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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2072.	~~Press.~~
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	6-10-18.75	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
18th September 1875.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 397. From Major C. J. SMITH, R.E., Secretary, Railway Commission, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Officiating Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 16th June 1875, No. 339.

I HAVE the honor, in the absence of the President, to forward the Report of the Commission assembled under the orders of Government conveyed in G. O., No. 314, dated 4th February 1875, to inquire into the falling off in traffic in the Madras Railway.

No. 398. Note by the Honorable the Governor.

(Here enter, dated 31st July 1875.)

No. 399. Do. by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

(Here enter, dated 19th August 1875.)

No. 400. Do. by the Honorable R. S. ELLIS, C.B.

(Here enter, dated 19th August 1875.)

No. 401. Do. by the Honorable W. HUDLESTON.

(Here enter, dated 19th August 1875.)

Nos. 402 & 403.

ORDER THEREON 18th September 1875, No. 2,683.

RAILWAY, No. 37-A.

to inquire into the causes of the falling off

2. The Committee invited evidence and have made certain recommendations for improvement in the traffic :—

1. Fluctuation of trade.
2. Rates and classification.
3. Arrangement for receipt, en
4. The conditions of the Railwa
5. Relations of the Railway ser
6. Railway Agency for the att
7. The alignment of the railwa
8. Passenger accommodation.

3. The falling off in the traf
evoked the remark of the Government
for by the contemporaneous depressio
normal traffic has recovered, except a
Governor in Council is of opinion the
traffic has been shown to be due, in a
the reach of improved management
are required, and of making proposals
Railway officers, but with reference
under which it is laid down that it is
himself acquainted with the practical

The Honorable the Governor in
Council has perused with much interest
the Report of the Commission appointed
to inquire into the falling off in
the traffic of the Madras Railway.

Under the following heads, and in this
which, in their opinion, will lead to

despatch and delivery of goods.

ice.

with the public.

the traffic.

the connection with towns.

the Railway in 1874, which directly
it is no doubt sufficiently accounted
for, and it has been shown that the
falling off is not due to any
'sundries,' but the Honorable the
Governor in Council is of opinion the
continued want of improvement in the
traffic is due to causes which are probably within
the reach of improved management
and of making proposals
of ascertaining what improvements
are required, and of making proposals
for their introduction, rests primarily with the
instructions of the Secretary of State,
and of the Consulting Engineer to make
himself acquainted with the practical
of every branch of the Railway

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th September 1875.*

administration, the Honorable the Governor in Council desires to call the particular attention of the Consulting Engineer and his Deputies to the importance of careful observation of the traffic returns and the general working of that branch of the Railway administration, with a view to their submitting such recommendations for alterations in rates or improved working as may appear to be from time to time necessary. It is considered, moreover, that valuable information may be obtained from the Collectors of Districts through which the railway passes, and those officers will be informed accordingly that the Government attach great importance to the development of traffic on railways, and desire them to turn their attention to the subject, and to give from time to time to the Consulting Engineer any information which may become available, showing what obstructions to the extended use of the railway exist, and what can be probably done to remove them. Collectors have the opportunity of ascertaining the views and opinions of the merchants and others of the principal trading centres of their district, and the results of their inquiries can hardly fail to be of use.

4. As regards "rates and classifications," the Agent of the Railway Company dissents from the recommendations of the Commission, so far as the reduction of rates between Palghat and Ponnani is concerned, and with this dissent the Honorable the Governor in Council agrees; the information however given by the Commission on the subject of rates is scanty. A statement showing in parallel columns the mileage rates actually charged on different classes of goods, compared with the no-profit rate, and also the rates charged on the Indian Railway and some other Indian Railways would be useful. The recommendations of the Commission under this head are otherwise approved.

5. Under "arrangements for carrying goods," the Honorable the Governor in Council considers that if carried out in their entirety. The Commission have some cause to complain that the

6. The recommendations of the Commission under "conditions of the Railway service," and "relations of the Railway with the public," are approved. It is hoped that the introduction of the new class of subordinate officials, from whom great improvement may be expected. Great care of stations, where much supervision is required, subject of the augmentation of the staff, definite proposals are brought forward proposed, a test which will prove at least handwriting, will be sufficient.

7. The proposal to entertain a native agency for the collection of tolls, is approved. The Honorable the Governor in Council is of opinion that this agency should be of a superior quality than would seem to be required. It seems a question whether the selection of the instructions to be given to the native agency should form the subject of a separate report.

8. As regards the branch railway from Palghat to Ponnani, the Commission are of opinion that their construction would be of great benefit to the original defect

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the Governor in Council is not prepared to press the matter at present. As to the remunerative character of the branches to Vellore and Palghat opinions may differ, but it is thought that the subject should be specially considered by the Board of Directors, and that they should have the option of undertaking them.

9. It is observed that the Commissioners support the views already expressed by Government on the Bellary and Gudduck proposed extension. The question of roads feeding the railway is now before the Government, and will be the object of careful consideration. From the returns recently submitted the Governor in Council is not prepared to endorse the opinion of the Commission that the country is sufficiently opened up. Much still remains to be done before many important districts receive the full benefit of railway communication.

10. The recommendations under the head of Passenger Traffic are approved. The conclusions arrived at by the Commission prove that there have been defects of more or less importance in several matters of Railway administration, notably in respect to the protection of 3rd-class carriages against sun and rain, the provision of reserved accommodation in 3rd-class carriages, the provision of an adequate supply of drinking water for native passengers under suitable arrangements, and the enforcement of the existing rules alluded to in paragraph 50 of the Report. See also the further suggestions of that and the two following paragraphs.

11. The Honorable the Governor in Council believes that the information which has resulted from the labors of the Commission, their willing and straightforward evidence, and the enforcement of the existing rules alluded to in paragraph 50 of the Report, will secure in the future not only the remedy of all defects which may become apparent, but the earlier detection of these.

12. The Honorable the Governor in Council desires to acknowledge cordially the services of the gentlemen composing the Commission.

(Here enter No. 2,684, dated 13th September 1875).

(True)

Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways,
Secretary, Railway Commission,
Revenue Department.

Ed. S. T. Austin.

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GOVT. OF (1875) CANADA

PUBLIC WORKS.

CONSULTING ENGINEER

FOR RAILWAYS

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Communicated to
the Board of Engineers
whose attention

is drawn to para 3

6 Oct 75

To the Board of Canada 12 Oct

1875