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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Work DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1606	(Ry.)	Press
~~B.P. No.~~			~~Mis.~~
Dated	26-6-	1876.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers —

No 535. From Surgeon-General E G BALFOUR, Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, to the Hon W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St George, 19th May 1876, No. 301

In my letter, No 329, of 19th October 1872 (Proceedings of Government, Public Works Department, 1st February 1873), I submitted an extract from a Madras newspaper pointing to the absence at the Tripputty Railway Station of necessary surgical instruments and appliances for an accident that had occurred there.

2 The recent references to the railways, regarding which my letter, No 221, of 17th April 1876, was written, have shown that many of the Railway Medical Officers are not sufficiently qualified to use instruments, but I enclose an extract from the same newspaper as before, in which it is mentioned that, on the 13th instant, the legs of the Fuel Writer "were completely severed from his body," he was "after 20 minutes' delay at the station placed on a cot belonging to the guards' bungalow and sent to the Government Hospital, which is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 miles from the Railway Station." "None of the Railway Officials or Subordinates, nor did the Railway Apothecary accompany him. He lingered for about $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 hours after the accident occurred, and expired 10 minutes after he was admitted into the hospital. Here is another instance where a Railway Apothecary, though present at the scene of accident, was perfectly useless owing to his not being supplied with surgical instruments."

3 The List No 14 in the Proceedings of Government of 1st February 1873, however, gives an ample list of instruments at Ghooty, but his Grace in Council may perhaps deem it desirable to request the observations of the Agent for the Railway, on the enclosed report, in the extract from this newspaper.

—
No 773.

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department (Railway)

OOTACAMUND,
22nd May 1876

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary

—
No. 865.

REFERRED to the Consulting Engineer for Railways for any remarks which the Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway may, after inquiry, wish to offer

OOTACAMUND,
26th May 1876

(Signed) G. W WALKER, Major-Genl, R E,
Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
26th June 1876. No 1,606*

No 535-A. From Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, R.E., Consulting Engineer for Railways, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 15th June 1876, No 294.

In returning the papers which accompanied your endorsement, No 865, dated the 26th ultimo, I have the honor to enclose, for the consideration of His Grace the Governor in Council, a letter* from the Agent of the Madras Railway Company, upon the subject of the recent fatal accident at the Ghooty Railway Station.

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, 5th June 1876, No 583

ADVERTING to your letter of the 30th ultimo, No 563, I have the honor to return, herewith, the letter addressed to the Government by the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, as to the fatal accident which occurred at Ghooty on the 13th ultimo, together with a copy of a report made to me by the Company's Consulting Physician in answer to Dr Balfour's observations

2 As regards the Surgeon-General's remarks and the extract from the "Standard" newspaper which he quotes, I will only add to what Dr Elder states, that in a subsequent issue of the same newspaper, a paragraph appeared denying every word of the previous statement

3 With reference to the opinion expressed by you in the last paragraph of your letter to the effect that "there seems to have been no urgent necessity for the removal of the man to the Government Hospital at Ghooty," I agree with Dr Elder in thinking that the Apothecary acted wisely in doing as he did. The unfortunate man was placed on a cot and most carefully removed, attended by his friends and by the Apothecary, who walked by the side of the cot administering stimulants

From Dr W. ELDER, Acting Consulting Physician, to R. B. ELWIN, Esq., Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company, dated Royapooram, 5th June 1876, No 209

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of copy of letter, No 563, of 30th May last, from the Consulting Engineer for Railways, with your endorsement thereon, accompanied by a letter from Surgeon-General Balfour, to the address of the Chief Secretary to Government, Public Department, relative to the late accident at Ghooty Station

2 In returning the Surgeon-General's letter, I beg most respectfully to state that Apothecary Hewitt did all that could be done in the circumstances for the late Annamoonthoo Naidoo, "Fuel Writer" at Ghooty

3. With regard to the question of surgical instruments, I may be permitted to say that the Apothecary at Ghooty had every appliance necessary for the immediate wants of the case alluded to. The man's legs were completely severed from his body, and some time must necessarily elapse before anything could be done to the stumps, beyond cleaning them and arresting the hæmorrhage. As the case was a hopeless one from the first, there seemed little necessity for taking the patient to the Civil Hospital, still, in my opinion, the Apothecary acted wisely in seeking to get for the injured man all the assistance possible. For, in the event of operating with a view to covering the ends of the bones, the hospital was the most suitable place for undertaking such an operation.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
26th June 1876. No 1,606*

4 I need hardly allude to the latter portion of paragraph 2 in the Surgeon-General's letter further than to remark that Apothecary Hewitt accompanied the man to hospital

5 I regret to have to demur to Dr Balfour's statement "that many of the Railway Medical Officers are not sufficiently qualified to use instruments"

No 536 ORDER THEREON, 26th June 1876, No 1,606

RAILWAY, No 49-A

HIS GRACE the Governor in Council observes that every attention appears to have been paid to the sufferer by the

Railway Apothecary, and that there was no lack of surgical instruments

(True Extract)

Colonel,

Offg Under Secy to Govt, P.W.D

To the Public Department
„ Consulting Engineer for Railways

Exd A Grubert

Spare Copies

AGENT AND MANAGERS' OFFICE.

Madras, 5th June 1876.

From

Robert B. Elwin, Esq.

Agent and Manager of the M.R.C.

To

Lieut Col J. H. M. Shaw Stewart, R.E.

Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Sir

Adverting to your letter of the 30th Ultimo, No. 563, I have the honour to return herewith the letter addressed to the Government by the Surgeon General Indian Medical Department as to the fatal accident which occurred at Cooty on the 13th Ultimo together with a copy of a report made to me by the Company's Consulting Physician in answer to Doctor Balfour's observations.

2. As regards the Surgeon General's remarks and the extract from the "Standard" newspaper which he quotes, I will only add to what Doctor Elder states, that in a subsequent issue of the same newspaper a paragraph appeared denying every word of the previous statement.

3. With reference to the opinion expressed by you in the last paragraph

706

of your letter to the effect that "there
"seems to have been no urgent necessity
"for the removal of the man to the
"Government Hospital at Gooty". I agree
with Doctor Elder in thinking that the
Apothecary acted wisely in doing as he
did. The unfortunate man was placed
on a cot, and most carefully removed
attended by his friends and by the
Apothecary who walked by the side of
the cot administering stimulants.

I have the honour to be
Sir

Your most obedient servant

J. H. Wain

Agent and Manager

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13.4017/28

SIR,

2. The recent references to the railways regarding which my letter 221 of 14th April 1876 was written have shown that many of the Railway Medical Officers are not sufficiently qualified.

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for Juliana



Heiden

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as before, in which it is mentioned
that, on the 13 Instant, the legs of the
fuel writer "were completely severed
from his body," he was "after 20 minutes
delay at the station placed on a
cot belonging to the Guards bungalow
and sent to the Government Hospital
which is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 miles from
the railway station." None of the
"railway officials or subordinates, nor
did the railway Apothecary accompany
him". He lingered for about $2\frac{1}{2}$ to
"3 hours after the accident occurred
and expired 10 minutes after he was
admitted into the hospital. Here is
another instance where a railway
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scene of accident was perfectly
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11c 25
"useless owing to his not being supplied
with surgical instruments"
3. The list No 14 in the Proceedings of
Government of 1st February 1873, how-
ever, gives an ample list of instruments
at Ghooty, but His Grace in Council
may perhaps deem it desirable to
request the observations of the Agent
for the Railway, on the enclosed
report, in the extract from this
newspaper.

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your most obedient servant

Edwan Balfour
Surgeon General

Surgeon General Ind. Med. Dep.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S OFFICE,
Madras, 15 June 1876.

No. 294

From
LIEUT-COLONEL J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, R.E.,
Consulting Engineer for Railways,

To
MAJOR-GENERAL G. W. WALKER, R.E.,
Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department,
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

In returning the papers which accompanied your indorsement No. 865 dated the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to enclose, for the consideration of His Grace the Governor in Council, a letter from the Agent of the Madras Railway Company upon the subject of the recent fatal accident at the Gooty Railway Station.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most Obedt. Servant,
Wm. Stewart Esq. R.E.
Consulting Engineer for Railways

No. 583 dated
5 June 1876
with enclosure.

10.1 July 1873. No 531.

1876
From
The ~~San~~ Surgeon-General,
Indian Medical Department,
Fort Saint George.

To

Chief Secretary to Government,
Public Department.

Dated 19 May
Despatched
Received 22 May

No 307

Subject

Submit Extract from the
Madras Standard News.
Paper relative to the
recent railway accident
at Gooty.
Copy sent to Board & Co
dated June 1976.
Transmitted.

No 865.

Reference to the Enclosures

Requires for Railways for every account
which the Agents Manager of the
Madras Railway may after enquiry
wish to offer.

Amended from Enc. No. 26.

Copy to Govt No. 8

24 May 1876.

Enclosure
26 May 1876.

555-

801-2-73 No 331.

P. W. 1876 Department

80-4317

No 1606 Public Works Department 1708

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 26 June 76
Read the following -

From
The Cons. Eng. for Rys. (H.C. No 294 of 15th June 1876)

His Grace the Governor
in Council observes that
every attention appears
to have been paid to the
sufferer by the Railway
Apothecary, and that there
was no lack of surgical
instruments.

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ML

Public Dept.
Cons. Eng. for Rys.
15/6/76

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.
From
The Consulting Engineer
for Railways,

To

The Secretary to Government,
P. W. Department,
Fort Saint George.

Dated 15th June 1876.
Received 18th June 1876.

Encl: 35 No. 294.

Departure
the fatal accident
which occurred to
a freed. worker
at Coimbatore 13 June 76

14535a
Encl. 20-6-76 (P.W. 26.6.76)
Dep. 17-6-76

4317 M

GOVT. OF INDIA
PUBLIC WORKS.

For Public Works

24/11/11 No. 1606

No. 535-536

24/11/11

Fatal accident to a rail
worker at the Gooly station
In P. - observing that
every attention appears
to have been paid to the
man by the Railway
authorities & that there
was no lack of sur-
gical instruments -

K. 535/36

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