M.R. ● 1—32,000—16-10-29.

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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## Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

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|---|---|---|
| G.O. No. | 2901 | Press Mis. |
| 339-40 Dated | 19-11- | 19 1868. |

**Not to be folded or roughly handled**

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
*19th November* 1868.

No. 339. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department:—

Communicating correspondence from the Government of India regarding the employment of Commissariat elephants by the Telegraph Department. } (Here enter 7th November 1868, No. 4,345.)

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No. 340. ORDER THEREON, 19th November 1868, No. 2,901.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Forest Department and Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Officiating Conservator of Forests,
,, the Board of Revenue, } With Proceedings Military Department, No. 4,345.

Exd S. T. Augustin.

Govt. of 1868 Madras

REVENUE.

To

THE OFFICIATING CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS,

&c., &c. &c.

Dated November, 19th.

Read.

Encl.

G. O., 19th November 1868, No. 2,901.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 339-340.

*Commissariat Elephants.*—Order regarding their use by the Telegraph Department, communicated to the Conservator of Forests and Board of Revenue.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Military Department, 7th November* 1868.

Read the following papers:—

No. 149. From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George; dated Fort William, 14th October 1868, No. 326.

In transmitting copy of a resolution in the Foreign Department, No. 808, dated 30th September 1868, regarding the employment of Commissariat elephants by the Telegraph Department, I am directed to state for the information of the Government of Madras, that, under the circumstances represented, the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council in this department concurs generally in the views therein expressed, and to request that His Excellency in Council may be moved to cause the necessary orders to be issued to the Military authorities in Burmah.

2. The Right Honorable the Governor General in Council concludes that this special exemption of the Telegraph Department from the operation of the general rule,* that Civil Departments should make their own arrangements for elephants and not look for aid to the Army transport, will not render necessary any material increase to the establishment kept up for military purposes in Burmah; but, should any such increase be considered necessary by the Madras Government, any detailed proposals submitted in connexion therewith will be duly considered by the Government of India.

* *Extract from the Proceedings of Government, Military Department, No.* 415, *dated* 12*th September* 1867.

3. All expenses caused by this measure, such as the feeding charges of the elephants while employed, or while recovering from severe fatigue which has rendered them unfit for work, as is sometimes the case, or in purchasing others to re-place those lost through exposure and over-work, would, it is concluded, be debited to the Telegraph Department under existing rules; and in the event of its being found necessary to increase the establishment in order to meet the requirements of that department, it will be matter for consideration whether, as suggested in the resolution, the extra expense so incurred, or a portion of it, should not be charged to the Telegraph Department.

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Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Foreign Department, Telegraph, under date Simla, the 30th September 1868, No. 808.

Read again the following correspondence regarding the supply of elephant carriage to the Telegraph Department by the Commissariat.

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| *General A.* September 1864, Nos. 14-17. November ,, Nos. 124-26. June 1865, No. 1. | From Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, No. $\frac{143}{144}$ | | | dated 9th July 1864. |
| | To | ditto. | ditto. | No. 992, dated 22nd August 1864. |
| | From | ditto. | ditto. | No. $\frac{1433}{1434}$, dated 10th October 1864. |
| | To | ditto. | ditto. | No. 1434, dated 30th November 1864. |
| | From | ditto. | ditto. | No. 127, dated 15th May 1865. |
| *Home E. T. Proceedings.* February 1866, Nos. 73-4. March ,, No. 26. December ,, No. 10. | From Director General of Telegraphs in India, No. 2781, dated 16th February 1866. | | | |
| | To | ditto. | ditto. | No. 1943, dated 28th February 1866. |
| | Docket from Military Department, No. 184, dated 5th March 1866. | | | |
| | Docket from Military Department, No. 135, dated 6th November 1866. | | | |

Read also a letter from the Director General of Telegraphs in India, without number and date, received August 28th, 1868.

OBSERVATIONS.—In October 1863, it was reported that Officers in civil employ in Burmah, including those of the Telegraph Department, had been in the practice of hiring elephants from the Commissariat Department, whenever the jungly nature of the country or the heavy monsoon rains rendered it impossible to move by other means of conveyance, but that the Commissariat Department, under the orders of the Madras Government, had refused the further loan of elephants even for hire.

After considerable correspondence with the Chief Commissioner and the Government of Madras, the Government of India, in the letter from the Foreign Department, of the 30th of November 1864, to the address of the Chief Commissioner—a copy of which was forwarded to the Military Department—came to the following conclusion :—

1*stly*.—That the requirements of the Telegraph Department were not permanent, but that elephants were only necessary for periodical inspections, and during occasional interruptions.

2*ndly*.—That a sufficient number of elephants was available in the Commissariat Department in Burmah for the Telegraph Department.

3*rdly*.—That it would cause useless expense for the Telegraph Department to entertain a separate establishment of elephants ; that, even if this could be sanctioned, the animals would have to be placed under the charge of the Commissariat Department, and that the Military authorities should arrange, in communication with the Chief Commissioner, for meeting the wishes of the Telegraph Department. At the same time the practice of letting out these animals to merchants at 5 Rupees a day was distinctly prohibited.

In May 1865, Colonel Phayre reported that arrangements were in progress which would enable the Military authorities to supply elephants when needed by the Telegraph Department, and, on 5th March 1866, the Madras Government was requested by a letter in the Military Department, No. 183, to order that elephants should be supplied to the Telegraph Department whenever they were not actually required for employment with troops.

In the course of the same year the question was again raised. The Madras Government represented that the Commissary General had shown that a difficulty existed in procuring elephants, and without perhaps sufficiently adverting to the peculiar circumstances of telegraphic communication in Burmah, apparently wished that the Supreme Government would suspend the rule for lending elephants to the Telegraph Department, but even then only until the allotment in Burmah was completed. On 6th November 1866, the Military Department informed the Madras Government, that the Government of India left it to the Governor in Council to determine when elephants could be spared for the Telegraph Department, but to bear in mind the wish of the Supreme Government that the elephants should be supplied whenever this could be done without real inconvenience.

The Director General of Telegraphs now reports that the Military authorities in Burmah have represented to the Telegraph Department that there is every probability that the supply of elephants will cease early in 1869, and that timely notice had, in consequence, been given to enable the Telegraph Department to make its own arrangements. Colonel Robinson also points out that the withdrawal of the assistance of the Commissariat Department will be fatal to the maintenance of telegraph communication, not only in Burmah, but between Burmah and India, in-as-much as elephants cannot be obtained on hire at all times. Indeed, resort to this is possible only at the station of Shoaygheen.

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RESOLUTION.—Under the circumstances above narrated, the Viceroy and Governor General in Council is of opinion that the wants of the Telegraph Department must be viewed exceptionally, and that this department may fairly look not to be included in the order of the Military Department of the 13th September 1867, ruling that civil officers should make their own arrangements for procuring elephants, and must not expect aid from the Army Transport. It has further been decided heretofore that an unnecessary waste of public money would result from establishing a separate stud of elephants for the Telegraph Department alone, and His Excellency in Council holds, on the whole, that the present communication of Colonel Robinson's views on the subject is entitled to the greatest weight. It is resolved, therefore, that the question be referred to the



Military Department for further consideration, with an expression of the decided opinion of His Excellency in Council in this department, that it would be better for the Commissariat to maintain a sufficient number of elephants to meet these occasional calls of the telegraph, as well as other ordinary service, and to charge a portion of their keep to that department, than that this latter should be without the means of readily moving in swamps and jungles. It is of the utmost importance that Telegraph Officers should at all times be able to reckon on the supply of a few elephants for a few days to inspect or repair the line on emergencies, and it is imperatively necessary to provide against the danger which might arise, especially during a political or social crisis, if the Telegraph Officers could not act for lack of carriage. It is out of the question, His Excellency in Council observes, that the working of this important department should be ever left dependent on the chances of hire at such times.

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No. 809.

ORDER—Ordered that a copy of the foregoing resolution and of the letter from the Director General of Telegraphs, without number and date, be sent to the Military Department for the purpose indicated.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. S. SETON KARR,
*Secy. to the Govt. of India.*

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No. 415.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council, in the Military Department, under date Fort William, the 13th September 1867.

Read extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Home Department, No. 2131 of the 10th July 1867, on a reference from the Government of Bengal, relative to the number of elephants required by the civil departments under that Government.

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Ordered, that the Home Government be informed, with reference to the above, that the Government of India, in the Military Department, is of opinion that civil departments should make their own arrangements for procuring elephants, and not look for aid from the Army transport, the establishment of which is already very small, and cannot safely be reduced to a lower figure than is considered essential for military purposes in India.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. K. BURNE, Lieut.-Colonel,
*Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.*

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Copy of the above forwarded to the Commissary General, for information, with reference to his letters marginally noted, with the intimation that the requisition of the Timber Agency alone, for one elephant, can be complied with.

No. 2789, } *dated 7th August* 1867.
,, 2790, }
,, 2857, ,, *9th* ,, ,,

2. It is further the desire of Government that arrangements should be made for the purchase of more elephants when procurable ; another batch of one hundred or so might be obtained from Burmah, in the same manner as before.

Copy of the above, with docket to Commissary General, forwarded to the Controller of Military Accounts, for information, in continuation of No. 861 of the 23rd April 1867.

Copy of the above, with docket to Commissary General, forwarded to the Public Works Department, for information, with advertence to the docket from this department, No. 520, of the 16th January 1867.

Copy of the above, with docket to Commissary General, forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Public Works Department, for the information of the Honorable the Lieutenant-Governor, with advertence to the docket from this department, No. 521, of the 16th January 1867.

Copy of the above, with docket to Commissary General, forwarded to the Foreign Department, for information, with advertence to the docket from this department, No. 523, of the 16th January 1867.

Copy of the above, with docket to Commissary General, forwarded to the Secretary to Government, North Western Provinces, for the information of the Honorable the Lieutenant-Governor, with advertence to the docket from this department, No. 524, of the 16th January 1867.

Copy of the above, with docket to Commissary General, forwarded to the Military Secretary to Government of the Punjab, for the information of the Honorable the Lieutenant-Governor, with advertence to the docket from this department, No. 525, of the 16th January 1867.

Copy of the above, with docket to Commissary General, forwarded to the Chief Commissioner, Oude, for information, with advertence to the docket from this department, No. 526, of the 16th January 1867.

Copy of the above, with docket to Commissary General, forwarded to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, for information, with advertence to the docket from this department, No. 527, of the 16th January 1867.

Copy of the above, with docket to Commissary General, forwarded to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, for information.

(By order,)
(Signed) H. K. BURNE, Lieut.-Colonel,
*Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.*

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No. 150. ORDER THEREON, 7th November 1868, No. 4345.

Communicated to the Commander-in-Chief and Commissary General, for information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

*Lieut.-Colonel,*

*Offg. Deputy Secretary to Government.*

To the Quarter Master General.
,, Adjutant General.
,, Commissary General.
,, Controller of Military Accounts.
,, Public Department,.....
,, Revenue Department,.... } for information. With 20 spare Copies.
,, Public Works Department,

Exd, J. E. Cashart.

Rev. Dept.

Govt. of {1868} Madras.

No. 3560.

MILITARY.

To

THE QUARTER MASTER GENERAL.

&c., &c., &c.

*Dated November, 7th.*

*Recd. 12th,* Encl.

*G. O., 7th November 1868, No. 4345.*

S.

**NOVEMBER.**
**Nos. 149-150.**

Communicating correspondence from the Government of India regarding the employment of Commissariat elephants by the Telegraph Department.

No 2901-19 Nov

With order

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No. 2901.

Comm.d to the
Forest Dept.t and
Board of Revenue.

19 Nov.r/68

7 copies to the Offg Conr of Forests } with Pro. No. Dd 4345 Dept.t 20
7 ditto — Dy Sec.y Revl }

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