M.R.O. 1—10,006—28-2-50.

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 2660 Press

~~B.P. No.~~ ~~Mis.~~

385-386

Dated 17-9-1874 ~~195~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 17th September 1874.

No. 385. Read the following letter from Major the Honorable E. R. BOURKE, Postmaster General, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Ootacamund, 20th August 1874, No. 945-1,877 :—

In reply to Government Order, No. 2,180, dated 7th August 1874, I have the honor to report that I have intimated to the Consulting Engineer that it would be best if reports of accidents, detentions, or interruptions to the Railway mail service causing detention to the mails, were reported both to the Superintendent Travelling Post Office and to my Office as well. The Superintendent Travelling Post Office is directly responsible for the Railway Postal service only, but has no control over all other lines or offices affected by the interruption.

2. The Consulting Engineer, in his letter No. 421, of 18th July, addressed to Colonel G. W. Walker, Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, explains that notices of the breaks at Vaniembady and Camalpore were reported to me, and consequently draws the deduction in paragraph 4 that my letter No. 491-1,877 must have been written " under a misapprehension."

3. I beg to point out that I never said that the break at Vaniembady was not reported at all, but complained that it was not reported sufficiently early, and that the news of both the breaks at Vaniembady and Camalpore was gleaned from the public newspapers many hours after both breaks had caused considerable detentions of the mails both ways.

4. In paragraph 2 of my letter, No. 491-1,877, to Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, I pointed out that the break at Vaniembady was not reported to me for several days after it occurred. I still adhere to this statement.

5. In the same paragraph of the same letter I reported that the accident at Camalpore, which occurred on the 16th June 1874, had not up to the 23rd June been reported.

6. I beg to append a copy of letter which was addressed from my office to the Agent and Manager, Madras Railway, on the 17th June (the day after the accident). Mr. Elwin's telegram to me, referred to by the Consulting Engineer, dated 17th June, (" Overland mails will suffer no detention. Church is at break superintending arrangements. Through communication will be restored in a week,") appears to be a reply to the letter referred to above. It will be seen, therefore, that this telegram, which both Mr. Elwin and the Consulting Engineer endeavour to construe into the official report of the accident, was not so, but a reply to inquiries from my office respecting the possible detention of the outward overland mail.

7. Under these circumstances, it appears to me that the Consulting Engineer is in error, and that he, not me, has written under a misapprehension.

8. The fact that the news of both breaks was first gleaned from the public newspapers is undoubted, which is proof positive that early intimation of both accidents and consequent detention to the mails had not been given to my office either by the Consulting Engineer or Agent, Madras Railway. I was therefore obliged to ask Government to issue orders that in future this serious defect should be remedied.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
17th September 1874.

Copy of a letter from Postmaster General, Madras, to Agent and Manager, Madras Railway, No. 3,248-1,877, *dated* 17*th June* 1874.

With reference to the break on the North-West Line of the Madras Railway, announced in the *Madras Times* this morning, I have the honor to draw your attention to the fact that this is the homeward Overland mail day, and to request that you will be so good as to take all necessary steps for the mails despatched by this evening's train being in time for the train leaving Raichore for Bombay to-morrow at 12-10 noon, and that, if necessary, the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Authorities be communicated with to ensure the train leaving Raichore for Bombay to-morrow, waiting a while, if possible, for the mail train leaving Madras this evening.

(Signed) J. DeCASTER,
for *Postmaster General.*

No. 386. Order thereon, 17th September 1874, No. 2,660.

RAILWAY, No. 44.

Ordered to be recorded.

2. Adverting to paragraph 5 of Lieutenant-Colonel Shaw-Stewart's letter printed with G. O., No. 2,180, dated 7th August 1874, it is observed that future interruptions should be reported *by telegraph* to the Postmaster General and to the Superintendent of Travelling Post Offices.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

35

No. 945/1877.

POSTMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Madras, 2nd Aug. 1874.

To The Secretary
to Government, Public Works Deptt.
Madras.

Sir,

In reply to Government Order No. 2180 dated 7th August 1874, I have the honor to report that I have intimated to the Consulting Engineer that it would be best if reports of accidents detentions or interruptions to the Railway mail service causing detentions to the mails were reported both to the Superintendent Travelling Post Office and to my office as now. The Superintendent Travelling Post Office is directly responsible for the Railway Postal service only, but has no control over all other lines or offices affected by the interruption.

The Consulting Engineer in his letter No. 421 of 8th July addressed to Col: G. W. Walker Secretary to Government Public Works Department explains that notices of the breaks

at Vanimbadi and Canalpore were reported to me and consequently draws the deduction in para 4 that my letter No 491/1877 must have been written "under a misapprehension".

I beg to point out that I never said that the break at Vanimbadi was not reported at all, but complained that it was not reported sufficiently early and that the news of both the breaks at Vanimbadi and Canalpore was gleaned from the Publick Newspapers many hours after both breaks had caused considerable detentions of the mails both Ways.

In para 2 of my letter No 491/1877 to Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, I pointed out that the break at Vanimbadi was not reported to me for several days after it occurred.- I still adhere to this Statement.

In the same para of the same letter, I reported that the accident at Canalpore which occurred on the 16th June 1874 had not up to the 23rd June been reported to me.

I beg to append a copy of letter which

which was addressed from my office to the Agent and Manager Madras Railway on the 17th June (the day after the accident) & Mr Elwin's telegram to me referred to by the Consulting Engineer, dated 17th June, ("Overland mails will suffer no detention. Church is at break super-intending arrangements - Through Communication will be restored in a Week"), appears to be a reply to the letter referred to above. It will be seen therefore that this telegram which both Mr Elwin and the Consulting Engineer endeavour to construe into the official report of the accident was not so, but a reply to Enquiries from my office respecting the possible detention of the outward Overland mail.

Under these circumstances it appears to me that the Consulting Engineer is in Error and that he, not me, has written under a misapprehension.

The

The fact that the news of both breaks was first gleaned from the Public News-papers is undoubted, which is proof positive that early intimation of both accidents and consequent detention to the mails had not been given to any office either by the Consulting Engineer or Agent Madras Railway. I was therefore obliged to ask Government to issue orders that in future this serious defect should be remedied.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant

J. W. Bourke
Post Master General

79

Copy of a letter from Postmaster General Madras
to Agent and Manager, Madras Railway No. 3248/1877
dated 17th June 1874.

With reference to the break on the North West-line of the Madras Railway announced in the Madras Times this morning, I have the honor to draw your attention to the fact that there is the Homeward Overland mail day and to request that you will be so good as to take all necessary steps for the mails despatched by this Evening's train being in time for the train leaving Raichoor for Bombay tomorrow at 12/10 noon and that if necessary the Great Indian Peninsula Railway authorities be communicated with to ensure the train leaving Raichoor for Bombay tomorrow waiting a while if possible for the mail train leaving Madras this Evening.

Adj. J. Defaster
for Postmaster General

/True Copy/
J. W. Bourke
Post Master General

Mrs. Wile also states that
he desires that in telling
telegraph back to him - and
also to the Marking Left in
picture.

Lot.

* ~~first left~~ The first telegraph
the Mrs on the 17th. the day after
the accident.

All this week

Public Works Department

Proceedings of the Madras Govt

Read the following letter:-

2660

From

The Postmaster General

Madras

(No. E. dated 20th August 1874)

Ordered that Secretary

Advertising Bharani &

Lieutenant Colonel

Henry Stewart to state points

with G.O. No. 2180, dated

4th August 1874, it is ordered

-ordered that future

instructions should be

restricted duly telegraphed

Public Works Department &

Govt Engineer with reference

interviews with the Railway

Authorities such as will effectually

have been settled with parties concerned

Ms.

To Postmaster General

C.E. for Rpt:

Public Despatch

Chief Engr. Dept. 23/9/74

P.W. 1874. Dept.
Ord: 7800 & Letter
No: 5735

No.

From

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL,
MADRAS.

To

DATED 20 Augt
RECEIVED 11 Sept 1874

SUBJECT.

No 945
1874.

Regarding delay in reporting to the Postal authorities, interruptions of Railway Communication

Ele No. 2660. 7-9-74.

Letter Order

(Ordered by the Secretary to the Govt Engineer with reference to arrangements with the Railway Authorities such as will effectually have been settled with parties concerned)

No. 81—1,000 P.—6-74—200.

I would say.

The Pt. is not sure that the Railway authorities are in any way liable to censure. The accident at Tennur by a train was reported to the P. Master in the 1st instance by letter. The Parambiyan accident occurred on the 16th June & was reported on the same day by letter to the Sub. of Travelling P.O. who had officially informed the Agent that he was "solely responsible in such cases". The Agent was therefore quite

385

Ms.

the Post Mr Leach
& the Supte B.
travelling Post Offices

Supts Copy 7.10.74.

385–386.

Acc 2) Acct
Cert 9/9/14 Rec'd 9/9/14

5735

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Post Master General

Dated

Read. Encl.

G. O. 17 Sept 1874, No. 2068

Nos. 385-386.

Interruption of Railway Communication -

Letter from the Post Master General Madras, regarding delay in reporting to the Postal authorities, interruptions of communication, ordered to be recorded; & future interruptions to be reported by Telegraph

385-386.

Rec'd 9/9/74

Ret'd 9/9/74