

P. W.
Marine (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 2865 *W*

DATED 11th Nov^r 98

Administration [Despatch Abstract.] *Report of the Indian Telegraph*
Dept

Govt India Review of the
for 1897-98, Communicated to the
Revenue, Public Deptts

[illegible]

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

To The Revenue Deptt ✓
 " Public Deptt
 9/14/96

SUBJECT
Indian Telegraph Dept.
 Review of the Admini-
 stration Report of the
 for the year 1897-98.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
2969	W 9	23.10.	97
3064	W 9	28.10.	96
2578	W 9	23.10.	95

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Six new river cables aggregating nearly 10 miles and seven under ground cables aggregating nearly one mile were laid during the year; but the abandonment of some 16 miles of old cables reduced the total length in use by nearly 5 miles. The expenditure on buildings includes that on the new buildings at Shillong which were subsequently destroyed by the earthquake of June 1897 and on the new offices at Vizagapatam, Comilla and Jalpaiguri.

2. The progress that has been made in extending public telegraphic communication during the five-year period ending the 31st March 1898 is shewn in the following statement:—

	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 1893-94.	5,43,46,615	41,030	126,251	274	1,100	1,453	2,553
During 1893-94 ...	22,54,374	1,677	8,004	...	124	58	182
„ 1894-95 ...	7,83,307	1,941	4,001	—3	138	10	148
„ 1895-96 ...	13,84,286	1,727	4,670	—8	99	12	111
„ 1896-97 ...	17,30,812	2,209	5,210	6	102	73	175
„ 1897-98 ...	24,37,040	1,722	6,688	—5	71	62	133
To end of 1897-98 ...	6,29,36,434	50,306	154,824	264	1,634	1,668	3,302

TRAFFIC.

3. The total number of telegrams sent in 1897-98 amounted to 5,713,227 as compared with 5,077,584 in 1896-97, showing an increase of 635,643 or 12½ per cent. The corresponding increase in value was Rs. 20,35,170 or nearly 29 per cent. Of this sum Rs. 17,84,664 was contributed by the increased volume of Inland State messages, their number being nearly 43½ per cent. in excess of the number sent in the previous year while their value increased by no less than 158¾ per cent. The unprecedented dimensions of the State traffic of 1897-98 is attributed in a great measure to the military operations on the North-West Frontier, and to illustrate the development of the telegraph in connection with such operations the Director General of Telegraphs compares the traffic of the past year with that of 1880-81 and 1887-88, the years which witnessed the principal operations of the Afghan and Burmese wars respectively. The number and value of State telegrams in each of those years were as follows:

	Number of State telegrams.	Value. Rs.
1880-81 (Afghan war) ...	313,648	12,97,533
1887-88 (Burmese war) ...	537,193	16,45,797
1897-98 (Tirah and other expeditions) ...	860,382	29,08,173

These figures are instructive, but, as the Director General of Telegraphs points out, the large increase in the past year was not entirely caused by the frontier disturbances, and was probably due in no small measure to the famine, plague and earthquake.

The growth of the Inland traffic since the present tariff was introduced in 1882-83 is clearly exhibited in the following table which is reprinted from paragraph 26 of the report.

Inland Traffic.—This table includes State and Private messages, and shows the growth of both since the present tariff was introduced.

YEAR.	STATE INLAND.				PRIVATE INLAND.				TOTAL INLAND.				Number of de- part- mental offices remain- ing open at the close of each year.
	Number.	Value.	PERCENTAGE OF NUMBER COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEAR.		Number.	Value.	PERCENTAGE OF NUMBER COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEAR.		Number.	Value.	PERCENTAGE OF NUMBER COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEAR.		
			In- crease.	De- crease.			In- crease.	De- crease.			In- crease.	De- crease.	
1882-83 ...	253,731	6,09,818	3-21	...	1,169,437	13,86,630	14-90	...	1,443,168	19,96,448	12-66	...	314
1883-84*	226,840	4,71,232	...	10-60	1,236,140	14,15,754	3-92	...	1,462,980	18,86,986	1-37	...	349
1884-85 ...	286,966	6,63,649	26-50	...	1,364,814	15,04,653	10-40	...	1,651,780	21,68,282	12-90	...	521
1885-86 ...	382,732	9,24,445	33-37	...	1,527,990	16,38,165	11-95	...	1,910,722	25,62,610	15-67	...	634
1886-87 ...	452,277	16,20,626	18-17	...	1,683,758	18,17,798	10-19	...	2,136,035	34,38,424	11-79	...	699
1887-88 ...	537,193	16,45,797	18-77	...	1,860,390	19,81,814	10-49	...	2,397,583	36,27,611	12-24	...	745
1888-89 ...	441,375	9,26,391	...	87-88	2,115,863	22,31,514	13-73	...	2,557,238	31,57,905	6-65	...	797
1889-90 ...	493,442	9,46,586	11-71	...	2,191,645	22,78,300	3-58	...	2,685,087	32,24,886	5-00	...	880
1890-91 ...	552,436	10,56,108	11-96	...	2,365,028	24,53,288	7-91	...	2,917,464	35,09,396	8-65	...	949
1891-92 ...	661,904	14,54,770	19-81	...	2,627,408	26,95,428	11-09	...	3,289,312	41,50,198	12-74	...	1,001
1892-93 ...	604,124	11,99,419	...	8-73	2,837,513	28,88,565	7-99	...	3,441,637	40,87,984	4-63	...	1,100
1893-94 ...	598,226	10,90,003	...	9-97	3,031,993	30,52,291	6-85	...	3,630,219	41,42,294	5-48	...	1,224
1894-95 ...	555,571	11,52,852	...	2-11	3,231,555	32,15,974	6-58	...	3,817,126	43,68,826	5-14	...	1,362
1895-96 ...	603,366	12,61,667	3-03	...	3,491,571	34,75,316	8-04	...	4,094,937	47,36,983	7-28	...	1,461
1896-97 ...	599,890	11,23,509	...	5-7	3,786,938	37,38,421	8-45	...	4,386,838	48,61,930	7-12	...	1,561
1897-98†...	860,382	29,08,173	43-42	...	4,107,270	39,53,590	8-45	...	4,967,652	68,61,763	13-24	...	1,634

* Postal Telegraph combined office system introduced.

† All deferred messages delivered by hand instead of by post, the general rule hitherto.

4. It is observed that while the progressive increase in the number of Inland private telegrams has been maintained there has been a falling off in the rate of increase in their value. This is said to be mainly due to the introduction of the system of delivering deferred messages by hand instead of by post as formerly, the change having resulted in a large increase in the proportion of these messages. Private traffic is said to have been stimulated during the year by speculations in grain, silver and gold, and also by the earthquake in June and by the military operations on the frontier, while on the other hand the plague and famine by interfering with trade in some places affected the traffic unfavourably. The number of private Inland messages has increased by over 94 per cent. and their value by over 77 per cent. in the last 10 years.

In foreign private traffic there was an increase of 53,645 messages or 7.86 per cent., the corresponding increase of revenue being Rs. 17,552 or 0.83 per cent.

The Inland Press telegrams numbered 35,910 and were valued at Rs. 1,38,691 against 26,462 valued at Rs. 1,00,939 in the previous year.

The Foreign Press messages numbered 5,278 and the Indian share of the charges thereon amounted to Rs. 33,046.

WORKING EXPENSES.

5. The working expenses amounted to Rs. 62,66,575 equivalent to 57.35 per cent. on the gross revenue or 80.35 per cent., if receipts from State and *pro formâ* messages be deducted, against the corresponding percentages of 69.33 and 81.5 in the previous year. As the total working expenses exceeded those of 1896-97 by Rs. 51,507 the improvement shewn by these figures is very satisfactory.

The increase in working expenses is attributed mainly to the growth in the operations of the Department coupled with the heavy cost of providing additional messengers to deliver deferred messages. But another cause was the earthquake of June 1897 which did much damage to telegraph buildings and necessitated a large expenditure on repairs.

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.
1893-94	9,75,007	4,37,270	63,623	14,75,900	35,31,694	56,038	2,41,129	38,28,861
1894-95	10,44,014	5,21,736	63,373	16,29,123	37,81,817	53,545	2,28,733	40,64,095
1895-96	10,29,601	5,12,178	76,691	16,18,470	38,71,082	56,515	2,37,664	41,65,261
1896-97	10,78,116	6,67,308	89,936	18,35,360	40,24,523	61,581	2,93,604	43,79,708
1897-98	10,09,390	6,68,998	92,882	17,71,270	41,28,353	73,930	2,93,022	44,95,305

FINANCIAL RESULTS.

6. The revenue receipts of the year were as follows:—

	Rs.
Message revenue, including State messages	90,68,733
Rent of lines, etc., on railways and canals	14,83,382
Rent of private lines, etc.	1,73,242
Sale of books, gazettes, etc.	20,753
Miscellaneous	46,847
Total	1,07,92,957
News-free and other <i>pro formâ</i> revenue	1,32,720
GRAND TOTAL	1,09,25,677

The total receipts exceeded those of the previous year by Rs. 19,61,277, the increase in the net revenue amounting to Rs. 19,09,770.

The revenue receipts include Rs. 29,93,478 on account of State messages, and Rs. 1,32,720 on account of news-free and other *pro formâ* revenue; including the former and excluding the latter the net receipts amounted to 7.19 per cent. on the Capital outlay.

The financial results of the working of the Department for the last five years were as follows:

Year.	Gross receipts excluding <i>pro formâ</i> revenue.	Charges.	Net receipts.	Percentage of net to gross receipts.	Return on capital.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		
1893-94	79,18,526	53,04,761	26,13,765	33.0	4.61
1894-95	79,25,103	56,93,218	22,31,885	28.2	3.89
1895-96	88,60,723	57,83,731	30,76,992	34.7	5.24
1896-97	88,40,492	62,15,063	26,25,424	29.7	4.34
1897-98	1,07,92,957	62,66,575	45,26,382	41.94	7.19

The high percentage of net to gross revenue and the high return on capital outlay are very satisfactory results, obtained in a year of many difficulties, and afford ample testimony to the high state of efficiency to which every branch of the Department has been brought. Excluding the State traffic receipts the net revenue was equivalent to a return of 2.44 per cent. on capital outlay as compared with 2.37 per cent. in the previous year and 2.93 per cent., the highest on record, in 1895-96.

SPEED OF TRANSMISSION.

7. The average time taken in the transmission of telegrams (excluding *deferred*) over some of the principal main routes during the last five years is tabulated below. The mean of the average time intervals was slightly higher than in the preceding year:

Section.	Number of miles.	1893-94.		1894-95.		1895-96.		1896-97.		1897-98.	
		H.	M.	H.	M.	H.	M.	H.	M.	H.	M.
Calcutta to Karachi ...	1,750	0	29	0	27	0	22	0	25	0	32
Karachi to Calcutta ...		0	14	0	15	0	11	0	12	0	13
Calcutta to Bombay ...	1,283	0	32	0	26	0	21	0	24	0	33
Bombay to Calcutta } <i>via Nagpur.</i>		0	27	0	27	0	21	0	25	0	24
Calcutta to Madras ...	1,181	0	33	0	23	0	22	0	25	0	30
Madras to Calcutta ...		0	28	0	19	0	19	0	23	0	17
Madras to Bombay ...	796	0	25	0	21	0	19	0	16	0	17
Bombay to Madras ...		0	23	0	25	0	21	0	33	0	23
Bombay to Karachi ...	840	0	22	0	23	0	19	0	21	0	21
Karachi to Bombay ...		0	10	0	11	0	9	0	11	0	10
Rangoon to Calcutta ...	1,003	0	50	0	35	0	55	0	28	0	53
Calcutta to Rangoon ...		0	32	0	26	0	28	0	22	0	41
Mean of averages ...		0	27	0	23	0	22	0	22	0	26

The falling off in speed between Calcutta and Rangoon is due to the destruction of cables and lines by the earthquake of June 1897 and the damage done by the cyclone near Chittagong on 24th October. The increase in the length of State messages, the great pressure under which the lines were worked during the year owing to frontier operations and other exceptional causes account for the falling off in speed on some of the other routes.

GENERAL.

8. On the 31st December 1897 there were 1,826 subscribers and 1,802 exchange connections to the Telephone Companies at Bombay, Calcutta, Karachi, Madras, Moulmein, Rangoon and Ahmedabad. There were also 41

exchanges and 357 exchange connections under the control of the Telegraph Department.

9. The experiments in connection with simultaneous transmission on the same wire of Morse and Vibrator signals were continued with considerable success, and large numbers of messages were transmitted in this way.

10. The land route to China *via* Bhamo was interrupted for about 150 days in the aggregate. The interruptions, which occur almost entirely in the Province of Yunan, have driven off what little traffic there was.

11. There was, however, a marked improvement in the working of the Indo-Siam routes, resulting in a material strengthening of the communication between India and the Far East.

12. From 1st August 1897 a new agreement was entered into with the Kashmir State for the interchange of telegrams between the British and Kashmir State telegraph systems. This is to continue in force for five years.

13. The revised rules for foreign telegrams, adopted by the International Telegraph Conference held at Budapest in June and July 1896, took effect from the 1st July 1897. Some of the reductions in the rates arranged at this Conference took effect from the 1st of January 1897, but the reduced rates only came into force on the 1st July 1897 from India to Malacca, Singapore, Sumatra, the Celebes, etc., Egypt (except Suakim) *via* Suez, Persia *via* Bushire, Russia (European) and Russia (Asiatic) *via* Teheran, and finally to Japan, the last named reduction being one in which the Bombay mercantile community was much interested.

14. From the same date the Eastern, and Eastern Extension, Telegraph Companies notified their acceptance of press telegrams at reduced rates to Egypt, Cyprus, Perim, Aden, Obock, India, Penang, Singapore, Labuan, Java, Cochin China, Tonkin, Annam, Manilla, and the cable offices in China and Australia at the ports of landing of the cables. The Eastern and South African Company and the African Direct Telegraph Company made a similar notification as regards their cables. From the 1st February 1898 reduced rates for Press telegrams have also been introduced for certain places in Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chili and Peru.

15. A cable has been laid by the Direct West India Cable Company between Bermuda and Jamaica touching at Turk's Island, thus providing a direct cable route, with its stations entirely in British territory, for telegrams exchanged between the United Kingdom and Jamaica. The Eastern Telegraph Company has laid a cable of 708 miles between Vigo and Gibraltar.

16. With a view to establishing telegraphic connection between the Island of Lucon and the Islands of Negros, Panay and Zebu, in the Philippine group, the Eastern Extension Company has laid cables for the Spanish Government from Manilla (Lucon) to Capiz (Panay) from Iloilo (Panay) to Bacolod (Negros) and from Escalante (Negros) to Tuburan (Zebu). The cable offices on the Islands of Panay and Negros, respectively, are connected by land lines belonging to the Spanish Government.

17. The Japanese Government has abolished its Tsushin Kyoku, or general office of correspondence, which comprised the Postal and Telegraph services, and has established in its stead two separate departments, namely, the Yumu Kyoku, or Direction-General of Post Offices, and the Denmu Kyoku, or Direction-General of Telegraphs.

18. The line connecting Mergui with Thayetchoung was completed on 30th April 1898. The question of its extension to Victoria Point is under consideration.

19. An arrangement was made with the Eastern Telegraph Company under which, during the monsoon, daily messages were received from the Seychelles, and some long special messages from the Cape, Mauritius and Zanzibar, giving information as to the progress of the monsoon and the meteorological conditions prevailing in the Indian Ocean.

20. The Government of India desire to record their appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. W. F. Melhuish, Deputy Director General, who retired on the 25th May 1897, of Mr. C. E. Pitman, C.I.E., Chief Superintendent, Punjab Division, and of Mr. L. Truninger, Chief Telegraph Officer, Tirah Expeditionary Field Force. The services of other officers of the Department which have been mentioned in paragraph 86 of the Director General's report have also been noted with satisfaction.

21. The Administration Report was received from the Director General of Telegraphs on the 18th August 1898, a week earlier than last year. It has been carefully prepared and contains a record of results, obtained in an eventful year presenting more than the usual number of difficulties, which in the opinion of the Governor General in Council reflect great credit on the administration of the Director General, Mr. C. H. Reynolds, C.I.E., and on the work of the officers serving under him.

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

Also that copies of the Review with Report be forwarded to the Secretary

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

of State, the Home Department of the Government of India, the Local Governments and Administrations

noted on the margin, and to the Government of Ceylon, for information.

Ordered also that the Review be published in Part I of the *Gazette of India*.

J. Hichman

Joint Secy. to the Govt. of India.

To: The Secy to the Govt of Madras.
Public Works Dept.

6 cc of Review
1 copy of Report

with the following that is all
I have to add