M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1927	Press Mis. 91-92
Dated 12-11-	18 76.

S/L

Not to be folded or roughly handled

K.V. 6.
2.00

No. 91. Read the following Proceedings of Government, in the Revenue Department, dated 23rd March 1872, No. 50:—

Read the following:—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th March 1872, *No.* 426.

From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Gudiathum, 5th February 1872, No. 45.

I have the honor, with reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st November 1871, No. 4569, to submit, for their consideration, copy of a letter* from my Assistant, Mr. Sewell, who is in charge of the District Postal Establishment.

* Dated 27th January 1872, No. 18.

2. The Board will observe that Mr. Sewell's remarks have mainly reference to Mr. Crole's proposition, as embodied in their Proceedings of the 30th October last, No. 4545.

As the question is a large and general one, I beg to know whether the proposition, which appears from the Proceedings just quoted to have the Board's approval, should be worked out in detail, and placed before them so far as it affects this district.

3. I believe the time has gone by when the old "Anche" system (now I think in operation throughout Mysore) could be revived, and the question I suppose is, how postal communication can be most conveniently extended to the more rural parts of the district which are as yet unprovided in view to the general network thus established being gradually developed as may be found possible on the results of a fair trial.

4. The main point for consideration, as it appears to me, is not whether the fusion of the two branches of the Postal Service commends itself on the ground of uniformity and undivided responsibility, but whether such fusion will contribute to secure to the public a more perfect system of postal intercommunication? The Imperial Service, I believe, fulfils its purposes fairly in large towns, and perhaps along the principal lines of communication, but I utterly disbelieve in it as respects its working in the remote rural tracts, and in these, I greatly doubt whether its machinery could ever be brought into real practical activity.

5. An Imperial Postal Agency would always be too costly to recommend itself to adoption, and we cannot sacrifice the remnant of the District system which we yet retain until we know more fully how it is proposed to replace it.

6. In Mr. Crole's observations I entirely concur, and believe them to be as applicable to this district as they are to that of Chingleput.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From R. SEWELL, Esq., Assistant Collector, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Chittoor, 17th January 1872, No. 18.

In reply to your letter, No. 1607, dated 16th December 1871, calling on me to submit my opinion on Mr. Crole's scheme for the improvement of the District Post, I have the honor to state that I have given the matter my full consideration, and now submit the following remarks.

2. The question appears to have two aspects, first, whether the District Post needs improvement; and secondly if so, what is the best way to improve it, whether by handing it over bodily to the Imperial Post-office, or by some such scheme as that suggested by Mr. Crole, or in any other way.

3. I have no hesitation in entirely falling in with Mr. Crole's opinion that the District Post needs improvement, and that now, as the circumstances of the country have within the last few years considerably changed, some better and more general system should be introduced.

4. In former letter, No. 202, dated 4th December 1871, I said that, in my opinion, if the District Post was altogether handed over to the Imperial Authorities, it would work satisfactorily. By this I simply meant that the actual existing state of things in its integrity should be transferred under different management. I did not contemplate that the present District Offices should be turned into Imperial Offices, with increased expenses and establishment. This would be costly, and the advantage to be gained not worth the expenditure. My notion was that, without any additional expense, the department might be taken under the control of the Imperial Post-office; and thus improvements might be effected without the trouble entailed by constant inter-departmental correspondence.

5. It appears, however, that the question at present before the Board is, whether the District Post can be so remodelled as to afford more facilities of correspondence than heretofore?

6. I do not think Mr. Crole quite disposes of the point as to whether the undivided responsibility of one office (the Imperial Post) would not be better under any new system that may be introduced. The objection is the *expense*, and the expense *only*. I do not see why, *if an inexpensive system is introduced*, it cannot be worked as efficiently by the Imperial Post Authorities, as by the Revenue Department. There is no absolute necessity for the employment of Gumastahs at the scale now obtaining for Deputy Postmasters. Why should not a sort of sub-system be introduced for taluq delivery inexpensive, but working under the same department as the present Imperial Post?

7. As to Mr. Crole's scheme, I beg to offer the following remarks.

8. Paragraph 10.—(1.) In many taluqs there are no subdivisions. In that case, I suppose there would be only one Post Gumastah. (2.) I doubt if men could be found to take up these duties on such small salary. The work would be constant and fatiguing, and I see no reason why they should not receive the same as the present letter-peons, *viz.*, Rupees 5. (3) and (4) seem practicable unless it is considered that the village-officers are now so hardworked that they could not satisfactorily do the duty. The Curnam should, I think, receive some salary as he would actually do all the work. (5.) This of course is necessary for the scheme, but it would be expensive. In the large taluqs in this district many of the circle headquarters would be thirty miles from the Taluq Cutcherry. For each of these, six runners would be required. The system is excellent, but Government must be prepared for expense if it is sanctioned. (6.) Slight extra expense, but of course necessary.

9. I can see no fault whatever in the scheme if Government are prepared to sanction the expense, on the supposition that it will be recouped bye-and-bye by increased sales of stamps, &c. But it *must* be expensive at first.

10. If sanctioned, however, on those terms, it seems to me that it is an admirable plan for promoting increased facilities of communication in rural tracts, and the benefit to the people would be immense.

11. The Board, however, in their Proceedings deprecate the idea of any present alteration so great as that suggested unless it is thought that the present system, when properly worked, is insufficient. I have no hesitation whatever in saying that, in my opinion, so far as regards this district, the present system is sufficient, *if the District Post-offices are increased in number*. There are not enough. Whole tracts of country are left without any attempt at postal communication. If such a system as Mr. Crole's is considered at present too sweeping, I would earnestly beg that the present system may be extended at some slight extra expense.

12. I am still of opinion that, if the present system is maintained with the existing rates of pay and expenses, there could be no possible harm in placing it under the management of the Imperial Post-office authorities; but on the contrary, I think it would be a great improvement.

13. If it is thought desirable to show for this district the statistics required for Chingleput, in paragraph 3 of the Board's order, I will draw out a scheme accordingly.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,
Collector.

Submitted to Government together with a copy of the Proceedings quoted with reference to their endorsement, dated 17th October 1871.

2. Mr. Robinson is opposed to the introduction of the Imperial Postal system into the District of North Arcot generally, on the ground that no arrangements for the delivery of letters in remote rural tracts can be made by that department; but, as the Board have always pointed out, it will still be the Collector's business to carry out this part of the scheme in cooperation with the Imperial Post Department, and the Board have not yet seen any reason for considering the scheme for delivery of letters, described in their Proceedings, No. 5795, dated 19th September 1870, impracticable.

3. Mr. Whiteside, who has had experience of the working of the Imperial Post in Trichinopoly, will report again on the subject with reference to the above remarks.

The Collector has misapprehended the intention, which is not to introduce the Imperial Post system in lieu of the District Tappal, but to place the latter under the management of the Postmaster-General.

2. The Government cannot doubt that this officer's supervision is likely to prove conducive of great improvement in the working of the District Tappal and sanction the extension of the experiment to the districts named by the Postmaster-General, *viz.*, Nellore, North Arcot, Madura, and Tinnevelly.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

No. 92. ORDER THEREON, 13th November 1874, No. 1927.

Copy furnished to the Accountant-General for information.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Accountant-General.

Exd. J. Wright.

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL.

Dated November, 13th.

Read. Read.

G.O., 13th November 1874, No. 1927.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 91-92.

Postal.—Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, sanctioning the extension of the experiment of placing the District Tappal under the management of the Postmaster-General to the Districts of Nellore, North Arcot, Madura, and Tinnevelly, communicated to the Accountant-General for information.

Himmanuel Lutheran Defaulter

Govt. of 1872 Madras.
(Postal)

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated March 23rd.

Recd. Nov. 16. /74 Encl.

G. O., 23rd March 1872, No. 503.

Rs. 2359

MARCH.

Nos. 276-277.

Imperial Postal system.—Proceedings, Board of Revenue, submitting letter from Collector of North Arcot opposing its introduction in the district, with observations thereon. The extension of the system in the districts named by the Postmaster General sanctioned.

With note

October 15. Govt. of Madras (Postal) Proceedings for information

Transmitted to Collector of North Arcot for information

16/11/74

Govt. of {1874} Madras.

Fin^{l} $\frac{2}{c}$

To,

The Accountant General.

G. O. 13th Nov^{r} $\frac{2}{c}$ 1874, No. 1927.

Nos. 91-92.

Postal - Proc^{s} of Govt. Rev: Dep^{t}. sanctioning the extension of the experiment of placing the D^{t} Sappal under the management of the Postmaster General to the Districts of Salem North Arcot, Madura and Tinnevelly, communicated to the Accountant General for information -