

(1) Number of pages_____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1544	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	2 - 6 - 195	28 75

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd June 1875.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 50. From Colonel A. STEWART, R.A., Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines, to Colonel A. C. SILVER, Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Fort St. George, 10th May 1875, No. G-36.

With reference to order (a) of Government and my communication (b) in which

(a) No. 1,511, dated 1st May 1873.
(b) „ G-10, „ 9th April „

I brought to notice the inconvenience experienced by the Ordnance Department owing to the paucity of powder vans in

possession of the Railway authorities for conveyance of combustibles, I have the honor again to bring this matter under the consideration of Government.

2. In my letter (b) I reported that the Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company had intimated his intention to indent on England for six iron brake vans fitted with a compartment for combustibles, so that, on their receipt, the Company might be in a position to place at the disposal of the several departments of Government three powder vans, each capable of carrying five tons of gunpowder, and I urged upon Government the insufficiency of that number; but His Excellency the Commander-in-

(c) No. 3,064, dated 24th April 1873, from Quartermaster-General to Government. Chief entertained a different opinion for reasons stated in letter (c), which opinion Government endorsed.

3. It will be observed by a re-perusal of the extract from the Agent and Manager's letter quoted in my letter (b) that he proposed to indent on England for six iron brake vans fitted with a compartment for combustibles, and not six powder vans, as supposed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

4. These compartments may possibly be very small; and it appears to have been merely surmised by the Railway authorities that by such brake vans being used three powder vans in all would become available for the several departments of Government.

5. It is now two years since the Agent and Manager stated that the arrangement in question would be carried out, but I am not aware of any result.

6. Much inconvenience is experienced by this deficiency of safe means for conveying powder. Very lately the Ordnance Officer, Grand Arsenal, reported as follows :—
“When the wings of the 27th Native Infantry were starting hence after landing from Burmah, it was desirable to send a powder van with the train conveying each wing, but it was found impracticable because the Railway could not furnish them. No powder van could be got for the first wing, because, shortly previous, ammunition had been sent to Secunderabad, and on that occasion, though three powder vans were required, two only were obtained.”

7. I therefore beg to solicit a re-consideration of my letter (b), and to recommend that the Railway authorities be moved to expedite the supply of the six iron brake vans of the description mentioned above, and the early adoption of whatever arrangements may be considered necessary, to prevent a recurrence of the inconvenience now reported.

No. 2,261.

REFERRED to the Commander-in-Chief for His Excellency's observations.

OOTACAMUND,
14th May 1875.

(Signed) A. C. SILVER, Colonel,
Secretary to Government, M.D.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd June 1875.

From Brigadier-General A. HOWLETT, C.B., Quartermaster-General, to Colonel A. C. SILVER, Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Ootacamund, 20th May 1875, No. 17-3341.

In returning letter from the Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines, No. G-36, dated 10th instant, referred to the Commander-in-Chief on the 14th. I have the honor, by order, to state that His Excellency concurs with the Inspector-General in recommending that the Railway authorities be moved to expedite the supply of the six iron brake vans, with compartments for combustibles, for which it was proposed in April 1873 to indent on England.

No. 2,491.

TRANSFERRED, with the Inspector-General's letter, to the Public Works Department, for the issue of the necessary orders.

OOTACAMUND,
24th May 1875.

(Signed) A. C. SILVER, Colonel.
Secretary to Government, M.D.

No. 51.

ORDER THEREON, 2nd June 1875, No. 1,511.

RAILWAY, No. 15.

COMMUNICATED to the Consulting Engineer for Railways, who is requested to report what steps have been taken by the Railway authorities towards providing the brake vans in question.

(True Extract.)

Major. R.F.

Offg. Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.
" Military Department.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

Ordnance Department

ORDNANCE OFFICE

Fort Saint George

May 1875

From,

Colonel A. Stewart, M.D.

Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Military Department.

Sir,

With reference to order of Government and my communication, in which I brought to notice the inconvenience experienced by the Ordnance Department owing to the scarcity of Powder Vans in possession of the Railway authorities for conveyance of combustibles, I have the honor again to bring this matter under the consideration of Government.

2.- In my letter, I reported that the Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company had intimated his intention to indent on England for 6 Iron Brake Vans fitted with a compartment for combustibles, so that, on their receipt, the Company might be in a position to place at the disposal of the several Departments of Government, three Powder Vans, each capable of carrying 5 Tons of Gunpowder, and I urged upon Government the insufficiency of that number; but His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief entertained a different opinion, for reasons stated in letter, which opinion Government endorsed.

3.- It will be observed by a perusal of the Extract from the Agent and Manager's letter, quoted in my letter, that he proposed to indent on England for 6 Iron Brake Vans fitted with a compartment for combustibles, and not 6 Powder Vans, as supposed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

4.- These compartments may possibly be very small.

8/1 dated 1st May 1875.
6/1 dated 9th April 1875.

1/20 2004 dated 24th April 1875 from 20th May 1875 to Govt.

small, and it appears to have been merely surmised by the Railway authorities, that by such Brake Vans being used, 3 Powder Vans in all would become available for the several Departments of Government.

5.- It is now two years since the Agent, and Manager, stated, that the arrangement in question would be carried out; but I am not aware of any result.

6.- Much inconvenience is experienced by this deficiency of safe means for conveying powder. Very lately the Ordnance Officer, Grand Arsenal, reported, as follows; "when the Wings of the 27th Native Infantry were starting hence, after landing from Burmah, it was desirable to send a Powder Van with the train conveying each wing; but it was found impracticable, because the Railway could not furnish them. No Powder Van could be got for the first wing, because, shortly previous, Ammunition had been sent to Secunderabad; and on that occasion, though 3 Powder Vans were required, two only were obtained."

7.- I therefore beg to solicit a re-consideration of my letter⁽¹⁾, and to recommend that the Railway authorities be moved to expedite the supply of the 6 above Brake Vans of the description mentioned above, and the early adoption of whatever arrangements may be considered necessary, to prevent a recurrence of the inconvenience now reported.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most Obedient servant,

Alfred W. A. Colville, B.A.,
Superintendent of the Madras Railway.

Encl. M. S.

J. P.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Head Quarters, Ootacamund,
20th May 1875.

No. 17.
3341

From

BRIGADIER-GENERAL A. HOWLETT, C.B.,
Quartermaster-General,

To

COLONEL A. C. SILVER,
Secretary to Government,
Military Department.

Sir,

In returning Letter from the
Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines
No. 36 date 10th Instant, referred to the
Commander in Chief for the 14th, I have the
honor, by order, to state that His Excellency
concurs with the Inspector General in recom-
mending that the Railway Authorities be
moved to expedite the supply of the six iron
brake vans, with Compartments for combustibles,
for which it was proposed in April 1873
to indent on England. —

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

[Signature] Brig General,
Quartermaster General.

[Signature]

20th May 1875. 23025.

[Handwritten notes in left margin:]
To 20th May 1875
Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines
No. 36
dtd 10th Instant
referred to the
Commander in Chief for the 14th
I have the honor
by order
to state that His Excellency
concurs with the
Inspector General in
recommending that
the Railway Authorities
be moved to expedite
the supply of the six
iron brake vans, with
compartments for
combustibles, for which
it was proposed in
April 1873 to indent
on England.

[Handwritten notes in bottom left margin:]
Military Department
No. 3341
dtd 10th May 1875
referred to the
Commander in Chief
for the 14th
I have the honor
by order
to state that His
Excellency concurs
with the Inspector
General in recom-
mending that the
Railway Authorities
be moved to expedite
the supply of the six
iron brake vans, with
compartments for
combustibles, for
which it was pro-
posed in April 1873
to indent on Eng-
land.

G. C. Hulet Sept 1st May 1873
No 1571

Comd'g Fort Ross
California

500 Miles 16-6-75

No 50-57

Sept 1st 1873

Off No 1544 of 2nd June 1873
Communicated to the commanding engineer
for Railways who is requested to report with
etc to have him taken by the Railway authorities
towards providing the materials in question

P. W. 1875 Sept.
No: 3458

From

The Secy. to Govt.
Mil. Dept.

Dated 24th May 1875.
Recd. 27th

2.1 No: 2494.

Transferring letter
from the Dir. Gen. General
stating that the Comm-
dr-in-Chief concurs with
the Inspr. General in
recommending that the
Reg. Authorities be asked
to expedite the supply of
6 Brake Vans.

With order.

3458 ✓

Govt. of Madras
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Engineer-in-Chief

From

Chief

Secy.

Engr.

G. O. 2000. 15-4

Nos. 50-51

Supply of six Brake Vans.
~~Proceedings in the Military~~
Department, transferring letter
from the Quarter Master General
stating that the Commander-in-
chief concurs with the
Inspector General in recommending
that the Railway Authorities be
asked to expedite the
communication to the Consulting
Engineer for report.