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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

B.P. No.

Dated

1884

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
3rd July 1875.*

No. 107. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, R.E., Consulting Engineer for Railways, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Officiating Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 11th June 1875, No. 331:—

I HAVE the honor to lay before Government a report by the Deputy Consulting Engineer upon the open line and the southern extension of the South Indian Railway, which were lately inspected by Major Smith. There have been difficulties in the way of arranging for the conversion to the metre gauge of the section between Negapatam and Trichinopoly; but these have been satisfactorily met, and at a meeting between the Agent, the Chief Engineer, and Major Smith, the arrangements were finally settled. These were reported to Government in my letter of the 7th instant, No. 320.

2. The delay in arranging for the conversion of the open line has, however, thrown back the opening of the section between Trichinopoly and Madura; but this is now fixed for the 1st August, and it is unlikely that any further obstacle will interfere with that date, so far as the Company's officers are concerned.

3. There still remains for consideration the highly unsatisfactory state of the telegraph wire; and this has been so repeatedly brought forward that it is unnecessary to enlarge upon it. From what he saw upon his late inspection, Major Smith is of opinion that the working of passenger traffic upon this part of the line cannot be satisfactorily undertaken so long as the wire remains in its present condition. The urgent necessity for replacing with permanent posts the rotten bamboos on which the wire is now suspended has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Government of India, and, under the pressing circumstances, I trust that His Excellency in Council will be pleased to sanction the immediate commencement of the work. Even at this late hour it is possible that enough may be done, by renewing the worst portions of the existing line of telegraph, so as to allow the line to be opened for traffic without further delay.

A reply to this by telegraph is solicited.

Memorandum by the Deputy Consulting Engineer for Railways on the South Indian open line and extensions.

THE open line from Erode to Trichinopoly is fully ballasted up. The Chief Engineer's attention has been invited to one or two points in connection with it. The preparations for shifting third rail east of Trichinopoly are in progress, and will be sufficiently forward to permit the commencement of the conversion to narrow gauge on the 19th instant; should circumstances favor the work it is anticipated that the rail will be laid, and the narrow gauge stock worked into Trichinopoly new station by the 19th July, or, allowing for accidents, certainly by the end of the month; sufficient rolling stock will have been completed for working the traffic from Negapatam to Madura by the same date.

2. There will be no difficulty in completing the Southern Extension, in all important particulars, in time for opening on the 1st of August as far as Madura. The Vygay bridge girders will, it is estimated, be placed in position by the end of this month; and the additional ballasting required, with all work necessary for bridges, fencing, station building, and permanent-way, can all be completed before the date named.

3. Ballast trains now run one way or the other nearly every day, and the line will be in good running order by the time it is required for passenger traffic.

4. The Chief Engineer's attention has been invited to the several points in which the Government would like the arrangements and work fully completed before opening.

girders.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
3rd July 1875.

5. The telegraphic communication cannot be guaranteed while the wire is carried on the present temporary posts.
6. Gates at all thoroughfares and semaphores will have been erected. The requisite turntables and sidings will have been laid in, and it is believed that all the goods sheds will have been roofed by the date named.
7. The watering arrangements are sufficiently forward even now for the proposed train service; but pending the analysis of the water, or more experience of its working than is at present available, its quality cannot be definitely settled.
8. On the Northern Extension the Vennar bridge is now in progress; two piers are up to about five feet above bed; the excavations of two more are about to be commenced; the rails and post to form part of a coffer dam have been driven into the clay by a pile driver; and the wells on the bank, which it is proposed to sink for the abutment during the freshes, are in readiness.
9. The excavations for one pier of the Vadavair bridge are commenced. The earthwork for the embankment from Tanjore to the Vennar river appears to be about two-thirds complete, and all small masonry works are well forward. I was present at the testing of the girders of the Coryair bridge.

MADRAS,
8th June 1875.

(Signed) C. J. SMITH, Major, R.E.,
Deputy Consulting Engineer for Railways.

No. 108.

ORDER THEREON, 3rd July 1875, No. 1,884.

RAILWAY, No. 10.

ORDERED to be recorded.

2. With reference to the question of erection of the permanent telegraph, it is observed that in reply to the representations of this Government, the Government of India have now issued definitive orders to the Director-General of Telegraphs for the early commencement of the work. It is hoped that no further delay will now take place. The orders in question have been separately communicated* to the Consulting Engineer.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Major, R.E.,
Offg. Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Ed. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

Memorandum by the Deputy Consulting Engineer for
Railways, on the route to be adopted for the extension

at present intended to be carried out from the present terminus to the new terminus at Trichinopoly. The route has been fully ballasted up. The Chief Engineer's attention has been invited to one or two points in connection with it. The preparations for shifting third rail east of Trichinopoly are in progress and will be sufficiently forward to permit the commencement of the conversion to narrow gauge on the 19th inst. Should the conversion be completed in time, it is anticipated that the rail will be laid and the narrow gauge stock worked into Trichinopoly new station by the 19th July, allowing for accidents certainly by the end of the month. Sufficient rolling stock will have been completed for working the traffic from Madras to Trichinopoly by the 19th inst. There will be no difficulty in completing the Southern Extension in all important particulars, in time for opening on the 1st of August as far as Madras. The Vijay bridge girders.

girder will, it is estimated, be placed in position by the end of this month, and the additional ballasting required, with all work necessary for bridges, fencing, station building and permanent way, can all be completed before the date named.

3. Ballast trains now run one way or the other nearly every day, and the line will be in good running order by the time it is required for passenger traffic.

4. The Chief Engineer's attention has been invited to the several points in which the Government would like the arrangements and work fully completed before opening.

5. The telegraphic communication cannot be guaranteed while the line is carried on the present temporary posts.

6. Gates at all thoroughfares and cul-de-sacs will have been erected. The requisite quantities of sand and ballast will have been laid in, and it is believed that all the goods sheds will have been roofed by the date named.

7. The watering arrangements are sufficiently forward even now for

5 C 5
for the proposed train service; but pending the analysis of the water, or more experience of its working than is at present available, its quality cannot be definitely settled.

8. On the Northern Extension, the Vennar bridge is now in progress; two piers are up to about 5 feet above bed; the excavations of two more are about to be commenced; the rails and posts to form part of a cofferdam have been driven into the clay by a pile driver; and the wells on the bank which it is proposed to sink for the abutment during the freshes are in readiness.

9. The excavations for one pier of the Vadavur bridge are commenced. The earthwork for the embankment from Sangore to the Vennar river appears to be about $\frac{2}{3}$ complete, and all small masonry works are well forward. I was present at the testing of the girders of the Coryam bridge.

Madras
8th June 1875

Col C. J. Smith. Major R.E.
Deputy Consulting Engineer
for Railways

(True Copy)

Maunthoussie Lieut. Col. R.E.
Consulting Engineer
for Railways.

W. B. R.

Madras 11 June 1875.

Railway Department.

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

No. 331

From

LIEUT.-COLONEL J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, R.E.,

Consulting Engineer for Railways,

To

Col. C. W. Walker, R.E.

Secretary to Government,

Public Works Department,

~~Fort St. George~~

SIR,

Notacandum

I have the honour to lay before Government a report by the Deputy Consulting Engineer upon the open line and the Southern Extension of the South Indian Railway, which were lately inspected by Major Smith. There have been difficulties in the way of arranging for the conversion to the metre gauge of the section between Negapatam and Erchinopoly; but these have been satisfactorily met; and at a

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

[Faint handwritten notes or signatures at the bottom of the page.]

meeting between the Agent, the Chief Engineer, and Major Smith, the arrangements were finally settled. These were reported to Government in my letter of the 7th instant No 320.

2. The delay in arranging for the conversion of the open line has however thrown back the opening of the section between Luchinopol and Madura; but this is now fixed for the 1st August, and it is unlikely that any further obstacle will interfere with that date, so far as the Company's officers are concerned.

3. There still remains for consideration the highly

unsatisfactory state of the telegraph wire; and this has been repeatedly brought forward that it is unnecessary to enlarge upon it. From what he saw upon his late inspection, Major Smith is of opinion that the working of passenger traffic upon this part of the line cannot be satisfactorily undertaken so long as the wire remains in its present condition. The urgent necessity for replacing with permanent posts the rotten bamboo on which the wire is now suspended has been repeatedly brought to the notice

of the Government of India;
and under the pressing circum-
stances I trust that His Excellency
in Council will be pleased to
sanction the immediate commence-
ment of the work. Even at
this late hour it is possible that
enough may be done, by renewing
the worst portions of the existing
line of telegraph, so as to allow
the line to be opened for traffic
without further delay.

A reply to this by
telegraph is solicited.

Have the honour to be
Sir

Your most obt servt.

Wm. Montagu Pitt Rivers

Genl. Commr. Corps for Railways

St. Paul, 23. June

work. It is hoped that
no further delay will
now take place. The
orders in question have been
separately communicated
to the Consulting Engineer

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W. C. Eng^r for Railways
MS Disp^d - 3. July 75
SC Disp^d - 15-7-75

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Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Mr. Cunningham

Dated

Issued

Recd.

G. O. S. July 1875, No. 1884

Nos. 107-108

South Indian Railway.

Letter of the Consulting Engineer
forwarding with remarks, inspection
report of the open line,
and Southern Extension
by the Dpty. Consulting
Engineer, recorded with
remarks as to the erection
of the permanent telegraph.