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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	833-34 (Ry)	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	31 3	1876

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st March 1876.*

No. 542. 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, 16th March 1876, No. 132 :—

WHEN reporting, last year, upon the strength of establishments entertained upon the Madras Railway, I stated that, upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the post of General Storekeeper, a considerable reduction in the salary drawn by the present incumbent could be effected. The Agent of the Company held the same opinion; and the Government of India requested that he might be asked to communicate with his Board as to the desirableness of retaining a Storekeeper upon his present high salary, when, in his opinion, an officer on much lower pay could perform the same work.

2. I have now the honor to lay before Government a letter from the Agent, giving cover to a communication from his Board, in which the Directors state that, "having regard to the value of the stores in stock, and to the very large sum annually expended in India in the purchase of fresh supplies, they are unanimously of opinion that it is absolutely necessary to have a Storekeeper of standing and position, and they do not suppose such an officer could be found to accept the office on a salary less than that at present paid for the appointment." They further desire their Agent, in the event of Mr. Allon being still desirous of retiring from the service, to take no steps with a view to the appointment of his successor until their instructions shall have been received.

3. A letter upon this subject from the Examiner of Railway Accounts is also submitted for the consideration of Government. Mr. Macdonald enumerates the duties which devolve upon the General Storekeeper. He shows that he is not a disbursing officer, that he has no administrative work, and that he has very little power in the matter of purchasing stores. He shows that the value of the stores in the Storekeeper's possession is not a correct measure of his duties and responsibilities. Mr. Macdonald states that a salary of Rupees 400 (the same that is paid on the East Indian Railway) rising to Rupees 600, is, in his opinion, a proper salary for the post.

4. I am of opinion that the Directors have formed an erroneous estimate of the duties and responsibilities which devolve upon their General Storekeeper. These points were carefully considered before the reduction in the salary attached to the post was suggested; and I do not hesitate to endorse the opinion expressed by the Examiner with regard to the amount of salary to be offered upon the next vacancy.

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, 18th February 1876, No. 176.

With reference to the 4th paragraph of your letter, No. 1,215, of the 13th November last, and the orders of Government forwarded therewith, I have the honor to enclose herewith, for

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st March 1876.*

submission to Government, a copy of paragraph 15 of the Secretary's letter, No. 567, dated the 14th January 1876.

EXTRACT from a letter from the Secretary, Madras Railway Company, No. 567, dated London, the 14th January 1876.

PARAGRAPH 15. Adverting to the remarks of the Government of India, embodied in the Proceedings of the Madras Government of the 3rd November 1875, and quoted in paragraph 23 of 1,183, and to their request that you may be asked to place yourself in communication with the Board as to the desirability of retaining a Storekeeper on his present high salary, when, in your opinion, an officer on a much lower pay can perform the same work, I am instructed to inform you that the question has been carefully considered by the Board, who, having regard to the value of the stores in stock, and to the very large sum annually expended in India in the purchase of fresh supplies, are unanimously of opinion that it is absolutely necessary to have a Storekeeper of standing and position, and they do not suppose such an officer could be found to accept the office on a salary less than that at present paid for the appointment. This question will probably soon come again before the Board, should Mr. Allon still be desirous of retiring from the service, and I am to request that you will in that case take no steps with a view to the appointment of his successor until you have applied for and received the instructions of the Board upon the subject.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. B. ELWIN,
Agent and Manager.

No. 209.

FORWARDED to the Examiner of Railway Accounts for opinion as to the possibility of reducing the salary attached to the post of Storekeeper on the Madras Railway upon the vacancy occurring, taking into consideration the value of the stores in stock, and the large sum annually expended in India in the purchase of fresh supplies.

MADRAS, (Signed) J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, Lt.-Col., R.E.,
19th February 1876. *Consulting Engineer for Railways.*

From R. G. MACDONALD, Esq., Examiner of Railway Accounts, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, R.E., Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 4th March 1876, No. 256.

I HAVE the honor to return the letter with enclosure from the Agent and Manager, Madras Railway, received under your docket, No. 209, dated 19th ultimo, and in reply to furnish, as desired, an expression of opinion as to the possibility of reducing the salary attached to the post of Storekeeper on the Madras Railway upon a vacancy occurring, taking into consideration the value of the stores in stock and the large sum annually expended in India in the purchases of fresh supplies.

2. I have no hesitation in saying that, in my opinion, an officer could be obtained to perform all the duties now discharged by the General Storekeeper of the Madras Railway, in every respect

• Rupees 400.

satisfactorily, for half the salary now paid to begin with. This is the sum* the East Indian Railway pay to their Chief Storekeeper. Probably it might be found advisable to fix the salary as rising to Rupees 600, as it is generally admitted to be a necessary feature of an appointment that there should be prospects of increase; but certainly Rupees 400 would not be too little as a commencing salary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st March 1876.*

3. There is apparently some misapprehension on the part of the Board of Directors as to the duties of the General Storekeeper. He is not a disbursing officer, neither has he very much power in the matter of the purchase of stores. All stores, except a few articles of very trifling amount, are purchased in accordance with tenders opened either by the Stores Committee or the Sub-Committee; and the payments are all made by the Cashier after audit of the bills by the Chief Auditor.

4. The General Storekeeper of the Madras Railway is simply a receiver, issuer, and custodian of stores in one godown only. He does not even keep the accounts of quantities, and far less has he anything to do with the prices or the adjustments between his store and the departments. He exercises no supervision over the stores upon the lines, which are under the charge of departments. The large Indian purchases of stores are for fuel, timber, &c., with most of which he has no concern whatever. The money expended under his control is limited to a few hundred Rupees a month.

5. The value of stores in the Storekeeper's possession at the end of the under-noted half-years was as follows:—

	RS.
30th June 1870	13,67,328
31st Dec. "	13,30,870
30th June 1871	11,62,922
31st Dec. "	9,16,561
30th June 1872	8,09,200
31st Dec. "	8,11,972
30th June 1873	9,51,149
31st Dec. "	8,94,512
30th June 1874	7,80,677
31st Dec. "	8,48,884
30th June 1875	9,03,877

6. Even were the quantity of stores considerably greater than it is now, the Storekeeper's duties and his responsibilities would be but little enhanced. The nature of his work is such as not to require either great skill or much labor. He has not now difficult landing and forwarding operations to perform. The only way apparent in which the Company's interests could suffer by the inefficiency of the General Storekeeper, would be by his taking into stock bad articles or deficient quantities, or his suffering the stores to spoil for want of attention to them in the godown. He has not to exercise his independent judgment as to the stock of stores necessary to be kept up; but in the preparation of indents on England he is guided by lists of their probable requirements obtained from departments.

7. Complete immunity could be ensured to the Company from such losses as are indicated above without payment of a larger salary than Rupees 400 rising to Rupees 600. In fact, losses of this nature could only arise from fraud or carelessness, and they are indeed very unlikely to occur at all. Samples of all stores receivable into stock are obtained by the Committee accepting the tenders and are supplied to the Storekeeper for his guidance.

8. The General Storekeeper has no administrative work to perform; no accounts to keep; he is not a disbursing officer; he is concerned only along with a number of other persons in the arrangements for the purchase of stores; he has no concern with the stores along the lines; he is not in charge of the stores of the Locomotive and Engineering Departments. All that he does is to receive and issue stores from the main godown at Royapooram and to take care of the stores in that godown. His disbursements are trifling. His duties are of course very important in themselves, and it is necessary that they should be performed by a trustworthy man; but the salary given need not, I venture to conclude, be nearly so large as at present. A little higher talent appears to be required for the situation than that of a first-class mechanic. The Government of India have ruled that Rupees 400 is the highest salary which can, under any circum-

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st March 1876.*

stances, be paid to a mechanic. I therefore venture to think that Rupees 400, rising in, say, eight years by annual increments of Rupees 25 to Rupees 600 would be a proper salary for the post. The only doubt I have is whether this is not too much considering the nature and extent of the duties to be performed.

No. 543. ORDER THEREON, 31st March 1876, No. 833.

RAILWAY, No. 55.

ORDERED that these papers be forwarded to the Government of India with reference to paragraph 4 of their letter No. 2,622 R., dated 21st October 1875. It is observed that the Agent of the Company who may be expected to be well acquainted with the nature of the work and responsibilities devolving on the Storekeeper was of opinion,* after a careful review of the Indian Establishments, that "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." The rate of salary suggested by the Examiner of Railway Accounts, viz., Rupees 400, rising by annual increments of Rupees 25 to Rupees 600 seems sufficiently high, and is not exceeded on the East Indian Railway where the transactions must be greater than those on the Madras Line. His Grace the Governor in Council is therefore unable to concur in the views of the Board of Directors on this subject.

(True Extract.)

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

No. 544. DOCKET, No. 834, dated 31st March 1876.

(Copy of the above forwarded to the Government of India.)

(True Extract.)

Colonel,

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

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Spare Copies

No. 176

MADRAS RAILWAY.

AGENT AND MANAGER'S OFFICE.

Madras, 18 February 1876

From

Robert B. Elwin Esqr
Agent and Manager. M. R. Company.

To

Lieut Colonel J. H. M. Shaw Stewart R.E.
Consulting Engineer for Railways.

SIR,

With reference to the 4th paragraph of your letter N° 1215 of the 13 November last, and the Orders of Government forwarded therewith, I have the honour to enclose herewith for submission to Government a copy of paragraph 15 of the Secretary's letter N° 567 dated the 14th January 1876.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant.

W. B. Elwin

Agent and Manager

Para. 15. Adverting to the remarks of the Government of India, embodied in the Proceedings of the Madras Government of the 3^d November, 1875, and quoted in para: 23 of 1183, and to their request that you may be asked to place yourself in communication with the Board as to the desirability of retaining a storekeeper on his present high salary, when, in your opinion, an officer on a much lower pay can perform the same work, I am instructed to inform you that the question has been carefully considered by the Board, who, having regard to the value of the stores in stock, and to the very large sum annually expended in India in the purchase of fresh supplies, are unanimously of opinion that it is absolutely necessary to have a storekeeper of standing and position, and they do not suppose such an officer could be found to accept the office on a salary less than that at present paid for the appointment. This question will probably soon come again before the Board should Mr. Allow still be desirous of retiring from the service, and I am to request that you will in that case take no steps with a view to the appointment of his successor until you have applied for and received the instructions

instructions of the Board upon the
subject.

(True Extract)

W. H. L. W. L.
Agent and Manager.

W. 1971/90
2/90

No. 256

EXAMINER RAILWAY ACCOUNTS' OFFICE,

Madras, 4 March 1876.

From

THE EXAMINER RAILWAY ACCOUNTS,

MADRAS,

To

The Consulting Engineer, for Railways,
Madras.

SIR,

I have the honour to return
the letter with enclosure from the Agent
and Manager, Madras Railway, received
under your docket No. 209 dated 19th ult.,
and in reply to furnish, as desired, an
expression of opinion as to the possibility
of reducing the salary attached to the
post of Stockkeeper on the Madras Railway
upon a vacancy occurring, taking into
consideration the value of the stock in
stock and the large sum annually
expended

Plg 31 March 76 PW 542

expended in India in the purchases of fresh supplies.

2. I have no hesitation in saying that in my opinion an officer could be obtained to perform all the duties now discharged by the General Storekeeper of the Madras Railway, in every respect satisfactorily, for half the salary now paid to begin with. This is the sum ^{Rs 1150.} the East Indian Railway pay to their Chief Storekeeper. Probably it might be found advisable to fix the salary as rising to Rs 600, as it is generally admitted to be a necessary feature of an appointment that there should be prospects of increase, but certainly Rs 1100 would not be too

too little as a commencing salary.

3. There is apparently some misapprehension on the part of the Board of Directors as to the duties of the General Storekeeper. He is not a disbursing officer, neither has he very much power in the matter of the purchase of stores. All stores except a few articles of very trifling amount are purchased in accordance with tenders opened either by the Stores Committee or the sub-committee; and the payments are all made by the Cashier after audit of the bills by the Chief Auditor.

4. The General Storekeeper of the Madras Railway is simply a receiver, issuer, and custodian of stores in

one godown only. He does not even keep the accounts of quantities, and far less has he anything to do with the prices or the adjustments between his Store and the department. He exercises no supervision over the Stores upon the line, which are under the charge of Department. The large Indian purchases of stores are for fuel, timber, &c. ^{most of} which he has no concern whatever. The money expended under his control is limited to a few hundred rupees a month.

5. The value of stores in the Storekeeper's possession at the end of the indeterminate half years was as follows:-

30 June 1870	Rs 13,67,328
31 st Decr 1870	" 13,80,870
30 June 1871	" 11,62,922
31 Decr 1871	" 9,16,561

35th

30 June 1872	Rs 8,09,200
31 st Decr 1872	" 8,11,972
30 June 1873	" 9,87,649
31 st Decr 1873	" 8,94,572
30 June 1874	" 9,80,677
31 st Decr 1874	" 8,48,882
30 June 1875	" 9,03,877

6. Even were the quantity of stores considerably greater than it is now the Storekeeper's duties and his responsibilities would be but little enhanced. The nature of his work is such as not to require either great skill or much labour. He has not now difficult landing and forwarding operations to perform. The only way apparent in which the Company's interests could suffer by the inefficiency of the General Storekeeper, would be by his taking into stock bad articles or deficient quantities.

or his suffering the stores to spoil for want of attention to them in the godown. He has not to exercise his independent judgment as to the stock of stores necessary to be kept up; but in the preparation of indent on England he is guided by lists of their probable requirements obtained from Departments.

7. Complete immunity could be ensured to the Company from such losses as are indicated above without payment of a larger salary than Rs 1400 rising to Rs 600. In fact losses of this nature could only arise from fraud or carelessness and they are indeed very unlikely to occur at all. Samples of all stores

receivable

receivable into stock are obtained by the Committee accepting ^{the} tenders and are supplied to the Storekeeper for his guidance.

8. The General Storekeeper has no administrative work to perform; no accounts to keep; he is not a disbursing officer; he is concerned only along with a number of other persons in the arrangements for the purchase of stores; he has no concern with the stores along the lines; he is not in charge of the stores of the Locomotive and Engineering Departments. All that he does is to receive and issue stores from the main godown at Royapuram

and

and to take care of the stores in that garage.
His disbursements are trifling. His
duties are of course very important in
themselves, and it is necessary that
they should be performed by a trust-
worthy man; but the salary given
need not, I venture to conclude, be
nearly so large as at present. A little
higher talent appears to be required
for the situation than that of a first
class mechanic. The Government of
India have ruled that Rs 400 is the
highest salary which can under any
circumstances be paid to a mechanic.
I therefore venture to think that Rs 400
rising in say eight years by annual
increments

117A
increments of Rs 25 to Rs 600 would
be a proper salary for the post.
The only doubt I have is whether
this is not too much considering
the nature and extent of the duties
to be performed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Yours Most Obedient Servant,

R. G. Macdonald
Examiner Railway Accounts
Madras

Encd
R. G. Macdonald

M. 1921/96

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

Madras 16 March 1876

No. 132

From

LIEUT. COLONEL J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, R.E.,

Consulting Engineer for Railways,

MAJOR-GENERAL G. W. WALKER, R.E.,

Secretary to Government,

Public Works Department,

Fort Saint George.

SIR,

When reporting, last year, upon the strength of establishments entertained upon the Madras Railway, I stated that, upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the post of General Storekeeper, a considerable reduction in the salary drawn by the present incumbent could be effected. The Agent of the Com-
pany held the same opinion; and the

*Pro. of G.
27 Aug 1876
No 2437/81*

From

The Examiner

Railway Accounts,

Madras,

To

Mr. J. H. M. Shaw-Stewart

Dated 14 March

Received

14/3/76

No. 236

1876

Salary of

General Storekeeper

on the Madras

Railway.

Pl 31 March 76 BW 542

the Government of India requested
that he might be asked to commu-
nicate with his Board as to the
desirableness of retaining a Store-
Keeper upon his present high -
salary, when in his opinion an
officer on much lower pay could
perform the same work.

Pro: J. G.
3rd Nov. 75
No 3110

2. I have now the
honour to lay before Government a
letter from the Agent, giving cover to
a communication from his Board,
in which the Directors state that,
"having regard to the value of the
stores in stock, and to the very
large sum annually expended in
India

No 146
18 Feb. 76

India in the purchase of fresh
supplies, they are unanimously
of opinion that it is absolutely
necessary to have a Storekeeper of
standing and position, and they do
not suppose such an officer could be
found to accept the office on a
salary less than that at present paid
for the appointment. They further
desire their Agent, in the event of
my allow being still desirous of re-
siring from the service, to take no
steps with a view to the appoint-
ment of his successor until their
instructions shall have been re-
ceived.

A letter upon this subject from the Examiner of Rail-
way Accounts is also submitted for the consideration of Government.
Mr. Macdonald enumerates the duties which devolve upon the General Storekeeper. He shows that he is not a disbursing officer, that he has no administrative work, and that he has very little power in the matter of purchasing stores. He shows that the value of the stores in the Storekeeper's possession is not a correct measure of his duties and responsibilities. Mr. Macdonald states that

No 256.
4 inch 76.

that a salary of £400 (the same that is paid on the East Indian Railway) rising to £600, is in his opinion a proper salary for the post.

I am of opinion that the Directors have formed an erroneous estimate of the duties and responsibilities which devolve upon the General Storekeeper. These points were carefully considered before the reduction in the salary attached to the post was suggested; and I do not hesitate to endorse the opinion expressed by the Examiner with regard to the amount of salary to be offered upon the

1751:25

* Letter recorded with G.O. 2454 of 27th Aug 1885. Kipper was of opinion, after a careful review of the Indian Establishments.

ments, that there is no
doubt that on the oc-
currence 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. The rate of
salary suggested by
the Railway Rail-
way Accounts, viz
Rs 400 rising by annual
increments of Rs 25 to
Rs 600 seems suffi-
ciently high, and is
not exceeded on the
East Indian Railway
where the transactions
must be greater than
those on the Madras
line. His Grace
The

13th
the Governor in Coun-
cil is therefore unable
to concur in the views
of the Board of
Directors on this
subject.

H.C. No 834 d/31 March/76

Copy of the above
forwarded to the
Government of India

G.M.

Decf. 20-4-76.
with 30 L.P.

Cont. Ingr. for Railways 21
Exam. Railway Accounts 7

Decf. 20-4-76

17

19715 ✓
Govt. of 1876 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Cons^g Eng^g Railways

11/4/76

Dated

Issued

Recd

Encl.

G. O., 31st March 1876, No.

833
834

Nos. 542 @ 544

For forwarding Copy of
Pres. on letter from the
Eng^g Engr for Rlys submitted
to the Board of
Directors in regard to the
post of General Storekeeper
of the Madras Rly —

General Storekeeper
Madras Rly — Passing
order on letter from the
Eng^g Engr for Rlys submitted
to the Board of Directors in re-
gard to the post of —

but in Reg^y
25-4-76

Chd