

(1) Number of pages _____

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(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	387-(Rly)	Press
B.P. No.		Mis-
Dated	17-2-	1954

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 319. 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, 18th December 1873, No. 678 :—

In reply to the order of Government, dated the 1st instant, No. 2,891, I have the honour to submit a letter* from the Agent of the Madras Railway Company, with enclosure from the Traffic Manager, explaining the circumstances under which a telegraph message was lately refused at the Railway station at Puttamby. There can be no doubt that it was an error of judgment on the part of the Station Master to refuse an important public message on the ground of its being insufficiently prepaid; but it is equally clear that he acted according to the strict letter of his orders, and at a small road-side station, such as Puttamby, it is too much to expect a large exercise of discretion on the part of the Company's official in charge.

2. With reference to the last part of the order of Government under acknowledgment, I beg to enclose a second letter* from the Agent of the Madras Railway Company, from which it will be seen that, on behalf of the Company, he is quite willing to receive and despatch all messages tendered by public officers upon the proposed guarantee of the Government that all claims connected with such messages shall be promptly adjusted. Mr. Barton Wright adds, however, that some means should be adopted whereby Station Masters shall have no excuse for misapprehension as to what is, and what is not, a State or official message. He mentions that such messages are often sent from one Government officer to another, the names of the sender and addressee being alone used, without their official designation. With a view to meet this difficulty, Mr. Wright suggests either (1) that the sender of the message should address the Station Master, informing him of the necessity for its immediate transmission, or (2) that a particular form for telegram should be used by Government officers, or (3) that Government officers, when sending official messages, should be required to use their official titles in such telegrams. It seems to me that every difficulty will be removed by the adoption of the last of these suggestions.

3. The Agent of the Great Southern of India and Carnatic Railway Companies has expressed his readiness, on behalf of those Companies, to arrange for the receipt and transmission of all messages tendered by Government officers, upon the guarantee of the Government that claims connected therewith shall be promptly adjusted.

From J. W. MELLIS, Esq., For Acting Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, R.E., Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 15th December 1873, No. 1,038.

With reference to your letter, No. 1,157, of the 4th instant, and its enclosure, I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of the Traffic Manager's letter of this date, No. C-971-748, in which explanation is offered as to the circumstances under which the telegraph message referred to was recently refused at the Railway Office at Puttamby.

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

2. With reference to the last paragraph of your letter, I have the honour to state that this Company will be prepared to despatch all State messages by their line of telegraph without asking for pre-payment, provided that the Government officer despatching the message will, at the same time, write to the Station Master informing him of the necessity for its immediate transmission; and his willingness to pay any just claim in connection therewith.

From H. E. CHURCH, Esq., Traffic Manager, Madras Railway Compy., to W. B. WRIGHT, Esq.,
Acting Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company, dated Madras, 15th
December 1873, No. C-971-748.

Emergent State Message.

*Consulting Engineer's letter, No. 1,157, dated 4th instant, enclosing order of Government,
No. 2,891, dated 1st idem.*

The Station Master of Puttamby is unable to name the date, but, during the Kolatoor outbreak, he remembers that a man brought a message addressed "from Winterbotham to the District Magistrate or Sessions Judge of Malabar," for which the Station Master demanded a charge of 20 or 25 Rupees, but as the messenger had only brought 8 or 10 Rupees he was sent back with a note to the sender of the message requesting that the correct charge might be sent. Nothing further, however, was heard of the matter.

2. Similar interference with the despatch of State messages might, in future, be obviated if the sender of the message would address the Station Master explaining the necessity for its immediate despatch, and his willingness to defray any cost attending its transmission.

From W. B. WRIGHT, Esq., Acting Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company, to
Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, R.E., Consulting Engineer for Rail-
ways, dated Madras, 17th December 1873, No. 1,044.

In reply to your letter, No. 1,195, of the 16th instant, I have the honour to inform you that the 2nd paragraph of my letter, No. 1,038, of the 15th instant, was not in the least intended to secure to the Company any more effectual guarantee than that contained in the G. O., No. 2,891, dated the 1st instant.

2. It appears to me, however, that some means should be adopted whereby Station Masters shall have no excuse for misapprehension as to what is, or what is not, a State or official message. Such messages are frequently addressed by one Government officer to another, the names of the sender and addressee being used without the official designation. For instance, in the case referred to by Government in their order the message tendered at Puttamby was not from the "Acting Head Assistant Collector," but from "Winterbotham," and although in that case the matter of the message should have informed the Station Master that it was on the service of Government, it may often happen that difficulty may be experienced in distinguishing between such a message and a private one.

3. I still think, therefore, that some means should be adopted with a view to obviate any possibility of misconception on the part of the railway servants, either as I suggested by the sender's writing to the Station Masters, or by the adoption of a particular form for telegrams in the Government offices, or by all Government officers being required to use their official titles in telegrams.

4. I shall feel obliged if you will consider this and let me know your opinion on the subject.

No. 320.

ORDER THEREON, 17th February 1874, No. 387.

RAILWAY, No. 52

COMMUNICATED to the Judicial Department with reference to the orders in that department, No. 1,719, dated 28th October 1873.

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

2. It is clear that in refusing to forward a message, the contents of which showed its importance and urgency, and which was addressed "to the District Magistrate or Sessions Judge of Malabar" by an officer whose name must have identified him to the Station Master as the Head Assistant of that district, the Station Master declined to exercise any such discretion as His Excellency the Governor in Council considers might have been expected from a person in his position.

3. The Government will guarantee prompt adjustment of claims on account of insufficiently-paid messages sent by their officers when the official titles of the sender or addressee are given, and the messages headed as being "official telegrams," and their officers should not fail to adopt any other precautions that may occur to them to prevent the miscarriage or delay of any important messages they may have to send.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Judicial Department.

.. Officers of the Public Works Department.

u. Railway Dept.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Spare Copies

Railway Department. CONSULTING ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

No 678

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 reply to the Order of
Government dated the 1st instant, N^o 2891,
I have the honour to submit a letter
from the Agent of the Madras Railway
Company, with enclosure from the Traffic
Manager, explaining the circumstances
under which a telegraph message was
lately refused at the Railway Station at
Puttambly. There can be no doubt that it
was an error of judgment on the part of
the Station-master to refuse an important
public message on the ground of its being
insufficiently prepaid; but it is equally clear
that he acted according to the strict letter
of his orders; and at a small roadside
station, such as Puttambly, it is too much

N^o 1038 - 15th
December 1873.

To

to expect a large exercise of discretion on the part of the Company's Official in charge.

2. With reference to the last part of the Order of Government under acknowledgment I beg to enclose a second letter from the Agent of the Madras Railway Company, from which it will be seen that, on behalf of the Company, he is quite willing to receive and despatch all messages tendered by public Officers upon the proposed guarantee of the Government that all claims connected with such messages shall be promptly adjusted. Mr. Parker Wright adds, however, that some means should be adopted whereby station-masters shall have no excuse for misapprehension as to what is, and what is not, a state or official message. He mentions that such messages are often sent from one Government Officer to another, the names of the sender and addressee being alone used, without their official designation. With a view to meet this

difficulty

difficulty Mr. Wright suggests either (1) that the sender of the message should address the station-master, informing him of the necessity for its immediate transmission, — or (2) that a particular form for telegram should be used by Government Officers, — or (3) that Government Officers, when sending official messages, should be required to use their official titles in such telegrams. It seems to me that every difficulty will be removed by the adoption of the last of these suggestions.

3. The Agent of the Great South-ern of India and Carnatic Railway Companies has expressed his readiness, on behalf of those Companies, to arrange for the receipt and transmission of all messages tendered by Government Officers, upon the guarantee of the Government that claims connected therewith shall be promptly adjusted.

I have the honor to be
your most obedient servant

W. M. D. B. B.
Consulting Engineer for Railways

Madras
10th December
1873

Madras, 15th December 1873.

From

The Ag. Agent and Manager, of the M. R. Co.

To

Lieut. Colonel J. H. M. Shaw Stewart
Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 1157 of the 4th instant, and its enclosure I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of the Traffic Manager's letter of this date No. 97/48, in which explanation is offered as to the circumstances under which the Telegraph message referred to was recently refused at the Railway Office at Puttaramby.

2. With reference to the last paragraph of your letter I have the honour to state that this company will be prepared to despatch all State Messages by their line of Telegraph without asking for pre-payment, provided that the Government Officer despatching the Message will at the same time write to

(1) With reference to the letter No. 1157 of the 4th instant, and its enclosure I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of the Traffic Manager's letter of this date No. 97/48, in which explanation is offered as to the circumstances under which the Telegraph message referred to was recently refused at the Railway Office at Puttaramby.

(2) With reference to the last paragraph of your letter I have the honour to state that this company will be prepared to despatch all State Messages by their line of Telegraph without asking for pre-payment, provided that the Government Officer despatching the Message will at the same time write to

(3) With reference to the last paragraph of your letter I have the honour to state that this company will be prepared to despatch all State Messages by their line of Telegraph without asking for pre-payment, provided that the Government Officer despatching the Message will at the same time write to

Dec 15 1873
P. W. Department
Fort Saint George

5 4
to the Station Master informing him of
the necessity for its immediate trans-
-mission, and his willingness to pay
any just claims in connection therewith.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your most obedient Servant,

J. W. Mellis.

for the Agt. Agent & Manager.

8065

Madras Railway
Traffic Managers Office
Madras 15th December 1873

N^o C/971
748

The Agt. Agent and Manager
Madras Railway Company

Dear Sir

Emergent State Message
Cons. Engrs letter N^o 1157 dated 4th instant
enclosing order of Govt 2891 dated 1st idem

The Station master of Puttambry is unable to name the date, but during the Holator outbreak, he remembers that a man brought a message addressed "from Winterbotham to the District Magistrate or Sessions Judge of Malabar", for which the Station Master demanded a charge of 20 or 25 Rupees, but as the messenger had only brought 8 or 10 Rupees, he was sent back with a note to the sender of the message, requesting that the correct charge might be sent. Nothing further however was heard of the matter.

Similar interference with the dispatch of state messages might, in future, be obviated, if the sender of the message would address the Station Master explaining the necessity for its immediate dispatch, & his willingness to defray any cost attending its transmission.

Yours faithfully
/signed/ H. E. Church
Traffic Manager

/ True Copy /
J. H. Nellis.
for the Agt. Agent & Manager

MADRAS RAILWAY.

From

The Agent and Manager.

To

The Consulting Engineer

for Railways.

S.M. 6872/73

Dated 15th Dec 1873
Recd. 16th Dec 1873

M. No. 1038

Transferring telegrams
from the Traffic Manager
as to the telegraph
message which was
refused at the Railway
office at Puttambry.
Sd/- 15/12/73

No. 1044

MADRAS RAILWAY.

AGENT AND MANAGER'S OFFICE.

Madras, 17th December 1873.

From

W. D. Knight Esq.

Agent and Manager of the M. R. Co.

To

Col. J. Hall Shaw Stewart, R.E.

Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Sir,

In reply to your letter
No. 1195 of the 15th instant, I have the
honour to inform you that the second
paragraph of my letter No. 1038 of the
15th instant was not in the least intend-
ed to secure to the Company any more
effectual guarantee than that
contained in the Government Order
No. 2891 dated the 1st instant.

2. It appears to me however that
some means should be adopted where-
by Station Masters shall have no
excuse for misapprehension as to
what is or what is not a State or official
message. Such messages are frequently
addressed by one Government
Officer to another, the names of the
Sender and addressee being used
without the official designation.
For instance in the case referred to

M 6876/73
2

by Government in their Order, the message tendered at Puttambur was not from the Acting Head Assistant Collector but from Winterbotham, and although in that case the matter of the message should have informed the Station Master that it was on the service of Government, it may often happen that difficulty may be experienced in distinguishing between such a message and a private one.

3. I still think therefore that some means should be adopted with a view to obviate any possibility of misconception on the part of the Railway servants, either as I suggested, by the sender writing to the Station Master, or by the adoption of a particular form for Telegrams in the Government Offices, or by all Government Officers being required to use their official titles in Telegrams.

4. I shall feel obliged if you will consider this and let me know your opinion on the subject.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant

J. G. Chaperon & Co.

No. 387.
 P.O. Department
 Pro: of the Madras Govt.
 Read the following
 From
 The Comptroller
 for Railways

The following is a copy of a letter
 addressed to the
 District Magistrate
 of Malabar by an officer
 whose name I have
 not been able to ascertain
 in which he states that
 he has received information
 from a person named
 [Name] that he has
 been in communication
 with the District
 Magistrate of Malabar
 and has been advised
 to forward to him
 a copy of the contents
 of a certain document
 which he has received
 from a person named
 [Name] and who he
 states is a person of
 importance and urgency
 and which was addressed
 to the District Magistrate
 of Malabar by an officer
 whose name I have
 not been able to ascertain

M^o
 22/12

L.S.

2/44

MADRAS RAILWAY.

From

The Agent and Manager.

To

The Consulting Engineer

for Railways.

Dated 17 December 1873
 Recd. 18.

No. 1044

M.

Regarding the receipt
 and despatch of
 the message by
 Railway telegraph
 Office.

Mr. 6875/73

(12)

Circular

✓

Dec 5-1-74
Cir 20 Dec 73

Ch. 6876

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The *Indial Dept.*

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

387

G. O. 17th Feb. No. 387.

No. 314 & 220

Telegraph message. Paping
orders in letter from the
Super. Pys. Submitting
explanation of the cir-
cumstances under which
an emergency message was
declined to be despatched
at the Puttambay Railway
Station.