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Departments of the  
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Idy C.V.B.  
5-11-91

" J.P. 6-11

To The Public Dept  
" Rev. Dept  
" Milg. Dept

The values credited to Imperial revenues were slightly less in the case of Inland messages, as the receipts from three offices are treated as Provincial.

The percentages of increase in numbers of State telegrams, both inland and foreign, remains the same as for the last two years. On the other hand, the increase under private inland messages was nearly 8 per cent. against  $3\frac{1}{2}$  last year, and under foreign private was  $9\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. against 5 per cent. This increased growth of private traffic is satisfactory as showing that the check noticed in 1889-90 was only temporary.

6. The use of word codes, both commercial and official, continues to affect the value of the Indian share of the receipts for all classes of foreign messages. Notwithstanding an increase in number of 42,152 over the previous year, the value fell off by Rs. 1,36,856. In 1889-90 the average value of a private foreign message was Rs. 4.0 and in 1890-91 only 3.4. The introduction of the new official word code has reduced the average value of State messages from Rs. 7.6 to 6.2.

7. The proportions of Inland messages in the three classes of urgent, ordinary, and deferred remain practically the same as last year, being respectively 11.0, 20.2 and 68.8 per cent. for State, and 5.8, 43.8 and 50.4 for private telegrams. The use of deferred messages by the public shows a slow but steady tendency to increase, the figures for the last three years being 47.7, 49.6 and 50.4 per cent. of the total despatched. Inland Press telegrams decreased from 24,789 to 22,354, but the average value varied but little, being Rs. 3.15 this year against 3.19 in 1889-90.

8. The receipts from telegraphic money order advices have steadily risen from Rs. 46,420 in 1887-88 to Rs. 84,703 in 1890-91, which shows that the public appreciates the facilities afforded by the introduction of this system of remitting money.

9. The charges for line maintenance were Rs. 13,42,117 or Rs. 11.8 per mile of wire, and for signalling Rs. 33,46,685 or Rs. 0.98 for each message. The corresponding rates last year were 12.09 and 1.03. The decrease in cost of signalling, which has been continuous since 1885-86, when it amounted to Rs. 1.19 for each message dealt with, is satisfactory.

10. The speed of transmission over the main routes remains about the same, being dependent more or less on the amount of traffic. Some of the main lines are being strengthened by the addition of extra wires, and a copper wire has been laid between Calcutta and Bombay on the direct route, *via* the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, through which duplex working has been very successful.

11. The number of complaints preferred was 1,106 or 3 per 10,000 messages received. The number of undelivered telegrams was 12,995 or about 3 per 1,000 handed in for despatch. The working of the departmental lines was carried out with a total of 1,947 interruptions, averaging 20 hours each, against 1,840 averaging 19 hours last year. The increase was due to severe floods in Upper Burma and to the heavy snowfall which broke many of the hill lines in the Punjab Division. Only 18 per cent. of the faults were due to preventable causes.

12. During the year some excellent work was done by the Department in laying field telegraph lines. The Sikkim line was maintained, as also that in the Chin Country. A new line in the Assam Section of the Chin-Lushai Country was laid from Jhalnacheria to Fort Aijal, a distance of 59 miles through a most difficult and unhealthy country. The other two sections of line through Lushai from Demagiri to Fort Tregear and from Pokoko to Haka were strengthened. The working parties suffered severely from sickness, one officer losing his life and another being invalided. For the Hazara Expedition 182 miles of extra wire had to be laid to connect Hussan Abdal and Abbottabad with the bases of operations at Derband and Oghi, and from those points onwards 103 miles of field wire were laid and 15 offices opened. The services of Mr. Bignell, Mr. Barker, Mr. Pinhey, Mr. Thomas and other officers have been warmly acknowledged by the General Officers Commanding the field forces

on these various expeditions, and the Government of India also desires to again record its appreciation of the thorough and able manner in which most useful assistance has been rendered by the Department under very exhausting conditions of climate and trying hardships, all of which these officers have shared in common with the troops employed.

13. The receipts of the Telephone Companies at Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Karachi, Moulmein and Rangoon show a small increase of Rs. 10,657, while the number of subscribers is now 1,004 against 961 in the previous year. Additional exchanges at Cawnpore and Mandalay are under supply. A reduction has been made in the rates charged for wires under management of the Department, and a new and improved form of telephone has been introduced.

14. The following events of general interest occurred during the year. The Quinquennial International Telegraph Conference was held during June at Paris, the Government of India being represented by Colonel Mallock, the late Director General. No important changes directly affecting the Indian public were introduced.

The charges per word between India and the Straits Settlements have been reduced, partly by reductions in the Indian terminal and transit rates, and partly by reductions in the Eastern Extension Company's rates. The transit rate claimable by India for messages passing between Europe and the Far East was largely reduced.

Another cable is being laid between Suez and Bombay by the Eastern Telegraph Company, and the Eastern Extension Company have added a second cable between Madras and Penang to replace that on the Elephant Point-Penang route, which has been taken up.

By the connection of the French lines in Tonquin with China a new and cheap route for messages to the latter country *via* Siam has been opened out.

15. The Department has been throughout the year administered to the complete satisfaction of the Government of India by Mr. W. R. Brooke, the Director General. The Administration Report, which has been submitted nearly a month earlier than that for the previous year, clearly describes the operations of the Department, and is accompanied by a skeleton map showing the principal telegraph lines and the extensions made during the year.

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*.

J. G. FORBES, Colonel, R. E.,  
Secretary to the Govt. of India.

No. 224 T.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

CIVIL WORKS.

Telegraph.

Dated Simla, the 29th October 1891.

Review of the Administration Report of the Indian Telegraph Department for the year 1890-91.

Read—

Letter from Director General of Telegraphs, No. 44-T., dated 5th October 1891, and its enclosure, the Administration Report of the Indian Telegraph Department for the year 1890-91.

OBSERVATIONS.—The report deals with the whole of the operations under the control of the Director General of Telegraphs, with the exception of those relating to the Indo-European system, the report on which will, as usual, be dealt with separately.

2. During the year Rs. 19,68,580 were added to the capital expenditure, of which the greater portion was for new lines. The total capital outlay at the close of the year stood at Rs. 5,02,41,676.

3. The net additions to the system during the year comprised 1,791 miles of line, 7,373 miles of wire, and 21 miles of cable: at the close of the year there were in operation 37,070 miles of line, 113,512 miles of wire, and 251 miles of cable.

The number of telegraph offices open to the public at the end of the year was 3,103, of which 949 were departmental or combined offices and 2,154 were on railways and canals: the net increase to the number of offices during the year was 168.

4. The gross receipts for the year, including State paid messages, amounted to Rs. 68,28,855, and the working expenses to Rs. 46,88,802. The profit on the operations was Rs. 21,40,053, which is equal to a return of 4.26 per cent. on the capital outlay. The percentages for the two previous years were 4.34 and 4.45. The slight falling off is entirely due to the decreased receipts from foreign telegrams referred to in paragraph 6 below.

5. The following table shows the total number of telegrams, both State and Private, Inland and Foreign, despatched during the last two years, and their respective values :—

|                |     |     |     | 1889-90.  |           | 1890-91.  |           |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                |     |     |     | Number.   | Value.    | Number.   | Value.    |
|                |     |     |     |           | Rs.       |           | Rs.       |
| State Inland   | ... | ... | ... | 493,442   | 9,46,586  | 552,436   | 10,56,108 |
| „ Foreign      | ... | ... | ... | 5,947     | 45,245    | 6,026     | 37,199    |
| Total, State   |     |     |     | 499,389   | 9,91,831  | 558,462   | 10,93,307 |
| Private Inland | ... | ... | ... | 2,191,645 | 22,78,300 | 2,365,028 | 24,53,288 |
| „ Foreign      | ... | ... | ... | 441,537   | 17,56,221 | 483,610   | 16,27,411 |
| Total, Private |     |     |     | 2,633,182 | 40,34,521 | 2,848,638 | 40,80,699 |
| GRAND TOTAL    |     |     |     | 3,132,571 | 50,26,352 | 3,407,100 | 51,74,006 |