Received 13th Nov. 73
No 5262

Chief Engineer
& Secretary,

(15)

Railway Department.

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

No. 626

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 compliance with the instructions contained in the first paragraph of the Order of Government No 1908, dated 29th July 1873, I have the honour to lay before His Excellency the Governor in Council letters from the Agents of the Madras, the Great Southern of India, and the Carnatic Railways, expressing their views in regard to the

No 903 d/ 4 Nov. 73
" 5262 d/ 7 " "
" 261 d/ 18 Augt "

the desirableness and scope of the conferences proposed by the Government of India to be held for the purpose of discussing railway questions of common interest.

2. The Agent of the Madras Railway is in favour of the proposal, and considers that it would undoubtedly tend to promote uniformity of practice in dealing with accounts, and would be the first step towards the establishment of a railway clearing-house, the want of which, he says, is beginning to occasion great inconvenience and delay in the settlement of through traffic accounts. Mr. Wright is of opinion that the scope of such a conference should, in the first instance, be confined to questions of account and audit, with the view chiefly of establishing uniformity of practice and settling differences that could not be so readily arranged in correspondence.

3. The Agent of the Great Southern of India Railway, on the other hand, is of opinion that the proposed Conference is uncalled for, so far as his Company is concerned. He considers that the present system of Accounts is fully adapted for the small traffic which

which has to be dealt with on
his line and that the adoption
of a system which may be found
to answer at such large stations as
Bombay and Calcutta would
entail increased expenditure with-
out any proportionate benefit.

With regard to the
introduction of a clearing-house
Mr Betts says that the only
"Company with which we have
"traffic to interchange is the
"Madras Railway Company &c
"that no clearing-house beyond
"the audit offices of the two
"Companies is needed by the
"Great Southern of India Railway"

Mr Betts

observe that while willing to
make the necessary arrangements
to insure the attendance of the
Chief Auditor at the proposed
meeting he is not prepared to
bind the Company to the
adoption of the views of the majority
of the members forming such
Conference.

4. The late Agent of the
Carnatic Railway is in favour of
the Conference and is of opinion
that it would certainly tend to
accomplish the object which the
Government have in view in
making the proposal.

The

the Agents of the three Companies agree in the opinion that, if it be intended to lay before the Conference questions connected with the interchange of traffic and the establishment of a clearing-house, the meeting should be attended by the Traffic Manager as well as by the Auditors.

6. Any new opinions with regard to the proposed Conference is that much practical benefit may fairly be expected to result from it, provided that the arrangements for regulating its proceedings are carefully prepared and strictly enforced. Two dangers

dangers have to be specially guarded against have already alluded to, viz. the Government of India are of too large a number of delegates, and the tendency of quick meetings to enter upon discursive discussions. In the subjects to be laid before the Conference should be fixed beforehand by the Government of India after learning the views of the various Companies, and no additional matter should be brought under discussion save with the unanimous consent of the delegates. If the questions to be

discussed

discussed & views thus made known before had by the Authorities of the various Companies, there would, I should think, be no difficulty in obtaining the consent of each Company to be represented at the Conference by one delegate only. Each Local Government should be represented by two delegates, one an Officer of the Consulting Engineer's Department and the other the Examiner of Railway Accounts. As regards the scope of such Conference I am of opinion that it should not be limited to the consideration of the forms of account and audit but that that questions connected with the interchange of traffic should be laid before the meeting, and that the desirableness of establishing a clearing-house for all Indian railways should be discussed in all its bearings.

The second paragraph 7. of the Order of Government under acknowledgment shall be separately replied to when I am in possession of the views of the various officers to whom the system of traffic accounts and Audit has been referred for report.

No. 57 P.W. Dept. 1873

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 3rd November 1873.

Read the following

From the Consulting Engineer
for Railways.

Dated 24th October 1873.

Received 5th November 1873.

Ordered that the

[illegible] be forwarded for the consideration of the Government of India with a view to the early adoption of such measures as may be deemed necessary by the Right Honble the Governor in Council that the proposed conference of Auditors and Government Engineers for the discussion of Railway questions

Mr Pro. 1573 Oct 10
No. 6378

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

1873.

From

The Consulting Engineer
for Railways,

To

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

Dated 22nd October 1873.
Recd. 24th " 1873.

No. 626

Regarding the desirableness & scope of the Conferences proposed by the Govt of India.

No 57-52-10th Nov.

No 105

Answered

questions of common interest
may be held with a fair
prospect of practical results,
but that the discussions
may with advantage
be extended beyond the
range of Account and
Audit; in which case
it would be desirable to
depute an Officer of the
Consulting Engineers De-
partment with Railway
Officials of the Special
Departments concerned.

H.C.S.

To
The Consg Engineer
for Railways S.S

Despatch S-C 14/1/74

No 52

To
The Secretary to the
Government of India.

Sir,

With reference to
paragraph 1 of your letter
No 335 A.G.R. dated
1st July 1873 I am directed
to forward herewith Corre-
spondence containing the
views of the Railway
Officials and of the Government
Consulting Engineer
on the desirability and
scope of the conference
of the Auditors and
Government Examiners
of Guaranteed Railway
Accounts proposed by
the

Audited
No 51-52 - 10 Feby 74

Government of India

His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that the proposed Conference may be held to with advantage; but considers that the discussions should not be confined to questions of account and audit. Other subjects of common interest may be usefully brought under the deliberation of the delegates, the selection of whom would depend on the nature of the business to be transacted.

The arrangements for regulating proceedings suggested by the Consulting Engineer

Engineer in paragraph 6 of his letter appear to His Excellency in Council to be judicious.

Adverting to paragraph 2 of your letter I am to add that the opinions of the Auditors and Examiners of Guaranteed Railways in other parts of India on the system of traffic Accounts and audit in force in the Madras Presidency will be submitted as soon as replies from those Officers have been received.

Dest. 14/1/74 Letter to Govt. of Govt. 51 of 1874

Ch 578

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Consulting Engr for Railways
&
To The Secretary to the Govt of India

Dated

Recd. Encl. 3

G. O. 10 Jany 1874 No 51-52.

Nos. 105-106 & 107

Railway. Papers relative to the proposed Conference of Auditors & Govt Examiners for the discussion of Railway questions.

Re preparing opinions on the proposed Conference of Auditors & Govt Examiners of guaranteed Ry: Accounts