M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 6.

(2) Date of repair 30. 12-65

(3) Initials of the Referencer

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

## GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

| | |
|---|---|
| G.O. No. 93 | Press |
| B.P. No. | Mis. |
| Dated 17. 3. 1873 | 196 . |

*Not to be folded or roughly handled*

No. 203. Read the following Proceedings of the Government of India in the Public Works Department, (Telegraph,) dated Fort William, 4th February 1873, Nos. 74-87 T:-

---

*Rules regarding the planting and cutting of trees, and the cutting of tree-branches which interfere with the Telegraph wires.*

Read—

Letter from Rajpootana, No. 974, S., dated 30th March 1872.
,, ,, Hyderabad, ,, 169, G. W., dated 1st April ,,
,, ,, Bengal, ,, 1,846, ,, 6th ,, ,,
,, ,, Central Provinces, No. 1,865, ,, 5th ,, ,,
,, ,, Central India, ,, I, 1,856, ,, 23rd ,, ,,
,, ,, North-Western Provinces, No. 1,808, dated 1st May 1872.
,, ,, British Burmah, No. 992, dated 20th April 1872
,, ,, Mysore, No. 133, dated 25th [illegible] 1872.
,, ,, Madras, ,, 1,571, ,, 28th
,, ,, Oudh, ,, 1,209, ,, 29th
,, ,, Punjab, ,, 380 C, ,, 28th
,, ,, Bombay, ,, 13 T-1,634, dated 26th August 1872.

Public Works Department letter, No. 385-T, to Agricultural Department, dated 11th October 1872.

Public Works Department letter, No. 386-T, dated 11th October 1872, to Director-General of Telegraphs.

Letter from Department of Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce, No. 1,307, dated 25th October 1872.

Letter from Director-General of Telegraphs, No. 321, dated 6th November 1872.

Read again :—

Foreign Department Proceedings for September 1869, No. 51.
Public Works Department Proceedings for February 1870, Nos. 1-13.
,, ,, ,, for January 1871, No. 15.
,, ,, ,, for October ,, Nos. 4-6.
,, ,, ,, for January 1872, ,, 10, 12-15.
,, ,, ,, for March, ,, ,, 39-46.
,, ,, ,, for April, ,, ,, 16-19.

---

Observations.—Serious inconvenience has been experienced in consequence of trees being too close to Telegraph wires, and thus interfering with the safe transmission of telegraphic messages, and frequent difficulties and delays have arisen regarding the removal of such obstructions, while on the other hand, the Civil and Public Works Officers have complained of irregular action on the part of Telegraph Officers in injuring trees without permission or consultation with the proper authorities. His Excellency the Governor General in Council considers it expedient that rules should be promulgated for future guidance, with a view to prevent the recurrence of similar difficulties.

2. The following are the rules ... have been approved by the Governor General in Council:—

*Draft Rules regarding the planting an...ling of trees, and the cutting of branches which interfere ... Telegraph wires.*

In laying out a new line of ...graph, the Telegraph Officer charged with the erection of the line should take care that there is no unnecessary destruction of trees, especially those of old and fine growth; and should avoid, as much as possible, interference with existing avenues, groves and plantations, and even single trees, whether public or private property; he should consult the Civil Authorities and others, and satisfy them on this point; and, when a new line is to be constructed along a road, the Telegraph Officer should be careful not to place it so as to interfere with the future planting of avenues of trees.

Rules applicable more especially to new lines of Telegraph.

2. Where, after such consult... agreed that interference is unavoidable for the proper construction of the ...elegraph Officer will be careful further to consult the Civil Authorities a... concerned, and arrange with them that due compensation is paid to the ... all cases where the trees are private property.

3. If the trees are the property of Government, they shall, on no account, be cut down or lopped without the permission of the Officer in charge of the trees, and if this permission is refused, and the Telegraph Officer is not satisfied, the matter must be referred to the next superior Officer in the Telegraph Department, who may then consult the higher Civil or Public Works Authorities, or refer to the Head of his own Department.

4. When new lines are being constructed in Native States, the Political Agent shall be referred to by the Telegraph Officers to make the necessary arrangements with the Native Durbar for cutting or removing trees, and for granting compensation.

5. Unless under special sanction or arrangement with the Local Officers concerned, no line of Telegraph shall be erected parallel to an avenue or side of a grove of trees within 25 feet of the edge thereof. Civil and Public Works Officers are, however, requested to give all reasonable consideration to the requirements of the Telegraph Department as exemplified in the following extract from a letter No. 321, of 6th November 1872, from the Officiating Director-General of Telegraphs.

"In many parts of India, and in many instances, the only portions of the country not under water in the rains are the main roads, along both sides of which avenues or groves of trees are not unfrequently planted for shade. To place the supports of a telegraph line at a distance not less than 25 feet outside of the boundary of the road, avenues of trees or groves would necessitate the telegraph line being erected well into the fields or jungle liable to inundation at a distance so considerable as to preclude the possibility of inspection from the road; with, moreover, a deep ditch full of water between the road and the boundary thereof. I am, therefore, of opinion that this paragraph should be either cancelled or altered if future extensions of, or alterations to telegraph lines are to be worked efficiently. If the avenues of trees is of any age and growth, the trees will be sufficiently high and thick to admit of the supports for the Telegraph lines being



planted within a few feet of their trunks, and ...f the wires being carried under their branches without, many of the latter having to be cut o... from the one side, the trees being disfigured, or their shade reduced. The telegraph lines in I... ia were at first constructed across the fields and away from the sides of the roads, the result bein... that at certain times of the year inspection was most difficult and shirked, and involved injury to the growing and standing crops. This system was abandoned when the lines were being re-constructed."

6. When new lines of Telegraph must be taken over avenues, they should be carried across as nearly at right angles as possible. Long slants are objectionable, as they interfere with many trees.

7. The Civil, or Public Works, Officers are desired to inform the Officers of the Telegraph Department immediately on becoming aware of any cases in which Telegraph lines are being constructed within 25 feet of any grove or avenue, or so as to prevent the convenient planting of a road avenue in future, or generally when any arrangement of a line of Telegraph is likely to cause inconvenience or injury. In case of failure to arrange with the Officer immediately concerned, the matter should be brought to the notice of the local Head of the Telegraph Department, and also reported to higher authorit... Civil or Public Works Department.

8. Where existing Telegraph ... within 25 feet of any avenue or ...e of trees, the Telegraph Officer shall be primarily responsible that the wires are kept free of contact. To this end he may, without reference to the Officers in charge, keep boughs up to 2 inches diameter clear for a distance of 3 feet from the line of Telegraph wire. Likewise, twigs and small boughs easily moved by the wind may be cleared away for a distance of 6 feet from the Telegraph line without reference to the Officer in charge.

Rules applicable more especially to existing lines of Telegraph.

9. In cases where it is necessary that large boughs or tops of trees should be cut, permission to cut them should be asked in writing from the Officer in whose charge they are; should no answer be received within ten days of the date of despatch of the letter to the Office of the Officer concerned, the Telegraph Officer may intimate his intention to proceed to cut the branches, and one week thereafter shall be at liberty to cut the branches without further reference.

10. Telegraph Officers shall be held responsible that the cutting and lopping of trees is not more than is absolutely necessary for the proper working of the Telegraph line.

11. Public Works Officers and other Officers in charge of roads will be held responsible that trees are not planted in positions where they are likely to interfere with the Telegraph wires, namely, within 25 feet of them as laid down in Rule 5.

12. The Officers of the Telegraph Department are required immediately to make a courteous remonstrance in any case where trees are being planted within 25 feet of, or so as to be likely to interfere with, a Telegraph wire, and, in case of their objection not being attended to, they should report at once to their immediate superiors. The Superintendent of the Division or the superior Officer should represent the case to the local authority in charge of the planting and endeavour to get the trees removed, failing which, he should report to the Head of his own Department.

13. Wherever possible, trees tha[t] ...ve been recently planted within the prescribed distance should be removed.

14. It may be necessary in som[e] ...w cases to remove existing lines of Telegraph which interfere seriously, or ... likely so to interfere, with groves or avenues of trees, but on account of the ...ense, no such removal is to take place without a special report to the Governm[ent] ...f India of all the circumstances of the case. Such report must distinctly show ...ether the avenue was first planted, or the Telegraph line first erected.

15. The foregoing ...les are not applicable to lines of Telegraph passing through forest and jungl[e] tracts, but care should, nevertheless, be taken to avoid injury to large trees which are in every situation to be considered as valuable.

---

ORDER.—Ordered, that a copy of this Resolution, and copy of the rules embodied therein, be forwarded to all Local Governments and Administrations for information and guidance, and for ...ion to all Officers concerned.

Ordered also, that copies be ... the Government of India, in the Home Department, for publicatio[n] ...*tte of India*, and to the Officiating Director-General of Telegraphs in ...formation and distribution.

(Signed) C. H. DICKENS, Colonel, R.A.,
*Secretary to the Government of India.*

---

No. 204. ORDER THEREON, 8th March 1873, No. 755.

TELEGRAPH, No. 2.

COMMUNICATED to the several Departments of the Secretariat, and to the following officers for information and guidance:—

Consulting Engineer for Railways.
Inspecting Engineers.
District Engineers.
Special Executive Engineer, Wynaad.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.
*Secretary to Government.*

To the Public, etc., Departments.
,, Revenue Department.
,, Military ,,
,, Consulting Engineer for Railways.
,, Inspecting Engineers.
,, District Engineers.
To Major R. B. Kennedy.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

W 759

PUBLIC WORKS.

Mio

To

THE PUBLIC and DEPARTMENTS.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated March 8th.

Read " 14th " Rec'd

G. O., 8th March 1873, No. 735.

MARCH

Nos. 203-204

*Telegraph.*—Proceedings of the Government of India, forwarding copy of rules regarding the planting and cutting of trees and the cutting of branches which interfere with the Telegraph wires, communicated to the Departments and Officers concerned.

W 93.

Comm^d to the Board of Revenue Settlt Survey & Forest Dep^ts.

Mio 17th March 73