

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1540	Press Mis.
63-64 Dated	4-6-	1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1540

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th June 1868.*

No. 63. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Public Department:—

Communicating Resolution of the Government
of India, calling attention to the Rules of the
Electric Telegraph Department applicable to
Service messages. } (Here enter 23rd May 1868, No. 634.)

No. 64. ORDER THEREON, 4th June 1868, No. 1,540.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Board of Re-
venue, Director of Revenue Settlement,
Superintendent of Revenue Survey, Offi-
ciating Inam Commissioner, and Conservator of Forests.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. SEWELL,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,
" the Director of Revenue Settlement,
" the Superintendent of Revenue Survey,
" the Officiating Inam Commissioner,
" the Conservator of Forests, } With Proceedings Public Department, No. 634.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
23rd May 1868.

Read the following :—

No. 188. Proceedings of the Government of India, Foreign Department, dated Fort William, 30th April 1868, No. 418.

Electric Telegraph.

Read Circular, dated 18th June 1864, No. 941, issued from the Home Department, calling attention to the Rules of the Electric Telegraph Department applicable to service messages.

RESOLUTION.—His Excellency the Governor General in Council observes that these Rules are very far from being strictly observed; and as some time has elapsed since they were first promulgated, it appears necessary to call the attention of all Government servants, Civil and Military, to their existence.

His Excellency in Council accordingly resolves that the Circular cited above be re-published in the *Gazette of India*, and that copies be sent to all Departments, Governments, and Administrations, with a request that the orders may be extensively circulated among all Government officers; and that it may be intimated to all concerned that all messages regarding leave, pay, promotion, or appointment, or other matters of a private character, must be paid for by the person sending them, unless it is perfectly clear that the interests of the public service will be injuriously affected, unless the particular message in question be sent by telegraph.

The Military Department will also be asked to furnish copies to the Commanders-in-Chief in the three Presidencies for communication to the Commanding Officers.

No. 418A.

ORDERED, that copies of the foregoing Resolution and of the Circular in question be forwarded to all Departments, Governments, Administrations, and Political Authorities for the purpose indicated.

No. 419.

ORDERED also, that a complete copy be published in the *Gazette of India*.

No. 418B.

ORDERED also, that copy be sent specially to the Director General of Telegraphs for information.

(True Extract).

(Signed) H. LE POER WYNNE,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

From the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, to the Local Governments and Administrations; dated Simla, 18th June 1864, Circular No. 941.

Electric Telegraph.

The Governor General in Council finds it necessary again to call attention to the Rules of the Electric Telegraph Department applicable to service messages.

2. The periodical inspection of service messages undertaken in Calcutta shows that it is still a common practice on the part of Secretaries to Government, Heads of Departments, Officers Commanding Regiments, and other public officers, to communicate regarding applications for leave of absence and applications for appointments by telegraph on the public service.

3. Such communications are in fact very rarely required in the interests of the public service. In nine cases out of ten they are made for the private convenience of the party concerned, and therefore the messages ought not to be sent at the public expense.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

23rd May 1868.

4. If an officer seeking leave or applying for an appointment desires to receive a reply by telegraph, he should pay for the reply himself, for no such message can properly be sent at the public expense, unless it be so sent because it is in good faith believed that the interests of the public service require it.

5. The extent of the evil which results from the irregular practice above noted may not readily strike an individual public officer who may perhaps only send one or two such messages in a month. The evil, however, is in reality a very great one, for the irregularity is found to be prevalent throughout India wherever telegraphic communication is available, and thus probably not a day passes that private messages which have been paid for and messages which are really on the public service are not delayed in transit by the passage of some of these unpaid private messages improperly sent on the public service.

6. The difference between the Post Office and the Telegraph in this matter is obvious, though there is reason to suppose that it is not always borne in mind. No one communicating with Government, or with any public functionary, is entitled to expect a reply by telegraph. *The telegraph is an extraordinary means of communication which is not intended to be used in the transaction of public business except on urgent and important occasions and when the saving of time effected by the telegraph is of real importance to the public interests:* and it is of the utmost consequence to the interests of the general public, and also as regards the economical working of the telegraph, that this rule should be rigidly observed by all public officers and especially by those who hold posts of authority.

7. Another common and very serious evil in communicating by telegraph on the public service is the entire absence of any care to express the messages in the fewest possible words. It should be always borne in mind that a message should consist of as few words as are consistent with a clear rendering of its meaning. It cannot be too strongly impressed on public officers that communications by telegraph must be conveyed in a style altogether different from that which is usual in postal communications. Brevity next to clearness must be considered the most important consideration in telegraphic messages.

No. 189.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd May 1868, No. 634.

Communicated to the Revenue, Military, and Public Works Departments.

(True Extract).

H. A. Ems
Chief Secretary.

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To the Revenue Department.

„ Military Department.

„ Public Works Department.

Rev: 1868. Oct 4th.
No of Great Py. 1857.

Proceedings of the
Executive & Public
Office—

Dated 23^d 3rd May
 Received 29th 1863
 H. 636.

24 1540-2 June

Congressional
of the history
calling attention
to the rules of the
House. With respect
applicable to
James Mearns
with order

82-7156a0.

Forward to the
 Board of Revenue-
 Office of New Delhi
 Dept of Revenue-
 Train of Goods and
 of materials of work
 (2)

42 June/68

*36 Geo Stiles Drd & Pine
3 — " Spring Ave 1874
3 — " Eighth Ave Newark
B- — " Offt Green Conover
3 — " Opt Coing Street*

} With Dan D D Nov 1895
Sept 11:

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