

(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.	<i>L70-71 (Pg)</i>	Press	<i>Original</i>
B.P. No.		Mis.	
Dated	<i>25-2-1874</i>		

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th February 1874.*

No. 490. Read the following Proceedings of the Government of India in the Public Works Department, (Guaranteed Railways,) dated Fort William, 15th January 1874, No. 109 G. R.:—

GREAT SOUTHERN OF INDIA RAILWAY.

Conversion of line from broad to narrow gauge and junction arrangements at Trichinopoly Station.

Read again:—

Despatch to Secretary of State, No. 170 Railway, dated the 21st August 1873.
To Government of Madras, No. 1,473 G. R., dated 21st August. 1873.

ORDER.—Ordered that this despatch be communicated to the Government of Madras, with the request that the Government of India may be informed what is now desired locally as to the conversion with reference to what is said on the subject in despatch No. 170 of 1873, from the Government of India to the Secretary of State, and that information on the following points may also be submitted:—

- (1.) The earliest date at which any narrow gauge rolling stock is likely to be ready, the amount likely to be then available, the arrangement for further supplies up to full complement sanctioned.
- (2.) In carrying out the conversion, is it intended to substitute lighter rails and, if so, what is intended to be done with the existing rails?
- (3.) In the case of the portion of the line between Trichinopoly and Erode, which is laid with pot sleepers, is it intended that they should be retained?

(Signed) E. C. S. WILLIAMS, Lt.-Col., R.E.,
Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated London, 27th November 1873, No. 179 R.

I HAVE had under consideration in Council your Excellency's despatch of the 21st August last, No. 170, forwarding revised estimates for the Southern Extension of the Great Southern of India Railway, and discussing suggestions for converting the line from Negapatam to Erode from board to narrow gauge, and for effecting certain alterations in the course of the line in the neighbourhood of Trichinopoly.

2. Agreeing in the propriety of these changes, I caused a communication to be addressed to the Boards of the two Companies about to be amalgamated, inquiring their views on the subject, and I now transmit copies of their replies.*

* From Great Southern of India Company, dated 7th November 1873, No. 647, and enclosure.
Do. Carnatic Company, dated 13th November 1873, No. 58.

3. It will be seen that the Boards have received a joint report from their Consulting Engineers, in the purport of which they concur. It is there recommended that the conversion from broad to narrow gauge of the whole line should be effected at once, while your Excellency would seem to prefer that, until the railway from Madras to Tanjore is made, the conversion should be limited to the portion between Negapatam and Trichinopoly.

4. The decision of Her Majesty's Government on the subject is that the whole of the line be converted, but that it be left to your Excellency to determine when the work of conversion shall commence, and also whether it shall be undertaken at once as a whole or shall be executed in portions.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th February 1874.*

5. The proposed alteration in the direction of the line in the immediate neighbourhood of Trichinopoly is also approved, the time of its execution being similarly left to your discretion.

From H. W. NOTMAN, Esq., Secretary, Great Southern of India Railway Company, to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated 2, Leadenhall Street, London, E. C., 7th November 1873, No. 617.

REFERRING to my letter dated 23rd October, * I am now instructed to enclose, for the information of His Grace the Secretary of State, a copy of a joint report of the Consulting Engineers of this Company and the Carnatic Railway

* An acknowledgment of the receipt of letter of 16th idem.

Company (dated 31st October) on the subject of the alteration, from the 5 feet 6 inches to the metre gauge, of the existing line from Negapatam to Erode, and of certain suggested alterations at Trichinopoly.

2. This report was submitted at a joint meeting of the Committees of the two Companies, when it was determined that they should recommend to their respective Boards for adoption the suggestions made by the Consulting Engineers in their report. The recommendation of their Committee to this effect having subsequently been communicated to the Board of this Company, was approved and adopted; and the Directors will be prepared, on receiving the necessary sanction, to give instructions to their Agent accordingly, so that the work may be commenced at the earliest proper opportunity.

3. The papers which accompanied your letter dated 16th October are, as requested, now returned.

From G. B. BRUCE, Esq., and C. D. FOX, Esq., to H. W. NOTMAN, Esq., Secretary, dated 2, Westminster Chambers, Victoria Street, 31st October 1873.

Station arrangements at Trichinopoly.

In accordance with the request conveyed to us by your communication of the 23rd instant, we have perused the despatch and enclosures from the Government of India, transmitted by the Secretary of State for the consideration of the Directors of the Great Southern of India and Carnatic Railway Companies. After a careful review of all the circumstances of the case, we fully concur in the views of the Agent and the Chief Engineer of the Great Southern Company, generally confirmed as they appear to be by the Government Consulting Engineer, viz. :—

1st.—That the existing line of railway from Negapatam to Erode should be converted from the 5 feet 6 inches to the metre gauge as soon as circumstances will admit of it, instead of adopting the temporary and expensive expedient of a third rail. As we gather from the despatches under review that the present broad gauge stock can be readily disposed of to the Madras Railway Company, we are of opinion that considerable economy both in the operation of changing the gauge and in the future working of the traffic will result from sanction being given for the whole length of the line being narrowed at the same time. This change should be undertaken so soon as a sufficient supply of narrow gauge stock arrives in India. We are influenced in arriving at this conclusion by the economy which will be effected by the rolling stock of the Company being all of one gauge and entirely interchangeable throughout.

2nd.—That the station for Trichinopoly should be placed at the point C in the plan annexed to the documents as being in all respects the most convenient.

3rd.—That the two blue lines shown on the plan, viz., from B to C and D to C, should be constructed as soon as practicable, so as to avoid transhipment of goods and materials, the portion of the existing line between B and D, about 1½ miles in length, being then abandoned, and the materials removed.

2. We believe that when these changes have been carried out a very satisfactory arrangement will have been arrived at as regards both local convenience and facilities for the through traffic from north to south and the less important traffic from east to west.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th February 1874.*

From M. R. SCOTT, Esq., Secretary, to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated 62, Moorgate Street, London, E. C., 13th November 1873, No. 5,873.

In reply to your communication of 16th October 1873, with enclosures as per margin, upon the subject of the conversion of the Great

Copy of letter to Great Southern of India Railway Company, dated 16th October 1873, enclosing copy of despatch and enclosures from Government of India, No. 170, of 21st August 1873.

Southern of India Railway to the metre gauge, etc., I am desired to state that the Board, on 11th instant, adopted the recommendations of

the Committee of the two Boards held on the 4th instant. The Board concur with the suggestions made in the joint report of the Consulting Engineers of the two Companies, in accord with the views of the Government of India, and agree to the reply which has been sent by the Great Southern Railway to the counterpart of the communication under reply.

The papers requested to be returned are herewith restored.

No. 491. ORDER THEREON, 25th February 1874, No. 470.

RAILWAY, No. 79.

COMMUNICATED to the Consulting Engineer for Railways for report on the three points regarding which informa-

tion is called for by the Government of India, who will be informed that the local opinion as regards conversion remains unaffected by anything said in despatch No. 170 of 1873, from that Government to the Secretary of State for India.

(True Extract.)

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

Secretary to Government.

No. 492.

(DOCKET No. 471, dated 25th February 1874.)

COPY of the above forwarded to the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

52

India Office,
London, 27th November 1873.

Railway,
No. 179.

To His Excellency The Right Honourable The Governor
General of India in Council.

My Lord,

Para. 1. I have had under consideration in Council your Excellency's Despatch of the 21st August last, No. 170, forwarding revised estimates for the southern extension of the Great Southern of India Railway, and discussing suggestions for converting the line from Negapatam to Errode from broad to narrow gauge, and for effecting certain alterations in the course of the line in the neighbourhood of Trichinopoly.

2. Agreeing in the propriety of these changes, I caused a communication to be addressed to the Boards of the two Companies about to be amalgamated, inquiring their views on the subject, and I now transmit copies of their replies.*

* From Great Southern of India Company, dated 7th November 1873, No. 647, and Enclosure.
Ditto Carnatic Company, dated 13th November 1873, No. 58.

3. It will be seen that the Boards have received a joint report from their Consulting Engineers, in the purport of which they concur. It is there recommended that the conversion from broad to narrow gauge of the whole line should be effected at once, while your Excellency would seem to prefer that, until the railway from Madras to Tanjore is made, the conversion should be limited to the portion between Negapatam and Trichinopoly.

4. The decision of Her Majesty's Government on the subject is, that the whole of the line be converted, but that it be left to your Excellency to determine when the work of conversion shall commence, and also whether it shall be undertaken at once as a whole or shall be executed in portions.

5. The proposed alteration in the direction of the line in the immediate neighbourhood of Trichinopoly is also approved, the time of its execution being similarly left to your discretion.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant.



ENCLOSURES.

No. 1.

No. 647.

Great Southern of India Railway Company,
2, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.,
7th November 1873.

Sir,

* An acknowledgment of the receipt of Letter of 16th idem.

Referring to my letter dated 23rd October,* I am now instructed to enclose, for the information of His Grace the Secretary of State, a copy of a joint report of the Consulting Engineers of this Company and the Carnatic Railway Company (dated 31st October) on the subject of the alteration from the 5 feet 6 inches to the metre gauge of the existing line from Negapatam to Errode, and of certain suggested alterations at Trichinopoly.

This report was submitted at a joint meeting of the Committees of the two Companies, when it was determined that they should recommend to their respective Boards for adoption the suggestions made by the Consulting Engineers in their report. The recommendation of their Committee to this effect having subsequently been communicated to the Board of this Company, was approved and adopted; and the Directors will be prepared, on receiving the necessary sanction, to give instructions to their Agent accordingly, so that the work may be commenced at the earliest proper opportunity.

The papers which accompanied your Letter dated 16th October are, as requested, now returned.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY W. NOTMAN,
Secretary.

The Under Secretary of State
for India.

Enclosure in No. 1.

Station Arrangements at Trichinopoly.

Great Southern of India Railway,
Engineer's Office,
2, Westminster Chambers, Victoria Street,
31st October 1873.

Dear Sir,

In accordance with the request conveyed to us by your communication of the 23rd instant, we have perused the Despatch and enclosures from the Government of India, transmitted by the Secretary of State for the consideration of the Directors of the Great Southern of India and Carnatic Railway Companies. After a careful review of all the circumstances of the case, we fully concur in the views of the Agent and the Chief Engineer of the Great Southern Company, generally confirmed as they appear to be by the Government Consulting Engineer, viz.:—

1st. That the existing line of railway from Negapatam to Errode should be converted from the 5 feet 6 inches to the metre gauge as soon as circumstances will admit of it, instead of adopting the temporary and expensive expedient of a third rail. As we gather from

the Despatches under review that the present broad gauge stock can be readily disposed of to the Madras Railway Company, we are of opinion that considerable economy both in the operation of changing the gauge and in the future working of the traffic will result from sanction being given for the whole length of the line being narrowed at the same time. This change should be undertaken so soon as a sufficient supply of narrow gauge stock arrives in India. We are influenced in arriving at this conclusion by the economy which will be effected by the rolling stock of the Company being all of one gauge and entirely interchangeable throughout.

2nd. That the station for Trichinopoly should be placed at the point C in the plan annexed to the documents, as being in all respects the most convenient.

3rd. That the two blue lines shown on the plan, viz., from B to C and D to C, should be constructed as soon as practicable, so as to avoid transshipment of goods and materials, the portion of the existing line between B and D, about 1½ miles in length, being then abandoned, and the materials removed.

We believe that when these changes have been carried out a very satisfactory arrangement will have been arrived at, as regards both local convenience and facilities for the through traffic from north to south and the less important traffic from east to west.

We are, &c.,
(Signed) GEORGE B. BRUCE.
" CHARLES D. FOX.

Henry W. Notman, Esq.

No. 2.

No. 5873.

Sir,

Carnatic Railway Company, Limited,
62, Moorgate Street, London, E.C.,
13th November 1873.

In reply to your communication of 16th October 1873, with enclosures as per margin,* upon the subject of the conversion of the Great Southern of India Railway to the metre gauge, &c., I am desired to state that the Board, on 11th instant, adopted the recommendations of the Committee of the two Boards held on the 4th instant. The Board concur with the suggestions made in the joint report of the Consulting Engineers of the two Companies, in accord with the views of the Government of India, and agree to the reply which has been sent by the Great Southern Railway to the counterpart of the communication under reply.

* Copy of Letter to Great Southern of India Railway Company, dated 16th October 1873, enclosing copy of Despatch and Enclosures from Government of India, No. 170, of 21st August 1873.

The papers requested to be returned are herewith restored.

The Under Secretary of State
for India.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) M. R. SCOTT,
Secretary.

All communications
should be addressed to
the Secretary.

No. 109 G.R.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Guaranteed Railways
Fort William, 15th January 1874-
Great Southern of India Railway
Conversion of line from broad to narrow gauge and Junction arrangements at Trichinopoly Station.

Read again:

Despatch to Secy. of State No. 170 Raily.
dated the 21st August 1873.
To Govt. of Madras No. 1473 G.R. dated
21st August 1873-

Read also:

Despatch from Secy. of State No. 179 R
dated the 27th November 1873.

Order

Ordered that this Despatch be communicated to the Govt. of Madras, with the request that the Govt. of India may be informed what is now desired locally as to the conversion

conversion with reference to what is said on the subject in Despatch No. 170 of 1873, from the Govt. of India to the Secretary of State; that information on the following points may also be submitted:

- (1) The earliest date at which any narrow gauge rolling stock is likely to be ready, the amount likely to be then available, the arrangement for further supplies up to full complement sanctioned?
- (2) In carrying out the conversion, is it intended to substitute lighter rails and if so, what is intended to be done with the existing rails?
- (3) In the case of the portion of the line between Trichinopoly and Erode, which is laid with flat sleepers, is it intended that they should be retained?

W. M. L. Lieut. Col. R. E.
Deputy Secretary

W. M. L.

1874
1.
The earliest date at which any narrow gauge rolling stock is likely to be ready, the amount likely to be then available, the arrangement for further supplies up to full complement sanctioned?
In carrying out the conversion, is it intended to substitute lighter rails and if so, what is intended to be done with the existing rails?
In the case of the portion of the line between Trichinopoly and Erode, which is laid with flat sleepers, is it intended that they should be retained?

W. M. L. Lieut. Col. R. E.
Deputy Secretary

P. W. 1874 Dept
No 390

From The Govt of India

Dated 16th
Dec 21st } January 1874.

No 109 G.R.

Encl.

Forwarding
a copy of a Despatch
from the Secretary of
State relative to the
conversion of the
Great Southern of
India line of Railway
from broad to narrow
gauge, & junction
arrangements at the
Trichinopoly Station
and requesting
information on points
connected therewith.

With order

Communicated to the Consulting Engineer for Railways for

report on the various points regarding which information is called
for by the Govt of India; who will be informed that the local opinion

as regards conversion remains unaffected by any thing said in

Despatch No 170 of 1873 from that Government to the Secretary of State for

To Com. Engrs for Dept. India.

Amr.

Recd. No 471

17th Feb 74

32390
Gobt. of 1874 Billads.
PUBLIC WORKS.

The Consulting Engs
for Railway
&
To the Secretary to the
Govt of India

Patel

Recd.

Encl. 1

G. 25th Feb 470-
471.

No: 470-471 & 472

G. S. of S. Railway. No of the

Govt of India forwarding a copy
of despatch from the Secy of
State relating to the conversion
of the G. S. of S. Railway from
broad to narrow gauge
& junction arrangements
at the Trichinopoly Station
& requesting information
in points connected therewith.
The Govt of India has
issued instructions.