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. 2049	Press Mis.
75-77.	75-77
Dated 8-12-	1874.

9/10

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers :—

No. 75. From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Coimbatore, 21st November 1874, No. 100.

I have the honor to bring to the notice of Government the inconvenience which arises from there being no Post Office at the Railway Station of Coimbatore so that the letter bags are taken about half a mile backwards and forwards by runners to a Post Office before being opened.

2. At least an hour is lost in delivery by this cause. The chief mercantile and official community all live on the east of the line, while the bags are taken half a mile to the west because that happened to be convenient before the railway reached the town. Now boxes containing goods are delivered more than an hour before the letters which come by the same train.

3. There is an excellent site close to my office for the Post Office, which will then be in a most central position and earlier delivery will thus be effected in every direction.

4. I have addressed the Postmaster-General on this subject without success.

Referred to the Postmaster-General, Madras, for his report.

FORT ST. GEORGE, (Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
24th November 1874. *Acting Chief Secretary.*

No. 76. From Major the Hon. E. R. BOURKE, Postmaster-General, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 26th November 1874, No. 10,525-4681.

In reply to your endorsement, dated 24th November 1874, on the Collector of Coimbatore's proposal to build a new Post Office close to his office at Coimbatore, I would beg to say that the matter has already been fully considered by me. I find that while a good many of the Europeans live to the east of the railway the rest of the population live to the west of it; that while the present situation of the Post Office is most central—in the centre of the native town—it is doubtless not as convenient to the Europeans as if situated where the Collector suggests.

2. I would, however, point out that it is usual to fix the site of the Post Office in the centre of trade and where there is the largest population and where the convenience of the general public is best suited, where letters can be most conveniently registered and inquiries made.

3. There cannot, I fancy, be a doubt that, for all purposes of trade and general convenience of the majority, the present position of the Post Office at Coimbatore cannot be improved.

4. I would, however, remark that the Collector is seriously in error when he states that "at least an hour is lost in delivery by this cause." The mails are carried by runners from the Railway Station to the Post Office, which occupies not more than eight minutes. As soon as the letters are sorted they are immediately delivered to the delivery peons and private peons, who take them out for delivery, the whole being made usually from one to one and-a-half hours after the arrival of

the train, often before the return of Europeans from their morning ride. In a financial point of view I am opposed to moving the present Post Office from where it is now located as the Post Office would be sure to lose revenue thereby; as a matter of policy I am also opposed to moving it as I consider it is located in the best possible position to suit the interests of the whole community. (No one would propose to remove the General Post Office, Madras, from Black Town to one of the European quarters of Madras, though doubtless it would be extremely convenient for those Europeans who live next door). I may add that an iron pillar letter-box is fixed on the railway platform at Coimbatore and cleared by the Mail Guard of the train each trip, which enables the public to post their correspondence up to the last possible moment before the mail train starts.

No. 77. ORDER THEREON, 8th December 1874, No. 2049.

Adverting to Mr. Wedderburn's remarks that "boxes containing goods are delivered more than an hour before the letters which come by the same train," and to the Postmaster-General's explanation on the point, the Governor in Council desires to be informed whether in the process of sorting the letters in the train, or by any other means, arrangements cannot be made for delivering the official and private correspondence of residents on the east of the line direct from the Railway Station.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Postmaster-General.
,, Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL, &c., &c., &c.

Dated December, 8th.
Recd.

G.O., 8th December 1874, No. 2049.

DECEMBER.
Nos. 75—77.

Postal.—With reference to the Postmaster-General's objection to the building of a Post Office at the Coimbatore Railway Station, inquiry made whether measures cannot be adopted for delivering the correspondence of officials residing east of the line direct from the Railway Station.

No. 105-25 / 4681

POSTMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Madras, 26th November 1874.

FROM

Major the Honorable E. R. Bourke
Postmaster General,
MADRAS.

To

THE Chief SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT,
Financial Department,
FORT SAINT GEORGE.

SIR,

In reply to your endorsement dated 24th November 1874 on the Collector of Coimbatore's proposal to build a New Post office close to his office at Coimbatore, I would beg to say that the matter has already been fully considered by me & find that while a good many of the Europeans live to the East of the Railway that the rest of the population live to the West of it, that while the present situation of the Post office is most central - in the centre of the Native town - it is doubtless not as convenient to the Europeans as if situated where the Collector suggests.

I would however point out that it is usual to fix the site of the Post office in the centre of trade and where there is the largest population and where the convenience of the general public is best suited, where letters can be most

convenience registered and Enquiries made.

There cannot, I fancy, be a doubt that for all purposes of trade and general convenience of the majority that the present position of the Post office at Coimbatore cannot be improved.

I would however remark that the Collector is grievously in error when he states that "at least an hour is lost in delivery by this cause" The mails are carried by Runners from the Railway Station to the Post office which occupies not more than 5 minutes - as soon as the letters are sorted they are immediately delivered to the Delivery Boys and private persons who take them out for delivery, the whole being made usually from 1½ to 2 hours after the arrival of the train often long before the return of Europeans from their morning Ride. In a financial point of view I am opposed to moving the present Post office from where it is now located as the Post office would be sure to lose Revenue thereby; as a matter of Policy I am also opposed to moving it as I consider it is located in the best possible position to suit the interests of the whole community. (No one would propose to remove the General Post office Madras from Black Town to one of the European Quarters of Madras, though doubtless it would be extremely convenient for those Europeans who live next door.) I may add that an Iron Pillar Letter Box is fixed on the Railway Platform at Coimbatore and cleared by the Mail Guard of the train each trip, which enables the Public to post their Correspondence up to the last possible moment before the mail train starts.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Obedient Servant
Postmaster General C.

Rly. Manager S. W. Line
It must be the Railway
Line to be meant. Eds
Bombay!

I beg to inform you that in the train or by any other arrangement which may be made for delivering the P.O. mails from the Railway Station to the Post office it will be necessary that a Peon should accompany the Mail Guard in the train for the purpose of receiving the mail bags from the Railway Station

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Obedient Servant
Postmaster General C.

Sir

No. 100 Coimbatore Collector's Office
21st November 1874.

From,

A. Wedderburn Esquire,

Collector of Coimbatore.

To,

The Chief Secretary
to Government, Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to bring to the notice of Government the inconvenience which arises from there being no Post office at the Railway Station of Coimbatore, so that the letter bags are taken about half a mile backwards, and forwards, by runners, to a post office, before being opened.

2. At least an hour is lost in delivery by this cause. the chief mercantile, and official community all live on the east of the line, while the bags are taken ½ a mile to the west; because that happened to be convenient, before the Railway reached the Town.

Now, boxes containing goods, are deliver-ed more than an hour before the letters,

Received 27 Nov 1874

No. 2693

Coimbatore Collector's Office
21st November 1874

From A. Wedderburn Esquire
Collector of Coimbatore

To The Chief Secretary
to Government, Madras

Sir,

I have the honor to bring to the notice of Government the inconvenience which arises from there being no Post office at the Railway Station of Coimbatore, so that the letter bags are taken about half a mile backwards, and forwards, by runners, to a post office, before being opened.

2. At least an hour is lost in delivery by this cause. the chief mercantile, and official community all live on the east of the line, while the bags are taken ½ a mile to the west; because that happened to be convenient, before the Railway reached the Town.

Now, boxes containing goods, are deliver-ed more than an hour before the letters,

Received 27 Nov 1874

No. 2693

No. 275.—P. H. G. O. P.—15-5-74.—100.

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government,
Fisheries Department,
MADRAS.

From Revd. Sir, Department
The Postmaster General,

No. 2693
Dated 21st November 1874
Received 27th 1874

Subject

Forwards a report from the Collector of Coimbatore Divisional Inspector and Postmaster at Podanur on the Railway Station at Coimbatore.

When I was at Coimbatore last week, I received numerous complaints from the two leading Native Merchants of that City relative to the delay in the delivery of letters, as compared with the delivery of parcels, which arrive at the Railway Station at 7 A.M. & 7 P.M. but I could not find that the complaints were in the least degree justified by the facts which I

Sec

We
This Govt in Council agrees in the views expressed by the Post Master General.

2. To Collr of Coimbatore
Post Master General

27/11/74

which come by the same train.

3- There is an excellent site close to my office, for the post office, which will then be in a most central position, and earlier delivery will thus be effected, in every direction.

4- I have addressed the Post Master General on this subject without success.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
your most obed't. Serv't.

Alexander Swan
Collector

Site direct from the Railway
Station.

To

The Post Master General

Collector of Coimbatore

Desp 15/12/76

Govt. of {1874} Madras.

Financial

To

The Postmaster General

Dated 8th
Recd. } Dec 1874, No. 2049

Nos. 75-7

Postal. With reference to the P.M. General's objection to the building of a Post-office at the Combutoor Railway Station enquiry made whether means cannot be adopted for delivering the correspondence of offices residing east of the line direct from the Railway station.