Political (1897) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 351

Dated 1-6-97

INDEXED.

W3
3/6/7

[Despatch Abstract.]

Sending, with remarks, report regarding an alleged assault on a peon of the British Consular Agency, Pondicherry, at the Pondicherry Railway Station on the 28-3-97 whilst on duty.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Political (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. ~~405~~ ~~3526~~ 455 P.D.

From The Ag British Consular Agent Pondicherry & Karikal

CHIEF SECRETARY GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS No. 6 APR 1897

Dated 30th March 1897

Received 7-4-97

Registered 7-4-97

Enclosures nil

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Reporting that Consular peon, Shaik Ally, was severely assaulted at the Pondicherry Railway station on the 28th March 1897 whilst on duty.

Endt No 805 d/ 5th April 1897.

Referred to the Public Works Department for favour of report

A W Knapp
ag Assistant Secretary.

Order

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY AGENT 10-4-97 6594

No 1298 of 8-4-1897.

Forwarded to the Agent South Indian Railway for favour of report

7/4/97

For Con Engr for Rys.

CURRENT No. 652

Returned to The Hon the Chief Secretary. Having ascertained the facts from the Agent S.I.R. I place them at Chief Secretary's disposal. and need add nothing except that apparently the railway men were not to blame. It was a very ordinary row between Capt. Hawkins' peon and a passing traveller. for disposal.

F.R.S.

Recd 17/5/97

17/5/97

Encls: 8

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

No. 62

From Captain L. H. Hawkes
Ag British Consular Agent,
Pondicherry and Karikal,

To The Honorable J. F. Price,
C.S.I.
Chief Secretary to Govt
Fort St. George

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you, that, Consular Peon, Shaik Ally, was severely assaulted at the Pondicherry Railway station on the 28th of March, whilst on duty awaiting the arrival and departure of the midnight trains.

2. In accordance with orders received

received from Government many years back, it has been the Custom for a Consular peon to attend the arrival and departure of passenger trains in Pondicherry, to watch for British subjects who may be wanted by the English Police, and to report generally as to the movements of any persons under observation.

3. On the day in question, a party of 5 or 6 men; among whom were the Station master

Peon now says he was not present

master of Villapuram, [illegible] and an engine driver in the employ of the Southern Indian Railway Company; arrived in Pondicherry from Villapuram, by the 3 P.m train, on a short visit of pleasure. They returned to Villapuram by the midnight train.

4. The peon was asleep on a trolly awaiting the arrival of the train, when these men Came on to the platform, and being somewhat under the influence of liquor, the engine driver, for a frolic overturned the trolly.

The

was as a man of very fine physique, he is a pensioned Sepoy of the 7th Madras Infantry; he got up and remonstrated in Urdu, with the result that he was jumped upon, knocked about in the struggle that ensued, and thrown to the ground. He left the Station after complaining to the Pondicherry Station master on duty, who however did not understand him as he spoke in Urdu and did nothing. Whilst going out he appears to

Shaik Alli Peon says,

to report [illegible] which caused these men to run after him and renew the attack outside the Station, where he was again very roughly handled, and thrown to the ground a second time.

5- The Villapuram Station master, whom I know as a Corteous, and I should say, efficient Officer of the Company, does not appear to have taken an active part in was as [illegible] of

in the affair. But he knew the man was one of my Consular peons, and he does not appear to have exercised his authority to stop the illtreatment.

6. I have to bring to notice that the peon was wearing his belt and badge at the time, and there was no mistaking who he was. He was a Government Servant on Government duty. This is the reason I

Sheik Alli Peon Says,

to report this [illegible] to you. I have the honor to believe, that, you are aware that the Consular peons are a picked body of men, they are Mahomedans and are not natives of Pondicherry or of the districts surrounding it. They also only speak Urdu. Their duties are important and often very delicate. They are fully aware of this and do not mix with the population here, and as a consequence

was as [illegible] man of
looked up to a d respected.
They often are sent as a
visible token of the authority
or protection of the British
Consular Agency.

Under these Circumstances
the assault ass umes a graver
aspect, as, bei g Committed
in public and before many
natives, an in sult, very
probably unin tentional,
was offered to the Consular
Agency of Ou Nation on
French soil. Had the
assailants

Sheik Alli Peon says,

assailants
Subjects it would have
given rise to a Serious
Complaint to their Government

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obt. Servant

S H Hawkes Captn.

British Consular Agent
Pondicherry and
Karikal

Shaik Alli Peon Says,

There are four of us and we come in turn Station night and day. I am a native of Ly Arcot. I know very little Tamil.

I have no power to arrest. I am told to watch for arrival of people from time to time and to report.

I came to Station that night and there being time to spare, I was lying on the luggage trolly. It was dark and I was alone.

A man who passed along stooped and took hold of the trolly and pushed it aside and I fell off. He passed along and did not ~~assist me~~ assault me. This man could not have recognized me.

Two men followed along. I jumped up to run to the night Station Master to report. I was calling out. These men said "what the matter are you going to assault the Station master. you have been drinking and you are a Musalman. Who gave you leave to come inside the Station".

I was in white & wore my chapprass They looked at my belt, saying we will write to Caption Hawks. I said I would go & report to Captain Hawks. One man seized me by the throat and took me right outside. He did not strike me with hand or fist. outside I fell down pushed by him. I got up and came inside again to attend the train. The Post orderly Shaik-Imam came and spoke to the assistant Station Master in Tamil, asking why a Sircari peon was assaulted and the A. S. M. gave him a shove and told him to mind his own business.

The Englishman who pushed me out did not understand my language nor talk to me. The other man who was short talked to me in hindustani. He was an European. I do not know the names of either of these men. No other man is concerned in this matter.

I see Mr. Pedly, he did not assault me. I did not

Pwc.1
35-26 [5]

2160

525 13-5-97

There was a Police [illegible]
asleep and when I [illegible] him
had been asleep and saw nothing.
The man who assaulted me ran away.
People told me the man was the brother of
Shahma, Vendor of Villupuram. I do not know
who the other man was, who talked to me
in Tamil.

Before me
(Signed) H. Birch
J. P.
27-11-97

1897
Pol Dept.
Enclos. No. 6
To
O. No. 652

Driver C. F. Smith states,

I worked the Mid-day train into Pondy on the date in question and also worked out the night train. I came to the station from the drivers Bungalow at 12. o'clock at night and walked along the platform and walked alone. The other men were coming along after me. As I got to the end of the Station buildings I was counting the carriages on the train, when my foot tripped against a Trolley with something on it. It was dark, as I did so, I turned round and gave it a shove away to one side when a man rolled off it on to his feet. He got up and began talking. I did not understand him and passed on to my Engine. I saw no assault committed. I went to my engine

(Sd) C. F. Smith.

Enc. No. 3 to E. P. G. No. 260 of 1897
525 13-5-97
A

1897
Public Dept.
Enclos. No. 5
To
O. No. 652

Mr. Pedley S. M. Villupuram.

I was at Pondi on the night in question. Just before the start of No 72 train I came on the platform with Driver Johnson. I heard people quarrelling near the gate and on going up I saw this man and Mr. Cross quarrelling. Mr. Cross is, I think a parsee. He does not belong to the Railway. I do not know where he is gone to. When I came up I heard Mr. Cross call this man a "Soor, ke' butche'" (child of a pig) and the peon replied in very foul language. I have lived in north India and have passed the Lower standard in Hindustani. I told Mr. Cross that he was very foolish in quarrelling with a native and I walked away as it did not concern me. I saw no assault then. I heard and saw no more. My younger brother was here. He followed up behind me and he might have interfered afterwards but I did not see him do so. This peon left the platform before I got into my carriage. My brother does not live here. He is a Corporal in the Hampshire Regiment at Multan and has gone back to his regiment. He was on 2 months leave. He does not understand Hindustani. No one could tell what the man was. I saw no badge on him. I had no idea he was a Consular peon.

(Sd) P. Pedley.

S. M.

27. 4. 97.

Enc. No 4 to E. R's. C. No 2160 of 1897
E R No 525 of 13.5.97
No 4

7
Pole
No 4
To
No 652

South Indian Railway

omplainant fall when the
i showed. He got up and was
g out and was about to go to the
ion master. The complainant was
pped by two men, who said. Are you
i to beat the Station master, in English
not know English. I do not know why
e assault was made. I saw one man
saying "Why did you come on the plat
form" and he showed the peon "out by
e neck. One man only assaulted the
eon. I went to tell the Assistant
Station master in Tamil what the peon
wished to say and the Assistant Station
master told me it was not my business
and drove me away. Gave me a shove

Before me.
Sd/ H Rich
ATM
27/4.

280

South Indian Railway.

ays.

the peon being shoved out by

en by one man - an English ma

others followed.

outside the station and did

see the beginning of the row I could

nize the man. I had seen him

re at a Football match. I do not

now who he was. Mr Viscardi can

name the men.

Before me.

Sd/ H Birch

A.M.

27.4.97.

1897
Poll
Encloc. No. 3
To
652

Eng. No. 6 to E. F. C. No. 2160 of 1897
No. 325 13-5-97
From A

1897
Poll Dept.
Enclo. No 2
To
C. N. 652

E. Viscardi. A. S. M.

I was on duty on the 28th March at si I was in my office and hearing a noise Came and saw this peon talking in Hindustani to a Mr Cross. He was a passenger, not a resident of Pondi. I Know nothing of him. I have seen him several times and think he is a Parsee. He dresses like an European. Mr Pedley's brother was also there all three together. The peon and Cross were talking and Mr Pedley Junior was standing by. I asked Pedley what the were saying and he told me Driver Sm had trapped over the trolly and had overturned it out of the way. The peon was abusing Cross thinking he had upset him. They spoke some minutes and the peon left the platform. I saw no assault then.

He went out through the 1st class gat Speaking in Hindustani. I went ba to the Office and heard another noi and went out and outside. I sa Mr Pedley Junior Coming from the stre and asked him what had happene and he told me the peon while goin out insulted them with vile word in Hindustani and he had wai till he left the Railway premises and that he then "gave him a lesson." The assault took place outside the Station. We have only one Police pe here day and night and he c were drunk. They might have had a little to drink. I did not see the Post peon that night. I did not see him or touch him

Sd/ E. Viscardi.

C. No. 7 TO E. R.'s C. No. 2160 – 97
LETTER No. 525 D/ 13.5.97
A

1897
Poll Dept.
1
C. No. 652

South Indian Railway.

No. 525

South Indian Railway Co., Ld.
AGENT'S OFFICE,
Trichinopoly, 13th May 1897.

From

THE AGENT;
SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY,

To

THE CONSULTING ENGINEER
FOR RAILWAYS,
MADRAS.

Copy
15/5

Sir,

With reference to your endorsement No 1298 dated 8th April 1897, I have the honor to forward a copy of letter No 97 M $\frac{3706}{a654}$ dated 3rd May 1897 from the Traffic Manager together with the evidence taken at the enquiry held by Mr H. Birch, Assistant Traffic Manager, into the alleged assault. The matter appears to have been due to the driver of No 72 train who while on his way to his engine, in the dark stumbled against the trolly on which Peon Shaik Ally was lying asleep. I understand the driver grazed his leg in the collision and in a fit of temporary exasperation swung the trolly round upsetting the sleeping peon. The latter then seems to have abused the driver who not understanding what was said ignored the peon and proceeded to his engine. The remainder of the disturbance appears to have had no connection with the conduct of railway servants, having been confined to a quarrel between Corporal Pedley, of the Hampshire Regiment, Mr Cross a passenger and the Consular peon.

2. It would appear that Captain Hawkes has been misinformed of the circumstances of the case, and has based his report on the version of the affair given to him by his peon. At the same time I think it is much to be regretted that before bringing the serious charge against Driver Smith of being drunk on duty Captain Hawkes did not verify his facts. There are various discrepancies between the reports of Captain Hawkes and Mr Birch notably in regard to the physical characteristics of the peon and the district to which he belonged, but these are points of minor importance which have no direct bearing on the case.

3. In

C. No. 2160
Recd. 18/5/97

3. I trust that Government will agree with me that the incident may now be closed, and that the affair was not one which merited the importance of being treated as an insult to the Consular Agency of the British Nation on French soil, but should preferably have been settled without recourse to Government. The original papers received with your endorsement under reply are herewith returned.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
A.B.G. Shelley
Captn R.E.,
Agent

3 Enclosures by Bookpost

SM
Send copy of Agents letter and accompanying letter from Traffic ~~Manr~~. ~~and say~~ to Consular Agent and say SM agrees with the views expressed by A in para 3 of his letter
JWL. 17/5

From
The Agent,
South Indian Railway,
Trichinopoly.
To
The Consulting Engineer for
Railways,
Madras.
Dated
Received
189
No.
Enclosure.

1897
P.W. Dept.
Enclos. No. 4
To
C. N. 662

South Indian Railway.

Copy of a letter, No. 97M/3706/a654, dated 3rd May 1897
from the Traffic Manager
to the Agent, South Indian Railway.

I referred this matter to the Divisional officer at Madras for enquiry, and am now in receipt of his report, a copy of which is subjoined for your information

"In accordance with your instructions I held an "enquiry into the circumstances reported by the British "Consular Agent on 27th instant. Captain Hawks had left "Pondicherry, so Mr S. Kuppusami Iyer, Head Clerk in "charge of Agency, attended the enquiry"

"From the evidence recorded it appears the Consular "peon was lying asleep on a luggage trolly which lay across "the platform in shadow of a masonry pillar"

"Driver Smith who was proceeding along the plat-"form to his engine and counting the train vehicles, "tripped slightly over the trolly. He picked it up and threw "it round. Smith passed on to the engine and is not "further concerned in the case"

"The peon rolled off the trolly and on getting up "half asleep, commenced speaking loudly of the affair "and abusing the driver. Two men were close by, Corporal "Pedley of the Hampshire Regiment and a Mr Cross, who "is said to be a Parsee but to dress as an European. The "latter asked the peon what was exciting him. The peon "thus quotes his words"

"What's the matter are you going to assault the "Station Master, you have been drinking and you are a "Mussalman, who gave you leave to come inside the station";

"The peon also says they looked at his belt and — "finding out who he was said he would be reported to "Captain Hawks"

"Further words ensued and Corporal Pedly finally "took the man by the neck and ran him out of the station." "The peon himself says. He did not strike me with hand "or fist outside, I fell down pushed by him."

"This constitutes the peon's complaint but from the "events and from the evidence of Mr Pedley, Station Master "of Villupuram it is proved the peon had got excited and on "rising from the trolly used very bad language. The man "Cross understanding him had entered into the quarrel and "Corporal Pedley hearing from Cross what was being said "took upon himself to turn the peon out of the place"

"Corporal Pedley was in this Presidency on leave "and has returned to the Panjab. Mr Cross was a traveller "and is believed to have gone to Secunderabad"

"The peon stated he never saw Mr Pedley, Station "Master of Villupuram and that he was not concerned — "at all"

"I may say at once that the peon was not severely "assaulted and that he is himself responsible for what "occurred"

"The peon is a Mahomedan of small stature "a native of South Arcot which is the district adjacent to "Pondicherry and understands Tamil quite well."

"He was unable to define his duties at the Railway "Station which appear ambignous and I could not ascertain "that he had ever done any service while on duty there."

"When before me he wore a dirty suit of Mahomedan "clothing and his belt alone distinguished him so if Simi-"larly attired on the night of this affair it is quite probable "he would have been mistaken for an ordinary native "passenger"

"I think it may be taken that he thus seriously "compromised the delicacy and dignity of his position and "self respect to which Captain Hawks has directed special "attention"

"I find no Railway servant can be blamed "in this case and am of openion that if the matter had "gone into Court, the conduct of the peon would have "rendered the punishment of Corporal Pedley and Mrs "Cross very unlikely"

"The assistant Station Master was in his office "at some distance and was not aware of the facts until "after they had occurred."

"Reading the report of the British Consular Agent "I can only suppose that the peon has given that Officer "a very incorrect version of what occurred. Being conversant "with Hindustani I was able to examine the man freely "in his own tongue and Mr. Kuppusami Iyer is quite "with me in the view I have taken of the incident."

There is no doubt that the Ag British Consular Agent has been misinformed as to the facts by his peon who being the ~~approved~~ aggrieved party would be inclined to give his master an exaggerated account of what has been termed "a servere assault" made upon him

He is said to have been jumped upon knocked about in the struggle and thrown to the ground.

According to the evidence what happened was that Driver Smith in going to his engine tripped against the trolly on which the peon was sleeping and ~~upset~~ upset the man. Smith went on but the peon on getting up began to speak in terms of abuse of the Driver. Two men were close by — Corporal Pedley of the Hampshire Regiment and a man named Cross said to be a Parsee. The latter entered into an altercation with the peon and at length Corporal Pedley interfered and took him by the neck and thrust him out of the station

This constituted, no doubt a technical assault and the Ag British consul at Pondicherry may perhaps

Copy continued.

think it necessary to address the Commanding Officer of the Hampshire Regiment on the subject.

Mr Pedley the Station Master at Villupuram was spending the day at Pondicherry with his brother and was on the Platform at the time of this occurrence but neither he or Driver Smith are concerned in it

I beg to return the enclosures of your letter under reply.

AGENT'S OFFICE,
TRICHINOPOLY.
13th May 1897.

(True copy)

A. D. G. Shelley
Capt RE
Agent.

Accompaniment to the Agent's letter No. 525
of 13 - 5 - 1897.

Enc. No. 1 to E. R's. C. No. 2160 of 1897
Letter No. 525 C 13-5-97
From A

1897
Pol. Dep.
Enclos 7
To
Cns 652

Political Department.

[G./…]
1,06… 3-5-97.

C. No.s. 455 & 651

H. E. THE GOVERNOR.
~~THE HON'BLE MR. BLISS, C.I.E.~~
~~THE HON'BLE MR. GROSE, C.I.E.~~

SUBJECT.

Severe Assault on a peon of the British Consular Agency, Pondicherry.

FOR ORDERS.

In the first of the above currents the British Consular Agent, Pondicherry, submitted a report regarding a "severe assault" which had been committed on his peon whilst on duty at the Pondicherry Ry. Station on the night of the 28th March last. As the charges implicated Railway servants, the paper was referred to the Ry. Branch of the P.W.D., which has procured a report from the Traffic Manager of the S.I.Ry. (flagged A), ~~and forwarded~~ the evidence taken by the Asst. Traffic Manager in the enquiry into the charge made by him (flagged B), and a ~~letter~~ report from the Agent (flagged C).

2. The facts of the case appears to be as stated in the Agent's letter, that driver Smith, who was in charge of th train from Pondicherry on the night in question, while on his way to his engine stumbled in the dark against the trolly which Shaik Ali, the Consular Agent's peon, was lying asleep ; that the driver grazed his leg in the collision and in

fi

C 22/5/97
P [illegible]

fit of temporary exasperation swung the trolly around, upsetting the sleeping peon of whose presence in the trolly he was unaware; that the peon then abused driver Smith who not understanding what was said passed on to his engine; that the peon then entered into an altercation with Corporal Pedley of the Hampshire regiment and Mr. Cross a Parsee passenger; and that Corporal Pedley in consequence of the foul language used by the peon pushed him out of the station.

3. The severe assault thus apparently amounts to the pushing out by Corporal Pedley and no evidence is forthcoming as regards the charge against the engine driver ~~on the~~ and railway subordinates of being under the influence of liquor which is made in para 4 of the Consular Agent's letter in C.No. 455. The Agent points out that Capt: Hawkes was misinformed and based his report on the version of the affair given to him by his peon. At the same time he contends that it is to be regretted that, before bringing the serious charge against driver Smith of being drunk on duty, Capt: Hawkes did not verify his facts. The Agent considers that the incident may be treated as closed and that the affair was not one which merited the importance of being treated as an insult to the British Consular Agency on ~~the~~ French soil.

The

The Chief Engineer, in returning the papers, observes that the railway employes were not to blame and that the whole case was one of a very ordinary row between the Consular Agency peon and a passing traveller, Corporal Pedley.

4. In para 6 of his report in C.No 455, the Consular Agent stated that his peons were all Muhammadans, that they were not natives of Pondicherry or of the districts surrounding it and that they spoke Urdu only. He also laid stress on the fact that the peon was wearing his belt and badge at the time of the occurrence and that there could be no mistaking ~~as to who he was~~ his identity. The enquiry has however elicited the facts that the peon is a Muhammadan of small stature and a native of S.Arcot the district adjacent to Pondicherry, and that he understands Tamil quite well. As regards his appearance the Divisional Officer ~~to~~, who made the enquiries, states that when before him the peon wore a dirty suit of Muhammada clothing and was only distinguished by h belt so that if similarly attired on the night in question it is very probable tha he would have been mistaken for an ordinary native passenger. Capt: Hawkes in laying stress on the dignity of his apparently overlooked the fact that l dignity was not enhanced by the peon to sleep in trollies on the railway form.

Very probably took his belt off – Peons constantly take them off when not actually in the presence of the "Huzur"

5. It is submitted that the

ma

may be recorded with the remark that the enquiries instituted by the railway authorities show that the version of the affair given to Capt: Hawkes by his peon was very much exaggerated and that the latter was considerably to blame for what took place. It does not seem necessary to draw the attention of the L.G. C.F., Madras, to the behaviour of the Corporal.

A.S.H.

I think this probable.

A.S.H.

A.S.H.

CUS 8
21/5/97

I have gone through the evidence and there can be no doubt that the story told by the peon to Capt. Hawkes was very much exaggerated. It was a row of the most ordinary description and the peon seems to have brought a good deal of what little happened on himself.

It is submitted that the matter may be disposed of as suggested in the Office note

22/5/97.

Yes.
A.S.H.
25.5.97

Order No. 351 d/ 1st June '97
Mis

Recorded with the remarks that the enquiries instituted by the railway authorities show hat the version of the affair ven to Capt. Hawkes by his eon was very much exxagerated d that the latter was considerbly to blame for what took ce

From Orders
1/6/97.

CUS 8
25.5.97

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gain G.O., No. DATED
189 ,

rent No.

closures to C. No

f Government .. .. .. A A A A A A A

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in original.

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