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RE-CONSTITUTION OF RAILWAY BOARDS INTO
AN INDEPENDENT BODY

1908.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAY DEPARTMENT
(RAILWAY BOARD)

Railway Establishment - A.
Proceedings, November 1908, Nos. 37-48.

No. 8772-8814.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

RAILWAYS

Simla, the 18th September, 1908.

RESOLUTION.

In a Resolution of the Government of India, No. 256-G, dated the 18th February 1905, in the Public Works Department (Railway Branch) it was enounced that the Railway Branch of the Public Works Department of the Government of India would be abolished, and that the control of the Railway system in India would be entrusted to a Railway Board consisting of three persons—a Chairman and two Members. The Chairman was vested with the general control of all questions committed to the Railway Board, and with power to act on his own responsibility, subject to the confirmation of the Board. It was stated that the ultimate decision on the greater question of railway policy and finance affecting all lines must of necessity rest with the Government of India, and in the Resolution of the Government of India in the Home Department, No. 539-569, dated 1st March 1905, by which the Department of Commerce and Industry was constituted, it was ordered that all railway questions requiring reference to the Government of India should come under the cognizance of that Department. In accordance with these orders all railway cases requiring the orders of the Government of India have been referred by the Board to the Department of Commerce and Industry, and have been dealt with in the usual way by the Secretariat of that Department.

2. His Majesty's Secretary of state has now decided, after considering the recommendations of the Railway Finance Committee, that the following changes should be introduced:-

- (1) The constitution of the Board will be altered by giving the Chairman, who, will in future, be styled the President, power to over-rule his colleagues in cases where he is unable to accept their views. In such cases the members over-rules will be at liberty to represent their views to the Government of India in writing to accept their views.

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(2) The title of the Board will be unchanged, but the Board with its staff will be known collectively as the Railway Department, and will be distinct from, and independent of, the Department of Commerce and Industry Secretariat.

(3) President of the Board will have direct access to the Viceroy and to the Honourable Member of the Department of Commerce and Industry as if he were a Secretary to the Government of India.

3. The Governor-General in Council is pleased to direct that these changes shall take effect from the 1st October 1908. All communications on railway matters with other Departments of the Government of India, with local Government and with the public will from that date be made to and from the Railway Board direct.

ORDER.-- Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be communicated to the several Departments of the Government of India, for information and communication to subordinate officers, and Departments, to all Local and Administrations, to all Chambers of Commerce, and to the officers named* in the margin.

*Secretary to the Railway Board.
Director General of the Post Office of India.
Director General of Telegraphs.
Director, Geological Survey of India.
Director General of Commercial Intelligence.
Controller of Printing and Stationery.
Chief Inspector of Explosives.
Reporter on Economic Products to the Government of India.
Chief Inspector of Mines.
Secretary to the Trustees, Indian Museum.

Ordered also that the Resolution be published in the Gazette of India, for general information.

B. ROBERTSON,
SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA