(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 6

(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 12/1/91

(3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம்

# தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

## தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

62

61

P.W.D துறை

அரசாணை எண்.
மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண். 73

அச்சகம்
பலவகை

நாள் : 8-1-1891 198 .

மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

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No. 361 T.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

CIVIL WORKS.

Telegraph.

73

*Calcutta, the 16th December 1890.*

## Review of the Administration Report of the Indian Telegraph Department for the year 1889-90.

Read—

Letter from the Director General of Telegraphs, No. 66 T., dated the 3rd November 1890, and its enclosure, the Administration Report of the Indian Telegraph Department for the year 1889-90.

OBSERVATIONS.—The Administration Report of the Indian Telegraph Department deals with the whole of the operations under the control of the Director General, with the exception of those relating to the Indo-European Department, the Report on which has been separately submitted and reviewed.

2. The expenditure of the year charged to Capital Account amounted to Rs. 17,18,969. Rs. 16,98,877 were spent on new lines, Rs. 1,32,722 on buildings, and Rs. 98,140 on apparatus and plant, while credit was taken for Rs. 2,10,770 on account of reduction of stores in stock, and adjustments under suspense heads. The Capital outlay to the close of the year under review amounted to Rs. 4,82,73,096, divided as follows:—

| | Rs. | Percentage of net total. |
|---|---|---|
| Lines | 3,53,64,459 | 73·3 |
| Buildings | 53,58,220 | 11·1 |
| Apparatus and Plant | 18,67,406 | 3·9 |
| Stores and Suspense | 35,32,367 | 7·3 |
| Exchange on expenditure in England previous to 1887-88 | 24,09,440 | 4·9 |
| | 4,85,31,902 | |
| *Deduct*— Receipts on Capital Account (including interest on Workshop Capital) | 2,58,806 | |
| TOTAL | 4,82,73,096 | |

3. The additions made to the system during the year comprised 1,817 miles of line and 6,485 miles of wire. The additions were principally in connection with Railway extensions; some work was also undertaken and carried out in the most satisfactory manner in connection with the military operations in the Chin-Lushai country.

4. The following Statement shows for a period of five years the progress that has been made in extending telegraphic communication:—

| | Capital expenditure. | Miles of line. | Miles of wire. | Miles of cable. | Departmental and Postal combined Telegraph Offices opened. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | | | | |
| Up to beginning of 1885-86 | 3,53,79,918 | 25,387 | 74,973 | 142 | 521 |
| During 1885-86 | 29,36,842 | 2,123 | 6,507 | 45 | 113 |
| " 1886-87 | 21,11,273 | 2,524 | 5,410 | 9 | 65 |
| " 1887-88 | 23,49,550 | 1,860 | 6,627 | 30 | 46 |
| " 1888-89 | 37,76,544 | 1,568 | 6,137 | 4 | 52 |
| " 1889-90 | 17,18,969 | 1,817 | 6,485 | 0 | 83 |
| To end of 1889-90 | 4,82,73,096 | 35,279 | 106,139 | 230 | 880 |

5. The Revenue receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 66,30,978. This is inclusive of Rs. 9,90,139 on account of State paid messages, and Rs. 45,363 on account of free messages and other *pro formâ* revenue. State messages are properly included in the receipts, but though credit may be taken for the value of free messages as for revenue earned but remitted, it cannot properly be treated as an actual receipt. The Revenue expenditure amounted to Rs. 45,36,446, thus leaving a profit on the operations of the year of Rs. 20,94,532, which is equivalent to 4·34 per cent. on the Capital outlay. The following Statement summarises the Revenue receipts and charges during the last five years :—

| Year. | Gross Receipts. | Charges. | Net Receipts. | Percentage of Net to Gross receipts. | Dividend on Capital. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | | |
| 1885-86 . . . | 51,10,986 | 36,18,695 | 14,92,291 | 29·1 | 3·89 |
| 1886-87 . . . | 59,76,131 | 41,21,873 | 18,54,258 | 31·0 | 4·59 |
| 1887-88 . . . | 66,28,660 | 42,92,248 | 23,36,412 | 35·2 | 5·46 |
| 1888-89 . . . | 63,22,476 | 43,42,231 | 19,80,245 | 31·3 | 4·45 |
| 1889-90 . . . | 66,30,978 | 45,36,446 | 20,94,532 | 31·5 | 4·34 |

6. The following figures show for the last two years the division of the traffic between State and Private, and Inland and Foreign messages respectively :—

| | 1888-89. | | 1889-90. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number. | Value. | Number. | Value. |
| | | Rs. | | Rs. |
| State Inland . . . . . | 439,558 | 9,24,556 | 491,667 | 9,44,894 |
| „ Foreign . . . . . | 5,888 | 55,377 | 5,947 | 45,245 |
| Total State . | 445,446 | 9,79,933 | 497,614 | 9,90,139 |
| Private Inland . . . . . | 2,113,526 | 22,29,013 | 2,189,332 | 22,75,931 |
| „ Foreign . . . . . | 420,026 | 16,33,436 | 441,537 | 17,56,221 |
| Total Private . | 2,533,552 | 38,62,449 | 2,630,869 | 40,32,152 |
| Grand Total . | 2,978,998 | 48,42,382 | 3,128,483 | 50,22,291 |

7. The State Inland telegrams show an increase of 11·79 per cent. in number, and of 2·18 per cent. in value, the difference being due to an increase in the proportion of deferred messages, and to a certain extent to the curtailment of the length of the telegrams. In State Foreign messages there was an increase of 1 per cent. in number, and a decrease of 18·3 per cent. in value, a decrease which may be taken as due to the larger use of the official Word-Code. A new and greatly enlarged edition of this Code has recently been issued which should result in a still further curtailment of the length of Foreign messages.



73

8. The rate of increase in Inland Private messages received a decided check compared with the figures for 1888-89. In that year the percentage of increase in number was 13·73, and in value 12·59; whereas in the year under review these percentages were only 3·58 and 2·10 respectively; and this in spite of the opening of 83 new departmental and combined offices. The reason assigned in the Report for the decrease in the growth of traffic is that the year 1888-89 was remarkable for large speculations in grain, whereas 1889-90 was a year of normal trade. But this explanation can hardly be accepted as conclusive in view of the fact that the growth of traffic in the four years previous to 1888-89 averaged over 10 per cent. In 1883-84 it was however only 3·92 per cent. following a year in which the growth was 14·9 per cent. It is conceivable that years of steady development may be followed by short periods of comparative quiescence, and the Government of India hopes that the usual satisfactory growth of traffic has only received a temporary check.

9. The following figures show the division of the messages into the three classes of Urgent, Ordinary and Deferred during the last two years :—

| | Percentages. | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Urgent. | | Ordinary. | | Deferred. | |
| | 1889-90. | 1888-89. | 1889-90. | 1888-89. | 1889-90. | 1888-89. |
| State . . . . . | 11·15 | 15·93 | 19·86 | 16·58 | 68.99 | 67·49 |
| Private . . . . . | 5·56 | 6·25 | 44·84 | 46·01 | 49·60 | 47·74 |
| Press . . . . . | 5·79 | 5·39 | 30·10 | 37·38 | 64·11 | 57·23 |

The use of "urgent" messages by the State has decreased in consequence of the extension of the permission to send such messages classed as "ordinary;" for private and press messages, the proportion classed as "urgent" remains almost stationary. The use of "deferred" messages continues gradually to increase.

The number of Inland Press telegrams sent during the year was 24,789, which is almost identical with the number sent in 1888-89. The number of Foreign Press telegrams increased from 2,232 to 3,224.

10. The following Statement gives the distribution of the Revenue charges during the last five years under the principal heads :—

| | Line Maintenance. | | | | Signalling. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year. | Establishment. | Repairs to lines and buildings. | Office stores and miscellaneous. | Total. | Establishment. | Repairs to buildings. | Office stores and miscellaneous. | Total. |
| | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| 1885-86 . | 6,90,204 | 1,87,358 | 23,060 | 9,00,622 | 25,82,675 | 56,671 | 78,727 | 27,18,073 |
| 1886-87 . | 7,12,732 | 4,67,426 | 45,244 | 12,25,402 | 27,32,671 | 51,758 | 1,12,042 | 28,96,471 |
| 1887-88 . | 7,98,937 | 3,41,746 | 67,797 | 12,08,480 | 28,84,010 | 49,343 | 1,50,415 | 30,83,768 |
| 1888-89 . | 8,02,521 | 3,39,880 | 60,690 | 12,03,091 | 29,22,850 | 51,591 | 1,64,699 | 31,39,140 |
| 1889-90 . | 8,22,820 | 3,93,551 | 69,851 | 12,86,222 | 30,15,465 | 64,818 | 1,69,941 | 32,50,224 |

The average cost of signalling for each message dealt with was Rs. 1·03, and the cost of line maintenance per mile of wire was Rs. 12·09.

11. The number of offices open to the public at the close of the year was 2,935, an increase of 195 over the figures for the previous year. Of these 1,411 were Railway and Canal offices supervised by the Department, and 644 were Railway offices managed by the Companies making a total of 2,055 against 1,943 in 1888-89; 682 were Departmental and combined offices worked by extra-Departmental agency, and 198 were worked by the Department. Of the extra-Departmental offices 48 were worked by soldiers and 632 by the Post Office, the latter showing an increase of 80 over the figures for the previous year. This class of office has proved most useful in collecting traffic. The strength of the Departmental staff was 1,384 Telegraph Masters and Signallers and 18 soldiers, while 813 Postal clerks were employed in the combined offices. Of the Departmental staff, 442 were enrolled as Volunteers.

12. The speed of transmission between Calcutta and Rangoon and *vice versâ* showed a satisfactory improvement, but between the three Presidency towns there was a decrease in speed due mainly to the increase in traffic, and as regards Calcutta and Madras to the defective insulation owing to climatic causes of the coast route. There were 1,020 complaints received during the year, against 925 in 1888-89. The principal cause of complaint was non-delivery. The complaints admitted were 58 per cent. of those received, and were about equally divided between non-delivery, delay, and error. The percentage of messages that formed the subject of complaint was ·029, which may be considered satisfactory. The number of telegrams that could not be delivered for various causes was 15,216, or 0·414 of those sent, the principal causes of non-delivery being insufficient or inaccurate addresses. The number of telegraphic money orders advised was 71,954 against 58,770 in the previous year.

13. The interruptions to communication that occurred on Departmental lines was 1,381, which is 47 less than in previous year. The average duration of the interruption was 21 hours. On Railway and Canal lines maintained by the Department there were 452 interruptions, averaging 18 hours. These figures are exclusive of interruptions caused by accidents and mistakes in the Signal offices. The majority of the faults on the lines were caused by floods.

14. Nothing novel in the way of electrical improvements is reported. The number of circuits worked on the quadruplex and duplex systems was increased.

15. The Field Telegraph work carried out during the year under review was the erection of 372 miles of wire in connection with the Chin-Lushai Expedition. The work, which was of an extremely arduous and trying nature on account of the natural difficulties of the country and the intensely feverish character of its climate, was carried out in a manner which earned the warm encomium of the General Officers Commanding the Field Forces. The Director General specially notices the services rendered by Mr. E. O. Walker and Mr. F. E. Dempster, Assistant Superintendents. The Government of India has already recorded its appreciation of the services rendered by the Department in this trying expedition, which do credit to all concerned. There was unfortunately a considerable mortality among the subordinate staff and work-people, a number of whom had also to be invalided.

16. There was only a small increase to the number of connections with telephone exchanges. Those managed by Companies in Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Karachi, Moulmein and Rangoon had 961 subscribers and 1,001 exchange connections. The telephones managed by the Department had 13 exchanges and 103 exchange connections.

17. The Administration Report was submitted on 3rd November, which is nine days earlier than that for 1888-89. The earlier submission is noticed with satisfaction. It is prepared in correct form and gives a clear and satisfactory account of the operations of the Department. It would, however, be improved by the addition of a map, shewing the principal telegraph lines and the extensions of the year; and the Director General is requested to arrange for the insertion of this in future Reports.



18. The administration of the Department was in the hands of Colonel Mallock throughout the year under review and was conducted to the entire satisfaction of Government.

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ORDER.—Ordered, that a copy of this Review, and of the Report, be forwarded to the Secretary of State and to the Local Governments and Administrations noted on the margin, and to the Government of Ceylon for information.

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

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

Also that a copy of this Review, 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 Supplement to the *Gazette of India*.

*Colonel, R.E.,*
*Secretary to the Govt. of India.*

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