

- (1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 10
 (2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 15.3.89
 (3) ஆதரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம் 6/0

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

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தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

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நாள் :	9. 3. 1889	198

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No. 30 T.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
CIVIL WORKS.
Telegraph.

Calcutta, the 1st February 1889.

Administration Report of the Indian Telegraph Department for the year
1887-88.

Read—

Letter from the Director General of Telegraphs, No. 476 T., dated 12th November 1888, and its enclosure, the Administration Report of the Indian Telegraph Department for the year 1887-88.

OBSERVATIONS.—The Government of India notices with satisfaction that Colonel Mallock, the Officiating Director General of Telegraphs, submitted the Administration Report of the Telegraph Department for 1887-88 on the 12th November 1888; this is more than a month earlier than it was received last year, and is the earliest date on which the report has ever been submitted to Government.

2. The Telegraph Department of India had, up to the 15th February 1888, administered only the lines of telegraph situated within India itself, including Burma and Baluchistan; but on the date mentioned the Department undertook the administration of the telegraph lines and cables extending from Karachi to Teheran in Persia, which had formerly been administered by a Director-in-Chief whose head-quarters were in London. The accounts of this system are not, however, included in the present report.

3. The Capital expenditure of the year in the Indian Telegraph Department was Rs. 23,49,550, as given in the following statement:—

	EXPENDITURE OF THE YEAR.	
	1887-88.	Expenditure to end of the year 1887-88.
	Rs.	Rs.
Lines	17,16,026	3,22,63,581
Buildings	2,11,243	51,36,797
Tools and Plant	92,352	17,12,614
Stores, Exchange and suspense heads	3,29,929	36,64,591
TOTAL	23,49,550	4,27,77,583

It is necessary to bear in mind with reference to this statement of the Capital Account of the Department that it is not an absolutely correct one from a purely financial point of view. The capital expenditure to date, Rs. 4,27,77,583, does not represent the total sum of money which has been actually expended on the construction of telegraph lines in India. The cost of experimental lines, abandoned lines, and of outlay incurred upon the lines and offices not now working, has been excluded from the capital sum of 428 lakhs.

4. The capital expenditure of the year was mainly incurred on new lines and wires for departmental purposes; 5,014 miles of wire and cable having been constructed. The principal works which fell under this head are enumerated in pages 21 to 23 of the report, the most important being an additional wire from Hyderabad (Deccan) to Bezpada, a wire from Multan *via* Sukkur and Sibi to Quetta, and a line connecting Assam *via* Manipur and the Kuba Valley with Upper Burma. In addition to purely departmental lines, 1,634 miles of wire and cable were constructed specially for Railways and were rented to them. The working of the last few years of the telegraph lines has shown that the trunk lines are now nearly taxed to their full power by the traffic which has been thrown upon them by the large number of branch telegraph lines and offices which have been established. Further capital expenditure will be devoted rather to strengthening these over-taxed lines than to opening new branches and feeders. A large demand for expenditure on strengthening the trunk lines has been already submitted by the Director General of Telegraphs to the Government of India.

5. The extensions made in the Telegraphic system of India in the year 1887-88 are expressed by the following figures:—

	At end of 1886-87.	At end of 1887-88.	Increase.
Miles of line	30,035	31,894	1,859
Miles of wire and cable	87,087	93,743	6,656
Number of Signal Offices	699	745	46

These extensions fall, on the whole, slightly below the average of the previous three years. A large proportion of the wires owned by the Telegraph Department are specially provided for State and Guaranteed Railways for their exclusive use; 32,959 miles out of the total of 93,743 are special wires rented to the Railways. The extensions of the year were larger than usual in Departmental wires and smaller in Railway ones.

6. The following statement shows the working expenses of the year:—

	1886-87.	1887-88.	Increase.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Working expenses	41,21,873	42,92,248	1,70,375

7. The most noticeable increases are under the head of "Direction, Superintendence and Accounts," Rs. 89,714; under "Line Maintenance and Establishment," Rs. 42,163; under "Departmental signal offices," Rs. 1,19,953; and under "Stationery and Printed Forms," Rs. 41,085. The increase under the first head is not explained in the report, but is understood to be mainly due to the re-organisation of the Superior Establishment of the Telegraph Department, which was carried out with the object of ameliorating the position of those Officers in the Department who had suffered from the block in promotion. The increase under the second head is probably due to increase in the mileage to be maintained particularly in Burma. The increase under the third head is 5.5 per cent., while the number of signal offices increased by 6.6 per cent., and this rise is, therefore, moderate. Under the last head the increase is stated to be due partly to the increased number of printed forms used, and partly to a replenishment of the reserve stock of stationery and forms. It should be noted that the expenditure here shown includes outlay incurred in the Public Works Department on the construction and repair of buildings which, as well as the cost of stationery, is not shown against the Telegraph Department in the Finance Accounts.

There have, on the other hand, been decreases in the Working Expenses under the head of "Repairs to Lines." The expenditure under this head is subject to considerable fluctuation, mainly on account of the varying amount of damage done by floods and storms. The expenditure of 1887-88 was about 1½ lakhs less than in 1886-87, but about 1½ lakhs more than in the previous year.

8. The following statement shows the receipts of the year under review, and differs slightly from the Finance Accounts of the year, as being the earnings rather than the actual receipts of the Department:—

	Rs.
Receipts	66,28,660
Working expenses (see para. 6 above)	42,92,248
NET REVENUE	23,36,412

9. In the year 1883-84 the net Revenue was Rs. 3,80,078, which was only 1.19 per cent. of the Capital at that time. The rapid improvement which has taken place in the last four years is due not merely to the increase in receipts (which has, however, been large), but also to the very small increase which has taken place in the working expenses. Thus—

	Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Net Revenue.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1883-84	41,24,264	37,44,186	3,80,078
1887-88	66,28,660	42,92,248	23,36,412

The receipts have increased by 25 lakhs, but the working expenses have only increased by 5½ lakhs. The working expenses of the Telegraph Department are primarily divided into the two main heads—"Line Maintenance" and "Signalling." The following statement shows the expenditure under these heads for the years mentioned:—

YEAR.	Number of messages dealt with.	Number of miles of wire and cable, including Railway wires.	WORKING EXPENSES.		Cost of "Line Maintenance" per mile of wire.	Cost of "Signalling" per message dealt with.
			Line Maintenance.	Signalling.		
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1883-84	1,818,886	68,829	11,70,128	25,74,058	17.0	1.4
1887-88	2,804,485	93,743	12,08,480	30,83,768	12.89	1.1

The amounts expended both on "Line Maintenance" and on "Signalling" are largely composed of the cost of establishments which are permanently entertained. The figures in the above statement seem to show that in 1888 it was possible to deal with a much larger message traffic without any sensible addition to the working expenses, or, in other words, that a considerable proportion of the establishments were formerly working below their real power.

The net Revenue of the year was 5.46 per cent. on the capital of Rs. 4,27,77,583. It is again the largest which has been recorded, and is more than fifty per cent. in excess of the average of the previous three years. It must, however, be remembered that the gross receipts of Rs. 66,28,660 include Rs. 17,07,657 for State messages, which are payments from the State back to itself, and Rs. 34,522, the amount which might have been charged for

messages which were sent free of charge, such as reports of the arrival of Mail Steamers: if these receipts are excluded from the account the net revenue is reduced to Rs. 5,94,234 and the interest on capital to 1.39 per cent.

10. The receipts of the Department consist mainly in message revenue and in receipts from State Railways for wires rented; the figures of the two years which have been selected are shown below:—

	State messages.	Private messages.	Claims from State Railways.	Other sources of revenue, including credit taken for value of free messages.	TOTAL.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1883-84	5,06,239	27,05,131	5,89,813	3,23,081	41,24,264
1887-88	17,07,657*	34,60,339	11,47,983	3,12,681	66,28,660
INCREASE IN FOUR YEARS	12,01,418	7,55,208	5,58,170	—10,400	25,04,396

The number of messages sent during the year was a little over two million eight hundred thousand. This number is 11.55 per cent. larger than in the previous year. The number of State telegrams was again in excess of the unprecedented figures of the previous year, but it is satisfactory to notice that there was generally a more extended use of "Deferred" State telegrams and a reduction in their length in all parts of India except in Upper Burma, where the rather extravagant use of State telegrams was unchecked during 1887-88. On this point the Director General of Telegraphs writes:—

"It may be added that since the 1st April 1888, the number and value of State telegrams sent from Upper Burma have fallen considerably, due, no doubt, to a great extent to the enforcement from that date of the rule requiring all such telegrams to be prepaid. During the first three months of the current year the number of telegrams sent was at the rate of less than half the number sent in 1886-87, and the average value of each was only Rs. 2.4. After making due allowance for the more settled state of the province, these results shew that the rule regarding prepayment of State telegrams by officials acts as a most salutary check on an undue use of the wires to the detriment of the paying public."

The Foreign State messages showed a slight decrease as compared with the previous year.

11. It is interesting to notice how largely political affairs influence the financial results of the Indian Telegraph Department. The following statement shows the number and value of Inland State messages in 1887-88:—

TELEGRAPH DIVISION.	Number of messages.	Value of messages.
		Rs.
Upper Burma	163,084	8,18,776
Lower Burma	47,255	1,67,979
Punjab	80,326	1,97,445
Bengal	43,701	95,377
Thirteen other Divisions	196,827	3,66,220
TOTAL INLAND STATE MESSAGES	537,193	16,45,797

The location of the Government of India at Simla and Calcutta explains the excess of the State messages in the Punjab and Bengal as compared with all other provinces except Upper Burma. The figures which refer to Burma show the very free use which is made of the telegraph lines in that province. Considerably more than half the entire State message revenue of the whole of

India is due to Burma alone. When a normal condition of affairs is established in Burma, the Inland State message revenue should fall to about seven or eight lakhs of rupees yearly, which is somewhat more than the average before the operations in Burma were undertaken. This change would at once reduce the net revenue of the Telegraph Department from 5½ to a little over 3 per cent. on the Capital invested.

12. The State messages from which a gross revenue of Rs. 17,07,657 was derived were divided between Inland and Foreign thus:—

	Number.	Value. Rs.
State, Inland	537,193	16,45,797
" Foreign	6,286	64,268
TOTAL STATE	543,479	17,10,065

In order to make these figures agree with those given in para. 10 of this Resolution, it is necessary to deduct certain messages of which the receipts (Rs. 2,409) are credited to Provincial Revenues. State messages showed an increase under the head of "Deferred" messages as compared with "Urgent" ones, a larger proportion of the former class having been used.

Similarly, the Private messages from which a revenue of Rs. 34,60,339 was derived were divided thus:—

	Number.	Value. Rs.
Private, Inland	1,860,390	19,81,814
" Foreign	403,748	14,81,166
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,264,138	34,62,980

The messages included in these figures, which were credited to Provincial Revenues, were 2,385 in number and Rs. 2,640 in value. The proportion of "Private" messages sent as "Deferred," and the proportion of those sent "Urgent" both decreased during the year, with a corresponding increase in the proportion of "Ordinary" ones.

13. The average length of inland private telegrams in all classes remains very constant at a little over ten chargeable words, exclusive of the address which is not taken into account in India. The average charge is about Rs. 1.1 per message. The privilege of a free address is one which has been withdrawn in England, and the principle that senders should be fully charged for the amount of work involved—that is that the address should be charged for—is now generally adopted in Europe. A free address was adopted in India in 1872, mainly because it was found that senders would not pay for a sufficient address. In comparing the India tariff with that of other countries, it is necessary to remember that the address, which is not paid for, is often longer than the body of the message itself.

14. The following statement shows the progress of private traffic as compared with the increased number of offices:—

	DEPARTMENTAL AND COMBINED SIGNAL OFFICES.		INLAND PRIVATE MESSAGES.			
	Number open.	Percentage of increase compared with previous year.	Number.	Percentage of increase in number compared with previous year.	Value.	Percentage of increase in value as compared with previous year.
1883-84	349	11.14	1,236,140	3.92	Rs. 14,15,754	2.10
1884-85	521	49.23	1,364,814	10.40	15,04,633	6.27
1885-86	634	21.68	1,527,990	11.95	16,38,165	8.87
1886-87	699	10.25	1,683,758	10.19	18,17,798	10.96
1887-88	745	6.58	1,860,390	10.49	19,81,814	9.02

The facilities offered by the Telegraph system may be roughly gauged by the figures in the columns of the statement in paragraph 9, which shows the increase in the number of miles of wires, and by the figures in the second column of the table in this paragraph, which show the increase in the number of signal offices. The increase in the revenue derived from Private messages hardly keeps pace with the increase in those facilities, while the revenue from State messages increases in a much more rapid ratio. The number of Signal Offices has increased since 1883-84 by 113 per cent., the State message revenue by 240 per cent., and the Private message revenue by 40 per cent.

15. Although the progress made in the development of the Inland private message traffic has been rather slow in comparison with the facilities afforded, this class of traffic has steadily increased during the last six years. It is impossible to determine whether this increase is primarily due to the new tariff, which was introduced in 1882, or to the large increase in the mileage of wires and in the number of offices, or to progress on the part of the people. Probably all these causes have tended in different degrees to produce the effect. It is, however, a fact that previously to the introduction of the new tariff in 1882, Inland private messages had for five years shown a tendency to decrease in number, and had actually decreased largely in value, whereas since 1882 the increase, both in number and value, has been progressive. This fact seems to shew that the tariff has been successful, both financially and administratively, and has had its share, along with the other causes named, in producing the increase which has occurred.

16. During the year under review there was a large increase of nearly three lakhs of rupees, or about 40 per cent. in the revenue derived from State Railways; this was due partly to the extension of the wires rented to railways, but chiefly to the introduction of higher rates which it was found necessary to impose, the rates previously in force having been proved to be too low.

17. Private foreign messages increased 7.98 per cent. in number and 12.78 per cent. in value as compared with the previous year; this was a rather larger increase than is usual in this class of traffic. Foreign State messages showed a decrease of 8.87 per cent. in number and 18.12 per cent. in value. The revenue shewn in the Report as received on account of these messages is only about one-ninth of the total cost to the senders, the remainder being credited to the Administrations which carry the messages beyond Indian limits.

18. The speed of transmission of telegrams over all the main routes continues to improve considerably in spite of the increase in the number of messages sent. There was a material increase in speed in the year under review on all lines, except two, as compared with the speed in the previous year: "Ordinary" and "Urgent" messages are now transmitted in about two-thirds of the time which was taken in sending them five years ago. The actual average time in transmission of all foreign messages between Bombay and Madras for the six months ending 31st March last was a few seconds over nine minutes.

19. The rules for Telegraphic money orders were simplified, and the charges reduced from the 1st January 1887. The result has been a very large extension of remittances by this system. During the three months, January, February and March 1887, the number of advices was 2,379 in each month; during the year under review the number increased to an average of 3,868.

20. There were rather more interruptions than usual in the lines and offices, but the average duration of the interruptions was considerably smaller than in the previous year. In Bengal much damage was done to the lines by exceptional storms in May and June; the same cause produced similar results in the neighbourhood of Rangoon. Forty-four faults in Upper Burma were due to the lines being cut by dacoits. An abnormal rise in the Pudda River near Goalundo caused the destruction of two of the four cables in the Calcutta-Rangoon line which crossed the river at that place. The Superintendent of the Dacca Division and his staff deserve credit for the efficient work they performed in saving two of the four cables, and in making temporary arrangements for passing messages across the river.

21. A new line of communication between Upper Burma and India was established during the year by the completion of the line from Assam *via* Manipur, Tammu, Kendat, the Chindwin Valley, and Ava to Mandalay. The line is not at present much used as it is liable to interruption in parts; but in time this route will be a valuable alternative route to Upper Burma. It is also important in view of the possible connection of the Burmese Telegraph lines with those of China. There has been marked progress in the construction of telegraph lines in China during the year. The Northern line from Shanghai through the provinces of Hupé and Szechneu was completed to Yunnan, and three offices have been opened in that province which is partly conterminous with the British Frontier of Upper Burma. A comparatively short distance now intervenes between the Chinese lines and the extremity of the India Telegraph system at Bhamo.

22. The operations of the Telephone Companies at Bombay, Calcutta, Karachi, Madras, Moulmein and Rangoon shewed a small increase in revenue and in the number of private lines; but the number of subscribers and exchange connections decreased.

23. The Government of India desires again to acknowledge the excellent services which Sir A. J. Leppoc Cappel, the Director General of Telegraphs, has rendered to the Government during the past year.

ORDER.—Ordered, that a copy of this Resolution, and of the report, be

The Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and the Punjab.
The Chief Commissioners of the Central Provinces, Burma, and Assam.
The Resident at Hyderabad.
The Agents to the Governor General for Central India, Rajputana, and Baluchistan.

forwarded to the Secretary of State and to the Local Governments and Administrations noted on the margin, and to the Government of Ceylon and the Commissioner in Sind.

Also to the Foreign Department for communication to the Residents at Mysore and Coorg.

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

Also that a copy of this Resolution and of the Report and Appendices A, B, and F be forwarded to the Home Department of the Government of India for information, and be published in the *Gazette of India*.

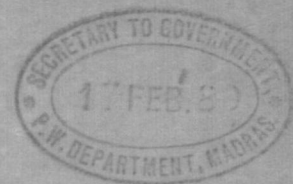
R. E. E.

Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to the Govt. of India.

To The Secy to the Govt of Madras.
The Department

with 6 copies



No. 43 T.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

CIVIL WORKS.

Telegraph.

To

THE GOVERNMENTS OF MADRAS, BOMBAY, BENGAL, NORTH-WESTERN
PROVINCES AND PUNJAB.
THE CHIEF COMMISSIONERS, CENTRAL PROVINCES, BURMA, AND ASSAM.
THE RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.
THE AGENTS TO GOVERNOR GENERAL, CENTRAL INDIA, RAJPUTANA, AND
BALUCHISTAN.
THE GOVERNMENT OF CEYLON.
THE COMMISSIONER IN SIND.
THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.
THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TELEGRAPHS.
THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 11th February 1889.

The undersigned is directed to request that the accompanying copy of
Government of India, Public Works Department, Resolution No. 30 T., dated
the 1st February 1889, may be substituted for the one originally sent under the
same number and date. It is requested that the original and copies of the
Resolution which were sent at first may be returned to this Office.

N.B. Kachley

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Documents accompanying.
Copies of Resolution referred to.

Government of India Central Printing Office.—No. 1141 P. W. D.—12-2-89—18.

To The Secy to the Govt of Madras.
P.W. Department.

Ind. 1872

B. No 722 N. of 9-3-89
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Communicated
to Department of the
Secretary in subti:
- Indian of no. 420 W
dated 14th Dec 1889.
Sp. W. 420 W 8/10/89

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B. No 722 N. of 9-3-89

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To the Public Dept.
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