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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

14th August 1877, No. 313 R.

Railway.

Read the following paper:—

No. 77. Endorsement of the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 3rd August 1877.

From J. JONES, Esq., Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 2nd August 1877.

I HAVE the honor to solicit you to inform His Grace the Governor in Council that this Chamber are caused much anxiety respecting the adequacy of the railway rolling stock to meet the daily increasing demands for the transport of food grain. The recent addition of 300 wagons (obtained by His Grace's personal application from Bombay) to the resources of the Madras line has proved of the most important advantage to the Presidency, and the increase of locomotives has also been of inestimable value; but the Chamber regret to have abundant cause to fear that, even with this aid, the railway may prove unable to satisfy public requirements during the ensuing three or more months. The statement in the Newspapers that the Government of India have under consideration a project for more united action and more effective utilization of the rolling stock between the several Railway Companies in India with a view to facilitating importation of grain into the famine districts, shows that there is a partial, though tardy, recognition at Simla of the pressing wants of the localities referred to; but it fails to satisfy the Chamber that valuable time will not be lost while the project referred to is being discussed. The oft-employed comparison between the exigencies of the famine districts and those of a country threatened by war, may be referred to in support of the Chamber's conviction that the time for mere consideration has past and the time for vigorous action commenced. The Chamber cannot suppose that, in the event of this part of the Empire being threatened with war, any hesitation would be shown in utilizing the whole of the available railway resources of the rest of the country in bringing the needed succour; and they are rather at a loss to comprehend the delay that has taken place in requisitioning the Railway Companies of the north during the present crisis, for the means of developing the traffic of the southern lines. The national revenue has been heavily taxed for many years to pay the difference between net earnings and the five per cent. interest guaranteed to share-holders on the Indian Railways, and this surely gives Government the right to compel all the lines to subserve the vital interests of the whole State. The diversion from their ordinary field of traffic of the wagons and locomotives of the northern lines may result in some temporary check to the exports of general produce to Europe from those more favored localities, but the Chamber think that any inconvenience and loss resulting from this cause will be trivial when compared with the magnitude of the boon conferred on the State by strengthening the hands of this Government in their struggle with the famine. In the nature of things the rolling-stock now in use on the Madras lines must suffer from the wear and tear of almost unceasing work, and especially in the case of locomotives is it expedient that a reserve of strength should be obtained by recourse to other lines.

In conclusion, I am desired to say that the Chamber, looking to the extreme importance of the subject, trust that His Grace the Governor in Council may be pleased to allow a précis of their letter to be telegraphed to the Governor-General in Council for immediate consideration.

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department, Railway Branch.

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Chief Secretary.

No. 78. ORDER THEREON, 14th August 1877, No. 313 R.

THE Government believe that the necessity of providing additional rolling stock to meet the wants of the railways in this Presidency has not been overlooked.

2. The Government of India have advised the selection of twelve engines for the Madras Railway, and a hundred wagons for the South Indian Railway, while a considerable number of wagons are about to be sent for the Madras Railway.

3. His Grace the Governor in Council desires to take this opportunity of pointing out the great importance of supplies reaching all the ports during the next few weeks in ample quantities. If, as has been lately the case, no grain in appreciable quantities is landed in the Nellore District, a much greater demand on Madras supplies will be incurred, and the prices in Nellore enhanced unnecessarily by expenses of landing and reshipment, or of other transport.

4. These papers will be communicated for the information of the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

W. M. M. M.

Lt.-Col., R.E.,
Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Railway Branch.

14/8/77

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.
„ Chairman, Chamber of Commerce.
„ Revenue Department (Famine).

24 August

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Spare Copies

*Rev. 1877 Sept
7th 1891*

RAILWAY. ✓

Gobt. of 1877 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE CONSULTING ENGINEER
FOR RAILWAYS,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated August 14th.

Issued

Recd.

22/8/77

Encl.

G. O., 14th August 1877, No. 313 R.

AUGUST.

Nos. 77-78.

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Agency of Railway rolling stock to meet
the daily increasing demands for the trans-
port of food grain.