

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

148

Press
-Mis.-

Dated

9-2-

1866

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
9th February 1866.*

No. 33. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department, dated 5th February 1866, No. 453.

Communicating Despatch from Secretary
of State, respecting the provision and } (Vide Proceedings, Public Works, De-
haulage of Sorting Carriages for the } partment, dated 5th February 1866,
Post Office by Guaranteed Railway } Nos. 159 & 160.)
Companies.

No. 34. ORDER THEREON, 9th February 1866, No. 148.
Communicated to the Postmaster General.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

To the Postmaster General.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th February 1866.*

No. 159. Read the following Proceedings of the Governor General of India in Council, Public Works Department (Railway), dated Fort William, 10th January 1866, No. 42R. :—

Provision and haulage of Sorting Carriages for the Post Office by Guaranteed Railway Companies.

Read again :—

Letter from Secretary to Government, Bombay, No. 1,309, dated 14th July 1863.

Letter from Under Secretary to Government, Home Department, No. 5,253, dated 9th August 1863.

Letter from Public Works Department, to Secretary to Government, Bombay, No. 379R-3,325, dated 21st July 1864.

Letter from Secretary to Government, Bombay, No. 1,860, dated 11th August 1864.

Despatch to Secretary of State for India, No. 75, dated 4th November 1864.

Read also :—

From Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India to the Government of India, No. 35, dated 15th September 1865.

1. I have had under consideration in Council your Excellency's Despatch No. 75, dated 4th November last, with the enclosed Resolution, embodying your views as to the interpretation of the clause in the Railway Contracts that provides for the free carriage of the Mails and Post Office servants.

2. The chief point to which you call attention is that which refers to the provision of sorting carriages. The relative obligations of a Railway Company and of Government in this particular are considered by you to have been correctly defined by your late Advocate General, Mr. Ritchie, who advised that carriages suitable for the purposes of sorting, should be provided by the Railway Companies, but that the cost of any special fittings, or peculiar construction, which might be required by the Post Office, should be borne by the Government. This opinion coincides with my own, and is also consistent with what my instructions on the subject to the Government of Bombay were intended to convey, although these instructions were not, perhaps, expressed with sufficient clearness, and seem, in consequence, to have been somewhat misapprehended. Their meaning was that, if the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company were required to provide sorting carriages, the difference of cost between those carriages and the ordinary carriages for which they might be substituted, should be borne by Government. But, whatever might be the description of carriages used for the conveyance of the Mails, it was by no means intended to relieve the Railway Company from any part of their obligation to provide for the haulage of the Mails free of charge.

3. The arrangement, therefore, made by the Bombay Government with the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, under which the latter were to be paid for the haulage, as well as the construction of sorting carriages, at the rate of 2 Annas a mile, was based upon a misconception, and I approve of your having disallowed it.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th February 1866.*

4. It became, however, desirable in consequence, that some new agreement should be entered into with the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, and the opportunity seemed suitable for endeavouring to conclude some uniform arrangement on the subject of sorting carriages with all the Guaranteed Railway Companies. Letters were, therefore, addressed to the several Boards of Directors (with the exception of the Calcutta and South-Eastern Board, on which line it was thought that it would not be necessary to sort Mails *in transitu*), enquiring whether, in the event of sorting carriages being provided at the expense of Government, the Railway Companies would be prepared to consider them in substitution of the carriages required for Mail purposes under the contracts, and would haul them, as such, free of charge.

5. To this proposal, all the Boards, with one exception, have acceded, as will be seen from the copies of correspondence forwarded herewith. The Directors of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company alone object. They will not undertake the haulage of sorting carriages, except on payment, either of the rates already proposed, or of such other as may be mutually agreed upon.

* Not circulated.

tors of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company alone object. They will not undertake the haulage of sorting carriages, except on payment, either of the rates already proposed, or of such other as may be mutually agreed upon.

6. Under these circumstances, I have considered that the simplest course is to relinquish, for the present, the idea of employing sorting carriages on the Great Indian Peninsula line, and to hold the Directors of that Railway to the engagements with respect to the conveyance of Mails and Post Office servants to which they are bound by their Contract.

7. With regard to the other Railway Companies, it must be understood that, whenever Government may desire to introduce the use of sorting carriages, the condition on which the Companies have agreed to haul the carriages is, that the cost of their construction and fittings shall be borne by Government.

OBSERVATIONS.—The Secretary of State for India has arranged, in communication with all the Guaranteed Railway Companies, excepting the Great Indian Peninsula and the Calcutta and South-Eastern, that, whenever Government may desire to introduce the use of sorting carriages, the cost of their construction and fittings shall be borne by Government, the haulage being performed free by the Companies. The Calcutta and South-Eastern Railway Company has not been consulted on the matter, as it was not thought that it would be necessary to sort Mails *in transitu* on its line. The Great Indian Peninsula Company is alone in objecting to the conditions to which the other Companies have agreed.

2. The issue of the Resolution of the Government of India referred to by the Secretary of State in the 3rd paragraph of his Despatch, disallowing the agreement entered into by the Government of Bombay, to pay the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company not only for the construction, but also for the haulage of sorting carriages at the rate of 2 Annas a mile, was held over pending the result of the reference to the Secretary of State, and the orders now received render its issue unnecessary.

3. On the subject of the arrangements for conveying the Mails on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, a further reference will be made to the Secretary of State.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th February 1866.*

ORDER.—Ordered that these Proceedings be communicated to the Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, North-Western Provinces and Punjab. Chief Commissioner of Central Provinces. Resident at Hyderabad. Commissioner of Mysore. and Administrations marginally noted, for information and guidance, and to the Home Department and the Director General of Post Offices for information.

(Signed) O. H. DICKENS, Lieut.-Col., R. A.,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 160.

ORDER THEREON, 5th February 1866, No. 453.

RAILWAY, No. 14.

Communicated to the Consulting Engineer for Railways, for information and guidance, in continuation of

Proceedings dated 26th October 1865, No. 3,282.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]

Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.
Public Department.

Exd. T. Augustin.

On so 20th Nov 1857.

Walter Webb Esq

Copy to Mr Webb

Received of Mr Webb
the sum of £100

the 13th of February 1858

No 1574

Comrs of the Court of Sessions
City of London
the provision of a
Sitting Room for the
Post Office of the
Railway Company

February 1866 N^o 1407

Communicated

To the Postmaster General

The Postmaster General Esq