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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2454-53	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	27-8	4875 195-

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
27th August 1875.*

No. 456. 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, 13th August 1875, No. 449:—

ADVERTING to the Proceedings of Government noted in the margin, I have the honor to report that, during the last three months, I have made a thorough investigation into the Establishment charges of every department of the Madras Railway;

No. 1,110, 20th April 1875.

" 1,111, " " "

" 1,253, 4th May " "

The Agent and the Chief Auditor of the Company as well as the Examiner of Railway Accounts assisted in the investigation; and a letter* from Mr. Elwin, containing his opinion upon the charges in question, is herewith enclosed for the consideration of Government.

* No. 832, 6th August 1875.

2. The paragraph in the letter from the Government of India, dated the 8th March 1875, No. 74-75 A.—G. R., in which the possibility of reduction was suggested, apparently points, as remarked by the Agent, to the Engineering Department only; but I understood it to be the desire of Government that the existing strength of every department should be specially reviewed and reported upon, and this has therefore been done.

3. With regard to the Engineering Department any reduction at present is out of the question. On the contrary, Mr. Elwin alludes to the probability that additional assistance will be required when the reconstruction of the bridges on the North-West Line is undertaken, and of this there can be little doubt. Mr. Elwin explains that the numerical strength of the Covenanted Officers in this department has been reduced, during the last five years, from twenty-six to seventeen. Upon completion of the large construction works on hand, or about to be undertaken, it will probably be possible to fix the numerical strength at thirteen.

4. In their Proceedings, dated the 4th May 1875, No. 1,253, His Excellency the Governor in Council directed that the proposed increase to the salary of Mr. Going, Deputy Chief Engineer, should be taken into consideration along with this general review of the establishment charges. The increase in question was sanctioned by the Board of Directors upon personal grounds, in consideration of the long and good service done by Mr. Going. I am of opinion that, for the present, the services of a Deputy Chief Engineer will be required, and I trust that the proposal will now be forwarded for the favorable consideration of the Government of India.

5. In reviewing the Audit and Accounts Departments, the possibility of amalgamating the posts of Chief Auditor and Chief Accountant was carefully considered. As pointed out by the Agent, the separation of these two appointments was first suggested by Mr. Kellner,† the Assistant Accountant-General, Public Works Department, when on deputation from the Government of India for the purpose of introducing the new system of Railway Audit into this

† Proceedings of Government, 10th March 1866, No. 802.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
27th August 1875.*

Presidency; and the two posts, previously known as Chief Accountant and Deputy Chief Accountant, have since been styled: Chief Auditor and Chief Accountant. I agree with the Agent that two appointments, of the nature and status now held by Mr. Church and Mr. Cramp, are necessary with a view to efficiency; but, looking to the close intermixture of the duties which now devolve upon the two departments of audit and accounts, it seems to me that it would be a step in the right direction to amalgamate them into one department as formerly, and to give to the Chief Accountant the designation of Deputy Chief Auditor.

6. In the Accounts Department, it has been found feasible to effect two slight reductions, as specified in the letter from the Agent.

7. In the Cashier's Department it has been arranged to dispense with the services of the Office Manager who has hitherto drawn a salary of Rupees 200 per mensem. The office strength of this department will be further reduced by one clerk transferred to the Traffic Department.

8. In the General Stores Department, I agree with the Agent that there is at present no room for reduction; but that, upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the post of General Storekeeper, a considerable reduction in the salary drawn by the present incumbent will be practicable.

9. I agree with the Agent that, in the following departments, no reduction is at present possible:—

Agent and Manager's Department.	
Locomotive Department.	
Traffic	do.
Police	do.
Medical	do.

10. I beg to draw the special attention of Government to the remarks contained in the last three paragraphs of Mr. Elwin's letter.

From R. B. ELWIN, Esq., Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, R.E., Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 6th August 1875, No. 832.

With reference to the correspondence and orders of Government noted in the margin, I have the honor to submit, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the following observations upon the establishment charges of the Madras Railway.

Consulting Engineer's letter, No. 493, 3rd May 1875.
G. O., No. 1,110, 20th April 1875.
Consulting Engineer's letter, No. 497, 3rd May 1875.
G. O., No. 552, 18th May 1875.
G. O., No. 1,253, 4th May 1875.
Consulting Engineer's letter, No. 820, 26th July 1875.

2. The special examination which has recently been made by you into those charges was occasioned, as far as I am aware, by the following observation which occurs in the Proceedings* of the Government of India, dated the 8th March 1875, No. 74-75 A.—G.R., viz., "As construction work on the Madras Railway has now virtually ceased, the time has possibly arrived when steps may be taken to reduce to some extent the establishment charges of the line, and the Government of India would desire that His Excellency in Council may direct such inquiries to be made into this matter as may appear

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
27th August 1875.*

necessary. Any reductions found feasible, without interfering with efficiency, should be carried out as early as possible."

3. The reason here given for the suggested reductions—cessation of construction work—is one which I need scarcely remind you is applicable only to the Engineering Department, as, with the opening of line for public traffic, the staff of all other departments has to be increased. Confining my remarks, therefore, to the Engineering Department, I beg to point out that reductions in the staff of that department have been made from time to time as the work of construction has been completed. Thus on the 1st of April 1870 there were in the service of this Company one Chief Engineer, two Deputy Chief Engineers, and twenty-three Assistant Engineers. The line to Raichore was opened throughout on the 15th of March 1871, and on the 1st of April of that year there were one Chief Engineer, two Deputy Chief Engineers, and seventeen Assistant Engineers employed on the line. There are in the service at the present time one Chief Engineer, one Deputy Chief Engineer, and fifteen Assistant Engineers.

4. With regard to the possibility of making at present any further reduction in the Chief Engineer's staff for the reason mentioned by the Government of India, I fear that instead of being able to do so I shall shortly have to apply for additional assistance in view of reconstructing the bridges on the North-West Line which were damaged by the floods of October 1874. On the completion of these works, of the protective works to bridges, and of the bridges over the Cheyaur and Huggry rivers, some reduction in the present staff will no doubt be feasible.

5. Taking the next point alluded to in the correspondence marginally noted, viz., the question of amalgamating the posts of Chief Auditor and Chief Accountant, I have to state that prior to the year 1866 the two officers in question were styled, respectively, "Chief Accountant" and "Deputy Chief Accountant." At a meeting held in your office on the 1st March 1866 it was agreed, upon the suggestion of Mr. G. W. Kellner who had been deputed by the Government of India to attend the meeting, that it was necessary that independent powers of audit should be delegated to the Railway Chief Auditor (as had been done on other Indian lines), and that the accounts should be placed under a Chief Accountant. Mr. Church, the then Chief Accountant, was consequently appointed Chief Auditor, and Mr. Thomson, who was then the Deputy Chief Accountant, was made Chief Accountant.

6. The present arrangement was therefore suggested and approved by the Government. It has worked very well as far as the Railway is concerned, and if the office of Chief Accountant is abolished, it will be necessary to appoint a Deputy Chief Auditor upon a similar salary. As it appears to me that no good would be effected by the proposed change, which would be in effect only a change of name, I should be sorry to see the present arrangement disturbed.

7. The next point noticed in the correspondence is the increase to the salary of Mr. T. H. Going, Deputy Chief Engineer, which has been sanctioned by the Board, but which the Government declined to send forward for the confirmation of the Government of India pending the general review of the establishments which has now been made. Bearing in mind the important engineering works which are now in hand, and those which will be shortly undertaken on the Madras Railway, as well as the claims Mr. Going has upon the Company in respect to his long and valuable services, I trust that His Excellency the Governor in Council will now be pleased to forward the application for favorable consideration by the Government of India.

8. With regard to the special examination (alluded to in paragraph 2 of this letter) which has been made into the general establishments of this Company, and in pursuance of which I have on various occasions recently accompanied you for the purpose of assisting and rendering you information in the personal investigation you have made into the working of the various departments, I have the pleasure, in accordance with the request contained in your letter, No. 826, of the 26th ultimo, to give you a statement of the conclusions that were, I believe, arrived at, and which represent my own opinions with regard to each department, viz.:—

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
27th August 1875.*

Agent and Manager's Office.—No reductions considered feasible.

Chief Engineer's Department.—No reductions considered feasible—*vide* remarks in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this letter.

Locomotive Department.—No reductions considered feasible.

Traffic Department.—No reductions considered feasible.

Audit Department.—No reduction considered feasible.

Accounts Department.—It was found that it had not been necessary to fill up a vacancy that had occurred in this department, whereby a saving of Rupees 35 per mensem had been effected. A further reduction of another hand will be practicable upon the occurrence of another vacancy.

Cashier's Department.—In this department it was arranged, in consequence of the investigation, to dispense with the services of the "Manager" in the Cashier's Office, whereby a saving of Rupees 200 per mensem will be effected. This reduction was made against the opinion of the Cashier who has had great experience in the department, having been in the Company's service for nearly eighteen years, and whose opinion I, therefore, feel bound to record as entitled to respect. I, however, concurred with you in thinking that the reduction could be made without impairing efficiency. It was also agreed to transfer a clerk from the Cashier's to the Traffic Manager's pay sheet.

General Stores Department.—In the course of the investigation the question of the salary of the General Storekeeper was discussed. The present incumbent of the office, Mr. R. Allon, draws £850 per annum. He has been in the service of the Company for nearly twenty-three years and is still equal to the work. The rules of the service do not provide for any pension or gratuity in a case of this nature, and it is not to be expected that after his long service the Directors would be prepared to deprive Mr. Allon of his appointment to make room for another Storekeeper on smaller pay, unless an appointment in another department on his present pay could be offered him, which is not the case.

9. Looking, however, at the value of the stores now on hand, compared with the amount of capital which they represented in past years, there is no doubt that on the occurrence of a vacancy a competent man could be found to take charge of the general stores on a considerably smaller salary than £850 per annum. No reductions in the subordinate staff of the Stores Department were considered feasible.

Police and Medical Departments.—In these departments no reductions were considered feasible.

10. Before closing this letter, I desire to remark that it is the wish of my Board that the utmost economy should be observed in all branches of the service, and I trust that the result of your recent examination of establishments will satisfy the Government that their wishes and the wishes of the Board in this respect have not been neglected.

11. I think that the importance of the subject justifies me in expressing the hope that the Government will in future be pleased to leave the strength of establishments to be determined by the Consulting Engineer in communication with the Agent and Heads of Departments, as the rumours and statements in the newspapers as to the sweeping reductions contemplated (which have undoubtedly originated in the recent investigation) have caused an amount of agitation and dissatisfaction amongst the officers and servants of the Company such as could not fail to have a most injurious effect and tend to disorganization.

12. You are aware that the service of the Railway Company compares so unfavorably with that of Government that we already experience great difficulty in securing the services of respectable Natives, and anything which tends to increase that difficulty is much to be deprecated.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
27th August 1875.*

No. 457.

ORDER THEREON, 27th August 1875, No. 2,454.

RAILWAY, No. 57.

In paragraph 15 of their orders on the Budget Estimates of the Madras Railway Company for 1875-76, the Government of India, having in view the completion of works of construction, directed inquiry to be made as to the feasibility of reducing, without impairing efficiency, the Establishment charges of the Company. The Consulting Engineer for Railways was thereupon directed* to investigate the

* G. O., No. 1,110, dated 20th April 1875. subject in communication with the Railway authorities. Subsequently a proposal came before Government to allow the Chief Auditor to undertake, in addition to his own duties, those of the Chief Accountant while on furlough. In sanctioning this proposal the Governor in Council suggested the amalgamation of the two posts as a permanent arrangement, and a general review of the establishments generally, the orders of the Government of India having had special reference to the Engineering Department of the Company. And in Proceedings of the 4th May 1875, No. 1,253, the Government held in abeyance an application which had been made for an increase to the salary of the Deputy Chief Engineer pending the result of the review which had been ordered to be undertaken.

2. The result is now reported in two letters, one from the Agent and the other from the Consulting Engineer. Both these officers are in accord as to the impracticability of any reductions whatever in the following departments, *viz.* :—

Agent and Manager's Department.	
Locomotive Department.	
Traffic	do.
Police	do.
Medical	do.

As regards the Engineering Department, Mr. Elwin points out that reductions have been made from time to time as opportunity offered, thus keeping the staff within narrow limits; that, owing to extensive reconstructions consequent on the recent floods, additional aid will perhaps be found necessary, but that on completion of these works some reduction will no doubt be feasible. It will then, in the opinion of the Consulting Engineer, be practicable to fix the numerical strength of the engineering staff at thirteen as against seventeen at present.

3. The only immediate reductions which are suggested are the following :—

Account Department.—One Accountant on Rupees 35, and another on the occurrence of a vacancy.

Cashier's Department.—One Manager on Rupees 200.

On the retirement of the present incumbent it is stated that a further considerable reduction in the salary of the General Storekeeper may be effected, the amount now drawn being £850 per annum.

4. On the assurance of the Consulting Engineer for Railways that no further reductions are feasible, without impairing the efficiency of the several departments, the Honorable the Governor in Council will transmit the correspondence, without further

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
27th August 1875.

comment, for the consideration of the Government of India. It will be understood that the reductions proposed will be carried into effect as early as possible.

5. The question of amalgamating the offices of the Chief Auditor and Chief Accountant is one which the Government of India will be requested to decide in accordance with the principle which may have been approved for other Guaranteed Railways.

6. A copy of the Proceedings of the 4th May 1875, No. 1,253, on the application for an increase to Mr. Going's salary will also be submitted for the orders of the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Major-General, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

No. 458.

(DOCKET No. 2,455, dated 27th August 1875.)

Copy of the above, with Proceedings of the 20th April and 4th May 1875, Nos. 1,111 and 1,253, forwarded to the Government of India with reference to paragraph 15 of their Orders, dated 8th March 1875, No. 74-75 A.—G.R.

Railway Dept

Cous Engineers Office
Madras 13th August 1875
No 449

From

Lieut Colonel H. M. Shaw Stewart R.E.

Cous Engineer for Railways.

To

Lieut Colonel J. Mullins R.E.

Secretary to Government

Public Works Department

Fort St George.

Sir,

Adverting to the Proceedings of Government noted in the margin, I have the honour to report that, during the last three months, I have made a thorough investigation into the Establishment charges of every department of the Madras Railway. The Agent and the Chief Auditor of the Company,

No 1110 - 20 April 1875
" 1111 - 20 April - a
" 1253 - 4 May - a

as well as the Examiner of Railway
Accounts, assisted in the investiga-
tion; and a letter from Mr. Elwin,
containing his opinion upon the charges
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2. The paragraph in the
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I understood it to be the desire of
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No 832
6 Aug 75

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to the salary of Mr Going, Deputy Chief Engineer, should be taken into consideration along with this general review of the Establishment charges.

The increase in question was sanctioned by the Board of Directors upon personal grounds, in consideration of the long and good service done by Mr Going.

I am of opinion that, for the present, the services of a Deputy Chief Engineer will be required; and I trust that the proposals will now be forwarded for the favourable consideration of the Government of India.

5. In reviewing the Audit and Accounts Departments, the possibility of amalgamating the posts of Chief Auditor and Chief Accountant was carefully considered. As pointed

out

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Pro: of Govt.
10 March 66
No 802.

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Pro: of Govt.
18 April 66
No 1206

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9. I agree with the Agent that, in the following Departments, no reduction is at present possible:

Agent and Manager's Department
Locomotive _____ "
Traffic _____ "
Police _____ "
Medical _____

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10. I beg to draw ^{the} special at-
tention of Government to the remarks
contained in the last three paragraphs
of Mr. Elwin's letter.

Have the honour to be
Sir

Your most obedient Servant
Wm. Mountbatten Lieut Col R.E.
for the Engineer for Railways

Recd 4/5/75
Circ 23.8.75
Recd 27.8.75

of the Public Works
Department

the question of raising
the establishment.

W. Mountbatten
16.2.75. 27.8.75.

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15/10/75
Public Works Dept
No. 2454

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 27 Aug 1875
Read the following

From
The Comr. Engrs for
Railways } (No. 449 of 27 Aug 1875)

1/10/75

In para 15 of
their orders on the Budget
Estimates of the Madras
Railway Company for
1875-76 the Govt of
India, having in view
the completion of works
of construction, directed
enquiry to be made as
to the feasibility of
reducing, without
impairing

27/8

W. Mountbatten

16.2.75. 27.8.75.

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improving efficiency, the
Estab^t. charges of the
Company. The Comf.
Engs for Railways was
thereupon directed to
investigate the subject
in communication with
the Railway Authorities.

* GO. 1110 d/20th April 1875

Subsequently a proposal
came before Gov^t. to allow
the Chief Auditor to
undertake, in addition
to his own duties those
of the Chief Accountant
while on furlough. In
sanctioning this proposal
the Governor in Council
suggested the amal-
gamation of the two
posts

posts as a permanent
arrangement, and a
general review of the
Establishments generally;
the orders of the Gov^t.
of India having had
special reference to the
Engineering Dept of the
Company. And in
Proceedings of the 4th
May 1875 No 1253 the
Gov^t. held in allegiance
an application which
had been made for
an increase to the
salary of the Deputy
Chief Engineer pending
the result of the review
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Agent and Managers Dept.
Locomotive _____ "
Traffic _____ "
Police _____ "
Medical _____ "

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of a vacancy.

Cashiers Dept. - 1 Manager
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On the retirement of the
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the salary of the General
Store Keeper may be
effected;

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now drawn being £ 850
per annum.

455
On the assurance of
the Comd. Eng. for
Railways that no further
reductions are feasible,
without impairing the
efficiency of the several
Depts, the Honble the
Governor in Council will
transmit the correspondence
without further comment
for the consideration
of the Govt of India.
It will be understood
that the reductions pro-
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into effect as early as
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The question of amalgamating the offices of the Chief Auditor and Chief Accountant is one which the Govt. of India will be requested to decide in accordance with the principle which may have been approved for other guaranteed Railways.

A copy of the Proceedings of the 11th May 1875 No. 1253 on the application for increase to

Mr. George's salary will also be submitted for the orders of the Govt.

of

Canof. Engr. for Rygs 12
Ex. Ry. Accts. 7

Recd.

S.C. d. 15/10/97

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of India.

(H.C. docket No. 2455 dated 27th Aug/75.

No. 2455

Copy of the above, with Proceedings of the 20th April and 14th May 1875, Nos. 1111 and 1253, forwarded to the Govt. of India with reference to para 15 of their orders dated 8th March 1875, No. 74-75 A.G.R.

G.W.

5287

Sept. of 1875: Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Cum gratia
+
M. Madras

27th Sept 1875
2454
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nos. 456-457
458

Establishment charges of
Madras Ry. Co.:-

issuing orders on the
the Consulting Engs. on the
tion of reducing
out impairing
iciency, the