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(2) Date of repair _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	28.35	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	21-9-	4876 195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
21st September 1876. No 2,535*

No 369

Read the following papers —

Proceedings of the Government of India in the Public Works Department, (Railway,
dated Simla, 5th July 1876, Nos 1,702—4 R —

Decline of Traffic on the Madras Railway

Read again—

Public Works Department Proceedings September 1874, Railway, Nos 270—2, Part B.
" " " March 1875, " " 140—3, "

Read also—

Memorial from R. Roghonath, dated March 1875, to Government of Madras
Public Works Department Circular No 17 R, dated 23rd September 1875
From Government of Madras, No 2,684, dated 18th September 1875, and enclosures.

OBSERVATIONS.—The earnings of the Madras Railway during the half-year ended 30th June 1874 showed a considerable falling off as compared with the earnings of the corresponding period of the two preceding years, and the Government of India, having regard to the continued decline in the receipts both from passengers and goods on this railway, suggested the advisability of appointing a Commission to investigate the whole matter.

2 A Commission was accordingly appointed by the Government of Madras, and a report containing the result of the inquiries made was forwarded to the Government of India in the latter part of 1875.

3 The investigations of the Commission have been directed to the following questions —

I—Alignment of the railway and measures for improvement.

II—Feeder roads

III.—Conditions under which the traffic service is rendered.

IV—Conditions of railway service

I—Alignment of the Railway and measures for improvement

4 The majority of the Commission, although of opinion that the original alignment of the railway was undoubtedly a mistake, keeping as it does the railway apart from the chief towns of the country traversed, consider that the disadvantage may in a measure be overcome by the construction of light rail branches from the main line to Vellore, Palghat, Calicut, and perhaps also to Arcot and Salem. The Agent of the Railway Company, however, is of opinion that as the main line yields only 3 per cent return on the capital invested in it, the branches would not pay so much as that even, and suggests that private enterprise other than that of the Madras Railway Company should be left to undertake the construction of these branches.

II—Feeder Roads

5 The Government of Madras are of opinion that much may yet be done towards improving traffic by opening up feeder roads through some of the important districts bordering on the railway.

III—Conditions under which the Traffic service is rendered

6 The Commission have considered the conditions of traffic under four distinct heads, namely—

Rates and Classification.

Arrangements for custody and despatch of goods.

Railway Agencies.

Passenger Accommodation.

They think that the progressive development of goods traffic depends in no small measure upon the efforts that are made to secure the smaller items of local trade. They recommend a simplification of the classification of goods, and more publicity to the rates at which they are carried. They are of opinion that it would be an error to permit economy in the provision of rolling-stock, or efforts to secure full loads to restrict the encouragement of rising traffic.

With reference to the custody and despatch of goods, the Government of Madras are of opinion that the public convenience may be better secured by more systematic arrangements than those at present in force.

The suggestion of the Commission for the improvement of the passenger service are comprehensive and commendable.

IV—Conditions of Railway Service.

7 To improve the prospects of railway servants, and thus to secure a good system of traffic management in all departments, it is recommended that a retiring fund be instituted. Regarding the powers of dismissing and punishing railway servants, it is said the Company's arrangements need consideration.

It is proposed to introduce a test of the ability of all railway servants to converse fluently in the vernacular, and to read ordinary hand-writing before they are engaged in future.

The scale of traffic establishments on the Madras Railway is said to need revision.

RESOLUTION—With regard to the alleged faulty alignment of the railway, and in view of the interests at stake in the improvement of traffic on the Madras Railway, the Government of India desire that the Government of Madras will consider fully whether branches should not be constructed to Vellore, Palghat, Calicut, Arcot, and Salem by means of funds raised locally with or without a limited guarantee, proper running terms being agreed upon beforehand with the Madras Railway Company.

The attention of the Madras Government should be directed to the carrying out, so far as the public means will admit, of a comprehensive scheme of feeder roads to the Madras Railway. The want, wherever it exists, of proper and efficient means of district communication, must tend greatly to limit the amount of railway traffic.

The efforts of the Madras Railway management should be specially directed towards securing the smaller items of local trade, and simplifying the goods tariff and classification lists.

Adequate provision of rolling stock is recognized as a necessity for all railways by the Government of India, but the proper utilization of the vehicles is dependent on the intelligence of the railway management. According to statistical

returns the provision of rolling stock is ample upon the Madras Railway for the work done, it is therefore desirable that the earnest attention of the Company should be directed towards working the vehicles to the best advantage.

Concerning the despatch and custody of goods, the attention of the Madras Railway Company should be drawn to the plan adopted on the East Indian Railway for the registration of goods. Extracts from these registers are sent weekly to the District Traffic Superintendent for information.

Freight accounts adjustments should be made prior to, or at the time of delivery. Demurrage charges on the Madras Railway, as remarked by the Commission, need revision. All invoices should have the consignee's name properly written upon them.

Sufficient shed accommodation should be provided where needed.

The recommendations of the Commission regarding passenger traffic should be carried out, and attention paid by the Railway authorities to the Government of India Circular No 17 of 23rd September 1875.

With regard to the conditions under which service is rendered by the railway employes, it is desirable that efforts should be made on the part of the railway management to institute a Provident or Retiring Fund.

Powers of dismissal must necessarily be vested to a large extent in the hands of heads of departments, who should also have the power of inflicting fines. But these powers should not be delegated to subordinate officers.

The test proposed by the Government of Madras in languages should be applied before servants are engaged for the Traffic Department.

With reference to the institution of traffic agencies, the attention of the Agent of the Madras Railway Company should be drawn to the beneficial results obtained on the Oudh and the Rohilkund Railway by the appointment of native agents at the chief centres of trade near the railway.

The traffic establishment lists for the Madras Railway should be revised in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission, and due regard paid to the employment of natives in posts for which they are suited.

The rectification of the numerous points on which it is evidenced by the Commission that the Madras Railway administration has failed to make the railway as useful and popular, and remunerative as it might be, is a matter which demands, and will doubtless receive, the earnest attention of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

ORDER—Ordered, that this Resolution be communicated to the Government of Madras for information and guidance, also to the Financial Department, and the Department of Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce for information.

Ordered further, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Secretary of State for information.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND, Colonel, J. E.,
Dy Secy. to the Govt. of India

Resolutions 1, 3, 7, 11 & 12
of the Government of
India, which should
be considered in the
light of the remarks
recorded in the separate
Proceedings quoted
above. His Grace the
Governor in Council
desires that the Agent
and Manager be
impressed with the
necessity of limiting
expenditure to what
is absolutely needed
for the efficient main-
tenance of the line
and stock, and to
what can be shown
to be directly remunerative
work; other matters
being allowed to stand
over.

over, even at some
little inconvenience,
until the returns balance
the Government guarantee
or bear a close approxi-
-mation thereto.

110. 6
In regard to the
subject of Feeder Roads
His Grace in Council
remarks that ^{it} that is
practicable is being
done in the way of
opening out the com-
-munications of the
Country, but that if
extraordinary measures
are needed in the ex-
-ercise of the Rail-
-way Companies, neither
local nor Provincial
Funds should be called
on to defray the whole
cost. It will often
happen

happen that broad to
Railway Stations are
not of primary import-
-ance to the Districts
generally

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

From the District Engineer, Lumberville
Nos 56 and 61 dated 1st and 12th July 1876.

FOR ORDERS.

Sumed take up the
flooring & reform as
proposed. - The Telegraph
Department considering
the work to be masonry

ML
30/8

Submitted for Orders
It is proposed to take up the
whole of the flooring of the
Telegraph Office which is
of soft sand stone, prob-
ably not well bedded
originally, and now un-
even and much worn,
and to substitute a half
inch layer of Asphalt
over a brick substratum
of concrete. Also to
put a cut stone edging
all round the Verandah,
and build new stone
steps

12369-370

12369-370
CE for Rye
12/1/76

1. *Chlorophyll*

[Faint, illegible handwriting throughout the page]

[Signature at bottom left]

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5297
Govt. of 1876 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

Issued

Recd

Encl.

G O. 21st Sept 1876, No 2575

Nos. 364-3-6

Decline of Traffic
in the Madras P.

Passing orders re the
Resolution of the Govt.
of India offering ob-
servations on the re-
sult of the inquiry
of the Commission
appointed to report
on the —