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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

## Government of Madras

*Public Works* DEPARTMENT

|          |      |          |
|----------|------|----------|
| G.O. No. | 1527 | Press    |
| B.P. No. |      | Mis. →   |
| Dated    | 1-6- | C875-195 |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 18. Read the following letter from Colonel C. H. DICKENS, R.A., Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Buildings and Roads—Civil Works—Telegraph,) to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Simla, 8th May 1875, No. 206 T. :—

I AM directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter, No. 275, dated the 2nd February 1875, forwarding, for consideration, papers containing modifications suggested by the Railway authorities of the Madras Presidency in regard to Rule 9 of the State Railway Telegraph Rules for the interchange of telegraph traffic, and in reply to communicate the following remarks thereon :—

2. *Clause (a).*—This clause I am to point out is very nearly identical with that provided for in the Railway Company's licenses. The new clause is indeed less stringent than the old, and it is not understood, therefore, why it should be unacceptable to the Railway Agents. The two are quoted in the margin in juxtaposition for convenience of reference.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| STATE RAILWAY TELEGRAPH RULES.<br><i>Rule 9, Clause (a)</i><br>"The system adopted in the Government Telegraph Department in respect of instruments, tariff, receipt, transmission, and check of messages and code signals shall be adopted and strictly followed so far as the Government Telegraph Department may require." | LICENSE TO Madras AND GREAT SOUTHERN OF INDIA RAILWAY COMPANIES.<br><i>Rule 1.</i><br>"The system adopted on the lines of Government Electric Telegraph in respect of instruments, alphabet, and transmission of messages shall also be adopted and strictly followed by the Madras Railway Company, Great Southern of India, and the officers of the said Company shall conform to all instructions they may receive on that behalf from the Superintendent of Electric Telegraph." |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

3. *Clause (d).*—The Government of India are, in the interests of the public, desirous of having one uniform set of rules for working all the telegraphs in India and this object would be defeated if the alterations proposed by the Railway Agents were accepted, as these rules have already been issued, and they appear to His Excellency in Council to be sufficiently precise; but, if there is found to be any practical difficulty in working, they can be altered hereafter.

4. *Clause (f)* I am to remark does not affect the Guaranteed Railways in any way, but its acceptance is asked for as it forms part of the general rules.

5. *Clause (i).*—It is to be remembered that on the Government telegraphs all messages, whether public or private, are sent in the direct order of receipt; but this is not, and cannot be, the case on the Railway telegraphs where Railway messages must necessarily have precedence over others, and the latter are in consequence frequently delayed. It is, therefore, in the interests of the public, clearly desirable that all messages should quit the Railway wires and be transferred to the Government line as speedily as possible. And consequently the object aimed at by Clause (e) is that messages which have to be transferred from Railway to Government lines, and *vice versa*, shall traverse the *maximum* distance on the Government wires and the *minimum* distance on the Railway wires. And as this will entail the bulk of the work being performed by the Government lines, and as, moreover, the existing disproportion between the length of the Government and of the Railway lines will be practically increased by the operation of Clause (e), it is only right and fair that under Clause (i) Government shall take a due proportion of the proceeds.

6. I am also to point out that the Madras Railway Agent (Mr. Church) is scarcely correct in saying that "the cost of transmitting a message consists principally in the

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1st June 1875.*

staff and instrument charges;" the cost of the posts and wires and their maintenance forms a material element in any such calculation.

7. The Governor-General in Council is willing to admit that Mr. Church's arguments in favor of each receiving office retaining its own receipts are not without force, but His Excellency in Council does not consider that Mr. Church has satisfactorily disposed of the difficulty as to an intermediate system, which, under his proposals, would receive nothing at all.

8. I am to add that three important\* Railways have recognized the fact that their systems are primarily for Railway traffic, and can at best only be auxiliaries to the general telegraphic system for public messages, which is managed by Government, and that they have already accepted the proposed rules including that for the division of proceeds. This being so, His Excellency in Council trusts that, in the interests of the general public, the Agents will waive their objections to these rules, and that no further opposition will be offered to their introduction on the Railways in Madras.

\* East India Railway.  
Oudh and Rohilcund Railway.  
Scinde and Punjab Railway.

9. Clause (j) being intimately connected with Clause (i) calls for no separate remark.

10. Clause (k).—I am to explain that the advantages (*vide* extract on margin accorded with reference to this clause t) the Railways which have accepted the State Railway Rules will also be extended to the Madras Railways.

*Extract paragraph 1 of a letter from the Government of India, Public Works Department, to the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India for Guaranteed Railways, Lahore, No. 438 T., dated 12th August 1874.*

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 774, of 13th ultimo, on the subject of the telegraph license for the Scinde, Punjab, and Delhi Railway, and with reference to the objection made by the Agent to the adoption of Clause (k) of Rule 9 of the State Railway Rules, unless a similar privilege is accorded to the Company, to state that it is intended to allow not only free transmission, in cases of necessity, of urgent Railway telegrams between any two Government offices within the limits of the Railway, but also to provide for precedence being given to such messages in all cases of accident or other great emergency. With Railway and Government offices connected at convenient points by wire, this arrangement will offer a very valuable additional security to the Railway traffic, and as soon as the State Railway Rules are formally accepted by the Agent, the Director-General of Telegraphs will be instructed to take the necessary steps in concert with the Railway authorities.

No. 19. ORDER THEREON, 1st June 1875, No. 1,527.

RAILWAY, No. 9.

COMMUNICATED to the Consulting Engineer for Railways with reference to G. O., No. 274, dated 2nd February 1875.

2. The Governor in Council trusts that under the explanations afforded by the Government of India, the Agents of the Madras and South Indian Railways will now be prepared to accept in their entirety the provisions of Rule 9 of the State Railway Telegraph Rules for the interchange of telegraph traffic.

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1st June 1875.*

3. With respect to Clause (m) it will be observed that the Government of India express their intention of not pressing its acceptance, if it is opposed to the wishes of the Company. It will be more convenient, however, if the rules are accepted as they stand.

(True Extract.)

Major, R.E.,

*Offg. Joint Secretary to Government.*

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

11. Clause (m).—This rule I am to explain refers only to messages not on the business of the Company, and, though the Governor-General in Council will be glad if the Company will accept the rules as they stand, so as to avoid multiplicity of procedure, yet the Government of India will not press the acceptance of this clause if it is opposed to the wishes of the Company.

Exd. A. Grubert.

Spare Copies

Public Works Dept.  
7<sup>th</sup>

Proceedings of the Madras Government  
Under date the 18<sup>th</sup> 1875

Read the following

From  
The Govt of India - (H.E. No. 2065 of 8<sup>th</sup> May 1875)

By Govt: 1527 of 1<sup>st</sup> June 1875

Communicated to  
the Consulting Engineer  
for Railways with  
reference to G.O. No. 274  
dated 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1875

The Governor in  
Council trusts that  
under the explanations  
afforded by the Govt  
of India, the Agents  
of the Madras and  
South Indian Railways  
will now be prepared

to

P. W. 1875  
No: 3

From

Govt of India

22<sup>nd</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> May } 1875  
22<sup>nd</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> - }

No: 20

May

Regarding  
rules for the use  
of telegraphs  
with Railways

No 18.

Cir 21/5/75 O.L. 21/5/75

O.L. Street 11.

to accept in their entirety  
the provisions of Rule 9  
of the State Railway  
Telegraph Rules for the  
interchange of telegraph  
traffic.

4-18-19

With respect to clause  
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that the Govt of India  
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It will be more con-  
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Rules are accepted as  
they stand.

Joh

21/5/75

30/2

Consr. Engr. for Ry. ✓  
SC Dtd. 16.6.75

3521 ✓

Coll. of 1873 Madrid.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Consignee

Date

Recd.

5 1873

G. O. June 1873

Vol. 18-19

Rules for the interchange  
of Telegraph Traffic  
with Railways. - Letter  
of the Government of India  
regarding the  
communicated to the  
Consulting Engineer  
with remarks.