

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1457	(Ry)	Press
B.P. No.			Mis.
Dated		13-6-	1876.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th June 1876.*

No. 194. Read the following Proceedings of the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Railway,) dated Fort William, 11th March 1876, No. 725 R.:—

Proposed Railway from Belpur to Pondicherry.

Read again:—

Letter from the Government of Madras, No. 1,603, dated the 7th June 1875.

Despatch to the Secretary of State, No. 128 R, dated the 1st October 1875.

Read also:—

From the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to the Government of India, dated 3rd February 1876, No. 21 R.

I HAVE had under consideration your Excellency's letter of the 1st October last, No. 128, relative to the proposed railway from Belpur to Pondicherry.

2. From this letter I gather that the points settled between your Excellency and the Government of Madras are as follow:—

(1).—The portion of the line from Belpur (on the South Indian Railway line) to the east or left bank of the Gingi shall be carried entirely through British territory, and shall be constructed by and form portion of the general undertaking of the South Indian Railway Company.

(2).—The portion of the line from the Gingi to Pondicherry shall be carried out by the Pondicherry Railway Company, under arrangements to be made with the French Government. With this part of the line the British Government has no concern.

(3).—The British Government and the French Government agree that the traffic on the British and French portions of the line, from Belpur to Pondicherry, shall be conducted on the same footing, both as regards the traffic of the public and of the two Governments, and the officers or persons in their employment.

(4).—The British Government will give reasonable facilities for an arrangement being made between the South Indian Railway Company and the Pondicherry Company for the working of the line between Belpur and Pondicherry, subject, however, to the condition that any such arrangement must, so far as the portion of the line in British territory is concerned, be held to be governed by all the conditions of the general agreement with the South Indian Company, and of any separate agreement as to the line from Belpur to the east bank of the Gingi, and of the railway law of India, unless any of them are specially excluded.

(5).—The telegraph line to the Gingi will be constructed by the British Government as a part of its telegraph system, the necessary wires being provided for the railway service in the manner arranged in the case of the Indian State Railways.

3. On the question of the telegraph for the whole line from Belpur to Pondicherry, I transmit a copy of a memorandum by Colonel Robinson, your Director-General of Telegraphs. I concur in this officer's suggestion, that it is desirable that the Government Telegraph Department should provide the railway with wires on the same terms as it does in regard to other railway systems, and that the interchange of telegraph traffic should be in accordance with the State Railway Rules.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th June 1876.*

4. I transmit, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a correspondence* with the Pondicherry Railway Board, which has passed on the subject subsequent to the receipt of your letter under acknowledgment, and I will keep you informed of the measures that may hereafter be adopted by the Board in communication with the French Government.

MEMORANDUM by Colonel D. G. ROBINSON, R.E., Director-General, Indian Telegraphs.

An Indian Government Telegraph Office was established at Pondicherry more than twenty years since, on the main line along the coast connecting Madras with Ceylon.

The French Government has retained the right to send Government messages free, but in all other respects it is worked as an integral portion of the Imperial system.

As the existing line suffers much from storms and the deteriorating influences of a hot salt atmosphere, it is being shifted on to the Great Southern of India Railway, from which, under ordinary circumstances, a branch would be taken into Pondicherry, as shown by dotted lines.

On the principle that telegraphs should, other conditions being equal, be on the best lines of communication, this branch should be on the connecting railway, and as the Government provides the wires for the Southern of India Railway, and the length of the Pondicherry rail will be only 6½ miles, it is very desirable, and it will be great economy for all concerned, for the Government Telegraph Department, to provide this railway with wires on the same terms as it does to other railway systems, and that the interchange of traffic should be in accordance with the rules adopted for State Railways.

If this be not the case, the interchange would fall under the rules of the International Convention, whereby the charges would be heavier and more complicated.

Although slightly profitable to India, the French Government could not work the Pondicherry Office except at a loss, as the expense of maintaining an independent supervising staff would exceed the receipts due to any tariff framed in proportion to the area of the dependency.

From Lord G. HAMILTON, Under Secretary of State for India, to the Secretary, London Board, Pondicherry Railway Company, (Limited,) dated 16th November 1875.

With reference to the correspondence noted in the margin, I am directed by Marquis of Salisbury to transmit, for the information of the Directors of the Pondicherry Railway Company, and for any observations they may desire to make thereon, copies of a despatch and enclosures from the Government of India, relative to the proposed railway from Belpur to

Letter from the Secretary, Pondicherry Railway Company, dated 17th August 1875.
Ditto to ditto, dated 3rd September 1875.
Ditto from ditto, dated 24th September 1875.
Ditto to ditto, dated 29th September 1875.

Railway No. 128, dated 1st October last, relative to the proposed railway from Belpur to Pondicherry.

It will be seen that the Governments of India and Madras concur in opinion that the British and French portions of the proposed railway should meet at the east or left bank of the river Gingi, and that the line from Belpur to the Gingi should be constructed entirely on British territory,—a view in which his Lordship is disposed to concur.

On two further points it is necessary that a distinct understanding should be arrived at before negotiations are concluded. The one is with regard to the "reciprocal conditions"

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th June 1876.*

proposed by the French Government, viz., that, "under reserve of the approbation of the British Government for the part of the line comprised in British territory, the officers of the French Government shall enjoy for the whole length of the line the same rights and immunities reserved to the British Government on the line from Madras to Cuddalore.

"The same favors and immunities shall be reserved on French territory to the British Government, its officials and Agents."

The other is the proposal that "the colony may establish an electric telegraph along the line of railway, and attach for this purpose its wires to the telegraph posts of the Company."

From M. R. SCOTT, Esq., Secretary, London Board, Pondicherry Railway Company, (Limited,) to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated 29th November 1875.

By the desire of the Directors of the Pondicherry Railway Company, (Limited,) I have the honor of acknowledging your letter of 16th November 1875, and now restore the communications enclosed in it, as requested. At the same time, I am desired to request the favor of the loan of drawing No. 329 alluded to in the printed Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, of 7th June 1875, which was furnished by that Government to the Government of India, in Major Hasted's letter, No. 1,603, dated Ootacamund, 7th June 1875, printed copy of which letter is among the enclosures returned.

In reply, I am desired to state—

1. The Directors accept and will act upon the views expressed by the Governments of India and of Madras, concurred in by His Lordship the Marquis of Salisbury, viz., that the British and French portions of the proposed railway should meet at the east bank of the river Gingi, and that the line from Belpur to the Gingi shall be constructed entirely on British territory.

2. With regard to the "reciprocal conditions" proposed by the French Government, and quoted in yours under reply, my Directors agree that the rights and immunities of the Officials and Agents of the British and French Governments, respectively, shall, in our negotiations with the French Government, be defined as suggested in the despatch of the Government of India above quoted, in that British traffic on the French portion of the line is to be put on the same footing as French traffic on the British portion between Belpur and Pondicherry.

3. As regards the telegraphs, we quite understand the desire of the French Government to be that suggested and approved in the despatch of the Government of India, viz., that the colony of Pondicherry desires telegraphic communication for official, private, and commercial purposes in addition to what is necessary for the working of the railway.

The decision of the India Government that the lines shall meet at the Gingi, and that on the west of that river the whole line shall be on English ground, will much simplify this question, and we intend to propose to the French Government, either that the French and British lines of telegraph shall meet and terminate at the Gingi, the same as the railways themselves, or that each Government and Company shall have a reciprocal right between Belpur and the coast at Pondicherry of attaching extra wires to the posts of the other for the purposes abovementioned, unless His Lordship sees any objection to the latter proposition.

4. Having already discussed with the French Government in Paris (His Excellency the Minister of Marine and Colonies) the draft Articles of the Convention for the execution of the railway, the Directors will proceed without delay to arrive at the completion of it, upon the assumption—

- 1.—That the British portion of the line will be made on British territory.
- 2.—That the bridge of the Gingi river will be made by the British Company (South Indian).
- 3.—That the "reciprocal conditions" before-mentioned will be modified and concluded in accord with the views of the Government of India as expressed.

I shall have the honor of keeping His Lordship advised as the transaction advances.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th June 1876.*

From Lord G. HAMILTON, Under Secretary of State for India, to the Secretary, London Board Pondicherry Railway Company, (Limited,) dated 1st February 1876.

In continuation of recent correspondence on the subject of the proposed railway between Belpur and Pondicherry, I am directed to transmit herewith a copy of a memorandum by Colonel D. G. Robinson, Director-General of Indian Telegraphs, relative to the telegraph to be supplied to the railway.

The Marquis of Salisbury agrees with this officer in considering it desirable that the telegraph for the whole line should be provided by the Government Telegraph Department on the same terms as those adopted in regard to other railway systems, and that the interchange of the telegraph traffic should be in accordance with the State Railway Rules.

ORDER.—Ordered that this despatch be communicated to the Government of Madras in the Public Works Department (Railway) for information.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND, Colonel, R.E.,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 195.

ORDER THEREON, 13th June 1876, No. 1,457.

RAILWAY, No. 23 & 24.

COMMUNICATED to the Consulting Engineer for Railways and to the Revenue Department for information with reference to G.O., No. 1,603, of 7th June 1875.

(True Extract.)

Colonel,

Offg. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways
" Revenue Department.

End F. R. Bantleman.
State Copies

All communications
should be addressed
to the Secretary.

No. 725 R.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
RAILWAY.

Fort William, March 11, 1876.

Proposed Railway from Belpur to Pondicherry.

Read again:—

Letter from the Government of Madras, No. 1603, dated the 7th June 1875.

Despatch to the Secretary of State, No. 128 R, dated the 1st October 1875.

Read also:—

No. 21B, dated 3rd February 1876.

From—The Secretary of State for India,
To—The Government of India.

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* Letter to Mr. Scott, dated 16th November 1875.
Ditto from ditto, " 29th
Ditto to ditto, " 1st February 1876.

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Dated 16th November 1875.

From—Lord G. Hamilton, Under Secy. of State for India,

To—Secretary, London Board, Pondicherry Railway Co., Limited.

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ORDER.—Ordered, that this Despatch be communicated to the Government of Madras, in the Public Works Department (Railway) for information.

H. Munroe Colonel, R. E.,
Deputy Secretary.

124
No. 1457 of 13 June 76
Communicated to the
Consulting Engineer
for Railways and to
the Revenue Department
for information with
reference to G. O. No. 1603 of
7 June 1875.

G. M. M.

P. W. 1876 Sept

2173

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

RAILWAY.

To

No. 725 R.

Dated March 11, 1876.

Received *24*

No 599 of 31-3-76

208-12-74 No 162
207-12-74 No 1602 + 1603.

" 12-2-74 No 314 B
" 16-9-73 - 2283
" 5-6-73 - 1498 + 1497
" 1-3-73 - 665 orig
" 20-9-71 - 2396 + 2397

This No 90 of 13 June 76.

No 194-195.

C E for Rys Cui 5.6.76 208/76
Rev: Despatch 12.8.76 2 June 76
in 27-3-76

Proposed Railway from Belpur to Pondicherry.

No. 373 A, P. W. D. Press—16-3-76—36.

Order

2173

Govt. of (1876) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Com^r Eng^r for M^{rs}

Local

Chief

Recd

Dist.

G. O. 13th Jan. 1876. No. 1457

Recd 194-195
Sub^d 28-11-76

Proposed Railway from
Belpur to Pondicherry.

Letter from the G. O. S.
communicating Despatch
from Home Govt.

on the subject of the
— command to the Com^r Eng^r
for Ry. & to the Rev. Dept.
for information with reference to G. O.
No. 1563 of 7/11/70.