

Public Works (1899) Department.

RAILWAY BRANCH.

G.O., No. 1000. Ry

DATED 6th September 1899

Includes.

G.O. No. 775-76 Ry of 13-7-99.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Scheme for training Soldiers as
Station Masters Guards, Foremen & Drivers

Comml to the Agents Mr L.D. Rys
letter from the Govt containing orders ~~to the~~
in regard to the — and directing them
to comply with the request contained
in para four of the letter.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
—	1745-46	Ry of 15-XII-00.					
—	1065-6	Ry 8	14/6/01				

Public Works (1899) Department.

Railway Branch
CURRENT No. 595

No. 9 dated 28/4/89 From *The Gov. of India*

Order

Copy forwarded
to the Agents Madras
and S. I. Railways for
report with reference to
para 3 of the Gov. of India's
letter.

No. 679. R.E.

Dated the 15th April 1899

Received - 26th —

Registered 28/4/99

Enclosures

Spare copies

JWS

Despatch 29/4/89

L.R.
28/4/89

Reminders

9/1. dated 31st Dec 1899 to A.C.
Despatch 11/6/99

SUBJECT:

Scheme for training soldiers
as Guards, Foremen Drivers

Requesting to report what
number of men could con-
veniently be taken from the
Army annually as Guards,
Foremen & Drivers with the view
of forming a reserve of men
who have been instructed in rail-
way work & whose services could
be relied on in case of emergency

27/4/89

FURTHER PAPERS.

No. 679 R.F.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
RAILWAY ESTABLISHMENTS.

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

Simla, the 15th April 1899.

annually by the lines under the control of the Government of Madras for purposes of training in the different capacities of guards drivers and firemen; and also whether in filling up permanent vacancies the Agents of the Railways concerned are prepared to give preference to British Soldiers who have thus been trained.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

G. H. Walker

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Documents accompanying:-

Nil.

South Indian Railway.

Copy of a letter, No A 2592/452, dated 13th May 1899.
from the Locomotive and Carriage Superintendent, Negapatam,
to the Agent, South Indian Railway.

Staff.

Training of Soldiers as Guards, Firemen and Drivers.

Your letter No R 1374/63/373 of 1st May 1899.

With reference to the proposal of the Government of India as stated in Public Works Department Memorandum No 379 R. E. dated the 15th April, I beg to state that in my opinion a scheme such as proposed for training soldiers as Guards, Firemen, and Drivers, would prove quite unworkable, and might result in very serious consequences by causing dissatisfaction amongst old and reliable Railway employees would altogether disorganise harmonious working, and such a scheme would be extremely unjust to Railway men who have toiled for years in the service. The memorandum states that there might soon be a valuable reserve of soldiers whose services could be obtained from the Military authorities in case of interruption of the train service on any line due to an exceptionally heavy traffic or other unforeseen causes. I would point out that such procedure would be most disheartening to young and able men who are always to be found amongst the staff of a big railway-men who have served their time with the railway from their youth with the intention of making it the means of earning their livelihood- and are well trained and who are only waiting and quite ready for such like cases of emergency whereby they hope to gain promotion: are they to be cast aside for soldiers who would be altogether unaccustomed to the Railway and the mode of working in force. It cannot be expected that soldiers with a year's training on an engine would be able to undertake Drivers' or Firemen's duties and be held in reserve for such like

AGENT'S OFFICE,
TRICHINOPOLY.

17th May 1899.

Accompaniment to the Agent's letter No.

of 18.

(True Copy).

H. M. M. M. M.
for Agent

annually by the
of Madras for
capacities of
in filling up
ways concerned
Soldiers who

South Indian Railway

Copy of a letter No. 1234 dated 1st May 1900 from the Agent South Indian Railway to the Agent South Indian Railway

Document

No. 459

Page 2

o., Ld.,

1899

Copy continued.

purposes, if so, I fear such a policy would be very disastrous to the railways. A good Engine Driver, or Fireman cannot be made in a year, and even if a trained man gives up his work for a year or two, he would require a considerable amount of time to become proficient again.

Nothing is mentioned in the memorandum regarding the pay, Reserve Soldier Drivers or Firemen would require, and I fear that were they employed the result would be a large increase in the wages bill. Soldiers who have completed their service with the colors in India, in my experience, make very good Commissionaires, Watchmen, or Policemen, but I have never known them take kindly to hard work such as Engine Drivers and Firemen have to do.

With regard to para 3 of the Government Memorandum, I do not see my way to taking on any soldiers as Drivers and Firemen without seriously upsetting the whole of the present staff. Existing vacancies are nearly always filled by promotions from the lower ranks and the only manner in which Soldiers could be employed would be for them to join the service as others do and work their way up the ladder by smartness, intelligence and perseverance.

AGENT'S OFFICE.

(True Copy).

South Indian Railway.

Copy of a letter, No 27781/4, dated 8th May 1899,
from the Traffic Manager, South Indian Railway, Trichinopoly,
to the Agent, South Indian Railway.

Staff

Training of soldiers as Guards, Firemen and Drivers

Your No R 1674/83/543 of 1-5-99

I shall be very pleased to give soldiers
that are now serving in the Army a training in Guards duties and could
do with say 12 men at a time.

As they would be learning the work I presume
it is not intended that they should draw railway pay.

I should think they would be able to acquire
the requisite knowledge of the duties of a Guard in about three months
time.

AGENT'S OFFICE,
TRICHINOPOLY.
17th May 1899.

Accompaniment to the Agent's letter No.

of

18

True Copy

J. H. Le Mesurier
for Agent

South Indian Railway

Copy of letter No. 459 dated 17th May 1899 from the Traffic Manager, South Indian Railway, Trichinopoly, to the Agent, South Indian Railway.

11211

Training of soldiers as Guards, Firemen and Drivers

Letter No. 459 dated 17-5-99

I shall be very pleased to give soldiers

that are now serving in the Army a training in Guards duties and could

do with say 12 men at a time.

As they would be leaving the work I propose

it is not intended that they should drive railway day.

I should think they would be able to acquire

the requisite knowledge of the duties of a Guard in about three months

time.

AGENT'S OFFICE,

TRICHINOPOLY.

17th May 1899

Accompaniment to the Agent's letter No.

No. 459

20342634.
South Indian Railway Co., Ltd.,

AGENT'S OFFICE,

TRICHINOPOLY, 17th May 1899. AM

From Ag.
The AGENT,

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY,

To

The CONSULTING ENGINEER FOR RAILWAYS,

Awaiting reply from
J.D.
for S.R.

~~MADRAS~~

Ootacamund

Sir,

With reference to the copy of a letter from the Government of India, Public Works Department - N° 679 dated 15th April 1899 forwarded with your endorsement N° 9 of 28th April, I have the honor to enclose copies of letters from the Locomotive Superintendent and Traffic Manager. I agree with the opinion expressed by the Locomotive Superintendent. Reliable drivers are not turned out in the course of a few months, but they have to go through a long training first as Cleaners then as Firemen before promoted to the rank of Driver, this training is one of years. I do not think it at all feasible to make either reliable Firemen, or Drivers out of short service Soldiers. The only system under which it appears to me such a reserve of men could be established is for Government to select men to form a corps of long service men who after having efficiently learnt their work would be kept together and called out for training for a month or two every year at Government expense on the lines worked by the State.

The training of Soldiers as Guards does not offer the same difficulty, men of intelligence and fair education can soon learn their duties, and our Traffic Manager is willing to take 12 men at a time

on the understanding that they do not draw Railway pay. The men chosen must be temperate and willing to learn their duties under whomsoever placed. The number of European Guards required on this line is very small and it cannot be said that the trial we have recently gone through of employing time expired soldiers in the capacity of Guards has been a success; there is consequently but a small opening for employment.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant

M. Spalding
Ag. Agent

2 Enclosures herewith.

M. S.

From
THE AGENT,
South Indian Railway,
Trichinopoly.
To
THE CONSULTING ENGINEER FOR
RAILWAYS,
Madras.
Dated
Received
No.
ENCLOSURE.
18

(No. I.)

No. 11813.

813

MADRAS RAILWAY.

AGENT AND MANAGER'S OFFICE,

From
RECEIVED
7 - JUL. 1899
MADRAS RAILWAYS
To
The Agent and Manager,
Madras Railway Company,

The Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Madras.

With reference to Government of India letter No. 679 R.E. dated 15th April 1899 forwarded to me with your No. 9/0 dated 23rd idem I have the honour to inform you that on the conditions mentioned below this Company is prepared to take 16 Soldiers annually for the purpose of training them in Railway work.

As it will not be possible to find quarters for these men it will not be necessary to station them at Madras and Bangalore where accommodation can be found for them in barracks and where they can to some extent be under Military control.

The men so sent would have to agree to work without pay or allowances of any kind so far as the Railway is concerned. They should be sent for 12 months certain if they are found to be men with a natural aptitude for Railway work and who are likely to take an interest in it. If when they have been attached to a Railway for a month or two it is found that they have no natural aptitude and take no particular interest in Railway work, they should at once be sent back without any black mark being recorded against their names and be replaced by other men. It should be left to the discretion of the Railway Administration to train the men as Enginemen or in telegraph, block working, Guard's work, Assistant Station Master's work or any similar duties for which the particular men show themselves to be suitable while they would of course all be

capable of working as Brakesmen and no doubt as Chief Guards in charge of a train as far as safe working rules are concerned, before their time had expired.

With regard to the question whether Railway Administrations would be prepared to give preference to British soldiers who had been thus trained:- We regularly employ a number of army reservists and time expired men but only a small proportion of these men stay with us for any length of time. For instance during the last three years, we have taken on 77 Under Guards of which 17 were army reserve and time expired men. Of these 17, there are only 6 in the Company's service at the present time. It is thought that a large number of these men simply take up Railway work because they wish to stay in India and because without a definite certificate of employment, the Military authorities do not allow them to take their discharge in this country. The few men who remain with us, it must be said, generally become very useful and trustworthy members of the staff, but I do not think that the Company could enter into any undertaking to give preference to such men partly because of the higher rates of pay they would expect to get and partly because of the claims of other members of the staff who have started in a different grade.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant,

L. S. M. V. S.

Agent and Manager.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
RAILWAY BRANCH.

Papers to be read in Proceedings:—

Letter from the Govt of India No 679 R.E. d. 15.4.99.
 Encl. by the Comptroller for Railways No 9 d. 28.4.99.
 Letter from the Agent S.I. R. No 459 d. 17.5.99 & Encl.
 Madras 11813/813 d. 6.7.99.

ORDER. No 775 R. d. 13th July 1899

The Government of
 India will be addressed

No 775 R. d. 13th July 1899
 To

The Secy to the Govt of India
 P.O. Secy.

Sir,

With reference to your
 letter No. 679 R.E. dated the
 15th April 1899, I am directed
 to forward copies of letters
 No. 459 dated 17th May, and
 11813/813 dated 6th July 1899,
 from the Agents of the
 South Indian and Madras
 Railway Companies in
 the subject of
 connection with the train

MADRAS RAILWAY.

From

The Agent and Manager,

M. R. Co.,

To

The Consulting Engineer

for Railways.

Dated

188

Read.

No.

and employment of soldiers
as guards, firemen, and
drivers.

7/15
12.7.99

To R
for C.I.

Documents accompanying:
Copies of Agents' letters with enclosures
referred to.

13/7/99

500-26-6-97.

Form No. 20.

TELEGRAM

URGENT
DEFERRED

ment.

FROM

E.R.

DAR

TO

The Resident
Govt. of India
Bombay, India

1083.

Please send spare copies
of your letter 1505 RE,
dated 10th August.

26.8.99

Despatched
26/8/99

505 RE

August 1899

do

do

SUBJECT.

Scheme for training Soldiers
as Station Masters, Guards,
Firemen and Drivers

Forwarding the orders of
the Govt of India in regard
to the

To Agent
A / } two
E / }

Despatched on 6/9/99

Public Works (1899) Department.

Reas again Railway
Cono 775-6 Re as 13.7.88 CURRENT No. 1083.

Reas also
Letter from the Govt of India,
No. 1505 R. 10.8.88

From The Govt of India

Order. No. 1000 R. dated 6/9/88.
Communicated

To the Agents Messrs
and L. L. R. Companies
for favour of compliance
with the request contained
in para 4 of the Govt
of India's letter.

No. 1505 R.

Dated 10th August 1899

Received 24th do

Registered do

Enclosures

Spare copies

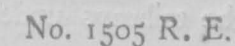
SUBJECT.

Scheme for training Soldiers
as Station Masters, Guards,
Firemen and Drivers

Forwarding the orders of
the Govt of India in regard
to the

To the
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6/9/88



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

RAILWAY ESTABLISHMENTS.

To

- (1) THE SECRETARIES TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF BOMBAY, MADRAS AND BURMA, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, RAILWAY BRANCH.
- (2) CONSULTING ENGINEERS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA FOR RAILWAYS, CALCUTTA, LUCKNOW AND ASSAM.
- (3) THE MANAGERS, NORTH WESTERN, OUDH AND ROHILKHAND, EASTERN BENGAL AND EAST COAST RAILWAYS.

Simla, the 10th August 1899.

Scheme for training Soldiers as Station Masters, Guards, Firemen
and Drivers.

SIR,

You have already been informed in my letter No. 679 R. E., dated 15th April last, that the Government of India have under consideration a scheme for training Soldiers as Station Masters, Drivers, Firemen, Guards and the like, with the view of forming a reserve of men who have been instructed in railway work, and whose services, subject of course to the consent and approval of the Military authorities, might be available in case of emergency.

2. If the principal railways in India were to train a certain number of soldiers for a period of 3 or 4 months in each year, for the work of Station Masters, Guards and Firemen, and for longer periods, probably at least a year for the work of drivers, it is believed that there would soon be a valuable reserve of men with regiments capable of working the train service of a railway; and although the Managers would have no lien on their services, the Military authorities would doubtless be willing to lend such of the trained men as might be available, to the railways, during periods of exceptionally heavy traffic.

3. It is therefore proposed that the Agents and Managers of the several railways in India should, in communication with the regimental authorities through General Officers Commanding Districts, arrange for a certain number of men to go through a training in such branch as may be considered most suitable in each individual case, for 3 or 4 months in each year, and for longer periods in the case of men to be trained as drivers. These men, it is suggested, would be granted leave from their regiments, the railways undertaking to employ them during the period of leave, and to pay them for such services the usual wages, at first as probationers, and subsequently as temporary hands, according to the degree of skill and training they had attained to. After each period of employment, before returning to their regiments, they would be granted certificates; and, on the conclusion of their Colour Service, the railways might perhaps be disposed to consider their claims preferentially for permanent railway work.

4. I am to request therefore that—

(1) the Agent(s) of the railways under the control of the Government of

(2) the Agent(s) of the railways under your control,

(3) you

^{may be asked to}
^{will} co-operate with the General Officers Commanding Districts and the Officers Commanding Regiments and Batteries at stations situated on the respective line(s) in giving practical effect (if they have no objection) to the scheme herein set forth.

General Officers Commanding Districts and Officers Commanding Regiments and Batteries will be instructed by the Commander-in-Chief in India to assist in the matter as far as possible.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

E. M. Walker

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Documents accompanying.
Nil.

so
*The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Public Works Department, Railway Branch.*