M.R.O. 1—27,000—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Reference _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1128	Press / Mis.-
	93-94
Dated 12-11-	18

6/7

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
13th Novemer 1874.

No. 93. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Revenue Department, dated 23rd July 1873, No. 770 :—

Read the following papers :—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th June 1873, *No.* 948.

Read the following letter from H. E. SULLIVAN, Esq., Acting Collector of South Arcot, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 29th April 1873, No. 109 :—

In reply to the Board's Proceedings, dated 24th March 1873, Miscellaneous No. 1772, I have the honor to state that I have no objection to the transfer of the District Post Offices in this district to the Postmaster-General provided no change is made by him in the existing lines of postal communication without the assent of the local officers, and provided also that proper arrangements can be made by him for the prompt and punctual despatch and delivery of official letters and District Gazettes.

2. I observe from Mr. Banbury's letter to the Board, printed at page 3741 of the Board's monthly volume for May 1869, that the arrangements made by the Postmaster-General for the conveyance of the taluq tappal in Trichinopoly were eminently unsatisfactory. I therefore think that before the transfer is sanctioned the Postal Department should be required to submit a scheme for the approval of Government, giving in detail the lines of communication intended to be maintained, the rate of speed at which the mails are to be carried, and the arrangements it is proposed to make for the delivery of letters and Gazettes at outlying villages. The local postal arrangements are better in this district, I think, than in many others, but with stricter supervision are doubtless susceptible of improvement. If the Postmaster-General can show that this can be effected especially in regard to the conveyance and delivery of District Gazettes I would recommend the transfer being made.

3. If the arrangement is carried out I presume that the cost of the establishment will be provided for in the Post Office Budget. The Postal Department taking credit for the revenue derived from the conveyance of the district mails while the cost of the establishment is met from a distinct source is an anomaly which I think has had its day and which now should be put an end to.

In replying to G.O., dated 18th March 1873, No. 335, the Board observe that the South Arcot District is not the only one which the Postmaster-General desires to take under his own management for postal purposes.

Answers have not yet been received to the Proceedings, dated 25th March 1873, No. 452, so that full information is wanting as to the existing district lines.

2. It appears, however, that the districts already made over are not very liberally served, and the Board would desire that before handing over any more districts the Postmaster-General should be required to lay before Government a scheme drawn up, in communication with the Collector of the district to be transferred, giving information as to the lines to be maintained, the speed at which mails are to be carried, and the distribution to outlying villages provided for.

3. In the districts managed by the Postmaster-General the grant appears not to be fully expended: a form is appended giving the information received from Collectors up to the present time, from which it will be noticed that some regulated system is most desirable, the districts being now very unequally and insufficiently served :—

FORM A.

District.	Length of lines.	Length of lines per 100 square miles.	Runners.	Gumastahs.	Peons.	Total cost.	More or less than grant.	Stations.	Stations not being Tahsildars' or Deputy Tahsildars'.	Remarks.
			RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.			
Nellore ...	239	3½	225	42	35	3,624	...	3,376	18	6	Postmaster-General's district.
Tinnevelly ...	278	5½	276	70	50	4,752	...	1,248	11	6	
Coimbatore...	139	1¾	135	28	50	2,556	...	420	11	...	
Kurnool ...	221	3	222	49	45	3,792	...	108	13	...	
Salem	166	2½	145	28	60	2,556	...	1,414	16	...	
Average...	...	3	1,003	457		...	...	...	...	...	
Vizagapatam.	579	3	591	160	150	10,812	...	488	28	12	Other districts.
Bellary ...	429	3¾	450	149	114	8,556	...	48	19	1	
Malabar ...	112	1½	102	229	122	5,760	...	240	24	9	
Godavery ...	327	4½	395½	107	135	7,650	250 Sanction requested.	...	22	2	
Average ...	...	3¼	1,568½	1,163		...	...	...	...	...	

In Bengal the length of line appears to be four per 100 square miles.

4. On referring to the form it will be observed that the Postmaster-General's districts have about the same accommodation as the other districts—three miles of line to every 100 square miles of area and a station to every 500 square miles. The Postmaster-General spends only two-thirds of his allotment, and of the money spent in his districts as in the others rather less than seventy per cent. is spent on runners, the rest on gumastahs and peons.

5. It is plain to the Board that the existing arrangements do not provide for the distribution of letters and their collection much beyond the Tahsildars' and Deputy Tahsildars' cusbah villages, and it appears to them that in laying out the lines for the districts which may be made over to him the Postmaster-General should provide much increased facilities in this direction. The Postmaster-General has applied for South Canara, South Arcot, Tanjore, and Godavery, and besides the five districts entered in the form Madura and North Arcot are administered by him.

Note.—In nine districts covering 80,000 square miles there are *thirty-six* postal stations which are *not* Tahsildars' or Deputy Tahsildars' stations.

6. The first transfers were avowedly made as an experiment. Of the success of the experiment no report has been under the consideration of the Board, and

ey are of opinion that great confusion may result if the District Postal Service not based on a uniform system in all the districts, due consideration being had the funds available or in prospect.

7. They resolve to forward the letter of the Collector of South Arcot to overnment with reference to G.O., dated 18th March 1873, No. 335, and the tement (B) of existing lines in Godavery, received in the Collector's letter, o. 114, dated 24th April 1873, with reference to the proposal of the Postmaster-eneral to take over that district.

---

rom Major the Hon. E. R. BOURKE, Postmaster-General, Madras, to the Hon. R. A. DALYELL, Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 19th June 1873, No. 249.

Referring to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 948, of 6th June 73, it appears to me that the Board have not a clear understanding what is the ject of handing the District Post in any particular district to the control of the stmaster-General.

2. They appear to be under the impression that once a district is handed er the local Revenue Officers have no more to say to the District Post, and tually cease to have anything whatever to do with it.

3. This is wrong, as I will now proceed to show.

4. When any particular District Post is transferred the executive control d management only of the existing lines and offices are transferred; the disburse-ent of the pay of the District Post employés, the appropriation of the grant, the ening of new lines and offices, and closing of useless lines and offices, still remain tirely and solely with the local Revenue Officers.

5. The imperial grant made to local Governments for District Post purposes a completely separate grant to the Postal Budget grant: the grant is meant to spent on lines and offices which are necessary for revenue purposes, and are of necessity maintained at a loss; on the other hand, it is the theory as well as the actice of the Imperial Post that all lines and offices must pay, and, if they do t, they cannot be maintained. It will, therefore, be seen, when a District Post transferred, the control only of what actually exists comes under the direct anagement of the Postmaster-General, and the power of opening new lines and fices still remains with the Revenue Officers. The Postmaster-General does not ven know the amount apportioned to each district by the Board, nor is he nsulted as to the appropriation or amount required for each district; neither eed he, in my opinion, be consulted, as he is not in a position to know the require-ents of each district, it being a matter upon which the local Revenue Officers an alone give an opinion. An extension of the District Post lines once decided n by the local Revenue Officers, I would suggest that they communicate with the ostmaster-General direct, stating how often communications with the new locality ould be necessary, once a-week or oftener, and at the same time informing him the amount of money available. He would then be in a position to furnish them th a tabular statement showing how the service can be efficiently maintained r the sum available either by establishing a branch office, receiving-house, or ral messenger, according to the service required and money available.

6. It is impossible for the Postmaster-General to know the manner in which the Revenue Officers consider it best to spend their allotment, so it is no use his being consulted on that matter, neither is he in a position to know if any particular existing office or line should be maintained or closed, as the amount of correspondence has no bearing on the question; but he is able to determine the description of service that is best suited and can be efficiently and economically maintained for a given sum better than the Revenue Officers, therefore should be consulted on this point.

7. It will be seen that, instead of desiring to take the whole as a whole over, I am endeavoring to show that the District Post cannot be economically and efficiently worked without the cordial assistance and co-operation of the local Revenue Officers, they maintaining full and complete control over the disbursement of their allotment, what offices are to be either opened or closed, and in what direction the District Post is to be extended, the executive resting with the Postmaster-General, whose orders to all District Post employés on all matters connected with postal duties should be supreme. If this was thoroughly understood by the Board and the Revenue Officers throughout the country I have little doubt a very much more efficient service could be established and the District Post extended; but it should be a *sine quâ non* that no District Post Office should be allowed to remain open at a station where an Imperial Post has been opened, for the money thus expended is completely wasted, and might, with advantage, be spent in opening a District Post Office in a new place.

8. In conclusion, I should wish it most clearly to be understood that, in applying to take over the management of the District Post in certain districts, I am only carrying out the orders of the Supreme and as well as the Madras Government, and I distinctly assert that I am most unwilling to take over any district without the free and full assent of the local Revenue Officers, for without their cordial assistance and co-operation the change is robbed of the major portion of the benefit it is calculated to effect. I have, however, no hesitation in saying that I believe the benefits resulting, if the system upon which the transfer of the executive control is fully understood, would be highly beneficial in every way—extension of the District Post, increase in the revenue, economy in establishments, superior efficiency, thorough supervision, increased speed, and greater punctuality.

The Postmaster-General's letter recorded above will be communicated to the Board of Revenue for the information of all Collectors. It is clear from the observations contained in this letter that, if the District Postal Service is defective owing to the non-utilization of the grant, the Postmaster-General cannot be blamed. The Collectors of the first five districts named in the Board's form should at once be directed to make proposals of the nature referred to in paragraph 5 of the Board's Proceedings as funds are available.

2. As to the districts of South Arcot and Godavery, the Board are authorized to transfer the management of the District Post to the Postmaster-General after communication with the Collectors and when the best distribution of the respective grants has been determined upon.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
13th November 1874.

3. The report called for in the Government Order noted in the margin should be submitted with as little delay as possible. After its receipt it will be determined in what other districts the District Post shall be handed over to the Postmaster-General.

6th May 1873, No. 456.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 94. ORDER THEREON, 13th November 1874, No. 1928.

Copy furnished to the Accountant-General for information.

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Accountant-General.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

1876
Financial Department
(Postal)

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated July 23rd.

Recd. Nov. 12./74

G. O., 23rd July 1873, No. 770.

JULY. No. 2360

Nos. 205—207.

District Post.—Communicating to the Board of Revenue for the information of all Collectors letter from the Postmaster-General regarding the share of the Revenue Department in the management of the—, and authorizing the transfer of the— in South Arcot and Godavery Districts to the Postmaster-General when the best distribution of the respective grants has been determined upon.

With ack.

Ootacd 13 Nov 1928

Copy transmitted to all Collectors for information.

Secretary Commissioner

12/11/74

Govt. of {1874} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL,

Dated November, 1874.

Recd.

G.O., 19th November 1874, No. 1928.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 93-94.

Postal.—Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, authorizing the transfer of the District Post in South Arcot and Godavery Districts to the Postmaster-General, communicated to the Accountant-General for information.

Govt. of {1874} Madras.

Read.

To,
The Accountant General.

G. O. 13 Govt., 1874, No. 1928.

Nos. 93-94.

Postal - Proc. of Govt. in Revenue dept. authorizing the transfer of the District Post in South Arcot and Godavery Districts to the Postmaster General Comd. to the Accountant General for information.