

Report, 1866—continued.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION (INDIA)—II. Telegraphs in India—continued.**1. Government Lines—xii. Details relative to the Staff and Pay, &c.—continued.**

suspicion as to the integrity of the subordinates in the telegraph department, *Crake* 925-931; *Green* 1155-1167. 1196-1198—Carelessness in India to which the irregularity has been chiefly owing, *Shand* 966.

Very insufficient staff at Kurrachee and other points, for the transmission of the numerous messages received, *H. Walton* 2066—Evidence as to the unduly limited pay in the Indian Telegraph Department, so that it is difficult to obtain a proper staff, *ib.* 2067, 2068. 2084-2092, 2101-2109—Untrustworthy class of persons employed in the telegraph offices these are chiefly East Indians, pure natives not being allowed to be employed, *ib.* 2070-2073. 2104-2109—Unduly long time for which the signallers are kept on duty, *ib.* 2083—Opinion as to the trustworthy character of both natives and Eurasians, as signallers, *Adley* 2146. 2160-2163. 2179-2182.

Very inadequate salaries of the telegraphic staff up to a recent period, *Strachey* 2564—Material improvement lately in the salaries, *ib.*—Explanation in connection with the employment respectively of half-castes and of natives as signallers, *ib.* 2567-2570—Inaccuracy of the view that Government prohibited the employment of natives, *ib.* 2569, 2570.

Great improvement effected in the position and pay of the signallers, *Thornton* 2701—The lowest pay of a signaller, who may be only twelve or fourteen years of age, is 36*l.* a year, whilst some boys get 72*l.* a year, *ib.*—The highest pay of a signaller is 228*l.* a year, *ib.*—Inaccuracy of a statement that Government had prohibited the employment of natives as signallers, &c., *ib.* 2704—Reasons for the employment of a greater number of Eurasians than of natives, *ib.* 2704, 2705—In Bengal Eurasians are preferred, as understanding English better than the natives, *ib.* 2705—Employment of Europeans, as well as of natives and Eurasians, *ib.* 2772-2774.

Inadequacy of the staff adverted to as one of the chief causes of the defective working of the Government lines, *Robinson* 2827. 2887—Efficiency of the staff now employed upon the lines, the pay having been greatly increased, *ib.* 2828-2830—Extreme improbability of messages being detained at the offices, to suit the convenience of the clerks as signallers, *ib.* 2838—Employment of natives, Eurasians, and Europeans, the former however not being quick at English, and objecting to removal from place to place, *ib.* 2842, 2843.

Belief as to the inaccuracy of a statement about messages being divulged by the signallers, *Robinson* 2843—Very exceptional instances of messages being divulged, through the signallers being bribed, *ib.* 2927-2930.

Proposal by Colonel Douglas in August 1861, for increasing the pay of the signallers, *App.* 450.

Suggestions submitted by the several deputy superintendents of telegraphs in India in 1861, in regard to the staff of signallers and their rate of remuneration, *App.* 452 *et seq.*

Statement in report by Colonel Douglas of 1st February 1865, relative to the insufficient strength of the signalling establishment and the remedies required, *App.* 475. 481-483.

Amendments proposed by Captain R. Murray, in August 1864, in the remuneration and position of signallers, *App.* 490-492—Suggestions to a similar effect by Mr. Galbraith in letter of 20 August 1864. *ib.* 497—Similar suggestions on the part of Mr. J. T. Blissett, *ib.* 498—Suggestions by Mr. B. C. Bailey, in September 1864, for the amendment of the signalling branch, *ib.* 499, 500—Amendments proposed by Mr. J. H. Lane, in 1864, on the constitution and scale of pay of the signalling department, *ib.* 501, 502.

Resolutions of the Government of India, in June and July 1865, in approval of a certain increase in the pay of the signallers, *App.* 505, 506.

Suggestions by Colonel Robinson, in official communication, dated 18 October 1865, for improving the position and efficiency of the staff in the signalling department, *App.* 510, 511. 516, 517.

Conclusions of the Governor General in Council, in December 1865, with reference to the amendments proposed by Colonel Robinson, *App.* 519, 520.

xiii. Means of checking the Occurrence of Error and Delay:

Suggestion with a view to the detection and prevention of errors in forwarding messages from one station to another, *Crake* 931-935—System of check now in force for the detection and prevention of errors, *Robinson* 2838. 2892. 2912—Facility at head quarters for investigating complaints, *ib.* 2838. 2892—Infliction of fines upon the signallers when errors occur through their fault, *ib.* 2840.

Suggestions by Colonel Robinson, in October 1865, for an entire re-modelling of the Complaint Office or Check Office, *App.* 513, 514.

Communication

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION (INDIA)—II. Telegraphs in India—continued.**1. Government Lines:****xiv. Reports and Papers relative to the Organisation and Administration of the Department:**

Communication from the Indian Government to the Secretary of State for India, dated 18 February 1862, relative to the re-organisation of the staff in the telegraph department, *App.* 414, 415—Recommendations by the Director General of Telegraphs, in January 1862, with reference to the persons to be appointed to the offices of superintendent and extra superintendent, and the salaries to be awarded them, *ib.* 415, 416—Paper showing the establishment of the department as sanctioned by the Governor General in Council, in January 1862, *ib.* 416, 417.

Letter from the officiating Director General of Telegraphs in India, dated 20 August 1861, submitting a revised schedule of the establishment of the department involving a monthly saving of 2,906 rupees, *App.* 449-452—Statement of Colonel Douglas as to the important advantages of the proposed appointment of an assistant to every deputy superintendent, *ib.* 451.

Communications in 1861 from the several deputy superintendents of telegraphs in India to the Officiating Director General, submitting their views as to the alterations and amendments desirable in the local staff and in the rates of remuneration, *App.* 452 *et seq.*—Views of sundry deputy superintendents in favour of the proposition of Colonel Douglas for the appointment of an assistant deputy superintendent to each circle, *ib.*

Adoption by the Governor General in Council, in November 1861, and by the Financial Department in December 1861, of the several suggestions made by Colonel Douglas in his letter of 20th August, for the re-organisation of the establishment, *App.* 472, 473.

Report by Lieutenant Colonel Douglas, as Director General of Telegraphs in India, dated 1 February 1865, explanatory of the causes of the defective working of some of the lines, and containing suggestions in detail for the adoption of remedial measures, *App.* 473-488.

Suggestions in Report of Colonel Douglas in February 1865 on the subject of an increased remuneration of several classes of officers employed in the Department, *App.* 475 *et seq.*

Letter from Captain Murray, Officiating Director of Telegraphs, Eastern Division, dated 31 August 1864, submitting sundry suggestions relative to the staff and working of the Department, *App.* 489-493.

Letter from Mr. Galbraith, Officiating Director of Telegraphs, Western Division, dated Bombay, 20 August 1864, suggesting several amendments in the establishment and the administration of the Department, *App.* 496, 497.

Letter from Mr. Blissett to the Director General of Telegraphs, dated Bangalore, 9 September 1864, submitting sundry recommendations for the improvement of the constitution of the Department, *App.* 497, 498.

Letter from Mr. B. C. Bailey to the Director General of Telegraphs, dated 26 September 1864, attributing the bad working of the Telegraph Department to six different causes, and offering suggestions for putting the lines and offices into efficient working order, *App.* 498-500.

Letter from the Under Secretary to the Government of India to the Director General of Telegraphs, dated 17 June 1865, showing the views of the Government with reference to the Report of the latter, dated 1 February 1865; further information required before the adoption of certain measures suggested in this Report, *App.* 503-505.

Approval by the Government in July 1865 of proposals for increasing the pay of the signallers, *App.* 505, 506.

Letter from Colonel Robinson, as Officiating Director General of Telegraphs in India, to the Indian Government, dated 18 October 1865, submitting suggestions in detail for rendering the organisation and working of the Telegraph Department really efficient, *App.* 506-517.

Proceedings of the Governor General in Council, under date 8 December 1865, with reference to the Report of Colonel Robinson in October 1865; sanction given to the adoption generally of the measures proposed in this Report, *App.* 517-521.

xv. Representations of the Chambers of Commerce in 1861, and steps taken thereupon.

Communications in August 1861 from the Chambers of Commerce of Madras, Bengal, and Bombay, to the Indian Government relative to the working of the Telegraph Department, and the amendments required, *App.* 417-420.

Letter from Colonel Douglas to the Government of India, dated 9 November 1861, with reference to the communications from the Chambers of Commerce, and the question of the adoption of certain amendments, *App.* 425-428.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION (INDIA)—II. Telegraphs in India—continued.**1. Government Lines.—xv. Representations of the Chambers, &c.—continued.**

Letter from the Secretary to the Government of India to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, dated 15 January 1862, in reply to the communication of the latter in August 1861, *App.* 428-430.

xvi. Details of Improvements on the score of Construction, supply of Insulators, &c.

Steps being taken for reconstructing the lines, though this will be a work of time, *Strachey* 2564, 2565. 2608-2610—Statement showing the important steps taken by Government for improving the Indian telegraphs; very large expenditure for the purpose during the last year, *Thornton* 2695-2700—During the last year the Government of India have made requisitions to the extent of 86,000 *l.*, most of the articles required having been complied with, though some delay has been unavoidable, *ib.* 2697-2699.

Explanation relative to certain portions of Mr. Walton's evidence as to the defective construction and administration of the telegraph in India; this evidence is not applicable to the present time, great improvements having been adopted, *Thornton* 2701-2704—Remedy, since Mr. Walton left India, of the system of centralisation complained of in his evidence, *ib.* 2703—For the last eighteen months the Government of India have set themselves heartily to work to improve matters, *ib.* 2745, 2746.

Every effort has been made of late to improve the construction, but much delay has been unavoidable, *Robinson* 2827. 2887—Witness fully expects that before June 1867 the Indian lines will be equal to any in the world, except where peculiar obstacles are imposed by the physical difficulties of the country, *ib.* 2830—Reference to a certain report by witness containing recommendations as to the measures necessary in order to make the Indian telegraph lines thoroughly effective, *ib.* 2884-2886.

The faults of construction, and of an underpaid staff, have been strongly represented by witness to the Indian Government, who have promptly complied with his requirements, *Robinson* 2887, 2888—Summary of the improvements already effected or now in course of being carried out, *ib.* 2912—Very short time necessary for the transmission of messages between Kurrachee and Calcutta or Bombay within a few months from the present time, when second wires are up, *ib.* 2932-2937.

xvii. Question of a Transfer of the Lines from Government to a private Company.

Considerable delay on the part of Government in replying to an application in 1863 relative to taking over the Indian telegraphs, *Clark* 706-708—Decided advantage to the community in India by the telegraph service being under one company, instead of under various railway companies, or under Government, *Adley* 2152-2158—The Government could not or does not cultivate the traffic in the same way that a company would do, *ib.* 2154-2157.

Non-objection on the part of the Government to the formation of a private company to transmit commercial messages between Calcutta and Bombay, *Strachey* 2579, 2580—Objection by Government to the interference of a private company where the Government lines are already capable of doing all the private or commercial business, *ib.* 2580, 2581—Unwillingness of Government to allow any private company to work except under the Telegraph Act, and with a license, *ib.* 2582, 2583.

Necessity of Government maintaining a large portion of the telegraphs for public purposes, as many of the lines could not be worked at a profit by private companies, *Strachey* 2584—Consideration of the question whether in the interests of the Indian revenues there should not be an extensive amalgamation of the Government telegraphs with the railway telegraphs when they both run between the same towns, *ib.* 2586-2604—Doubt as to the expediency of Government giving up the more remunerative lines, and retaining only those which are not used for commercial purposes, *ib.* 2599. 2605—Approval of Government retaining control of those lines where they are capable of doing the private business, as they would be if the lines were constructed and managed on an improved system, *ib.* 2606, 2607.

Dissent from the view that, because the Government telegraphs have hitherto been badly administered, the proper remedy is to be found in their transfer to a private company, *Strachey* 2629—Argument that the telegraphs in India constitute essentially a public interest, which can better be dealt with in the hands of Government than of a private company; analogy in this respect between the telegraph and the Post Office, *ib.* 2629. 2630. 2639-2646—Conclusion as to the impracticability of finding capital for the construction and administration of telegraphs in India without the aid of a Government guarantee, *ib.* 2631, 2632. 2636-2638.

Several respects in which the executive local management is calculated to be more satisfactory when under the Government of India than when under a private company, *Strachey* 2633, 2634—Argument opposed to the view that more efficient and more economical

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION (INDIA)—II. Telegraphs in India—continued.

1. *Government Lines*—xvii. Question of a Transfer of the Lines, &c.—*continued*. economical administration is likely to result from the motive of private interest than from that of public interest, *Strachey* 2639–2644.

Examination opposed to the view that under a Government administration of the telegraph, as compared with administration by a company, commercial interests are likely to be set aside, and undue preference given to political considerations, *Strachey* 2655–2668 —Opinion that, by an improved organisation, there is no reason why the public or commercial interests should not be amply consulted under Government administration, *ib.* 2660. 2668.

Grounds for objecting to a transfer of the Government telegraphs, as well as of the railway telegraphs to a private company, *Thornton* 2811–2814 —Much less probability of corrupt conduct in Government officials in India than in the servants of private companies, *Robinson* 2844.

Conclusion expressed by the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce, in August 1861, that telegraphic communication in India would be worked more satisfactorily and profitably to the Government and to the public if it was entrusted to private enterprise, for which capital could readily be found in England, *App.* 420.

Objections urged in communication from Colonel Douglas against the proposition for the working of the lines by means of private enterprise, *App.* 427, 428.

xviii. **Conclusions and Recommendations of the Committee :**

The Committee consider that one of the chief causes of the complaints as to the imperfect performance of the telegraphic service between this country and India, is to be found in the neglect of the authorities in India to make adequate provision for the distribution from Kurrachee, *Rep.* xii—Unsatisfactory working of the Government lines, and causes thereof, *ib.* xiii—Recent adoption of efficacious measures for improving the administration of the service from Kurrachee, *ib.*—Reference to the refusal of the Indian Government to accede to a suggestion made in 1862 for making over the lines to a private company for administration, *ib.*

2. **Railway Lines :**

i. **Generally as to the Working of the Railway Telegraphs :**

Details explanatory of the working of the telegraphs of the East Indian Railway Company ; their superiority as compared with the Government telegraphs, *Adley* 2122, *et seq.* —Belief as to the railway telegraphs being well constructed and properly managed, *Strachey* 2588— Admission as to the facility of inspection and repair of railway lines of telegraph, as compared with the Government lines, *ib.* 2591–2598—Very fair manner in which the railway telegraphs are worked, *Robinson* 2845, 2846—Much better pay on the Government lines than on the railway lines, *ib.* 2845.

ii. **Number of Miles of Telegraph, and Cost of Construction :**

Return showing the expenditure of the companies in India and in England in respect of telegraphs up to 31 December 1864, and the number of miles of telegraph lines, and stations open in each year, *App.* 524–530. 615—Total of 411,924 L as the expenditure on railway telegraphs up to 31 December 1864, *ib.* 615.

Aggregate of 3141 miles of lines erected by the railway companies at a cost of 411,924 L., *Rep.* xiii.

iii. **Annual Receipts and Working Expenses :**

Total of 13,489 L. received for messages on the railway telegraphs in 1865, *Dorning* 2623.

Statistics of annual receipts and expenditure in respect of the railway companies' telegraphs in 1863 and 1864, *App.* 524–530. 615, 616—Total working and maintenance expenses, and total receipts for messages in 1864, showing a net loss of 28,399 L., irrespective of interest on capital, *ib.* 615.

iv. **Question of Administration by a single Company :**

Explanation of the proposition made to the Indian Government in 1863, for uniting under one administration the telegraphs of all the railways in India, Government having however not assented to the proposal, *Clark* 662–666—Particulars relative to the arrangements in force between the railway and telegraph companies in this country, *Clark* 709–726 ; *Adley*, 2154—Disposition on the part of the railway companies in England to erect their own telegraphs, *Clark* 716–718 ; *Adley* 2155—Sufficient business on the trunk lines in England, but not on the branch lines, for an independent administration by the railway companies and the telegraph companies, *Clark* 719–723.

Origination by witness in 1861 of a certain proposal for the formation of a public company for taking over the whole of the railway telegraph lines ; nature of the objections 428—I.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION (INDIA)—II. Telegraphs in India—continued.**1. Railway Lines—iv. Question of Administration, &c.—continued**

tions which have hitherto prevented the adoption of this scheme, *Adley* 2147-2151—Necessity of a public company erecting special wires, and having special clerks, irrespectively of the wires for railway messages, *ib.* 2148-2152—The Governor General does not seem opposed to the principle of one public company, *ib.* 2148. 2151—Objection by the railway authorities in India to the terms proposed, *ib.* 2148. 2151.

Restrictions, subject to which the railway companies have been permitted by Government to erect and work telegraph lines, *Strachey* 2571-2574—Information relative to the action taken by the Public Works Department in India, and by the Government, upon a proposal for the formation of a company for working all the railway telegraph lines, *ib.* 2575-2583—Witness sees no objection to the railway telegraphs being managed by a single company, *ib.* 2585—Pecuniary interest of Government in the railways, so that they would share in any good resulting to the latter, from re-arrangement of the telegraph system, *ib.* 2598-2604—Admission that private companies in India have on the whole managed their affairs very well, *ib.* 2634, 2635—Approval, on the whole, of the railway telegraphs still continuing in the companies' hands, *ib.* 2635.

Examination to the effect that witness cannot supply the reasons for the refusal by the Indian Government to sanction the transfer of the railway telegraphs to a private company, *Thornton* 2712-2726—Impression as to the Government of India being favourable, rather than otherwise, to the trial of a private company, *ib.* 2713-2715—Approval of the railway telegraphs being transferred to a private company; valuable competition by this means, *ib.* 2810-2817.

Opinion as to the advantage of the railway companies managing their own telegraphs, instead of the lines being all transferred to an independent company, *Robinson* 2852, 2853—Double service in cases where the Government lines and railway lines are in juxtaposition; there is not, however, much interference or competition with each other, *ib.* 2856-2866—Circumstance of there being no Government guarantee in respect of railway branch telegraphs from the stations to the towns, *ib.* 2867, 2868—Unwise division of responsibility, if the railway telegraphs in India were under an independent company, *ib.* 2938-2944.

Correspondence and negotiations in 1863-65, upon the question of a transfer of the railway telegraphs in India to a private company, *App.* 343-349—Proposed general terms of arrangement between the Oriental Telegraph Company and the railway companies, *ib.* 343-346—Communication from the Government of India, dated 10th June 1864, with reference to the proposed use of the railway telegraphs by an independent company; suggestions thereon as to the conditions essential in adopting the proposed arrangement, *ib.* 346-348.

Conclusions of the Indian Office in September 1864, that it is not desirable that the railway companies' public telegraph business be transferred to a separate company, *App.* 348.

v. Conclusions and Recommendations of the Committee:

Reference to the refusal of the Secretary of State for India to sanction a proposal made in 1863, for leasing the railway telegraph lines to the Oriental Telegraph Company, *Rep.* xiii—Means suggested for affording the public the utmost benefit attainable from the railway telegraphs in India, *ib.* xvi—Advantage of the use of the wires of the several companies by a public company willing to rent the privilege on equitable terms, or of such an organisation of the companies as will establish a unity of system, *ib.*

See also *Alexandria. Australia, 2. Belgrade. China 2. East Indian Railway. Egypt. Electric and International Telegraph Company. France. Italian Route. Kandahar. Malta and Alexandria Telegraph. Mediterranean Extension Telegraph. Moulmein. Opium Messages. Oriental Bank Corporation. Persia, and Persian Gulf Cable. Press of India. Red Sea and India Telegraphs. Russia. Singapore, 2. Submarine Cables. Turkey.*

Thompson, E. P. Abercrombie. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Explanation that in consequence of the Prussian war, and of an intimation received from Count Bismarck, it has been suggested to the telegraph companies that telegrams through Prussia should not be labelled to go by any particular route, 3578-3582—Dependence now placed practically on the Russian route, the line being in an efficient state as far as the Russian frontier, 3583-3588—Inefficiency of that portion of the Russo-Persian line between the Russian frontier and Teheran, in respect of which a telegram has just been sent to Teheran, at the instance of the India Office, with a view to its being placed under English superintendence, 3588, 3589.

Thornton, William Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Secretary of the Public Works Department in the India Office; produces various papers bearing upon the question before the Committee, 7-9.

[Second

Thornton, William Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

[Second Examination.]—Refers to a recent report by Major Champain, as showing that great improvement has taken place in the working of the Turkish portion of the Indo-European telegraph, 2682-2685. 2691—This improvement is not a result of the appointment of the present committee, 2685. 2782—Very great delay experienced last year in the transmission of messages over the Turkish line, 2686, 2687.

Explanation as to the India Office not having been in a position to give any answer to a letter from Mr. Grimston in 1862, asking the department to exert its influence with foreign governments to induce them to set apart one wire for the use of the Indo-European telegraph, 2688-2690—Statement in Major Champain's report as to the delay experienced on the Russian and Persian lines, the latter line being blocked up with snow during the winter, 2691, 2692—Exception taken to a statement by Mr. Grimston that the delays have been as great on the Indian system as on the Turkish system, 2693.

Result of inquiries made by the Government of India in 1861, in consequence of frequent complaints then made; conclusion as to the general efficiency of the telegraph in India at that period, 2693-2696—Blame attributable to the Continental administrations as well as to Turkey or India, 2693—Statement showing the important steps taken by Government for improving the Indian telegraphs, very large expenditure for the purpose during the last year, 2696-2700.

Explanation relative to certain portions of Mr. Walton's evidence as to the defective construction and administration of the telegraph in India; this evidence is not applicable to the present time, 2701-2704—Great improvement effected in the position and pay of the signallers, 2701—Question under consideration of the authorities in India, whether the Morse instrument shall be employed in its complete form or not, 2701, 2702—Correction of a statement by Mr. Walton as to the insulators which have failed, the improved insulators of Colonel Douglas and Captain Mallock not having failed at all, 2702, 2703.

Exaggerated statement by Mr. Walton as to the time occupied in messages between Bombay and Calcutta, 2703, 2704—Remedy since Mr. Walton left India, of the system of centralization complained of in his evidence, 2703—Inaccuracy of a statement that Government had prohibited the employment of natives as signallers, &c., 2704—Reasons for the employment of a greater number of Eurasians than of natives, 2704, 2705—Explanation with reference to some delay in the transmission of insulators and telegraphic stores to India, on account of specifications not having accompanied the indents when sent from India, 2706-2711.

Examination to the effect that witness cannot supply the reasons for the refusal by the Indian Government to sanction the transfer of the railway telegraphs to a private company, 2712-2720—Impression as to the Government of India being favourable rather than otherwise to the trial of a private company, 2713-2715—Considerations as to the refusal of the India Office to supply a copy of the despatch of the Indian Government, explaining the ground of objection to a transfer of the lines to a private company, 2716-2724.

Confirmation by Major Champain, of the statement that a message had been sent from Constantinople to Kurrachee, and an acknowledgment received, within three minutes, 2725—Letter from Major Champain in March, in which he states that the working of the Indo-European line between Constantinople and Kurrachee in the month of February had been very good, 2726. 2737, 2738—Statement by Major Champain as to the delay experienced in transmitting messages *viâ* Russia; subsequent inquiry by Government into this matter, 2726.

Further letter from Major Champain, on 30th April, in which he supplies particulars of the working of the Indo-European line during January, 2726—Improvement through the pressure brought to bear on the Turkish Government by the India Office through the Foreign Office, 2727, 2728. 2750—Reference to a statement showing the number of messages between the United Kingdom and India, and between the Continent of Europe and *vice versa*, during the year 1865; also the receipts in respect thereof, 2729-2731.

Impression that out of 2 *l.* 19 *s.* paid to the Indian Government, out of a total of 5 *l.* 1 *s.* for a message from this country, 10 *s.* 6 *d.* goes to the internal administration in India, and the remainder to the Persian Gulf line, 2732, 2733—The India Office cannot supply any information as to the working expenses of the Persian Gulf line, 2734-2736—Further reference to the amount of delay on the Turkish and Indian lines respectively; admission as to the great delay on the latter, though everything is being done in the way of improvement, 2737-2746.

Improvement in the management of the Turkish line rather than in the construction, there being now not much cause for complaint, 2743-2753. 2760—Circumstance of no arrangement having yet been made for the re-imbursement of the British Government by the

Thornton, William Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

the Porte in respect of the line from Bagdad to Fao, 2754-2756—Doubt as to the relative working of the Bagdad and Fao line, which is under the general superintendence of Colonel Kemball, and of the line between Bagdad and Constantinople, which is entirely under Turkish superintendence, 2757-2759.

Circumstance of the convention with Turkey not having been modified with regard to the employment of British signalers, &c., 2760. 2763—Inquiry by Major Champain with reference to the question of a transfer of the Turkish line, he having found, however, that its administration had been greatly improved, 2761—Great uncertainty whether the improvement will last, 2762.

Impression that no messages to India have lately been sent by the Russian line, 2764—Probability of some messages from India being sent from Teheran by the Russian line, the responsibility resting with the official in charge of the office at Teheran, 2765-2768—Opinion of the Government of India as to the expediency of the British Government being a party to the international convention between the foreign powers in regard to the telegraphs on the Continent, 2769-2771.

Employment of Europeans, as well as of natives and Eurasians on the telegraph lines in India, 2772-2774—Question considered, whether it would not be desirable to transmit messages in the native language, 2775-2777. 2780, 2781—Mismanagement owing to which some messages between Bombay and Calcutta having been many days on the route, 2778, 2779.

Great importance of the main lines of telegraph in India being as much as possible coincident with the lines of railway communication, 2783-2799—Advantage of branch telegraphic lines being connected with the main lines along the railways, rather than of their being formed independently from point to point, 2791-2799—Approval of branch lines to any town being made from the nearest point on the main line of railway communication, 2795-2799.

Statement as to the Government lines of telegraph being, to a considerable extent, coincident with the lines of railway, 2800-2805—Grounds upon which it was probably expedient, as a temporary arrangement, to lay down the Government lines irrespectively of the railway lines, pending the completion of the latter, 2805-2809—Approval of the railway telegraphs being transferred to a private company; valuable competition by this means, 2810-2817—Grounds for objecting to a transfer of the Government telegraphs, as well as of the railway telegraphs, to a private company, 2811-2814.

Probability of there being traffic enough to return a profit on both the Government lines and the railway lines, if the required improvements were fully carried out, 2812-2814—Dissent from the assumption that Government is disposed to regard lightly the question of profit or loss on their telegraph system, 2815-2821—Character and effect of the Government control over the management of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, adverted to in connection with their administration of the telegraph, 2820, 2821.

With regard to the telegraph line between Diarbekir and Alexandria, no cognizance is taken of it in the India Office, it being known that the Turks are not in a condition to guarantee its efficiency, 2822.

Witness lays before the Committee a copy of the Act of 1860, for regulating the establishment and management of the telegraphs in India, 2823.

Time Tables (Postal Contracts). Reference to a comparative statement of the time for the different services under the old and new contracts, showing that in no case is the time longer under the new agreement, but is in three instances slightly less, *Hill* 3597.

Time Table of the India, China, Australia, and Mauritius Mail Service for the year 1864, as approved by the Postmaster General on 2nd November 1863, *App.* 218-221.

Table showing the proposed movements of the packets for the year 1865, as approved by the Postmaster General in October 1864, *App.* 222-225.

"Times of India" Newspaper. Comment upon some statements in the "Times of India," reflecting strongly on the witness's company: inaccuracy of these, *Howell* 3021.

See also *Press of India.*

Trade. Immense importance of the telegraph in the conduct of trade, so that the post is becoming subsidiary to the telegraph, *Nelson* 813-815; *Shand* 968-973; *M. Micking* 1066-1073—Frequent loss to merchants under the present uncertain and inaccurate system of late, *Nelson* 813, 814—Advantage derived even from the former imperfect plan of telegraphing to Suez in order to catch the steamer for Bombay, *ib.* 819-821—Valuable character of the China trade, so that telegraphic communication with that country is very desirable, *ib.* 832-837.

Great attention and improvement in the mode of transaction of business between England and India since the introduction of telegraphic communication, *Crake* 905-

Trade—continued.

921—Effect of the telegraph not only to increase the orders for Indian cotton, &c., and to decrease the risk, but to enable a repetition of transactions to be carried out with a smaller capital, *Crake* 910-921—Great value of the telegraph in the mercantile transactions between this country and the East, *Robinson* 1116-1119—Frequent use of the telegraph by witness's firm; testimony to the great importance of this means of communication, *Green* 1147-1154. 1168-1172.

Reference to certain statistics, as showing the immensity of the trading and shipping interest to be accommodated by an extension of the telegraph to China and Australia, *Gisborne* 3264. 3267-3276—Reference to statistics of the immense trade between England and China, and between India and China, *ib.* 3268-3273—Immense value of the trade of Australia, besides which there is the large bullion export, the whole being interested in telegraphic communication with the East and with England, *ib.* 3303-3307. 3327-3330.

Return of the total value of imports into the United Kingdom and of exports therefrom, and of the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared at ports in the United Kingdom in the year 1865, *App.* 531—Value of imports and exports, and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared, from and to British India, China, Egypt, Australia, &c., in the year 1865, *ib.*—Detailed statement of the value of imports and exports, to and from the several countries embraced in the foregoing return, *ib.* 532-537.

General summary of the foreign and local trade and shipping expected to make use of the proposed telegraph to Singapore, China, and Australia, *App.* 632-635.

Circumstance of upwards of twenty-five per cent. of the whole of the external commerce of the United Kingdom being transacted with the several countries embraced in the present inquiry, *Rep.* iii—The great importance of rapid and regular systems of communications between countries transacting business of such magnitude and importance can hardly be over-rated, *ib.*

Conclusion of the committee that the magnitude of the interests involved in the trade of this country with China and the Australian Colonies, renders it desirable that arrangements should be made to bring those communities within the reach of telegraphic communication with Europe, *Rep.* xvi.

Transit through Egypt. Great reduction in the transit rate for first-class passengers from Suez to Alexandria, *Howell* 1571—The rate for a first-class passenger, including three cwt. of luggage, is now 4 £ 10 s., *ib.*—At one time the transmit rate was 12 £, *ib.*

Contract time of twenty-four hours for the transit through Egypt of the Marseilles portion of the mails, and of forty-four hours for the transit of the Southampton portion, *App.* 218, 219.

Statement of the sum paid to the Pacha of Egypt for the conveyance of the mails through his territory, *App.* 558.

Treasury, The. Approval by the Treasury of a weekly mail to Bombay, if the Indian Government would pay the increased cost, *Hill* 205. 218-226—Statement as to the Treasury having objected to a weekly mail to Bombay, on the ground only of the increased cost to this country, *Bourdillon* 2524-2526—Reference to the intimation by the Treasury in December last, that they should not further press the question of increased rates of postage as a condition of a weekly mail, *ib.* 2551.

Invariable refusal of the Treasury to assist by subsidy, or guarantee the proposed lines of telegraph from Singapore to China and Australia, *Gisborne* 3262-3264.

Letter from the Treasury to the Post Office, dated 14th December 1865, refusing to sanction the increased charge of a weekly mail service to Bombay (the Government of India objecting to any increase of postage) unless the Indian Government should think fit to defray the entire amount of increased charge, *App.* 291.

Letter from Mr. Wilson, as Secretary of the Treasury, to the Postmaster General dated 11th July 1854, proposing that one half the net loss on the mail service to India, China, &c., be borne by the Indian Government, *App.* 559, 560—Objections raised by the Court of Directors against the foregoing arrangement, *ib.* 613, 614.

See also *Government Aid.*

Troops, Conveyance of. Letter from the Peninsular and Oriental Company to Sir Charles Wood, in June 1863, upon the question of contracting for the conveyance of troops to and from India by the overland route: this letter has never been answered, *Howell* 1481, 1482. 1503—Great practical difficulty in attempting to combine the conveyance of troops with that of passengers as one service, *ib.* 1482-1491. 1503 *et seq.*—Heavy cost of keeping vessels unemployed at the other side of Suez, whereas they could not be employed in the hot seasons for the conveyance of troops, *ib.* 1483. 1487-1489. 1507-1521—Exceptional circumstances, as during the mutiny, under which the company have conveyed a good many troops in their passenger ships, *ib.* 1490.

Troops, Conveyance of—continued.

Impossibility of the Company conveying a whole regiment or battalion in a passenger-ship between Suez and Bombay; necessity of special ships for the purpose, *Howell* 1505-1508—Means of the Company as well as of Government for combining the transport of troops to Australia, New Zealand, &c., with a transport service between Suez and Bombay, *ib.* 1511-1520—Considerable trouble and expense in fitting up a passenger-ship as a troop-ship, *ib.* 1521-1525.

Probable necessity of the Company constructing a special fleet of transports if they were to contract for the conveyance of all the troops to and from India *viâ* the Red Sea, *Howell* 1526-1532—Effect of the Company obtaining a contract for the troop service, to render still more permanent their present monopoly of communication in the East, *ib.* 1532-1535.

TURKEY (TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION):

1. *Statements as to the Defective Working of the Telegraphs through Turkey up to a recent Period, and as to the Remedies required.*
2. *Statistics of the Time of Transmission of Messages to and from India viâ Turkey.*
3. *Considerable Improvement recently.*
4. *Convention between England and Turkey.*
5. *Convention between Turkey and Persia.*
6. *Recent Despatch from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs.*
7. *Other Details generally.*
8. *Conclusions and Recommendations of the Committee.*

1. *Statements as to the Defective Working of the Telegraphs through Turkey up to a recent Period, and as to the Remedies required:*

Delay and inaccuracy in transmission through Turkey, *Sir J. Carmichael* 759. 775—Great delay experienced in sending London messages for Alexandria *viâ* Constantinople and Syria, *Glass* 1644-1656—Delay and neglect in Turkey and in Egypt, owing to the apathy and idleness of the native clerks, *ib.* 1695-1700. 1761—Imperfect working of the line attributed chiefly to the neglect of the Turkish-line men, more especially when the insulators get broken, *Greener* 1879-1882.

Constant error in the transmission of messages, through the clerks at the stations being mostly Armenians, few of whom understand English; there should in fact be two clerks at each station competent to read English, *Greener* 1883-1886—Repetition of the message several times between Constantinople and Fao, whereas under proper management a message might be sent to Fao in two hours, *ib.* 1887, 1888—Indifference of the officials in regard to the adoption of improvements, *ib.* 1889, 1890—Occasional instances of messages being kept for days without being forwarded, *ib.* 1891, 1892—Probability of the later messages being sometimes the first forwarded, when there is a large arrear to be overtaken, *ib.* 1893, 1894.

Satisfactory working of the line through Turkey, if there were some good English signallers and inspectors, together with some Turkish sub-inspectors, *Greener* 1895-1901—Entire inadequacy of the present inspection of the line, *ib.* 1896. 1936—Expediency of some pressure upon the Turkish government, in order that the terms of the convention with this country as to the working of the telegraph lines, may be properly fulfilled, *ib.* 1915-1919—Messages should reach Kurrachee from Constantinople in three or four hours, *ib.* 1922-1924.

Facility of always working through from Constantinople to Bagdad, if there were one wire always available, with the insulation properly kept up, *Greener* 1925-1934—Insufficiency of the maintenance arrangements on the Turkish lines further adverted to, *ib.* 1935-1937—Delays through there not being a regular system of change of clerks, as there is on the Persian Gulf line, *ib.* 1938-1941.

Circumstance of the Turks having put up a wire from Diarbekir to Scutari, but without insulators, so that it would not work, *Greener* 1964—Advantage if there were stronger insulators on the line through Asia Minor, as recommended by witness in his report to Colonel Kemball, *ib.* 1965-1970—Further statement as to the convention not having been carried out in regard to the appointment of signallers conversant with English; prospect of this being remedied in time, *ib.* 2002-2011.

Very great delay experienced last year in the transmission of messages over the Turkish line, *Thornton* 2686, 2687—Circumstance of the convention with Turkey not having been modified with regard to the employment of British signallers, &c., *ib.* 2760. 2763—Doubt as to there being more delay in Turkey than in Europe, *H. J. Walton* 3177-3179—Fault of the Turkish Government more especially that the telegraphic communication with India is so deficient, *Siemens* 3403—Suggested alteration of the convention with Turkey, so as to provide for the European side of Constantinople as well as the Asiatic side, *Goldsmid* 3573, 3574.

Letter

TURKEY (TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION)—continued.

1. *Statements as to the Defective Working of the Telegraphs, &c.*—continued.

Letter from Mr. Walton to the Government of India in October 1865, relative to the unsatisfactory working of the telegraph through Turkey and the delays experienced, *App.* 434-436.

Information in letter from Lieutenant Colonel Goldsmid to the Bombay Government in November 1865, with reference to the route of messages through Turkey, the delays experienced, and the remedies required, *App.* 436-440.

Very deficient working of the Turkish portion of the telegraphic system adverted to by Major Champain in letter of 31st August 1865, *App.* 442, 443.

Report by Major Champain, dated Constantinople, 12th April 1866, relative to the recent working of the Turkish portion of the line to India, and the measures necessary to render it thoroughly efficient, *App.* 619-624.

2. *Statistics of the Time of Transmission of Messages to and from India viâ Turkey:*

Average of two days and thirteen hours occupied by each message between Kurrachee and Constantinople in January last, *Thornton* 2726—Average of two days and six hours between Constantinople and Kurrachee in January last, *ib.*—Statement showing the much shorter time occupied in the transmission of messages from England to Kurrachee viâ Turkey than viâ Russia, *Goldsmid* 3503.

Return of messages received by the Electric and International Telegraph Company from India by the route through Turkey, in March, and from 1st to 16th April 1866, showing in each case the station from which sent, and the time taken in transmission, *App.* 540-555.

Summary showing the time occupied in the transmission of messages between Kurrachee and Constantinople, and *vice versa*, in each month of 1865, *App.* 624—Great improvement during January, February, and March 1866, *ib.* 625.

Return showing the much shorter time occupied in transmission to Kurrachee viâ Turkey than viâ Russia, in February 1866, *App.* 625.

Return showing the average time occupied by telegrams in reaching Kurrachee from the United Kingdom viâ Russia and viâ Turkey, since the opening of the line in March 1865 up to the end of February 1866, *App.* 628—Much less time viâ Turkey than viâ Russia, *ib.*

3. *Considerable Improvement recently:*

The line from Bagdad to the head of the Persian Gulf was in very good condition and was working well when witness left, about five months ago, *Greener* 1860—Probable explanation with reference to a certain message from Constantinople to Kurrachee, the acknowledgment of which was said to have been received back at Constantinople in three minutes, *ib.* 2017-2024—Recent instance of a message having been sent from Constantinople to Kurrachee, and an acknowledgment received in three minutes, *H. Walton* 2034—Regular working lately between Constantinople and Fao, *ib.* 2034, 2035.

Reference to a recent report by Major Champain, as showing that great improvement has taken place in the working of the Turkish portion of the Indo-European Telegraph, *Thornton* 2682-2685, 2691—This improvement is not a result of the appointment of the present Committee, *ib.* 2685, 2782—Confirmation by Major Champain, of the statement that a message had been sent from Constantinople to Kurrachee, and an acknowledgment received within three minutes, *ib.* 2725.

Reference to a letter from Major Champain in March, in which he states that the working of the Indo-European line between Constantinople and Kurrachee, in the month of February, had been very good, *Thornton* 2726, 2737, 2738—Further letter from Major Champain on 30th April, in which he supplies particulars of the working of the Indo-European line during January, *ib.* 2726—Improvement in the management of the Turkish line rather than in the construction, there being now not much cause for complaint, *ib.* 2743-2753, 2760—Inquiry by Major Champain with reference to the question of a transfer of the Turkish line, he having found however that its administration had been greatly improved, *ib.* 2761—Great uncertainty whether the improvement will last, *ib.* 2762.

Statement by Major Champain, dated Constantinople, 26th February 1866, that during the last three or four weeks the communication by telegraph, both to India and London, has been surprisingly regular and prompt, *App.* 448.

Letters from Mr. Walter Courtenay, in January and February 1866, as to the very satisfactory working of the Turkish lines viâ Constantinople, *App.* 521, 522.

Statement by Mr. Courtenay, dated Constantinople, 21st February 1866, that a message was sent thence to Kurrachee on the 8th instant, the acknowledgment of which was received at Constantinople in three minutes afterwards, *App.* 522.

TURKEY (TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION)—continued.4. *Convention between England and Turkey :*

Copy of convention between Her Majesty and the Sultan, dated 3rd September 1864, with reference to the maintenance and administration of telegraphic communication between Constantinople and Fao, *App.* 350-352.

Communication from the India Office to the Foreign Office, dated 2nd December 1863, enclosing memorandum of proposed political convention with Turkey for the working of the Indo-European Telegraph, on the first opening of the through line to India, *App.* 399-401.

5. *Convention between Turkey and Persia :*

Copy of telegraphic convention between the Sublime Porte and the Persian Government, dated 28th November 1863, *App.* 402-404.

6. *Recent Despatch from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs.*

Copy of despatch, dated 11th April 1866, from the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs, relative to the working of that portion of the Indo-European Telegraph which passes through the Turkish dominions, *App.* 594, 595.

7. *Other details generally.*

Impression as to the charge for transmission over the Turkish line being too much, *Hon. R. Grimston*, 607-611—Failure of attempts by witness's company to obtain permission from the Turkish Government to lay a line from Alexandria, or from El Arish, to Diarbekir or Constantinople, &c., *Glass* 1701. 1754-1757—Since its completion, the line from Bagdad to Fao has not been interfered with by the Arabs, but during construction was frequently injured by them, *Greener* 1860. 1863—The line has been exceedingly well constructed, *ib.* 1861, 1862—Construction of the line between Constantinople and Bagdad under English superintendence, *ib.* 1867-1869.

Route of the line between Constantinople and Bagdad, and between Bagdad and Fao, at the head of the Persian Gulf, *Greener* 1870—Good construction of the line between Constantinople and Bagdad, so that, if properly managed, it should work as well as any other line, *ib.* 1871-1873. 1897—Obstruction in some parts of the line in Asia Minor in winter, when there are heavy falls of snow; improvement in this respect if the line did not go direct through the valleys, *ib.* 1874, 1875. 1942-1946—The line from Constantinople through to Fao is practically worked from Constantinople, as being the head quarters, *ib.* 1876-1878.

Advantage of the route by the Euphrates over that of the Tigris; less danger of interruption from the Arabs on the former route, *Greener* 1947-1952. 1959-1963. 1983-2001—Improbability of Arab interference or injury so long as the present Sheikh of Montefidje is in power, *ib.* 1951, 1952. 1964. 1988-2000—Doubt whether Government messages from this country are given priority over private messages, *ib.* 1971-1974—Very good working order of the line between Diarbekir and Mosul, *ib.* 1980-1982—Numerous messages sometimes passing daily through Bagdad, the offices being supposed to be open day and night, *ib.* 2015, 2016.

8. *Conclusions and Recommendations of the Committee.*

Proportion of Indian telegraphic messages now sent by the different routes to and from Constantinople, *Rep.* x—Reference to the general concurrence of testimony as to the very defective administration of the telegraph in Turkey, *ib.* xi, xii—Views of Major Champain and of Colonel Goldsmid cited as showing the defective arrangements in Turkey, and the importance of a competitive route, *ib.*—Improvement reported to have taken place of late in working the lines in Turkey, *ib.* xii.

Conclusion of the Committee that a main cause of the complaints so generally and justly made is to be found in the imperfect administration of the Turkish system, *Rep.* xii—Suggestions as to the several means by which the service may in time become satisfactory in its working, *ib.* xiii—Importance of the establishment of separate lines, entirely or partially independent of the present line, through Turkey, *ib.* xv.

See also *Belgrade. Egypt. Telegraphic Communication (India)* I.

V.

Valpy, Richard. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Represents the Statistical Department of the Board of Trade, and submits various returns relative to the commerce between this country and India, &c., 15-19.

Van

Van Diemen's Land. Explanation as to the failure of an attempt to lay a cable across Bass's Straits, so that there is no telegraphic communication with Van Diemen's Land, *Sir C. Nicholson* 3250. 3252-3254.—See also *Australia*.

Victoria. Summary of the foreign and home trade and shipping of the colony, which will make use of the proposed telegraphic communication, *App.* 635.—See also *Australia*.

W.

Walton, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is in the telegraphic service of the Government of India; has been employed in Bengal and other parts of India, and is conversant with the line through Persia and with parts of the Persian Gulf line, 2025-2030. 2033. 2061, 2062—Good condition for the most part of the line through Persia, 2031. 2047. 2057-2060—Obstruction caused during the past winter by the snow, where a portion of the line had been taken through a defile; alteration being made at this point, so that the interruption will not again arise, 2031, 2032—Recent instance of a message having been sent from Constantinople to Kurrachee and an acknowledgement received in three minutes, 2034—Regular working lately between Constantinople and Fao, 2034, 2035.

Evidence as to the advantages of the Persian line, in conjunction with the Russian, for the transmission of messages between India and England, 2036-2055—Steps taken for putting up a second wire through Persia, to be reserved for Indo-European messages, 2036. 2055—Employment of both English and French signallers on the Persian line, 2037. 2044—Convention between Russia and Persia, as to the working of the line between Teheran and the Russian frontier, 2037. 2049, 2050.

Explanation as to the unsatisfactory result in the case of some messages to India *via* Russia; recently the Russian line has been working very well, 2039, 2040—Short period in which messages are now delivered between London and Teheran *via* the Russian line, 2040. 2042. 2048—Encouragement now given to the employment of English signallers on the Russian line, 2041, 2042. 2046—Objection by the Persian Government to any foreign interference as regards the protection of the line, 2044, 2045.—Very good working of the line between Teheran and Tabriz, 2047. 2048.

Employment on the Persian line of men who had served in the Indian Department, but who had resigned on account of their inadequate pay in India, 2062-2065—Very insufficient staff at Kurrachee and other points for the transmission of the numerous messages received, 2066—Evidence as to the unduly limited pay in the Indian Telegraph Department, so that it is difficult to obtain a proper staff, 2067, 2068. 2084-2092. 2101-2109—Use of sounding instruments in the offices in India, the messages not being printed at all; fertile source of inaccuracy thereby, 2068, 2069.

Untrustworthy class of persons employed in the telegraph offices in India; these are chiefly East Indians, pure natives not being allowed to be employed, 2070-2073, 2104-2109—Bad condition of the Government lines in the North Western Provinces, owing very much to the defective insulators, 2074-2076. 2079—Very bad state also of the line between Kurrachee and Bombay, there being, moreover, a deficiency of clerks at Kurrachee, 2077, 2078—Exceedingly irregular working of the line between Bombay and Calcutta, caused very much by the centralisation system and the necessity of referring to Calcutta, even on the most trivial matters, 2079-2082—Unduly long time for which the signallers are kept on duty in India, 2083.

Better remuneration of signallers, &c. in Persia than in India, 2084-2092—Charge for transmission in Persia and India respectively, 2093, 2094. 2112, 2113—Practice in Persia as to the language in which messages are transmitted, 2094-2096—Transmission of messages through Kurrachee, without their being translated at that point, 2097, 2098—Less cost of a message from Teheran to London *via* Russia than *via* Turkey, 2110, 2111—Separate treaties of Persia with Turkey, with Russia, and with this country, 2113—Reference to the contemplated extension of the line from Ispahan to Bunder Abbas, 2114.

Walton, Hubert Izaak. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been engaged at Kurrachee as director of the Persian Gulf Telegraph line to Fao, 3111, 3112—Left Kurrachee very recently and the line was then in an excellent condition, 3113-3118—Great improvement since the end of last year in the service from Kurrachee into the interior of India, 3119-3123. 3133—Considerable delay experienced in some instances at Kurrachee through the defective working of the lines in India; great improvement having, however, latterly taken place, 3124-3129. 3133.

Very defective state in which messages used to arrive at Fao from England, as well as at Kurrachee from India, 3130-3133—Satisfactory working of the line from Kurrachee to Gwadur; great advantage if this line were extended to Bunder Abbas and on to Bushire, 3134-3147—Insufficiency of the Persian Gulf for the transmission of an increased number of messages, so that a land line through Persia is very desirable, 428—I.

Report, 1866—continued.

Walton, Hubert Isaak. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

3140-3147. 3150, 3151—Transmission of all the messages over the Persian Gulf line in English, 3148, 3149—Sufficiency of the Persian Gulf line, and one other line, for all the messages likely to be sent to China, Australia, &c., as well as to India, 3150, 3151.

Large excess of receipts over expenses on the Persian Gulf line, whilst the profits would probably be doubled if the telegraphs to England on the one hand, and into India on the other, were efficiently administered, 3153-3160. 3178-3181. 3190-3194—Continuous night and day service on the line, 3161—Excellent staff of signallers employed, 3162—Absence of interference on the part of the Arabs, 3164, 3165—Suggestions made by witness for improving the course of the line eastward of Kurrachee, 3166—Large local traffic on the Persian Gulf line, 3167.

Varying time occupied between England and the head of the Persian Gulf during the present year, the messages being frequently delayed either in Turkey or in Europe, 3168. 3203-3207—Impression as to the average time now occupied between Kurrachee and Calcutta being from fifteen to eighteen hours; Colonel Robinson, however, is a better authority on this point, 3169, 3170. 3214-3221—Very good working of the submarine line from Fao to Gwadur, as compared with the land line, 3171, 3172—Doubt as to there being more delay in Turkey than in Europe, 3177-3179.

Control by the Bombay Government of the Persian Gulf line from Fao to Kurrachee, 3182-3184. 3222, 3223—Very short time required between Kurrachee and Calcutta if the line were in a proper state, 3185-3189. 3217. 3221—Further reference to the occurrence on one occasion of some considerable delay before messages could be forwarded into India from Kurrachee; this was partly owing to obstruction caused by the floods, 3195-3202—Much greater cost of a submarine line than a land line, the latter also being more readily repaired, 3208-3213.

Walton, H. I. Letter from Mr. H. I. Walton, as officiating deputy superintendent of telegraphs in Bengal, dated 16th May 1861, submitting suggestions for a re-organisation of the staff of the department, *App.* 463-465.

Letters from Mr. Walton, in May 1865, with reference to the defective working of the telegraph between Kurrachee and Bombay, *App.* 431-433.

Communication from Mr. Walton to the Government of India, in October 1865, with reference to the unsatisfactory working of the telegraph between England and Fao, and the delays experienced in Turkey, *App.* 434-436.

WEEKLY MAIL:

1. *Generally as to the expediency of a Weekly Mail to India via Bombay.*
2. *Details relative to the Views and Proceedings of the Indian and Home Authorities in the Matter.*
3. *Cost of the Proposed Service.*
4. *Question of Increasing the Postage.*
5. *Effect upon the Passenger Traffic.*
6. *Suggestions as to the Number and Class of Vessels, and the Rate of Speed.*
7. *Explanatory Statements on the part of the Peninsular and Oriental Company.*
8. *Views of the Committee as to the Expediency of the Proposed Service.*

1. *Generally as to the Expediency of a Weekly Mail to India via Bombay:*

Views of the Post Office as to the importance of a weekly mail with Bombay, *Hill* 183-187—Great increase of postal communication to the public by a weekly mail to Bombay in lieu of the present service, *ib.* 227-229—Statement strongly in favour of a weekly mail from London to Bombay, *Nelson* 823-825. 852-856—Contemplated abandonment of the separate sea service to Madras and Calcutta if there were a weekly mail to Bombay, more especially when the Indian railways are completed, *Campbell* 1002-1011.

Approval of Friday as the day for despatching a weekly mail to India, *Campbell* 1006-1009; *M'Meeking* 1079-1081; *Green* 1178, 1179; *Bourdillon* 2519, 2520—Great advantage if there were a weekly mail to Bombay, leaving London on Friday, *Gladstone* 1029-1038. 1047-1049—Contemplated despatch of all the Indian mails to Bombay, to be distributed there by railway, if there were a weekly service, *ib.* 1039-1041. 1057—General feeling among the merchants at Liverpool as to the expediency of a weekly mail every Friday, *ib.* 1041—Importance of a weekly mail, irrespectively of the question of improvement in the telegraphic service, *Robinson* 1124-1126. 1133-1136.

Memorial from the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce in favour of a weekly mail between Suez and Bombay, in lieu of the existing service *via* Galle, *App.* 644.

2. *Details*

WEEKLY MAIL—continued.

2. *Details relative to the Views and Proceedings of the Indian and Home Authorities in the Matter:*

Approval by the Treasury of the proposed weekly mail, provided the Indian Government would pay the increased charge, *Hill* 205. 218-226.

Reference to the views of the Government of India in support of the representations of the Director General of the Post Office in India, as to the importance of a weekly mail to Bombay, and the injustice in such case of charging the Indian revenues with any portion of the service, *viâ Galle, Bourdillon* 2514-2517. 2521-2523—Long period for which the Indian Government have been in favour of a weekly mail to Bombay, *ib.* 2518.

Objection by the Treasury to a weekly mail on the ground only of the increased cost, *Bourdillon* 2524-2526—Willingness of the Indian Government to pay its fair proportion of any increased expense necessary in perfecting the communication with India, *ib.* 2239-2244—Circumstance of the Treasury having intimated in December last that they should not further press the question of increased rates of postage as a condition of a weekly mail, *ib.* 2551.

Letter from Mr. Melvill to the Secretary to the Post Office in October 1860, expressing the concurrence of Sir Charles Wood in the opinion of the Government of India, as to the importance of the establishment as soon as possible of a weekly postal communication between England and Bombay, *App.* 231.

Communication from the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India, dated 31st August 1860, in support of a letter from the Director General of the Post Office in India in favour of a weekly mail to Bombay, and of the discontinuance of the service *viâ Galle* to Madras and Calcutta, *App.* 231, 232.

Letter from the Director-general of the Indian Post Office, dated 24th April 1860, explanatory of his views in support of the establishment of a weekly mail, the mail to Calcutta and Madras being at the same time discontinued, *App.* 232, 233.

Further communication from the Government of India, dated 28th June 1861, in support of further report by Mr. Riddell advocating a weekly mail to Bombay, *App.* 241-243.

Further statement by Mr. Riddell, dated 19th April 1861, in support of the proposition for a weekly mail to Bombay, and thence overland to Madras and Calcutta, *App.* 243, 244.

Correspondence in 1861 and 1862 upon the subject of a service four times a month to Bombay, in lieu of the proposed weekly service; also forms of tender for the two additional services monthly from Aden to Bombay, *App.* 244, *et seq.*

Correspondence in 1865 upon the question of the mails being despatched every Friday instead of only four times a month, *App.* 273-291.

Further communications from the Government of India and the Director-general of the Post Office in India, in February and April 1865, in support of the establishment of a weekly mail, *App.* 279-282.

Repetition by the India Office, in letter of 5th October 1865, of former representations as to the great importance commercially of a weekly mail to Bombay, *App.* 286.

Communication from the Treasury to the Post Office, dated 14 December 1865, objecting to the expense involved in the establishment of a weekly mail service to Bombay, if unaccompanied with an advance in the postage, unless the Government of India should think fit to defray the entire amount of the increased cost of such service, *App.* 291.

Letter from the Governor General in Council to the Secretary of State for India, dated 22 February 1866, urging the adoption of some arrangement whereby India may obtain the great advantage of a weekly mail to Bombay without being compelled at the same time to pay part of the expense of maintaining another line of communication which is no longer of any service to India, *App.* 599.

Further communication from the Director General of the Post Office of India, dated 19 February 1866, relative to the expediency of the immediate establishment of a weekly service between Suez and Bombay, *App.* 600-602—Conclusion arrived at in Mr. Riddell's letter of 19 February 1866, that there will be no increase of expense, provided the service between Suez and India is exclusively confined to Bombay, *ib.* 600, 601.

Despatches from Lord De Grey and Ripon to the Government of India, dated 31 March 1866 and May 1866, declining to sanction the proposal for two additional mails monthly between Bombay and Suez, pending the inquiries by the present Committee, *App.* 602, 603.

Communication from the India Office to the Post Office, dated 5 May 1866, in which it is further stated that Lord De Grey is not prepared to sanction, at the sole charge of India, the establishment of the additional steamers required between Suez and Bombay for a weekly service, *App.* 602.

Report, 1866—continued.

WEEKLY MAIL—continued.2. *Details relative to the Views and Proceedings, &c.*—continued.

Copy of tender by Messrs. Stearns, Hobart & Co., on behalf of the Bombay and Bengal Company, dated 12 January 1866, for two additional mail services monthly between Suez and Bombay for 20,000 rupees a month, *App.* 603—Letter from the Bombay Government, dated 27 January 1866, strongly recommending that the tender be at once accepted provisionally for a year, *ib.*—Note by the Director General of Post Offices in India, dated 26 January 1866, strongly advocating the immediate acceptance of the tender of Messrs. Stearns & Hobart, *ib.* 605.

Official papers and correspondence of the Public Works Department and the Post Office, in India, in September, October, and November 1865, upon the question of expediting the conveyance of the mails by railway to Calcutta, &c. in connection with a weekly service between Suez and Bombay, *App.* 606–612.

Communication from Mr. Hill on the part of the Post Office to the India Office, dated 24 May 1866, justifying the course of action of the former department in regard to the question of a weekly mail to Bombay, and charging the responsibility in the matter upon the Indian Government, *App.* 653—Argument on the part of the Post Office, that any loss to accrue from the proposed service should fall upon the Indian Government, as being chiefly attributable to the opposition of such Government to even a temporary increase in the rate of postage, *ib.*—Statement in this letter as to the inaccuracy of Mr. Riddell's calculations, *ib.*

Communication from the India Office to the Post Office, dated 12 June 1866, further objecting to any increase of postage in connection with a weekly mail to Bombay, and dissenting from the view that any additional expense should fall exclusively upon the revenues of India, *App.* 654.

3. *Cost of the Proposed Service:*

Reasons for a much larger charge for a weekly service to Bombay, than for the present fortnightly service to Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta, though the latter involves a greater mileage, *Hill* 187–201—Offer by the Peninsular and Oriental Company to perform two more services in the calendar month between Suez and Bombay for an additional subsidy of 60,000 *l.*, *ib.* 187. 196–198—Data for calculating that the net additional cost of a weekly mail to Bombay would be 30,000 *l.* a year, *ib.* 294–297.

4. *Question of increasing the Postage:*

Conclusion arrived at by the Post Office that a weekly mail to India might be established if the postage were raised from 6 *d.* to 1 *s.*, the Indian Government and Sir Charles Wood having, however, strongly objected to such increase, *Hill* 205–217.

Decided dissent from the views of the Post Office authorities that the rate of postage must be doubled in order to make up the increased cost of a weekly service, *Nelson* 826–828—Argument as to the unfairness of refusing a weekly mail to Bombay, on the ground of the India Office not consenting to an increased rate of postage, *Knight* 2357.

Views expressed by the Post Office in November 1862 and 1863, as to the expediency of raising the postage from 6 *d.* to 1 *s.* on each half ounce letter between England and India, in connection with a weekly mail to Bombay, *App.* 262. 271, 272.

Further statement by the Post Office in May 1863 in regard to the Indian authorities being moved to consent to an increase of postage in connection with the contemplated establishment of a weekly mail to Bombay, *App.* 272, 273.

Further communication from the Post Office to the India Office, in May 1865, urging the adoption of steps for obtaining the consent of the Indian Government to the proposed augmentation of the postage, in connection with a weekly mail, *App.* 276, 277.

Communication from the India Office to the Post Office, dated 23 June 1865, in further support of a weekly mail to Bombay, but objecting to an increase of postage as a necessary condition of such mail being established, *App.* 278, 279.

Objections by the Government of India, in communication dated 17 April 1865, to an increase of the minimum charge to 1 *s.*, *App.* 279, 280.

Objections further urged by the India Office in June and October 1865, against the suggested increase of postage in connection with a weekly mail, *App.* 279. 280.

Exceptions further taken by Mr. Riddell to the proposed increase of postage in connection with a weekly mail, *App.* 280–282.

Further communication from the Post Office, dated 14 July 1865, as to the objection to a weekly mail to Bombay, on the score of cost, unless the rates of postage be increased, *App.* 284–286.

Letter from the Postmaster General to the Treasury, dated 16 November 1865, submitting certain correspondence between the Post Office and the Indian Office, and urging the expediency of an increase of postage as the condition of incurring increased cost in respect of a weekly mail to Bombay, *App.* 289, 290.

5. *Effect*

WEEKLY MAIL—continued.

5. *Effect upon the Passenger Traffic :*

Question considered whether if there were a weekly mail to Bombay, the China passengers, instead of going round by Galle, might not with advantage land at Bombay and go by railway to Madras and Calcutta and thence on by steamer; objections to this plan, *Nelson* 851-899—Opinion adverse to passengers for China, &c., crossing by railway from Bombay to Madras, instead of going by Galle, *Crake* 939-953.

Doubt as to passengers from Suez using the railways from Bombay to Calcutta and Madras in preference to going round by steamer, *vid* Galle, *Howell* 1268-1270—Probability of the vessels *vid* Galle having at certain seasons full cargoes of passengers to and from Australia and China, even if the great bulk of Indian passengers were to use a weekly line to Bombay, *ib.* 1317-1336.

6. *Suggestions as to the Number and Class of Vessels, and the Rate of Speed :*

Explanation of a plan submitted by witness to Sir Charles Trevelyan, when Finance minister in India, for greatly expediting the service between England and India, and for a weekly service between Suez and Bombay; vessels proposed for the service, *Rennie* 388-399.

Calculation that a speed of eleven knots an hour instead of nine and a-half knots for a weekly service between Bombay and Suez would involve an increased expense of 27,300 *l.* a year for coal, *Samuda* 2942—Proposed construction of five new ships which, in addition to the "Simla," should suffice for a weekly service on the Indian side at the rate of eleven knots; seven vessels on this line would, however, be better, *ib.* 2955-2957. 2989.

7. *Explanatory Statements on the part of the Peninsular and Oriental Company :*

Application made to witness's company by the Post Office upon the question of a weekly service to India in lieu of the services per month, *Howell* 1259, 1260—Offer by the Company to undertake a weekly service or fifty-two voyages instead of forty-eight for an addition of one-twelfth to the subsidy, *ib.* 1261, 1262—Due consideration given by the company to the question of a weekly mail to Bombay, the fortnightly mail to Calcutta and Madras being dispensed with; obstacles to this arrangement, the company being however prepared further to consider the matter, *ib.* 1263-1278.

Calculation, showing that there would on the whole be a diminution of 178,698 miles by making certain alterations in the present services to India, China, and Australia, including a weekly service, between Suez and Bombay, *Howell* 1447-1459.

Objections urged by Mr. Ritchie on the part of the Peninsular and Oriental Company in December 1860 against the proposal for a weekly mail to Bombay, to embrace also Calcutta and Madras by means of a weekly service overland from Bombay, *App.* 234-236.

Communication from the company to the Post Office, dated 15th October 1862, upon the question of tendering for a mail service twice a month between Aden and Bombay, *App.* 267-270.

Statement on the part of the Peninsular and Oriental Company in February 1865 as to the large increase of expense involved in a weekly mail from England in lieu of a mail four times a month, *App.* 274-276.

Letter from the superintendent of the company at Bombay to the Bombay Government, dated 30th May 1865, with reference to an additional fortnightly mail service between England and Bombay, *App.* 287.

Statement showing the mileage involved in a weekly mail to India, *vid* Bombay, and a fortnightly mail to China from Suez, *App.* 565—Mileage table of a weekly service to Bombay, and a weekly mail to China, *vid* Bombay and Calcutta alternately, *ib.*

8. *Views of the Committee as to the Expediency of the proposed Service :*

Important advantages to be derived from a weekly mail to Bombay, so that the question of increased cost should not be an insuperable obstacle, *Rep.* v-vii—Reference to the views expressed by the Director General of the Post Office in India, and by the Governor General in 1860, in favour strongly of a weekly service *vid* Bombay, *ib.*—Reference also by the Committee to the opinion of the Postmaster General in July 1865 as to the advantage of substituting for the present postal service with India a weekly service by way of Bombay exclusively, *ib.* vi.

Concurrence in the view of the Indian authorities as to the unfairness of the loss arising from a weekly mail falling upon India exclusively, *Rep.* vi, vii—Numerous leading merchants and bankers in London, Manchester, and Liverpool, and in India, from whom representations have been received, praying that a weekly mail might be established between London and Bombay, *ib.* vii—Dissent from the view of the Post Office that whatever additional expense might be entailed by the establishment of a weekly mail to Bombay, should be borne exclusively by the Indian Government, *ib.*

 Report, 1866—continued.

WEEKLY MAIL—continued.

8. *Views of the Committee as to the Expediency, &c.*—continued.

Reference to the willingness expressed by the Indian Government, by a despatch in February 1866, to forward the establishment of a weekly mail, by accepting the responsibility of any loss that may thereby be incurred, *Rep. vii*—Conclusion of the Committee that the question of profit and loss within reasonable bounds is a consideration entitled to little weight in the case of so important a postal service as that between England and India, *ib.*

Data for the conclusion that the time has arrived when tenders should be invited for a weekly service to Bombay alone, *Rep. xv*—The proposed service should be on the footing of an express service, entirely unconnected, to the eastward of Suez, with any other mail services, *ib.*

See also *British India Steam Navigation Company. Calcutta, 1.*

Weight of Mails. Weight and measurement of the mails conveyed by each packet from Southampton in the years 1864 and 1865, *App. 570, 571.*

Wells, Lewis. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Represents the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company, 3441—Explanation as to the company no longer receiving messages for transmission to India, *via* Egypt and Diarbekir, on account of the Turkish Government suddenly giving notice that they were unprepared to accept any European messages by the line, 3442-3457—Constant liability to delay in using the land lines through Egypt, 3450.

West Indies. Very heavy loss upon the West India Packet Service, *Hill 333, 334.*

Wire (Indian Telegraph). Explanation relative to the delay experienced in the supply of wire from this country for the Indian lines, *Thornton 2699, 2700.*

Wood, Sir Charles. See *India Office, &c.*

82

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