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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1878	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	25-7-1956	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th July 1876. No. 1,878.*

No. 410. Read the following letter 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, 13th July 1876, No. 342 :—

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the information of Government, the enclosed*

* Endorsement, No. 562, dated 29th May 1876. papers regarding a fire that occurred at the Cuddapah Station on the North-West
Do. „ 677, „ 29th June „ Line of the Madras Railway on the morning of the 27th May 1876. The fire
with enclosures.

broke out in the block of buildings at the south-east end of the Station-house, consisting of the Station Master's house, mussaljee's room, the refreshment room, butler's store-room, and the latrine for Europeans. The roofing and woodwork of the Station Master's office, of the mussaljee's room, and of the store-room, with some of the furniture and other contents, were completely destroyed. The damage is estimated at Rupees 1,467.

2. The facts gathered from the depositions,† especially those of peon Sheik Fareed and mussaljee David, prove that the origin of the fire was probably due to carelessness upon the part of the latter.

† Copies enclosed.

3. Peon Sheik Fareed's evidence is to the effect that he was on duty on the morning in question ; that he saw the Chief Guard of the 3 A.M. Special come to the mussaljee's room to have his lamp replenished with oil ; that he gave the lamp to mussaljee David who, after taking it into his room, brought it back lighted and returned it to the Guard. That after the departure of the Special, he examined the mussaljee's room and found it locked, and saw no light, it being then about 3-15 A.M. ; that about 4-30 A.M. he saw light in the eaves of the mussaljee's room, which being unusual he looked about for the mussaljee and found him asleep on the platform of the station ; that he got him to open the door, and found the room full of smoke and on fire ; that he then aroused the people about the place and ran to the Station Master's office, and on unlocking it found it full of smoke ; that he was ordered by the Station Master to call porters and to ring the bell ; and that he afterwards helped in removing the things from the office.

4. Mussaljee David confirms the above statement in all essential particulars, and the general tenor of the evidence leaves little doubt that the fire must have originated from either a wick or a match, supposed to have been extinguished, being thrown on a flooring already saturated with combustible matter.

5. The Railway authorities have arrived at the conclusion that the fire was caused by carelessness on the part of the mussaljee, and he has been dismissed from the service of the Company.

6. After the discovery of the fire, considerable confusion seems to have prevailed at the station, and there seems to have been a general want of management and of proper action. The Superintendent of Watchmen, by whom the inquiry was conducted in connection with the Assistant Traffic Manager, arrived at the conclusion that the

P. W. D.

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Letter from the Consulting Engineer for
Railways, No. 342 Dated 13th July 1876.

For Orders.

Submitted for
such orders as may be
considered necessary.

Major General
Secretary to Govt. P.W.D.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th July 1876. No. 1,878.

fire might have been extinguished sooner, and the destroyed property saved, if proper
action had been at once taken. Under the circumstances, it may be deemed fortunate
that the fire did not reach the main buildings of the Station-house.

No. 411. ORDER THEREON, 25th July 1876, No. 1,878.

RAILWAY, No. 41-A.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S OFFICE,

Madras, 13th July 1876.

No. 342

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,

I have the honour to

submit for the information of Government

the enclosed *papers regarding a fire that

occurred at the Luddah station on

the North-west line of the Madras

Railway on the morning of the 24th

May 1876. The fire broke out in

the block of buildings at the south-

east end of the station house, con-

sisting of the station master's house,

Wussaljee

* Endorsement No
562 d/29 May/76.
No 677 d/29/6/76
with enclosures.

Mussaljee's room, the Refreshment room, Butler's store room, and the latrine for Europeans. The roofing and woodwork of the Station Master's office, of the Mussaljee's room, and of the store room, with some of the furniture and other contents, were completely destroyed. The damage is estimated at Rs 11,167.

2. The facts gathered from the depositions, especially those of Peon Sheikh Faried and Mussaljee David, prove that the origin of the fire was probably due to carelessness upon the part of the latter.

3. Peon Sheikh Faried's evidence

evidence is to the effect that he was on duty on the morning in question; that he saw the Chief Guard of the 3 a.m. special come to the Mussaljee's room to have his lamp replenished with oil, that he gave the lamp to Mussaljee David who after taking it into his room brought it back lighted and returned it to the guard. That after the departure of the special, he examined the Mussaljee's room and found it locked, and saw no light, it being then about 3.15 a.m.; that about 1.30 a.m. he saw light in the eaves of the Mussaljee's room, which being unusual he looked about for the Mussaljee

Mussaljee and found him asleep on the platform of the station; that he got him to open the door, and found the room full of smoke and on fire; that he then aroused the people about the place and ran to the Station Master's office, and on unlocking it found it full of smoke; that he was ordered by the Station Master to call porters and to ring the bell; and that he afterwards helped in removing the things from the office.

4. Mussaljee David confirms the above statement in all essential particulars and the general

tenor

tenor of the evidence leaves little doubt that the fire must have originated from either a Wick or a match, supposed to have been extinguished, being thrown on a flooring already saturated with combustible matter.

5. The Railway Authorities have arrived at the conclusion that the fire was caused by carelessness on the part of the Mussaljee, and he has been dismissed from the service of the Company.

6. After the discovery of the fire, considerable confusion seems to have prevailed at the station, and there seems to have been a

general

No. 1878 of 25 July 76

Recorded -

G.M.M.
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general want of management and of proper action. The Superintendent of watchmen, by whom the inquiry was conducted in connection with the Assistant Traffic Manager, arrived at the conclusion that the fire might have been extinguished sooner, and the destroyed property saved, if proper action had been at once taken. Under the circumstances, it may be deemed fortunate that the fire did not reach the main buildings of the station house.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Yours most obedt. Servt.
W. W. Conder R.E. Captain
for Genl. Inquiries for Railways.

Substituting
for the correspondence of
Government certain papers
regarding a fire that
occurred at the Victoria
Park station in the
North-west line of the
M.R. on the 27th May 76

Cons: High for R. ✓
Desd 7/8/76

To
The Consulting Engineer
for Railways

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

Dated 1/3
Received 1/3
1876.

Enclosed No. 342

410-1411
Civ-20.7.76
Desd 6 Oct 14.7.76

held to be a copy
of 1876

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Govt. of Madras
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

Issued

Received

Amount

*sent to Comptroller's Office
8/10/78*

G. O., 255

1878, No.

878

Nos. 410-411.

File at Madras
Station - Madras

Letter from the Comptroller
for PP submitting correct
evidence relating to a
— on the 27 May 1878
enclosed.