

(1) Number of pages 18
(2) Date of repair 17-2-87
(3) Initials of the Referencer long ✓

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2976 W.	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	29-11-1881.	197.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

29th November 1881, No. 2976 W.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read the following paper:—

No. 131. Proceedings of the Government of India, Public Works Department
(Civil Works—Telegraph), dated Simla, 14th November 1881, Nos. 410-442 T.

Tariff on Inland Messages.

Read the following papers:—

Resolution by the Government of India, Nos. 169-90 T., dated 31st May 1881.
Letter from the Director-General of Telegraphs, No. 442 T., " 8th June "

" " " 447 T., " 10th "

" Government of Bombay, No. 10 T.-727, dated 6th June 1881.

" Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, dated 28th June 1881.

" Madras, " 22nd July "

" Government of India, to the Director-General of Telegraphs, No. 284 T.,
dated 12th August 1881.

" Government of India, No. 295 T., dated 17th August 1881.

" Director-General of Telegraphs, No. 495 T., dated 19th August 1881.

" " " 497 T., " 19th "

" " " 514 T., " 9th Sept. "

" Government of India, to the Director-General of Telegraphs, No. 344 T.,
dated 28th September 1881.

" Director-General of Telegraphs, No. 548 T., dated 26th October 1881.

OBSERVATIONS.—In the Resolution of the 31st May 1881 His Excellency the Governor-General in Council authorised the introduction of a "word" rate of two annas a word for each word in excess of the minimum charge of one rupee for six words; and indicated the future policy of the Government of India with regard to the development of the telegraph service briefly as follows:—

The Government of India is willing and anxious to forward any scheme for developing and facilitating communication by telegraph so far as this can be done without risk to the interests of the general tax-paying community, but in the interests of that community it is essential that the telegraph service should be self-supporting.

The Government of India, as opportunity arises, will consider measures for the partial amalgamation of the telegraph and postal services so as to secure economy of working.

By the same Resolution the power to authorise the Telegraph Department to erect lines and open offices was with certain necessary restrictions extended to local Governments and Administrations; and the Director-General of Telegraphs was desired to suggest further measures which might encourage the more extended use of the telegraph service by the public, without endangering the financial position of the department.

In accordance with these orders the Director-General of Telegraphs has submitted, for the approval of Government, a scheme for the revision of the tariff, which, while affording room for a very considerable further reduction in rates, will admit of a large expansion of the traffic without necessitating additional expenditure on increasing the number of wires.

The main feature of this scheme consists in the introduction of arrangements which will permit of the disposal of message traffic in order of urgency instead of, as at present, in order of presentation of messages.

Under the present system messages are, with very few exceptions, transmitted in order of receipt without any reference to their comparative urgency; in the case of commercial and "State" telegrams almost the whole of the messages sent are tendered for transmission during the business hours of the day; the result being a great pressure of work for a few hours, while for the rest of the day and night the wires

are lying comparatively idle; and messages of great urgency are not infrequently delayed awaiting their turn for transmission while the wires are occupied with messages of less importance in which a delay of some hours would be of no consequence whatever.

On the other hand, messages are delivered on arrival at any hour of the day or night irrespective of their urgency; they are frequently delayed in transit owing to the cause referred to above; and the addressees are needlessly disturbed at night by the receipt of telegrams on which no action can be taken until the following day.

It is obvious that the telegraph officials cannot be the judges of the comparative urgency of messages tendered for transmission; the selection must be made by the senders themselves; and in order to admit of this being done the more readily, the Director-General of Telegraphs proposes to introduce, in addition to the ordinary class of message, two other classes, "deferred" and "urgent."

Messages marked by senders as "deferred" will be received at any time during the working hours of the Telegraph Office, but will be transmitted at the convenience of the Telegraph Department on the understanding that they shall be delivered at their destination early on the following morning. Such messages would usually be transmitted during the night, when the wires are comparatively free, and would be delivered at their destination through the Post Office with the first postal delivery, except at stations where such a procedure would entail too much delay.

Messages marked by the senders as "urgent" will have priority over all ordinary messages, and will be delivered immediately on arrival by special messenger.

Messages marked by the senders as "ordinary" will be dealt with in order of receipt as under the present system, but will yield priority to all "urgent" messages.

His Excellency the Governor-General in Council believes that the introduction of the "deferred" message system as sketched out above will prove a very great convenience to the public in improving the service for transmission of really urgent messages, and it will enable a large reduction in average cost of telegraphing to be made, owing to the facilities it would give for utilising the wires for a greater proportion of the twenty-four hours than is possible under the present system.

For "deferred" messages, which may be expected to comprise the great bulk of communications relating to such subjects as mercantile transactions effected, evening résumés of operations between corresponding firms, orders issued too late for execution the same day, modifications of orders already sent by post, and to most of the telegrams on domestic concerns, a very considerable reduction of cost will be possible; for ordinary messages the number of words to be allowed can be slightly increased with safety; but for "urgent" messages it will be necessary to somewhat increase the cost, as the privilege of priority and delivery by special messenger which is accorded to such messages will, while adding considerably to their value to the sender, entail additional cost on the State. It is also necessary to make the rates for "urgent" messages sufficiently high to restrict such messages to really important communications, as otherwise the value of the priority obtained would be largely reduced.

His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is accordingly pleased to direct that the telegraph rules be revised on this basis, and has approved of the following tariff:—

The address to be transmitted free in all cases as at present.

Local messages, that is, messages tendered for transmission in ordinary course within a radius of six miles from a central telegraph office.

Four annas for each group of eight words or less.

Deferred messages, that is, messages tendered for transmission at the convenience of the Telegraph Department, but to be delivered at destination early on the following morning.

Minimum charge eight annas for eight words or less, with one anna for each additional word in excess of eight.

Ordinary messages, that is, messages tendered for transmission and delivery in ordinary course.

Minimum charge one rupee for eight words or less, with two annas for each additional word in excess of eight.

Urgent messages, that is, messages tendered for immediate transmission, and delivery with priority over all "ordinary" messages.

Minimum charge two rupees for eight words or less, with four annas for each additional word in excess of eight.

Press messages to be subject to the same rates as above, but four times the number of words are allowed for each rate.

The revised rules and tariff published with this Resolution will come into force on the 1st January 1882.

His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is further pleased to direct that, with a view to reduce expenditure and to prevent the State business from unduly interfering with private message traffic, all *State* telegraph messages shall be sent as "deferred" unless specially marked as "urgent" by the sender, and that no *State* message shall be despatched as an "ordinary" message.

ORDER.—Ordered, that copy of this Resolution and enclosures be communicated

To the Department of Finance and Commerce.
To the Foreign, Home, Military, and Legislative Departments.
Department of Revenue and Agriculture.
The Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and the Punjab, in the Public Works Department.
The Chief Commissioners, Central Provinces, British Burma, Assam, and Coorg.
The Resident at Hyderabad.
The Resident at Mysore (through Foreign Department).
The Agents to the Governor-General for Central India, Rajputana, and Beluchistan.
The Accountant-General, Public Works Department.
The Inspector-General of Military Works.
The Director-General of Railways.
The Consulting Engineers to the Government of India for Guaranteed Railways, Calcutta, Lahore and Lucknow.

to the departments of the Government of India and to the local Governments and Administrations noted in the margin for information and guidance, with reference to the concluding paragraph.

Also, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Director-General of Telegraphs for information and guidance.

Also, that the Resolution and enclosures be published in the *Gazette of India*, and that copies be communicated to the Chambers of Commerce in Bengal, Madras, Bombay, Rangoon, and Karachi.

(Signed) G. F. L. MARSHALL, Major, R.E.,
for Offg. Secy. to Govt. of India, P.W.D.

No. 132. ORDER THEREON, 29th November 1881, No. 2976 W.

COMMUNICATED to officers and departments of the Madras Government for information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

Lieut.-Col., R.E.,
Ag. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Consulting Engineer for Railways.
To Superintending Engineers.
To the Consulting Architect to Government.
" General Superintendent, Public Works Stores and Workshops.
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
" Examiner of Railway Accounts.
" Public, &c., Departments.
" Revenue Department.
" Military "

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

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BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of (1881) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE CHIEF ENGINEER
FOR IRRIGATION.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated November, 29th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 29th November 1881, No. 2976 W.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 131-132.

Tariff on Inland Messages.—Resolution of
the Government of India regarding —, com-
municated to the officers of the Public
Works Department.

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

Rules for "Press" messages in India, sanctioned by the Governor General of India in Council,
with effect from the 1st January 1882.

1. A "Press" message is defined to be a message written in ordinary English language, addressed only to a newspaper or newspapers, and intended for publication in its entirety in such newspaper or newspapers. The message must be one of manifestly public interest and must contain no commercial news of any kind.

2. All rules and regulations that apply to ordinary messages apply also to Press messages except as regards the charges.

3. In a Press message four times as many words are allowed for the same money as in a private message: the charges will be—

Urgent.—Two Rupees for the first 32 words and four annas for every additional 4 words.

Ordinary.—One Rupee for the first 32 words and two annas for every additional four words.

Deferred.—Eight annas for the first 32 words and one anna for every additional four words.

4. In order to prevent any correspondent monopolising the wires to the detriment of other newspapers, the maximum limit of length is 500 words. Press messages can only be accepted for transmission during the working hours of the Telegraph Office at the station of origin.

5. Press messages can only be addressed to newspapers, the names of which have been registered in the Office of the Director General of Telegraphs, in whom is vested the power of refusing the concession in any particular case on sufficient grounds, or of withdrawing it after it has been granted, should he have reason to believe that the conditions are in any way infringed.

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Enclosure to Public Works Department Resolution Nos. 410-442 T., dated November 14, 1881.

RULES AND RATES FOR INLAND TELEGRAMS.

Rules and Tariff, relating to the transmission of Telegraph Messages in India, sanctioned by the Governor General of India in Council, with effect from the 1st January 1882.

GENERAL.

Rule 1.—The accuracy of messages is not guaranteed, and the Sender and Receiver must accept all risks arising from non-delivery, errors or delays.

Rule 2.—Telegraph stations are divided into three classes, viz. :—

Class of office.	General working hours (local time).	Special working hours (local time) on Sunday, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday, and the Queen's Birthday.
I	Day and night	Day and night.
II	7. A.M. to 9 P.M.	7 to 9 A.M., and 4 to 9 P.M.
III	10 A.M. to 5 P.M.	7 to 9 A.M., and 4 to 6 P.M.

Rule 3.—In cases of life and death, or of extraordinary emergency, a message, counter-signed by the chief civil or military authority at a station, or by any of the authorities empowered to "clear the line" (see Rule 40), can be sent from any Office at any time.

Exception in favor of emergent telegrams signed by competent authority.
Messages should be legibly written.
distinct hand.

Rule 4.—Senders of messages are advised to write their messages in an unmistakeable and

ACCEPTANCE OF MESSAGES FOR TRANSMISSION.

Rule 5.—No message or messages of more than five hundred words can be sent at any one time by any private individual or firm, and no second message by the same individual or firm till after the lapse of three hours, unless the lines be free and not required by any one else.

Rule 6.—All messages must be legibly written in the Roman character or in Arabic figures : subject to the above limitation, messages may be sent in the vernacular, or any foreign language, or in cipher, if written in Arabic numerals.

Messages translated for natives.
At stations other than the Presidency towns, every assistance possible is afforded to natives in the translation of messages into English, and vice versa.

Rule 7.—The body of the message must be preceded by the address (as defined in Rule 18). The true signature and address of the Sender must always be written at the foot of the message.

Form to be followed.
The Sender of a private message can always be called upon to prove that the signature attached to it is genuine.

Rule 8.—The address must contain all the information necessary to ensure the delivery of the message at its destination, and the Sender in all cases supports the consequences of insufficiency of address. After the message is once despatched, it can neither be cancelled, completed, nor rectified, except by the despatch of a fresh paid message.

Rule 9.—Every interlineation, reference, erasure, or alteration of words must be authenticated by the Sender of the message, or by his representative.

Rule 10.—Messages from places where there is no Telegraph station should be addressed to the nearest Government Telegraph Office by post registered, together with telegraph or postage stamps sufficient for their payment. A receipt for the amount will be posted free to the Sender.

Messages sent by post to telegraph stations for transmission.
In the case of a private message sent by post to a Telegraph station with an insufficient number of stamps, the message and stamps will be returned "Service Bearing" to the Sender, who should in all cases give his full address.

Rule 11.—Messages can be addressed to places where there are no Telegraph stations. In such cases, the Sender must state (free) from what Telegraph Office delivery is to be effected.

Messages addressed to non-telegraph stations.

Example.—"To Sherghotty, Post Burhee."

No charge will be made for ordinary *Inland* postage, which is defrayed by the Telegraph Administration. But if the Sender of a message that has to be delivered by *Inland* post wishes it to be *registered*, he must prepay the postal registration fee of two annas, and intimate that this has been done by adding (free) the words "Post registered," instead of "Post," before the name of the Telegraph station at which the message is to be posted.

Postal registration is compulsory in the case of messages which have to be posted in India to places beyond Indian limits, and in such cases both the postage and registration fees* must be prepaid by the Sender.†

"Bearing" messages.

Rule 12.—With the following exception, all charges for messages must be prepaid in cash or in stamps:—

Messages are sent "bearing" from seaports when received for despatch by mail steamers or other vessels, but no such message, whether "prepaid" or "bearing," will be received for transmission until the name of the vessel has been made known. *Bearing messages will not be delivered to the addressee until after payment has been obtained.*

Rule 13.—All charges on telegrams are prepaid in Telegraph stamps, which are procurable at every treasury and every Government Telegraph station.

Use of stamps.

Telegraph stamps are double-headed, the object being that the *upper half* shall be returned on the receipt (whereby the Sender receives a guarantee that his message has not been suppressed for the sake of the stamps), and the *lower half* shall be affixed to the message as voucher to Government that it has been prepaid.

Forms obtainable *gratis* at all stations. Proper forms on which to write messages are available *gratis* at all Telegraph stations, and Senders are requested to use these forms only.

The Senders of messages should be careful to affix their stamps on the spaces left blank for the purpose on the message forms, the *upper half* on the receipt, the *lower half* on the message, and to see that the stamps are defaced with the office stamp which bears the name of the station and the date.

Telegraph stamps cut in two, before being sent into a Telegraph Office, or which are in any way defaced, discolored, or damaged, cannot be accepted.

Rule 14.—State messages from all public functionaries must be paid for in cash or in stamps prior to despatch; the rates are the same for State messages as those charged to private individuals. This Rule will be relaxed in case of great emergency: whenever an *urgent State message is tendered for despatch under this permission, the Sender must take the necessary steps to ascertain the charges on it, and pay them into the Telegraph Office within 24 hours.*

Rule 15.—State messages not marked "urgent" will be treated as "deferred" (see Rule 19); they take their turn for despatch with "urgent" and "deferred" private messages according to the order in which they were tendered.

Rule 16.—No unpaid messages, except those specified in the Departmental Regulations, shall on any account be transmitted. A violation of this rule will subject the Signaller or Telegraph Master in charge of the station from which a message is improperly despatched to dismissal from the public service.

Rule 17.—Telegraph Masters are required to refuse to transmit a message which may be of a decidedly objectionable or alarming character. Should the character of a message be open to doubt, the matter shall be referred to a Secretary to Government, if the message be tendered at the seat of Government, or the chief civil or military officer, if at a provincial station.

* 8 annas.

† The registration fee (2 annas) is also payable in the case of messages to which replies are prepaid, and which are addressed to a station where there is no Telegraph Office, or to stations on the Eastern Bengal, Madras, and South Indian Railways (vide note to Rule 37).

CHARGES.

Rule 18.—No charge is made for the transmission of the address.

The "address" includes names of stations from and to which the message is to be despatched, the *bona fide* names or designations* of the Sender and Addressee, and the *latter's* address.

Free address.

No other words can be transmitted unless paid for as part of the body of the message, and the officers of the Telegraph Department are authorised to omit from the address any words which are not essential to the correct delivery of the message.

If the Sender of a message desire *his own* address to be telegraphed, it must be included in the body of the message, and paid for.

Rule 19.—The following are the rates of charge for a message:—

Charge for a message.

No charge is made for the transmission of the address.

Local messages, i.e., those tendered during the working hours of a Telegraph Office for transmission in ordinary course within a radius of six miles from a central Telegraph Office.		Deferred messages, i.e., those tendered during the working hours of a Telegraph Office for transmission at convenience of the Telegraph Department, but to be delivered at destination early on the following morning.		Ordinary messages, i.e., those tendered during the working hours of a Telegraph Office for immediate transmission, with precedence over ordinary messages.		Urgent messages, i.e., those tendered during the working hours of a Telegraph Office for immediate transmission, with precedence over ordinary messages.	
First eight words or groups of three figures.	Each additional eight words or groups of three figures.	First eight words or groups of three figures.	Each additional eight words or groups of three figures.	First eight words or groups of three figures.	Each additional eight words or groups of three figures.	First eight words or groups of three figures.	Each additional eight words or groups of three figures.
Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.
Between any two stations in India	4	4	8	1	1	2	4

Rule 20.—A message can be sent from any station of the Government Telegraph Department to any Railway Telegraph station, or *vice versa*, without additional charge.

APPLICATION OF CHARGES.

Rule 21.—The maximum length of a word is fixed at six syllables; the excess is counted as a word.

Rule 22.—Messages must not contain any unusual combinations, abbreviations, or constructions. Any word in common use which, although requiring two words to express it, is generally recognised as one word, is charged as one word when so written; when the two parts are not joined by a hyphen or apostrophe, and when less than six syllables. "Halfpenny," "Twopence," "Threepence," &c., up to "Elevenpence," when written as a single word, count as one word only. "F. O. B." "C. F. I." "A. M." and "P. M." when written as separate letters, are each counted as three words, but when written "Fob," "Cf," "Am," "Pm," as one word.

Words joined by a hyphen.

Rule 23.—Words joined by a hyphen are counted as so many separate words.

Rule 24.—Words separated by an apostrophe are counted as so many separate words. (This rule does not apply to nouns in the possessive case, as "General's," "Charles's," "Brother's.")

Words separated by an apostrophe.

Rule 25.—Proper names of towns and persons, names of places, streets, ships, titles, Christian names, prefixes, and qualifications, are counted for the number of words employed by the Sender to express them.

Every separate character, including an underline, charged as a word.

Rule 26.—Every isolated character, whether letter or figure, is counted as a word. The same applies to an underline.

* Name and designation cannot both be admitted, unless it would otherwise be obviously impossible for the addressee to identify the sender.
A message can only be sent in the name of one individual or firm.

Rule 27.—Signs of punctuation, hyphens, apostrophes, inverted commas, parentheses, and fresh paragraphs are not counted or signalled, but decimal points, commas, bars of division, &c., used with figures are each counted as a figure and signalled.

Rule 28.—When numbers are expressed in figures, all the characters, figures, letters, or signs in each group are added together, the total divided by three, and the quotient, plus one for the remainder, if there be any, gives the number of words the group represents. Signs used to separate groups and letters added to figures to form ordinal numbers are counted each as a figure or letter; groups of letters not forming words (letter cipher) cannot be transmitted.

Rule 29.—All that the Sender writes in his message to be transmitted to be included in the cost, but the address of a message, as defined in Rule 18, will be transmitted without charge.

The day, hour and minute (Madras time) of receipt of a message into a Telegraph Office for despatch are in every instance added by the Department and telegraphed free of charge. Senders may, however, date their messages if they think fit, but the Sender's date, if given, will be charged for.

Rule 30.—A message addressed to several persons, or to the same person in localities where delivery is to be effected by different offices, is charged for as so many separate messages.

Rule 31.—A message addressed to several persons in one locality, or to the same person at several places of residence in one locality, with or without transmission by post, is charged for as a single message, but a copying fee of four annas, independently of postage, if any, is charged for each destination after the first.

REPETITION OF MESSAGES.

Rule 32.—The Sender of any message can require that it be repeated. In this case the different stations employed in its transmission collate it as it passes, repeating it to each other integrally.

Rule 33.—The charge for repeating is equal to half the charge for the message. A repeated message is indicated by the word "collated" which, to ensure the greatest accuracy, is telegraphed (free) both in the official instructions, and as the first word of the text of the message.

ADVICE OF DELIVERY.

Rule 34.—Any Sender can require that a notice of the time at which his message is delivered be transmitted to him by telegraph. This advice of delivery may be addressed to him at any station he may name.

Rule 35.—If the message cannot be delivered, the return-telegram indicates the circumstances which prevented delivery, and, if possible, gives the information necessary to enable the Sender to cause his message to reach its destination.

The return-message has priority in transmission over ordinary messages.

Rule 36.—The charge for an advice of delivery or non-delivery is two rupees.

PREPAYMENT OF REPLY.

Rule 37.—The sender of a message can prepay a reply, depositing for this purpose a sum not exceeding ten times the cost of his original telegram.* He must add to his message the words "Reply prepaid" or "Answer paid." These must form the concluding words of the message, but will not be charged for. On depositing the corresponding sum, the Sender can add (free) to the words "Reply paid" or "Answer paid" the amount to which he wishes the reply to be limited. When the words "Reply paid" alone are given, without any specified amount, it will be understood that the minimum charge only for an 'ordinary' message has been prepaid. The terminal station pays to the Receiver, in Telegraph stamps, the amount prepaid, leaving it to him to send his answer how, and when, and to what address he pleases, or not to send one at all. The reply, if sent, is considered in every respect as a fresh message.

* A message to which a reply is prepaid must not be addressed to more than one person.

Should it be impossible to effect delivery of a "Reply-paid" message, the terminal station sends a Service telegram to that effect to the Sender, and the amount deposited will be refunded on application being made to the Telegraph Check Office, Calcutta. The words "Reply paid" or "Answer paid" entitle the Addressee to receive the equivalent of the minimum charge only. It should be distinctly understood that it is not compulsory on the Addressee to send a reply. The duty of the Telegraph Department consists simply in paying to him, in Telegraph stamps, or in money, the amount prepaid, leaving him at liberty to do what he pleases with it.*

DELIVERY.

Rule 38.—'Local' messages will be delivered free of charge within one mile, and other messages within five miles, of a Telegraph station. Beyond this distance messages will be sent by post or by such other means as the Sender may arrange and pay for. Should the Addressee of a message have left the station to which it is addressed, it will, if returned unopened with definite instructions as to the new address, be retransmitted without extra charge.

If the Sender requests it, messages will be delivered open. In this case the words *Deliver open* must be included free in the body of the message.

The Telegraph Department may deliver "Deferred" messages through the Post Office of the place of destination.

Rule 39.—Any firm or individual expecting to receive inland or foreign messages can register an abbreviated address at the Government Telegraph Office from which such messages have to be delivered.

No abbreviated address can be accepted which has already been registered locally by another firm or individual.

The fee for registration of each abbreviated address is Rs. 10 per annum, payable in advance on the 1st January in each year, or Rs. 50 for all time, with a fine of Rs. 5 for every change of address. Abbreviated addresses are considered confidential.

The Department accepts no responsibility in respect of the delivery of any telegram having an abbreviated address if such address has not been registered.

CLEAR LINE MESSAGES.

Rule 40.—On emergent occasions of great importance, the public functionaries named below have the power to "clear the line," that is, to suspend the receipt and despatch of all messages until the one for which the line is "cleared" is passed on:—

- (1) The Governor General of India.
- (2) The Governors of Madras and Bombay.
- (3) Commanders-in-Chief, India, Madras, and Bombay.
- (4) Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal, North-Western Provinces, and the Punjab.
- (5) Secretaries to the Government of India.
- (6) Secretaries to the Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, North-Western Provinces, and Punjab.
- (7) Chief Commissioners of Oudh, the Central Provinces, British Burma, and Assam.
- (8) Agents to the Governor General, Rajputana, Central India, and Biluchistan.
- (9) Commissioners of Sind and Peshawar.
- (10) The Residents at Hyderabad (Deccan) and Mysore.
- (11) Director General of Telegraphs in India.
- (12) The Maharajah of Patiala; from the Patiala Office only.

The messages so sent are, however, to be paid for, in cash or in stamps, as urgent State messages.

REFUNDS.

Rule 41.—No refund will be made under any circumstance for a 'local' or 'deferred' message; and no refund will be made for an 'ordinary' or 'urgent' message delivered wholly or partially in an unintelligible state, unless the extra charge for repetition has been paid by the Sender (See Rule 33).

* In the case of a message to which a reply is prepaid addressed to a station where there is no Telegraph Office, the amount is forwarded to destination from the nearest Telegraph Office, not in Telegraph stamps but by currency notes and postage stamps in an insured cover; the Sender must accordingly prepay the postal insurance fees. As the Eastern and Bengal, Madras and South Indian Railway Companies declare their inability to make over reply deposits to the addressees, messages addressed to stations on these Railways to which replies are prepaid are not transferred to the Railway Telegraph, but posted with currency notes and postage stamps enclosed from the nearest Government Telegraph Station direct to the addressee, in the case of such message as also the postal insurance fees are payable by the Sender.

Rule 42.—If an 'ordinary' or 'urgent' message be not delivered, or be subjected to serious delay through the fault of the Telegraph Department, the whole charge made for it will be returned to the Sender.

Rule 43.—Applications for refunds, as also all complaints respecting messages, should be addressed to the TELEGRAPH CHECK OFFICE, CALCUTTA. Such claims for refund should be made, under penalty of rejection, within two months from the date of the message; but this period is extended to six months in the case of a repeated message, or of a message for which a Reply or an Advice of Delivery has been prepaid. (When an overcharge has been made on an inland message through the neglect of the Telegraph employés, and when there exists no doubt whatever as to the justice of the claim, the amount overcharged will be repaid at once by the Telegraph Master).

CANCELLATION OF MESSAGES.

Rule 44.—If the Sender of an inland message wishes to cancel it before transmission has commenced, he can do so, but the charges upon it will not be returned when once the stamps are obliterated. If the message is in course of transmission, or has already been despatched, it can only be cancelled by a paid message from the Sender to the Telegraph Master of the terminal station. If in addition the Sender wishes to be informed by telegraph in what manner his request has been acted upon, he must deposit the cost of the return telegram.

OBLIGATION OF SECRECY.

Rule 45.—To secure secrecy as much as possible all persons (including officers of the Department) not actually on duty, are strictly prohibited from entering the Signal-room. Breach of this regulation renders an offender liable to a fine of Rs. 500 under Act I of 1876.

Rule 46.—Violation of secrecy on the part of any person in the Department will be punished by dismissal from office, forfeiture of arrears of pay, and a declaration in the official Gazette of the incapacity of the delinquent to serve the Government in any capacity. He will also be liable to the further punishment of fine, or to imprisonment (with or without labor) not exceeding three years, or to both.

It is a violation of secrecy to mention the fact that a message has been received or despatched by any particular person or firm.

COPIES OF MESSAGES.

Rule 47.—The Sender and Receiver have a right to be furnished with certified true copies of any 'ordinary' or 'urgent' message sent or received by them; a fixed charge of four annas is made for every copy furnished. As no Telegraph Office keeps copies of messages longer than three days, applications for copies required after that time has elapsed should be made to the TELEGRAPH CHECK OFFICE, CALCUTTA.

Applications for copies must be made within six months of the date of the message. At the expiration of that period all message drafts are destroyed.

One anna must be enclosed for postage of the reply—failing which, it will be sent "bearing."

PRESS MESSAGES.

Rule 48.—Under certain conditions, to be ascertained on application to the Director General of Telegraphs (Traffic Branch), *bond fide* Press messages, i.e., messages in the ordinary English language addressed to, and intended for publication in, a newspaper, can be despatched at reduced rates.

Nos. 410-442 T.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

CIVIL WORKS.

Telegraph.

Simla, November 14, 1881.

Tariff on inland messages.

Read the following papers:—

Resolution by the Government of India, Nos. 163-90 T., dated 31st May 1881.
Letter from the Director General of Telegraphs, No. 442 T., " 6th June "
" " " " 447 T., " 10th " "
" Government of Bombay, No. 10 T.-727, dated 6th June 1881.
" Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, dated 28th June 1881.
" Madras, " 22nd July "
" Government of India, to the Director General of Telegraphs, No. 284 T., dated 12th August 1881.
" Government of India, No. 295 T., dated 17th August 1881.
" Director General of Telegraphs, No. 495 T., dated 19th August 1881.
" " " 497 T., " " "
" " " 514 T., " 9th September "
" Government of India, to the Director General of Telegraphs, No. 344 T., dated 28th September 1881.
" Director General of Telegraphs, No. 548 T., dated 26th October 1881.

OBSERVATIONS.—In the Resolution of the 31st May 1881, His Excellency the Governor General in Council authorised the introduction of a "word" rate of two annas a word for each word in excess of the minimum charge of one rupee for six words; and indicated the future policy of the Government of India with regard to the development of the telegraph service briefly as follows:—

The Government of India is willing and anxious to forward any scheme for developing and facilitating communication by telegraph so far as this can be done without risk to the interests of the general tax-paying community; but in the interests of that community it is essential that the telegraph service should be self-supporting.

The Government of India, as opportunity arises, will consider measures for the partial amalgamation of the telegraph and postal services so as to secure economy of working.

By the same Resolution the power to authorise the Telegraph Department to erect lines and open offices was with certain necessary restrictions extended to local Governments and Administrations; and the Director General of Telegraphs was desired to suggest further measures which might encourage the more extended use of the telegraph service by the public, without endangering the financial position of the Department.

In accordance with these orders, the Director General of Telegraphs has submitted, for the approval of Government, a scheme for the revision of the tariff, which, while affording room for a very considerable further reduction in rates, will admit of a large expansion of the traffic without necessitating additional expenditure on increasing the number of wires.

The main feature of this scheme consists in the introduction of arrangements which will permit of the disposal of message traffic in order of urgency instead of, as at present, in order of presentation of messages.

Under the present system messages are, with very few exceptions, transmitted in order of receipt without any reference to their comparative urgency; in the case of commercial and "state" telegrams almost the whole of the messages sent are tendered for transmission during the business hours of the day; the result being a great pressure of work for a few hours, while for the rest of the day and night the wires are lying comparatively idle; and messages of great urgency are not infrequently delayed awaiting their turn for transmission while the wires are occupied with messages of less importance in which a delay of some hours would be of no consequence whatever.

On the other hand, messages are delivered on arrival at any hour of the day or night irrespective of their urgency; they are frequently delayed in transit owing to the cause referred to above; and the addressees are needlessly disturbed at night by the receipt of telegrams on which no action can be taken until the following day.

It is obvious that the telegraph officials cannot be the judges of the comparative urgency of messages tendered for transmission; the selection must be made by the senders themselves; and in order to admit of this being done the more readily, the Director General of Telegraphs proposes to introduce, in addition to the ordinary class of message, two other classes, "deferred" and "urgent."

Messages marked by senders as "deferred" will be received at any time during the working hours of the Telegraph Office, but will be transmitted at the convenience of the Telegraph Department on the understanding that they shall be delivered at their destination early on the following morning. Such messages would usually be transmitted during the night, when the wires are comparatively free, and would be delivered at their destination through the Post Office with the first postal delivery, except at stations where such a procedure would entail too much delay.

Messages marked by the senders as "urgent" will have priority over all ordinary messages, and will be delivered immediately on arrival by special messenger.

Messages marked by the senders as "ordinary" will be dealt with in order of receipt as under the present system, but will yield priority to all "urgent" messages.

His Excellency the Governor General in Council believes that the introduction of the "deferred" message system as sketched out above will prove a very great convenience to the public in improving the service for transmission of really urgent messages, and it will enable a large reduction in average cost of telegraphing to be made, owing to the facilities it would give for utilising the wires for a greater proportion of the twenty-four hours than is possible under the present system.

For "deferred" messages, which may be expected to comprise the great bulk of communications relating to such subjects as mercantile transactions effected, evening résumés of operations between corresponding firms, orders issued too late for execution the same day, modifications of orders already sent by post, and to most of the telegrams on domestic concerns, a very considerable reduction of cost will be possible; for ordinary messages the number of words to be allowed can be slightly increased with safety; but for "urgent" messages it will be necessary to somewhat increase the cost, as the privilege of priority and delivery by special messenger which is accorded to such messages will, while adding considerably to their value to the sender, entail additional cost on the

State. It is also necessary to make the rates for "urgent" messages sufficiently high to restrict such messages to really important communications, as otherwise the value of the priority obtained would be largely reduced.

His Excellency the Governor General in Council is accordingly pleased to direct that the telegraph rules be revised on this basis, and has approved of the following tariff.

The address to be transmitted free in all cases as at present.

Local messages, that is, messages tendered for transmission in ordinary course within a radius of six miles from a central telegraph office.

Four annas for each group of eight words or less.

Deferred messages, that is, messages tendered for transmission at the convenience of the Telegraph Department, but to be delivered at destination early on the following morning.

Minimum charge eight annas for eight words or less, with one anna for each additional word in excess of eight.

Ordinary messages, that is, messages tendered for transmission and delivery in ordinary course.

Minimum charge one rupee for eight words or less, with two annas for each additional word in excess of eight.

Urgent messages, that is, messages tendered for immediate transmission, and delivery with priority over all "ordinary" messages.

Minimum charge two rupees for eight words or less, with four annas for each additional word in excess of eight.

Press messages to be subject to the same rates as above, but four times the number of words are allowed for each rate.

The revised rules and tariff published with this Resolution will come into force on the 1st January 1882.

His Excellency the Governor General in Council is further pleased to direct that, with a view to reduce expenditure and to prevent the State business from unduly interfering with private message traffic, all *State* telegraph messages shall be sent as "deferred" unless specially marked as "urgent" by the sender, and that no *State* message shall be despatched as an "ordinary" message.

ORDER.—Ordered, that copy of this Resolution and enclosures be communicated to the Departments of the Government of India and to the Local Governments and Administrations noted in the margin for information and guidance, with reference to the concluding paragraph.

To the Department of Finance and Commerce.
To the Foreign, Home, Military, and Legislative Departments.
Department of Revenue and Agriculture.
The Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and the Punjab, in the Public Works Department.
The Chief Commissioners, Central Provinces, British Burma, Assam, and Coorg.
The Resident at Hyderabad.
The Resident at Mysore (through Foreign Department).
The Agents to the Governor General for Central India, Rajputana, and Beluchistan.
The Accountant General, Public Works Department.
The Inspector General of Military Works.
The Director General of Railways.
The Consulting Engineers to the Government of India for Guaranteed Railways, Calcutta, Lahore, and Lucknow.

Also that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Director General of Telegraphs for information and guidance.

Also that the Resolution and enclosures be published in the *Gazette of India*, and that copies be communicated to the Chambers of Commerce in Bengal, Madras, Bombay, Rangoon, and Karachi.

G. F. L. Marshall Maj. R.E.

For Offg. Secy. to Govt. of India, P. W. D.

N. 416 L. To the Secy to the Govt. of Madras.

2976 of 29th Nov 1881.
The Secy to the Govt.
In the S. T. Comptrolr
of the Govt.

Communicated
to officers and Depart-
ments of the Madras
Government for infor-
mation and guidance.

Att
23/11/81 *W.D.*

C.E. for J. ✓
C.E. for Rys. ✓
S. En. ✓
C. to for ✓
Secy. Dept. P.W. Stores etc. ✓
Ex. S. En. ✓
Ex. Rys. Accts. ✓
Public Works Dept. ✓
Rev. Dept. ✓
Mil. Dept. ✓
24.11.81 22.11.81
Despd
9/12/81

P. N. S. No 6847,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
CIVIL WORKS.
Telegraph.

To

Nos. 410-442 T.
Dated Simla, November 14, 1881.
Received 21 Nov: 81

2-2.

Tariff on inland messages.

Govt. Central Branch Press, Simla.—No. 102 P.W.D.—14-11-81.—500.

with order

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Gt. of (1881) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
Dated
Issued
Recd. Encl.

293/100
G. O., 293/100 1881, dt. 29.10.1881
293/100

Nos. 1326732

Suriff on inland meadows.
Resolution of the Gt. of India
regarding — communicated
to the officers of the M. Dept.

Sd. in Receipt Reg.

113/11