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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	389-90	(Ry) Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	17-2	28.7.1954

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 323. Read the following letter from Colonel C. H. DICKENS, R.A., Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Telegraph,) to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Fort William, 9th January 1874, No. 19 T. :—

REFERRING to the enclosed copy of a correspondence received from the Government of Madras, in the Judicial Department, relative to the refusal of an emergent telegraphic message at the Puttamby Railway Telegraph Office for being "insufficiently paid," I am directed to request that the Government of India may be favoured with a report from the Consulting Engineer for Guaranteed Railways at Madras on the subject, after due enquiry into the matter, accompanied by any recommendations which would tend to obviate such occurrences in future.

2. I am also to ask whether there is any specific complaint against the Government Telegraph Department.

No. 324. ORDER THEREON, 17th February 1874, No. 389.

RAILWAY, No. 54.

G. O., No. 2,891, dated 1st December 1873

G. O., " " "

(Here enter, No. 390

THE Government of India will be furnished with a copy of the Proceedings noted in the margin, with reference to paragraph 1 of their letter.

17th February 1874.)

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.
,, Judicial Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
FORT ST. GEORGE, 17th February 1874.

No. 325.

FROM

No. 390.

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. 55.

SIR,—Adverting to paragraph 1 of
your letter, No. 193, dated 9th January
1874, relative to the refusal of an emer-
gent telegraph message at the Puttamby Ra way Station for being "insufficiently
paid," I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to forward
herewith a copy of the orders noted in
the margin which explain the proceedings
taken in connection with the occurrence
in question, and to state that, in the opinion of His Excellency in Council, no
further action seems necessary at present.

G. O., No. 2,891, dated 1st December 1873.
G. O., " " "

2. There is no specific complaint made against the Government Telegraph
Department in this particular instance.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
8th October 1873.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 58. From Lieutenant-Colonel W. S. DREVER, Acting Inspector-General
of Police, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort St. George, dated Beypore, 17th September 1873, C. No. 70.

The recent act of Moplah fanaticism in this district has shown that the advan-
tages of telegraphic communication cannot be availed of to their full extent unless
the administrative rules of the Telegraph Department be relaxed under exception-
ally emergent circumstances, and until this be done it is impossible to issue orders
to the Subordinate Magistracy and Police to use the wires as freely as might be
desirable in such cases.

2. I will not trouble the Government with lengthy details; it will suffice to
state that, under existing rules, messages are refused on certain holidays, or for
being insufficiently paid, or for not being prepaid by cash, or being informal, or for
being presented at night, and so on. It would be hopeless to attempt to provide
against these and other contingencies, and yet the delay of even a few hours in
the despatch of an important though informal public message might cause the most
deplorable consequences.

3. It seems to me the simplest plan would be to direct all Assistants in charge
of Telegraph Stations, whether under Government or Railway Companies, to
receive and immediately forward any message signed by any Government or other
public officer, purporting to be of an urgent nature, the bill for the same being
forwarded in due course through the usual channel. It, moreover, seems specially
anomalous that Government Telegraph Stamps should not be accepted at a Railway
Station in payment for any message. It may be impossible to send cash.

4. Were general directions to the above effect issued by Government, it would
be practicable to place the interior lines of local communication throughout the
Presidency on some definite footing with reference to Telegraph Stations and the
officers to whom emergent reports should be submitted.

5. I avail myself of this opportunity of bringing to the notice of Government
the prompt and energetic manner in which Mr. Bailey, the Assistant Traffic Manager,
Madras Railway Company, acted on receipt by him, at Salem, of the news of the
late outbreak, at once placing a special engine at my disposal at Coimbatore and
of the Magistrate of Malabar at Beypore. Owing to these arrangements we were
enabled to throw European Troops and Police into Puttamby early the following
morning, where, though fortunately not then wanted, their presence might have
been of the greatest possible benefit.

Referred to the Superintendent of Government Telegraphs, Madras, for his
remarks.

OOTACAMUND,
22nd September 1873.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
8th October 1873.*

No. 59. From J. BURKE, Esq., Superintendent of Telegraphs, Madras Division, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Paamben, 27th September (despatched 1st October) 1873, No. 1621.

With reference to the letter, No. 70, dated 17th instant, from the Inspector-General of Police, received under your No. 2032 of the 22nd idem, I have the honour to state that, in the absence of more definite information than that contained in the letter under reference, it is difficult to offer any explanation or suggestion in the matter. The Inspector-General of Police states "that the advantages of telegraphic communication cannot be availed of to their full extent," but he does not mention the name of any Telegraph Station at which any important State message has been refused.

2. The statement contained in the second paragraph of the Inspector-General's letter is too general to be satisfactorily dealt with. He states that, "under existing rules, messages are refused on certain holidays, or for being insufficiently paid, or for not being prepaid by cash, or for being informal, or for being presented at night, and so on." Under Rule 4 a message countersigned by the chief Civil or Military authority at a station can, in cases of life and death, or of extraordinary emergency, be sent from any Telegraph Office at any time. I believe that no officer of this Department would refuse an urgent State message on account of its being "insufficiently paid." Either cash or stamps will be accepted at any Government Telegraph Office. A message, like any other document, may be "informal" in so many ways that I am unable to understand the nature of the Inspector-General's objection under this head. I am confident, however, that no State message, properly signed or countersigned, would, in any emergent case, be refused at any Government Telegraph Office.

3. It is to be regretted that Railway Telegraph Administrations are not compelled to accept Telegraph Stamps in payment of messages. There are many difficulties connected with the working of Railway Telegraphs generally, but those difficulties can be removed only by the Imperial Government.

No. 60.

ORDER THEREON, 8th October 1873, No. 1613.
Mr. Burke's letter will be communicated to the Inspector-General of Police, with the request that he will state the particulars of inconvenience that has been experienced in the free use of the telegraph for Police purposes under existing rules, in view to the subject being brought under the consideration of the Supreme Government.

(True Extract.)

To the Inspector-General of Police.
" Superintendent of Telegraphs, Madras Division.
Ed. J. Wright.

Chief Secretary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
28th October 1873.*

No. 139. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. S. DREVER, Acting Inspector-General of Police, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Ootacamund, 24th October 1873, C. No. 85:—

Referring to G.O., No. 1613, of 8th October 1873, on the subject of emergent telegraph messages, I have the honour to submit the following remarks.

2. As Mr. Burke truly says messages may be and are deemed "informal" in so many ways, by the Telegraph Department, that it is impossible for any other Department to provide against such informalities, and it is solely on this account that I brought the subject to the notice of Government.

3. In the particular instance which gave rise to my previous remarks a message was refused at the Railway Station at Puttamby for being "insufficiently paid." Had it been despatched, neither Police nor troops would have been moved the following day.

4. There is no doubt, as Mr. Burke remarks, "that no State message, properly signed and countersigned, would in any case be refused at any Government Telegraph Office," provided, I venture to think, it were also properly paid for; but it is precisely these "proprieties" (any one of which is fatal at either a Government or a Railway Telegraph Station), which, as things now are, cannot be sufficiently regulated beforehand.

Who is the chief Civil or Military authority in Madras Town, or in a Mofussil village?

Is His Excellency the Governor to countersign an emergent telegram from the Commissioner of Police on a Sunday? Or is a Police Inspector to obtain the autograph of a Village Head prior to despatch of a call for aid?

5. The responsibility of sending an emergent State message should, I respectfully submit, rest entirely with the sender, not the receiver; such messages should never be refused by the Telegraph Department under any circumstances whatever.

Were this principle accepted, it would be easy to instruct the subordinate Magistracy and the Police Inspectors, throughout the Presidency, with whom and how to communicate by wire, should certain emergencies arise. This seems to me a right which Government may fairly demand of both Railway and Telegraph Departments.

But until it is admitted, these officers cannot be taught how to avoid the many difficulties now in their way.

No. 140.

ORDER THEREON, 28th October 1873, No. 1719.

Ordered that these papers be forwarded for the consideration of the Government of India.

2. The Governor in Council entirely agrees with the Inspector-General of Police in opinion that the use of the telegraph, for emergent State purposes, should be freed as much as possible from all hinderance and complications.

3. It would be very simple to ensure that all the claims of the Department for cost of transmission should be promptly satisfied after despatch of messages.

10389 Br. H.

PH

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

No. 1720.

FROM

THE HON. W. HUDLESTON,

Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

HOME DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I am directed to transmit, for the consideration of the Government of India,
Dated 8th October 1873, Nos. 58 to 60. copy of the Proceedings of this Govern-
Do. 28th " " No. 1719. ment, noted marginally, relating to the
use of the telegraph by the Police for
emergent State purposes.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

OOTACAMUND,
28th October 1873.

Chief Secretary.

No. 389 P.W.
 Secy. of the Madras Govt.
 Read the following
 From the Govt of India (H.E. No. 195 of 9 Jan/74)

The Govt of India
 will be furnished with
 a copy of the Proceedings
 noted in the margin
 with reference to para
 1 of their letter.

L.O. 2891 of 1 Dec/73.
 L.O. 6871

Mad 23/1
 50
 3
 Comd Engineers
 for Railways
 "Judicial Dept
 Road - and
 mil - and

~~Some will be~~
~~found for enquiry in~~
~~the Judicial Department~~

H. E. Secy dated
 No. 390
 To The Secy to the Govt
 of India P.W.O.

Resd into S-c 19/2/74

Sir,
 Adverting to paragraph
 1 of your letter No. 193
 dated 9 January 1874

relative to the refusal
of an emergent telegraph
message at the Vattamby
Railway Station for being
"insufficiently paid"

(2)

I am directed by His
Excellency the Governor
in Council to forward

herewith a copy of the
orders noted in the margin

which explain the proceed-
ings taken in connec-
tion with the occurrence

in question, and to state
that in the opinion of His

Excellency in Council no
further action seems neces-
sary at present.

I am to add that
paragraphs of your letter
have been referred for con-
sideration to the Judicial

Department. These complaints
made against the Govt Telegraph
Dept. in this particular instance.

C. W. N.

Respectfully with 1 copy of Gen 2891
of 1873 & 6 copies of Gen 389 of 17th Feb 1874
on the 19/2/74

26

No. 249
Govt. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

20 The Hon. the Commr. of
Public Works
for Railways
and

To the Secretary to the
Govt. of India

Dated

Recd.

Encl. 2

G. O. P. W. Secy. No. 389.

390

Nov. 323-324/325

Telegraph Message. Paper

with remarks
Forwarded copy of
papers explaining the
circumstances under
which ~~the~~ ^a telegraph
message was refused
at the Puttambry Telegraph
Office & intimating that
that there is no specific
complaint made against the
Govt. Telegraph Dept.

orders in letter from the
Govt. of India requesting a
report on the ^{an} ~~the~~ subject of the
refusal of ~~the~~ ^{an} message
at the Puttambry Pz Station
Telegraph Office & on the
measures to be adopted to
prevent similar occurrences
in future & whether there is
any complaint against the Govt. Telegraph
Dept.

on the 19/2/75