

Letter No. 204 T. dated the 17th September 1894.
From-The Government of India, Public Works Department.
To - The
Chairman, Madras Chamber of Commerce.

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X herewith returns
I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your
letter dated 8th August 1894,
in which you deprecate the introduction into India of the
Official Telegraphic Vocabulary, which the International
Telegraph Conference held at Paris in 1890, resolved to
adopt in the transmission of telegrams exchanged within
European limits.-

2.-In reply, I am to invite your attention to Section I,
paragraph 1 of Home Department Notification No. 1812 dated
the 11th October 1889 (an extract of which is enclosed for
convenience of reference), and to say that the Government
of India consider it desirable that the procedure laid
down in that Notification should be adhered to.-

3. I am, therefore, to request that you will be good enough
to place the opinions of your chamber on this subject
before the Government of Madras
for submission to the Government of India.-

4. I am also to take this opportunity of reminding you
that the Notice referred to in this correspondence, in which
the Director of Traffic, Indian Telegraph Department, recom-
mended the use of this Official Telegraph Vocabulary has
not made its adoption other than optional.

NOTICE.

At the International Telegraph Conference held at Paris in 1890 it was resolved that the International Office of the Telegraph Administrations should prepare an Official Vocabulary or Book of Code words admissible in telegrams composed partly or wholly of preconcerted language, that is to say, of words which, while presenting in the case of each an intrinsic sense, do not form intelligible phrases to the Administrations engaged in their transmission,

2. It was also resolved that, after the expiration of a delay of three years following the date of publication, the use of this official Code in telegrams exchanged within European limits would be obligatory.

3. The work of compiling this official Code is now almost finished, and it is expected that the book will be printed and ready for delivery in 1894. It is intended that it should contain in its permanent form at least 200,000 words as a minimum, but in the first edition there will be 240,000 words to provide a sufficient margin for subsequent elimination of words which, when expressed in telegraphic symbols, bear so close a resemblance to other words as to at times have been mistaken for them in the course of signalling.

4. Although the use of this official Code is not compulsory in telegrams exchanged between countries in Europe and other parts of the world, yet the employment of it in India is recommended, as in the first place it is likely to be largely adopted, as a matter of convenience by mercantile firms in Europe having business relations with the East, and in the second place no Telegraph Office can take exception to any Code telegram composed entirely

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of words taken from the Official Vocabulary.

5. It cannot at present be stated with certainty what ^{price} the sale of the Vocabulary in India will be, but it is not expected to exceed R 12 per copy.

6. Intending subscribers are requested to fill in very early the annexed form of registration, and to forward it direct to the Superintendent in charge of the Check Office, Calcutta, who will receive applications up to the end of November 1893.

(Sd.) W.F. Melhuish,
Director of Traffic.

Simla,

The 31st October 1893.

From _____

To _____

The Superintendent, Check Office,
Calcutta.

Sir,

Please register my name as a subscriber to the Official Vocabulary for the composition of Code telegrams. The number of copies required by me is _____, and the mode of delivery should be by* _____

Signature _____

Address _____

*The book will, as a rule, be despatched by value-payable post, but in large presidency towns delivery will be effected by the Central Telegraph Office.

All communications
should be addressed to
the Secretary.

No. 205. T.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
CIVIL WORKS.
Telegraphs.

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Public Works Department.

Simla, the 17th September 1894.

Sir,

I am directed to forward copy of a letter No. 204 T dated the 17th September 1894, addressed to the Chamber of Commerce, Madras, returning, for submission, through the Local Government in accordance with Home Department Notification No. 1812, dated 11th October 1889, a letter which had been addressed by the Chamber to the Government of India direct.

2. The letter in question contained a protest against the introduction into India of the Official Telegraphic Vocabulary, which the International Telegraph conference, held at Paris in 1890, resolved to adopt in the transmission of telegrams exchanged within European limits.

3. I am also to forward copy of a notice, dated the 31st October 1893, issued by the Director of Traffic, Indian Telegraph Department, which has been taken by the Chamber of Commerce as affording some indication of an intention on the part of the Government of India to render the use of the Code obligatory in India. It will be seen, however, that although in paragraph 4 of the notice the employment of the Code in India is recommended it is distinctly stated that

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that its use is not compulsory in telegrams exchanged between
Countries in Europe and other parts of the world. The grounds
for the protest of the Chamber of Commerce, Madras, are,
therefore, not apparent.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

N. F. MacKenzie

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Documents accompanying :-

Letter and Notice referred to.

No: 28766 d, 10th June 1894.

Recorded.

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Regrd: 27.9.94

Recd Ctd 25.9.94

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*Note - This paper was circu-
lated to H. the Governor with
no 7800, the draft on which
has been initialed by His Secy.*

*INDEXED
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