M.R.O. 1—10,006—28-2-50.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 3606. Press.
~~B.P. No.~~ ~~Mis.~~

Dated 22-12-1874 ~~195~~.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 462. Read the following Proceedings of the Government of India in the Public Works Department, (Railway,) dated Fort William, 26th November 1874, No. 2,973 R.:—

South Indian Railway.

PROPOSED conversion from the 3 feet 6 inches gauge to the metre gauge of the portion of line between Arconum and Conjeveram and its extension thence to Chingleput.

Read again—

Despatch to Secretary of State, No. 149, Railway, dated 15th August 1874.
Docket to Government of Madras, No. 1,945, Railway, dated 15th August 1874.
Despatch from the Secretary of State, No. 120, Railway, dated 20th August 1874.
Despatch to do. No. 188, Railway, dated 28th September 1874.
Telegram from do. dated 10th October 1874.
Docket to Government of Madras, No. 2,579 R. dated 12th October 1874.

Read also—

From the Secretary of State for India, to the Government of India, Public Works Department, dated 22nd October 1874, No. 151 Railway.

YOUR letter No. 149, of 15th August last, forwarded papers containing a proposal submitted by the officers of the South Indian Railway Company for the conversion, from the 3 feet 6 inches gauge to the metre gauge, of the portion of Railway—18¼ miles in length—between Arconum and Conjeveram, and for its extension to Chingleput, a further distance of 21 miles.

2. As already intimated to your Excellency by telegram, I am unable, with the information before me, to sanction these measures. For the extension there is an estimate amounting to Rupees 10,37,616, but of the cost of conversion there is no estimate whatever. In regard to estimated revenue, I find nothing more stated than that 18,469 full carts have passed between Conjeveram and Chingleput in the course of a year. Supposing each cart to hold one ton and each ton to pay a penny per mile, both high averages, we may reckon the gross receipts from goods at £1,616, and taking the receipts from passengers at two-fifths of the total receipts, we shall obtain a gross total of £2,694 a year. But from this are to be deducted working expenses which, if calculated according to the usual South Indian rate of at least 3 per cent. on Capital would, even on £103,000, amount to £3,090, and, if calculated on gross revenue according to the usual English rate of 50 per cent. would come to £1,347; so that, of net revenue there would, at the utmost, be only £1,347 to be set off against £5,150, the guaranteed interest at 5 per cent. on £103,000. In other words, to sanction the proposed measures would be to occasion a dead loss of £3,803 a year.

ORDER.—Ordered that this despatch be communicated to the Government of Madras for information and guidance.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND, Colonel, R.E.,
Deputy Secretary.

No. 463. ORDER THEREON, 22nd December 1874, No. 3,606.

RAILWAY, No. 63.

COMMUNICATED to the Consulting Engineer for Railways. It appears that the financial prospects of the Cuddalore-Arconum line have not been investigated in sufficient detail, or with sufficiently assuring results to satisfy the Secretary of State for India.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.
Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

Dated 26th Dec. 1874.
Rec'd 4th Dec. 1874.
No. 29750.

Forwarding a letter of the Secretary from the Secy. of State declining at present to sanction the proposed connexion to narrow gauge of the Oude Tirhoot Railway & Assam & Bengal and also extension thence to Chittagong.

With Orders

Communicated to the Consulting Engineer for Railways. It would appear that the financial prospects of the Land Grant Railway - Arcoonum line have not been investigated in sufficient detail, or with sufficiently assuring results to satisfy the Secretary of State for India.

Consg Engr. Ref. Govt. Dec. 26/12/74.

Dec. 1874 Despatch
No. for Secretary of State
No. 7592.

From.
The Secretary of State for India

7592

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Chief Engineer for Railways

Dated

Rec'd. Encl.

G. O. 22 Dec. 1874, No. 3665

Nos. 462-463.

Arconum and Con:
Jeveram Line. Pro:
ceedings of the Govt. of India forwarding a copy of a Despatch from the Secy of State declining at present to sanction the proposed conversion to narrow gauge of the line between Arconum & Con

Jeveram and its extension thence to Chingleput. Comd to the Chief Engr for Railways with remarks —