

Public Works (1895) Department.

RAILWAY BRANCH.

G.O., No. 183 R

DATED 16th September

[Despatch Abstract.]

Capital and Revenue accounts, Mayavaram

Mutapel Railway. — Ordered that Copies of the
— for the half-year ended the 30th June 1895 with
note thereon by the Cons^g. Engr. for Rys., be forwarded
to the Govt of India & the Secretary of State.

Ditto — Idem Pros. embodying the — for the half year ended the 30th June
1895 with note thereon by the Cons^g. Engr. for Railways

Forwarding Pros. embodying the Capital
& Revenue accounts Mayavaram Mutapel Railway
for the half-year ended the 30th June 1895 with note
thereon by the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

BACK PAPERS.

[illegible]

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

MADRAS RAILWAY.

STANDARD GAUGE 5' 6".

Total mileage including branches 850.

Inspection Report for the half-year ending 30th June 1895.

1. The inspection was made during the latter part of July in company with the Agent, Heads of departments, and District officers.
2. Banks and cuttings were maintained in good order and full section.
3. Bridges and culverts.—The question now needing consideration is how far the Railway administration should strengthen their bridges up to Government of India standard. Of spans up to 50' nearly all have been strengthened up to Board of Trade standard, and a few of these have been strengthened up to Government of India rules.
4. There are many girder bridges which the Chief Engineer considers might, with advantage, be converted into arched bridges. I very strongly recommend this as the best and cheapest method where the foundations and headway admit of its being done.
5. The following bridges are to have an intermediate pier :—

$2 \times 50'$ at Bowringpett station,	2 screw pile piers with cross girders.
$\frac{7}{8}$, 1×50 stone intermediate pier.	
$\frac{7}{8}$, 1×50 do. do.	
6. $\frac{11}{12}$ bridge is weak and in bad order; new girders are required.
7. 136. *Cheyáru bridge*.—The longitudinals require renewal; bearing plates would be an improvement on the new timbers.
8. 175. *Papaghni bridge*, 179. *Chitrávati bridge*, 232. *Pennéru bridge*.—The bolts which have been used in place of loose rivets in the joints of rail troughs and cross girders should be painted over; they are very rusty.
9. Some 6' rail openings near Gooty require arching over, as the abutments are being pressed together by the expansion of the black soil behind.
10. $\frac{11}{12}$, $5 \times 30'$; the girders are much in need of scraping and painting.
11. The rattling of the hand-rails on many bridges is very marked. I suggest that condemned wire rope might be substituted as an experiment for the present tubing.
12. **Permanent-way**.—There was no marked difference in the sections except near miles 117–120, south-west line, where the new 30' rails and pot-sleepers had been newly laid which was rough. At this place the old rails should be at once picked up and stored.
- At Kátpádi station the curve to transhipping platform was $5' 7\frac{1}{8}"$ gauge; this should be seen to.
13. The Kolar Gold Fields branch road was in better order than when I last inspected it. The traffic complain of the small loads the engines can take, but with 6° curves and $\frac{1}{80}$ grades this is unavoidable, and assisting engines seem the best way of overcoming the difficulty.

14. Mr. Stoney exhibited a double cast iron pot-sleeper for joints to be used with fish plates. I have no objection, subject to Agent's approval, to a trial of these being made at some point on the main line where they can be under observation for the purpose of noting the deflection and wear of rails.

15. The timber stop blocks in use on this Railway are expensive and cumbersome. The Chief Engineer is requested to apply for a type of iron-hinged stop block from this office to make a trial of it.

16. The surface ballast used to keep down the dust entails extra work to the permanent-way gangs, and there is a continual loss going on every time the road is uncovered and repacked. This is unavoidable and should not be allowed to delay the extension of the covering to the north-west line.

17. Stations.—The sanitation of stations appears good. I object however to the immaculate condition of most of the latrines which leads me to suppose that they are closed against the public before inspection, and request the Inspecting Medical officer will take this up and see that no restrictions are placed on their use at any time.

The insanitary state of the ditch alongside of line at Siruvallur requires attention.

18. At many stations the fare table is inconveniently placed in the 3rd-class waiting sheds, and many of the tables are dirty and torn; the use of sheet iron in a frame will obviate the latter defect; two or three are required at large stations placed at a convenient height on the walls, but not near the ticket window where there is generally a crush. A lamp should also be so fixed as to throw a good light on the passenger side of the ticket window board. At some stations—Gooty, Adóni and others—I noticed this was in darkness during the time of issuing tickets.

19. The Locomotive Superintendent is about to substitute a spring rubber tired luggage trolley for the present ones in use which are dreadfully noisy over ordinary undressed flagging; the roped tires have been tried and are not successful.

20. *Madras Goods Yard* called *Salt Cotaurs Station*.—The inwards shed will shortly need enlarging, and I suggest the duplication of this shed alongside the existing one with space for carts between. I did not gather whether the Traffic Manager considered the outwards sheds also requiring enlargement. A plan showing future extension should be prepared to work to a preconceived idea.

21. *Arkonam*.—It is not yet settled where the new engineering shops, which have been transferred from Ráyapuram, should be placed. At present the work is being done in temporary sheds and at site of the original telegraph works. It seems to be admitted generally that it will be economical to place all heavy work with the Locomotive Department. The improvement of the yard at the north end to admit of better shunting and siding lines is desirable.

22. *Jalarpet*.—All necessary land has now been handed over. As it is intended to keep the village at a distance from the staff quarters, that to the north of the line is to be kept clear of houses and might be laid out as a recreation ground.

23. *Urigan*.—The catch siding will be shifted outside the new Nundidrug siding; this should be done now; it has been already unduly delayed.

24. *Bowringpett*.—In building the new station on to the old, the doors of the latter should have been raised; this should now be done. The 3rd-class waiting shed requires some seats. The signal arrangements are fitted with a detector bolt, whereby, on the branch line points being correctly laid, the stationmaster can lower the corresponding signal. The Chief Engineer promised to alter the width of the slots in the sliding plate which at present corresponds to the throw of the points.

25. *Bangalore City Station*.—The works for which the estimate of Rs. 1,75,663 was sanctioned in 1894 are nearly completed.

26. The safety siding on the metre gauge line—it is now decided—is to be at the place recommended by me in 1893; it is already laid and used as a shunting siding. It will be fitted by the Madras Railway Company (who work the yard) with a weighted lever and treadle bar to stand laid for the siding and worked when necessary by a pointsman at the points. The Madras Railway Company will issue such rules as they find necessary to allow its being used as a shunting siding, but not as a lay-bye, and the present short catch siding will be removed.

27. The flower gardens near Bangalore were very pretty barring the mottoes worked out in coloured stones.

28. *Ferók*.—The goods-shed roof should have some glass tiles. It is very dark.

Calicut.—The proposed branch line to the Sea Customs house is not required, as the Cannanore extension will serve this.

29. *Watering stations*.—The Bangalore branch particularly and main line generally is suffering from inadequate water-supply.

30. The installation of steam pumps and stand pipes along the line at rivers, &c., is the remedy. Many of the original water stations have been closed and dismantled, and the evil of this is now being felt. The old-fashioned water columns are still in use. I think much time might be saved by adapting 8" piping and swan-necked columns placed between tracks, which would have to be pulled out to standard distance of 16' 7".

31. *Salem, Nandalúru, Pódanúr* and *Whitefield* (for Bangalore) are stations in great need of more water.

32. *Staff quarters*.—The servants of this company are well housed and provided with schools and institutes; all of which were in good order and neat. The church at Perambúr is slowly progressing.

Signals.—The south-west line from Salem to Pódanúr is fitted with Stoney's point indicators. I do not myself think they should show any light to the in-coming train, but they may be useful for the station staff; the drivers should not, in my opinion, be bound by them. I noticed at night two signals for a train which had to be stopped outside the points—the signal lamp of the point indicator on one side and the signal lamp of the pointsman on the other; the driver was entirely guided by the light shown by the pointsman's lamp.

33. In order to comply with the new rules for working State lines, which the management have accepted with certain modifications, I request all distant signal arms be weighted in addition to the weighted levers at foot of post; the Chief Engineer estimates the cost about Rs. 10,000.

34. The station at Tiruttani fitted by Saxby and Farmer's interlocking of points and signals is now open to fast through running, there being no conflicting signals mentioned in the last report, and Púdi station has Anderson's system of interlocking by means of a selecting lever; this is also open to fast through running.

The working of the points and signals was in good order, except that the Tiruttani northern points required a slight adjustment.

35. *Mámandúru* station mentioned in paragraph 49 of the last report is not open for through running.

Puttúr station is to be fitted with Dutton's wire interlocking, but it is not ready.

36. In my opinion although these two stations are perfectly interlocked, they do not serve the purpose for which they were originally intended, which was, *inter alia*, to allow a fast train to run through the main line while another train is standing on the siding, but there is nothing to prevent the signalman lowering the signal for the in-coming train on the main or loop while there is a train standing there, assuming he forgets on which line the train is standing. Train protection bars are therefore required to prevent this, and I consider they should be put in.

In this connection I would draw attention to my remarks under the head of "General."

37. *Fencing*.—As a whole, especially on the north-west line, the aloe fencing is not good. I suggest that the gradual substitution of wire would be economical.

38. *Locomotive and Engineering shops—Pódanúr*.—These were to be abandoned on 21st July and machines sent to Perambúr.

The old radial engine shed latterly used as a fitting shop is to be converted into an institute.

The engineering shops have been closed and transferred to Arkonam.

39. *Central Station, Madras*.—The Pintsch's oil gas plant is under erection; the Agent hopes to light this station as well as the carriages.

