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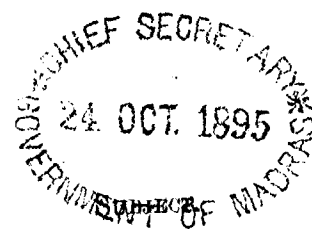
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Communicating Govt of  
India's review of the  
Administration report  
of the Indian Telegraph  
Department for 1894-95

No. 286 T.  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.  
CIVIL WORKS.

Telegraph.

Simla, the 23rd September 1895.

**Review of the Administration Report of the Indian Telegraph Department for the year 1894-95.**

**READ—**

Letter from the Director General of Telegraphs, No. 57 T., dated the 20th August 1895, and its enclosure, being the Administration Report of the Indian Telegraph Department for the year 1894-95.

**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. 7,83,307. The capital outlay to the close of the year under review amounted to Rs. 5,73,84,296, divided as follows:—

|                                                                  | Rs.         | Percentage<br>of<br>net total. |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| Lines ... ..                                                     | 4,40,02,014 | 76.7                           |
| Buildings ... ..                                                 | 57,87,827   | 10.1                           |
| Apparatus and plant ... ..                                       | 22,41,206   | 3.9                            |
| Stores and suspense ... ..                                       | 32,85,317   | 5.7                            |
| Exchange on expenditure in England previous<br>to 1887-88 ... .. | 24,09,440   | 4.2                            |
| Total ...                                                        | 5,77,25,804 |                                |

**Deduct—**

|                                                                                |             |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----|
| Receipts on Capital Account (including interest<br>on Workshop Capital) ... .. | 3,41,508    | 0.6 |
| Total ...                                                                      | 5,73,84,296 |     |

3. The net additions made during the year to the systems maintained by the Telegraph Department comprised 1,941 miles of line and 4,001 miles of wire. There has been a decrease of 3 miles 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 1890-91... | 4,82,73,096          | 35,279         | 1,06,139       | 230             | 880                                        | 1,411              | 2,291  |
| During 1890-91...             | 19,68,580            | 1,791          | 7,373          | 21              | 69                                         | 17                 | 86     |
| " 1891-92...                  | 19,42,128            | 1,555          | 6,647          | 2               | 52                                         | —33                | 19     |
| " 1892-93...                  | 21,62,811            | 2,405          | 6,092          | 21              | 99                                         | 58                 | 157    |
| " 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    |
| To end of 1894-95...          | 5,73,84,296          | 44,648         | 1,38,256       | 271             | 1,362                                      | 1,521              | 2,883  |

5. The operations of the Department during the year under review continue satisfactory. The Revenue receipts amounted to Rs. 80,39,675, being an increase of Rs. 32,369 over the figures for the previous year. As explained in paragraph 14 of the Report, the rent charges received from the East Indian railway were revised and reduced during the year under review in accordance with the recommendations of a Committee appointed by the Government of India to investigate these charges. A sum of Rs. 4,31,762, being the approximate rebate due to the Railway for the seven years from 1st January 1887 to 31st December 1893, was credited to the Railway during the year, of which sum Rs. 83,000 represented the share of the rebate appertaining to 1894-95. The balance (Rs. 4,31,762—Rs. 83,000) Rs. 3,48,762 was, therefore, a charge to the Revenue Accounts of the year, for which they were not responsible. Including this sum the gross revenue receipts amounted to Rs. 83,88,437 as against Rs. 80,39,675 shown in the accounts.

The Revenue expenditure amounted to Rs. 56,93,218, being an increase of Rs. 3,88,457. The net receipts thus amounted to Rs. 23,46,457, showing a decrease of Rs. 3,56,088. The Revenue receipts include Rs. 12,09,845 on account of State messages, and Rs. 1,14,572 on account of news-free and other *pro forma* revenue; including the receipts on account of State messages and excluding the *pro forma* revenue, the net receipts amounted to 3·89 per cent. on the Capital outlay.

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

|                                                 | Rs.       |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Message revenue, including State messages ...   | 64,41,872 |
| Rent of lines, etc., on railways and canals ... | 12,04,535 |
| Rent of private lines, etc. ...                 | 2,21,872  |
| Sale of books, gazettes, etc. ...               | 20,451    |
| Miscellaneous ...                               | 36,373    |
| Total ...                                       | 79,25,103 |
| News-free and <i>pro forma</i> revenue ...      | 1,14,572  |
| Grand Total ...                                 | 80,39,675 |

There is an improvement under all heads with the exception of receipts from railways and canals, which shows a decrease of Rs. 3,88,867 due to the provisional adjustment of the rebate to the East Indian railway as explained in paragraph 5 above.

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

| Year.       | Gross receipts, excluding <i>pro forma</i> revenue. | Charges.  | Net receipts. | Percentage of net to gross receipts. | Dividend on capital. |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
|             | Rs.                                                 | Rs.       | Rs.           |                                      |                      |
| 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                 |
| 1894-95 ... | 79,25,103                                           | 56,93,218 | 22,31,885     | 28·2                                 | 3·89                 |

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. | 1893-94.  |           | 1894-95.  |           |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                     | No.       | Value.    | No.       | Value.    |
|                     |           | Rs.       |           | Rs.       |
| State Inland ...    | 598,226   | 10,90,003 | 585,571   | 11,52,852 |
| " Foreign ...       | 6,695     | 61,142    | 6,804     | 56,993    |
| Total State ...     | 604,921   | 11,51,145 | 592,375   | 12,09,845 |
| Private Inland ...  | 3,031,993 | 30,52,291 | 3,231,555 | 32,15,974 |
| " Foreign ...       | 547,876   | 18,67,524 | 567,296   | 20,16,053 |
| Total Private ...   | 3,579,869 | 49,19,815 | 3,798,851 | 52,32,027 |
| Grand Total ...     | 4,184,790 | 60,70,960 | 4,391,226 | 64,41,872 |

The private traffic still continues to exhibit rapid progress. In the year under review there is a rise of 218,982, in the number of private messages and of Rs. 3,12,212 in their value.

The State inland telegrams exhibit a decrease of 12,655 or 2·11 per cent. in number and an increase of Rs. 62,849 or 5·76 per cent. in value. The increase in value of State messages was largely due to the military operations undertaken towards the close of the year.

The number of private inland telegrams increased by 199,562 and their value by Rs. 1,63,683, equivalent to 6·58 and 5·36 per cent. respectively.

In foreign private telegrams there is an increase over the figures for the previous year of 19,420 in number and of Rs. 1,48,529 in value.

The revenue from trans-Indian traffic exhibits a satisfactory rise to Rs. 8,29,803 in the year under review, thus exceeding by Rs. 98,250 the figure of Rs. 7,31,553, at which the revenue stood in 1890-91 prior to the reduction 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 ...          | 13'33   | 17'90  | 16       | 88     | 13'49  | 18'78  |
| Private ...        | 73'59   | 49'92  | 12'92    | 31'30  | 86'51  | 81'22  |
| Total ...          | 86'92   | 67'82  | 13'08    | 32'18  | 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. |          |
|             | 1894-95.     | 1893-94. | 1894-95.  | 1893-94. | 1894-95.  | 1893-94. |
| State ...   | 11'40        | 9'74     | 21'39     | 19'95    | 67'21     | 70'31    |
| Private ... | 5'83         | 5'84     | 40'09     | 41'01    | 54'08     | 53'15    |
| Press ...   | 5'21         | 4'85     | 21'44     | 22'46    | 73'35     | 72'69    |

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

|              |     |     | Number of messages. | Value. Rs. |
|--------------|-----|-----|---------------------|------------|
| 1885-86 ...  | ... | ... | 1,527,990           | 16,38,165  |
| 1894-95 ...  | ... | ... | 3,231,555           | 32,15,974  |
| Increase ... | ... | ... | 1,703,565           | 15,77,809  |

During the ten-year period the number of messages has increased by about 111 per cent. and their value by over 96 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.       |
| 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 |
| 1894-95 ... | 10,44,014         | 5,21,736                        | 63,373                           | 16,29,123 | 37,81,817      | 53,545                | 2,23,733                         | 40,64,095 |

13. The strength of the signalling establishment at the close of the year was 3,425, of whom 1,664 were departmental officers, 340 British military signallers, and 1,400 postal clerks.

14. The speed of transmission of messages over the principal main routes has been well maintained. There is a considerable improvement in speed between Calcutta and Bombay and a slight improvement as regards the Calcutta-Kurrachee and Bombay-Madras circuits. As regards the Calcutta-Madras circuit, the improvement due to better maintenance and the use of the Melhuish transformer, commented on last year, has been fully maintained, and a marked advance has also resulted from the erection of a new 300-lb. copper wire, fitted with transformers, between the two Presidency towns *via* Nagpur and the Dhond-Manmad railway.

The number of complaints received relating to the Indian Telegraph Department was 1,594, equivalent to 0'033 of the total number of messages, of which 975 were admitted. Of those admitted, 210 applied to non-delivery, 215 to delay, and 254 to mistakes. The number of messages that for various causes could not be delivered amounted to 13,255, equivalent to 0'242 of the total number received for transmission.

15. The total number of interruptions to communications amounted to 2,277, which shows a slight increase over the previous year, the total duration of the interruptions was however less.

16. The number of telegraphic money orders rose to 121,618 from 115,440 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 the total number of orders sent and received during the year under review amounted to 4,546 compared with 1,949 in the previous year.

17. The Inland Press telegrams sent numbered 26,202, of the value of Rs. 1,02,804, against 26,340 valued at Rs. 1,01,826 in the previous year.

The Foreign Press messages numbered 3,094 and the Indian share of the charges thereon amounted to Rs. 18,678.

18. As regards electrical improvements, Cardew's vibrating sounders used in connection with telephones proved most valuable in disposing of the whole of the Indo-Ceylon traffic for nine months through a faulty cable containing a *dead-earth* fault, which had rendered the cable useless with ordinary instruments.

The adaptation of Mr. Melhuish's transformer instruments to quadruplex as well as duplex working has been steadily extended. The novelty and value of the invention have been favourably reported on by Professor Ayrton, F. R. S., and Mr. Melhuish's services in connection with it have recently been rewarded by a suitable honorarium.

19. The use of the telephone continues to show satisfactory progress.

At the end of the year 1894 there were 1,407 subscribers and 1,432 exchange connections to the Telephone Companies at Bombay, Calcutta, Kurrachee, Madras, Moulmein and Rangoon. There were also 30 exchanges and 260 exchange connections under the control of the Telegraph Department.

20. The new line from Srinagar to Astor, 197 miles in length, over the Tragbal (11,000 feet) and Burzil (13,500 feet) passes, which had been partially constructed in 1892-93 and 1893-94, was completed into Astor during the season of 1894-95 between the months of June and October.

As this line is subject to interruptions from avalanches and other causes, specially equipped and fully manned offices are maintained at Gurais and Minimarg, between the Tragbal and Burzil passes, solely for the purpose of restoring communication, while establishments for similar duties are maintained at the Bandipur and Astor offices which are situated beyond the passes on the east and west respectively.

The Kashmir State line from Astor to Gilgit, 62 miles, was taken over by the Telegraph Department and put into as good order as possible.

21. A junction was effected in March 1895 between Bharno and Tong-yueh (Momi), the frontier stations of the Indian and Chinese telegraph systems thus establishing direct overland telegraphic communication between India and China. It is expected that in the immediate future this route for messages for stations in China will offer many advantages, especially for local traffic, between Burma and Western China.

22. A line of 149 miles was constructed from Hardwar to the Gohna Lake. The object of the line was to enable warning to be given of the impending flood in the Alaknanda Valley from the bursting of the natural dam forming the lake. Having served this purpose the line has been dismantled.

23. The India-rubber cable of 1867 between India and Ceylon having become unserviceable, a guttapercha cable, 33.75 miles in length, was laid in its place during the year.

24. The Administration Report was received from the Director General of Telegraphs on 21st August, about the same date as last year. It has been correctly prepared, and the results which it exhibits are highly satisfactory and creditable to the administration of the late Director General, and the working of the staff of the Department.

The Government of India are pleased to endorse the commendation accorded by the Director General to the 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.

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.

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 Part I of the *Gazette of India*.

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

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following

Copy attached

Resolution of the Govt. of India  
No. 2867 of 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1895.

Order thereon, No. 2598 of 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1895

Communicated to the Departments of the Secretariat for information  
(True Extract)

W. S. S. Bisset  
Under Secretary to Govt.  
P.W.D.

2.  
The Public Dept.  
+ Revenue Dept.