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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Prinl DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<u>433</u>	Press
		<u>Mis.</u>
<u>37-38</u>		
Dated	<u>15-8-</u>	18 <u>61</u> .

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
15th August 1861.*

No. 37. Read the following letter from R. P. HARRISON, Esq., Accountant General; to all Collectors, except the Collector of Sea Customs at Madras, dated 6th August 1861, No. 1,299.

Budget and Finance Department.

I have the honor to annex copies of two letters addressed by the Postmaster General to Government, of No. and date as per margin, and of the Order of 17th July 1861, No. 1,360. Government thereon, dated 1st instant, No. 1,534; and to request 26th do. „ „ 1,575. that you will be good enough to make due provision in your Supplemental Budget Estimate for 1861-62, for the charges* enumerated in the 2nd paragraph of Mr. Williamson's letter of the 17th ultimo, above mentioned, in the event of your not having provided for any, or all of them, in your original Budget Estimate. The items hitherto debited to Remittances of the Postal Department should be estimated separately.

2. Under the authority contained in the 2nd paragraph of the Order of Government, you may disburse the salaries of the District Post Establishments therein referred to, which are entertained under competent authority, and debit the same to the proper head of charge in the column of unadjusted charges. Bills for payments of arrears, that is up to March 1861, should be submitted to the Civil Paymaster for Audit, and on the Supplemental Estimate being sanctioned by the Government of India, Bills must be submitted for audit, for the payments for April and the subsequent months and which when passed should be forwarded to this Office, when the amount will be adjusted against the sanctioned grant.

3. In the event of your having already transmitted your Supplemental Estimate, a Memorandum should be sent of the alterations to be made therein, with reference to this Circular.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. LAMORENDIERE,

Ag. 2nd Assistant Accountant General.

Forwarded to the Chief Secretary to Government for information.

No. 38. ORDER THEREON, 15th August 1861, No. 433.

To be recorded.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

BUDGET AND FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

No. 1299

Fort Saint George,
Accountant General's Office,
6th Aug^t July 1861.

From R. P. HARRISON, Esq., Accountant General.

To All Collectors, except the Collector of Sea Customs at Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to annex copies of two letters addressed by the Post Master General to Government, of No. and date as per margin, and of the order of Government thereon, dated 1st Instant, No. 1534; and to request that you will be good enough to make due provision in your Supplemental Budget Estimate for 1861-62, for the charges* enumerated in the 2nd para. of Mr. Williamson's letter of the 17th Ultimo, above mentioned, in the event of your not having provided for any, or all of them, in your original Budget Estimate. The items hitherto debited to Remittances of the Postal Department should be estimated separately.

17th July 1861, No. 1360.
26th do. " " 1575.

* Current only, as arrear charges should not be included in the Budget.

2. Under the authority contained in the 2nd para. of the order of Government, you may disburse the salaries of the District Post Establishments therein referred to, which are entertained under competent authority, and debit the same to the proper head of charge in the column of unadjusted charges. Bills for payments of arrears, that is up to March 1861, should be submitted to the Civil Paymaster for Audit, and on the Supplemental Estimate being sanctioned by the Government of India, Bills must be submitted for audit, for the payments for April and the subsequent months and which when passed should be forwarded to this Office, when the amount will be adjusted against the sanctioned grant.

3. In the event of your having already transmitted your Supplemental Estimate, a Memo. should be sent of the alterations to be made therein, with reference to this Circular.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. P. HARRISON,

Accountant General.

True Copy

Adm. Secy. to Govt.
2nd Asst. Accountant Genl.

C.V.
Forwarded to the Chief Secretary to Government for information

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letters :—

From R. H. WILLIAMSON, Esq., Postmaster General, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Public Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 17th July 1861, No. 1,360.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to submit for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council the following circumstances, and beg you will be good enough to obtain the orders of Government thereon.

2. The District Post Establishments in this Presidency are, as His Excellency in Council is aware, composed of three distinct portions :—

(1.) Establishments which existed in October 1854, the cost of which was borne by the Revenue Department.

(2.) Additional Establishments which have since that period been sanctioned under orders of the Madras Government, and charged to the same head.

(3.) Establishments, the cost of which has, prior to and since October 1854, been debited to the Postal Department.

3. The cost of these last has, since the introduction of the new Postal system, been met by payments made on bills submitted by Collectors and countersigned by me. Care has in every instance been taken, that the charges countersigned by me have not exceeded 500 Rupees per month, the limit up to which I am empowered to pass contingent charges. The bills continued to be submitted monthly to me, and on being countersigned were passed by the Civil Auditor. On receipt of the orders of the Government of India in October 1860, the Civil Auditor refused audit to these bills after November last, and this has placed me in considerable embarrassment in meeting the District Post charges since that period. I have applied for sanction to the portion of District Post Establishments debitable to this Department, and my letter of the 1st instant, No. 971, will have placed you in possession of the circumstances that prevented the earlier submission of the tabular Statement on this account. Prior to the submission of this application, Mr. Riddell directed that I should pass no more bills on account of these Establishments, till the sanction of the Government of India was obtained through him.

4. I regret to say, however, that a further difficulty has arisen in obtaining the sanction of the Government of India to these charges, from the fact that the amount has not been provided for in the Estimate for the year 1861-62, furnished by me to the Director General of the Post Office in India. These charges have never hitherto entered the accounts of the Post Office. They have been drawn and disbursed by Collectors altogether independently of the Deputy Postmasters within whose range of payment they may be situated, and have never formed a portion of the probable yearly estimate hitherto submitted by me to the Accountant General.

5. The Director General of the Post Office in India does not, apparently, consider himself at liberty to submit the charges in question to the Government of India for sanction, unless they are provided for either in my estimate or in those of the Collectors. The Accountant General is uncertain as to whether or not they have been entered in the latter, and has, I believe, issued a circular on the subject. Under the circumstances detailed, a doubt exists as to the Budget estimate in which they should have been entered, and I greatly regret that I failed to guard against all doubt and difficulty on the subject, by entering them in the estimate I submitted.

6. I requested the Director General by telegram, to obtain sanction to the disbursement of pay to the District Establishments up to the end of the last official year, but he intimates that he has no authority to pass them. In the meantime no pay has been passed to these Establishments since December last, and I apprehend that before the sanction of the Government of India can be obtained, the posts may stop for want of pay, to the great inconvenience of the public. I have just received another telegram from the Director General of the Post Office in India, in reply to my application for his instructions, which I beg to annex in original, from which it will be perceived that the Director General is of opinion that the present arrangement should not be disturbed, from which I conclude that he thinks the charges should be shown in the Estimates of the Collectors. Should Government be inclined to take this view of the matter, I would respectfully solicit in the event of the charges in question not having been entered in the Budget Estimates already submitted by Collectors, which will be ascertained when replies are received to the Accountant General's Circular adverted to, that instructions may be given to those

Officers to insert them in the Supplemental Budget Estimates lately ordered to be prepared under date the 4th instant, No. 1,339, in the Revenue Department; were this done, it would enable the Director General to go at once to the Government of India for sanction.

7. As the Director General remarks, it will be seen that no new expense to Government will be incurred by such an arrangement, for when sanction is obtained, it will be but a transfer from the Contingent to the fixed head of Establishments.

8. With respect to the pay now overdue on account of these Establishments since December last, I would submit for the consideration of Government whether, as in the case of South Arcot, the Collectors might not be instructed to disburse the pay as usual, as an advance to be adjusted hereafter when sanctioned.

From R. H. WILLIAMSON, Esq., Postmaster General, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Public Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 26th July 1861, No. 1,575.

SIR,

1. I wish to correct an error in my letter to Government, No. 1,360, under date the 17th instant.

2. In paragraph 3 referring to the District Post charges, the following observation occurs :— "These charges have never hitherto entered the accounts of the Post Office."

3. I beg to state that since 1857, under sanction of the Accountant General, Statements or Bills for the charges of the District Posts have been sent by the Collectors of Districts to the Deputy Postmasters of the disbursing Post Offices for adjustment in their monthly accounts.

4. This was done simply for the purpose of showing that the amount was debitable against the Post Office.

5. The money, however, has all along been drawn and disbursed by the Collectors themselves, wholly irrespective of the Deputy Postmasters, and the sums on account of the charges in question have never been included as a portion of the yearly expenditure of the Postal Department in the annual Estimate of "probable expenditure" furnished by me to the Accountant General.

ORDER THEREON, 1st August 1861, No. 1,534.

1. Resolved that a copy of these letters be furnished to the Accountant General, with a request that he will make sufficient provision in the Supplemental Budget under preparation for the District Post Establishments of the several Districts, if it has not been done in the original Budget.

2. Mr. Harrison will also issue instructions to the Collectors for the payment of the salaries of the Establishments, which Mr. Williamson states in the concluding paragraph of this letter are in arrear from December last; the disbursements being debited to "advances" till the Supplemental Budget receives the sanction of the Government of India.

(True Extract)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To C. Pelly, Esq.

To the Board of Revenue.

„ Accountant General.

„ Post Master General.

„ Public Department.

Recd of 23 Aug.

7 mil 1861 Sept

From
The Accountant
General. 1299.

21 6th
23 9th 3 Augt 1861.

No 457

Long for information
Copy of a letter addressed
to Messrs. & Co. regarding
the agreement by the Govt. order
of 21 9th 1861 to the
the provision in their
supplemental Budget
to Finance for 1861/62 for the
provision of the Govt. order
No 457-15 Augt 1861
to the Govt. order