MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

P. W. CURRENT. No. 7756

Bk 2731 w.e 25.10.93

No. 2619 dt. 18th October 1894.

Communicated to
Departments of the
Secretariat for information.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

No. 223 T.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

CIVIL WORKS.

Telegraphs.

Simla, the 3rd October 1894.

Review of the Administration Report of the Indian Telegraph Department for the year 1893-94.

Read—

Letter from the Director General of Telegraphs, No. 46 T., dated the 11th August 1894, and its enclosure, being the Administration Report of the Indian Telegraph Department for the year 1893-94.

OBSERVATIONS.—The Administration Report of the Indian Telegraph Department deals with the whole of the operations under the control of the Director General.

2. The expenditure of the year charged to Capital Account amounted to Rs. 22,54,374. The capital outlay to the close of the year under review amounted to Rs. 5,66,00,989 divided as follows :—

	Rs.	Percentage of net total.
Lines	4,29,40,894	75·9
Buildings	57,55,023	10·2
Apparatus and plant	22,10,710	3·9
Stores and suspense	36,09,120	6·4
Exchange on expenditure in England previous to 1887-88	24,09,440	4·2
	5,69,25,187	
Deduct—		
Receipts on Capital Account (including interest on Workshop Capital) ...	3,24,198	0·6
TOTAL ...	5,66,00,989	

3. The additions made to the system during the year comprised 1,677 miles of line and 8,004 miles of wire. There was no change in the mileage of cable in use.

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

	Capital expenditure.	Miles of line.	Miles of wire.	Miles of cable.	Offices opened.		
					Departmental, ordinary and postal combined.	Railway and Canal.	TOTAL.
	Rs.						
Up to beginning of 1889-90 ...	4,65,97,225	33,462	99,654	230	797	1,334	2,131
During 1889-90 ...	16,75,871	1,817	6,485	...	83	77	160
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,, 1891-92 ...	19,42,128	1,555	6,647	2	52	—33	19
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,, 1893-94 ...	22,54,374	1,677	8,004	...	124	58	182
To end of 1893-94 ...	5,66,00,989	42,707	134,255	274	1,224	1,511	2,735

During the ten year period the number of messages has increased by about 122 per cent. and their value by over 102 per cent.

12. The following statement gives the distribution of the revenue charges during the last five years under the principal heads :—

Year.	Line maintenance.				Signalling.			
	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.
1889-90	8,22,820	3,93,551	69,851	12,86,222	30,15,465	64,818	1,69,941	32,50,224
1890-91	8,53,782	4,29,575	58,760	13,42,117	31,18,427	64,777	1,63,481	33,46,685
1891-92	8,79,200	3,70,357	72,080	13,21,637	32,45,459	64,596	2,02,603	35,12,658
1892-93	9,07,049	4,82,482	83,617	14,73,148	34,02,114	59,414	2,22,322	36,83,850
1893-94	9,75,007	4,37,270	63,623	14,75,900	35,31,694	56,038	2,41,129	38,28,861

13. The strength of the signalling establishment amounted at the close of the year to 3,207 of whom 1,647 were departmental officers, 317 British military signallers, and 1,222 postal clerks.

14. The speed of transmission of messages over the principal main routes has been well maintained. There is a marked improvement in speed between Calcutta and Rangoon owing to the Melhuish transformer apparatus having been in use on these circuits throughout the year, and the improvement in speed on the Calcutta-Madras circuits is attributed partly to the same cause and partly to the high state of efficiency into which the lines have been brought.

The number of complaints received relating to the Indian Telegraph Department was 1,393, equivalent to 0·03 of the total number of messages, of which 881 were admitted. Of those admitted, 177 applied to non-delivery, 209 to delay, and 296 to mistakes. The number of messages that for various causes could not be delivered amounted to 14,395, equivalent to 0·289 of the total number received for transmission.

15. The total number of interruptions to communications amounted to 2,216, which shows a slight increase over the previous year, the total duration of the interruptions was also greater.

16. The number of telegraphic money orders rose to 115,440 from 107,256 in the previous year.

On the 1st May 1893, the exchange of telegraphic money orders with Ceylon was commenced, and in addition to the figures given above, 281 orders were sent and 1,668 received.

17. The Inland Press telegrams sent numbered 26,340, of the value of Rs. 1,01,826, against 25,834 valued at Rs. 95,088 in the previous year.

The Foreign Press messages numbered 3,255, and the Indian share of the charges thereon amounted to Rs. 16,896.

18. As regards electrical improvements, Mr. W. F. Melhuish's apparatus for long distance telegraphy has fulfilled the expectations which were formed of it. The apparatus has been largely brought into use, resulting already in a reduction of establishment of 3 telegraph masters and 57 signallers, representing approximately a saving of Rs. 64,000 per annum. Towards the close of the year under review Mr. Melhuish succeeded in showing that the auxiliary effect produced by his apparatus in the case of duplex working was also beneficial in

quadruplex working, and at the close of the year a circuit so fitted up was opened and satisfactorily worked between Calcutta and Agra, a distance of 841 miles.

19. The use of the telephone continues to show satisfactory progress. At the end of the year 1893 there were 1,360 subscribers and 1,380 exchange connections to the Telephone Companies at Bombay, Calcutta, Kurrachee, Madras, Moulmein and Rangoon. There were also 26 exchanges and 205 exchange connections under the control of the Telegraph Department.

20. The construction of the Kashmir telegraph line from Srinagar to Astor was proceeded with, but the severe floods of July 1893 necessitated the working party being broken up before the line was completed in a permanent manner.

21. The Administration Report was received from the Director General of Telegraphs on 13th August, earlier than on any previous occasion. It has been correctly prepared, and the results which it exhibits are highly satisfactory and creditable to the administration of the Director General and the working of the staff of the Department.

The Government of India have much pleasure in taking this opportunity of recording their approbation of the progress exhibited in all branches of the Department, and of the smoothness of its working under Mr. Brooke s direction.

They also recognize with satisfaction the skill and ingenuity of Mr. Melhuish, whose improvements in electrical apparatus have resulted in considerable saving to the State and increased speed in the transmission of messages; and are further pleased to endorse the commendation accorded by the Director General to the other officers specially mentioned in his report.

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

Also that a copy of the 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 that the Review be published in the *Gazette of India*.

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 in Mysore.
The Agents to the Governor General in Central India, Rajputana, and Baluchistan.

J. M. Binet

Lieut.-Col., R. E.,
Secretary to the Government of India.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. 1013 P. W. D.—4-10-94—250.

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

P. M. CURRENT P. No. 7756

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(Sd) J. P.
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It is noticed with satisfaction that the private traffic continues to exhibit rapid progress. In the year under review there is a rise of 208,746 in the number of private messages and of Rs. 4,03,668 in their value.

The State Inland telegrams exhibit a decrease of 5,898, or ·98 per cent. in number, and of Rs. 1,09,416 or 9·12 per cent. in value. The decrease is attributed partly to the deferred service being found to be sufficiently expeditious for most State purposes and partly to the absence of Military operations.

The number of private Inland telegrams increased by 194,480 and their value by Rs. 1,63,726, equivalent to 6·85 and 5·67 per cent. respectively.

In Foreign Private telegrams there is an increase over the figures for the previous year of 14,266 in number and of Rs. 2,39,942 in value.

The revenue from trans-Indian traffic, which suffered a considerable diminution in the two preceding years owing to reduction in rates for transit across India, exhibits a satisfactory rise to Rs. 7,09,681 in the year under review, thus nearly approaching the figure of Rs. 7,31,553 at which the revenue stood in 1890-91, prior to the change in the transit rates.

9. The following table gives the percentages of traffic in number and value due to each class of message :—

Class of telegram.	Inland.		Foreign.		Total.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
State	14·30	17·95	·16	1·01	14·46	18·96
Private	72·45	50·28	13·09	30·76	85·54	81·04
Total ...	86·75	68·23	13·25	31·77	100·00	100·00

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

	Percentages.					
	Urgent.		Ordinary.		Deferred.	
	1893-94.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1892-93.
State	9·74	11·66	19·95	19·00	70·31	69·34
Private	5·84	6·04	41·01	42·36	53·15	51·60
Press	4·85	5·41	22·46	22·70	72·69	71·89

11. The growth of Inland private traffic in a period of ten years is shown by the following figures :—

	Number of messages.	Value. Rs.
1884-85	1,364,814	15,04,633
1893-94	3,031,993	30,52,291
Increase	1,667,179	15,47,658

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12. The following statement gives the distribution of the revenue charges during the last five years under the principal heads:—

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No. 2619 dt 18 October 1894.

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(Sd) J. L. W

The Public Department
" Revenue —"—
" Military —"—

5. The operations of the Department during the year under review are satisfactory. The Revenue receipts amounted to Rs. 80,07,306, being an increase of Rs. 4,24,132 over the figures for the previous year. The Revenue expenditure amounted to Rs. 53,04,761 being an increase of Rs. 1,47,763. The net receipts thus amounted to Rs. 27,02,545, showing an increase of Rs. 2,76,369. The Revenue receipts include Rs. 11,51,145 on account of State messages and Rs. 88,780 on account of news-free and other *pro formâ* revenue. The receipts on account of State messages may properly be included in estimating the return on capital outlay of the Department; but, as stated in the review of the Report for 1891-92, the *pro formâ* revenue should not be so included. Exclusive of the *pro formâ* revenue the net receipts amounted to 4·61 per cent. on the Capital outlay.

6. The revenue Receipts are made up as follows:—

	Rs.
Message revenue, including State messages	60,70,960
Rent of lines, etc., on railways and canals	15,93,402
Rent of private lines, etc.	2,02,132
Sale of books, gazettes, etc.	18,007
Miscellaneous	34,025
Total	79,18,526
News-free and *pro formâ* revenue	88,780
GRAND TOTAL	80,07,306

7. The following statement summarises the Revenue receipts and charges during the last five years:—

Year.	Gross receipts, excluding *pro formâ* revenue.	Charges.	Net receipts.	Percentage of net to gross receipts.	Dividend on capital.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		
1889-90	65,85,615	45,36,446	20,49,169	31·1	4·24
1890-91	67,83,016	46,88,802	20,94,214	30·9	4·17
1891-92	73,80,285	48,34,295	25,45,990	34·5	4·88
1892-93	75,31,726	51,56,998	23,74,728	31·5	4·37
1893-94	79,18,526	53,04,761	26,13,765	33·0	4·61

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

Class of telegrams.	1892-93.		1893-94.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		Rs.		Rs.
State Inland	604,124	11,99,419	598,226	10,90,003
" Foreign	6,164	52,384	6,695	61,142
TOTAL STATE ...	610,288	12,51,803	604,921	11,51,145
Private Inland	2,837,513	28,88,565	3,031,993	30,52,291
" Foreign	533,610	16,27,582	547,876	18,67,524
TOTAL PRIVATE ...	3,371,123	45,16,147	3,579,869	49,19,815
GRAND TOTAL ...	3,981,411	57,67,950	4,184,790	60,70,960

No. 223 T.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

CIVIL WORKS.

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