Judicial (1895) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 1090

Dated 21st May 1895

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

CONVICTION OF POSTAL OFFICIALS.

Requesting the Inspector General of Police to furnish Government with a statement similar to that required in G.O.dated 3rd September 1894, No. 2147, giving ~~bre~~ brief particulars of each of the cases in which during 1894 postal officials were convicted ~~for~~ of malversation in respect of moneys entrusted to them in the performance of their official duties.

[G/75]

A

NOTE FOR THE UNDER SECRETARY.

This is the file put up on the subject of the 'Village Postal Service'. The Parliamentary debate referred to by H.m. is not forthcoming, it is reported by the Madras office. It is not yet time, this submitted, to take up the question raised by H.m., as the statement of convictions called for in para 2 of G.O. d/3-9-94, No 2147, Judl has not been furnished by the I.G. of Police. This has, therefore, to lie over till then.

Nem.
26/9

Refce
Nem
27/9 ~~meantime~~ as recd

Have another [illegible]

Note for the Reference

The last time that the Record Office had to search for this debate reg village Postal system, it was found that no mention of it could be seen in the Parl: Debate Volumes here which have been received only up to 9 april 94. If as the U.S. says the debate took place about 3 months ago & was reported in the papers the Ooty: Office will have to search for it there since all the newspapers from april are there. These debates are not reported in the Parl: papers.

P.S.
30 Oct

For Records.

The following is an extract from the ooty slip received to day.—
" With regard to the Parliamentary debate about the Postal village system US's says – Have another look I think I saw the debate in the papers about 3 months ago? If so the debate will have been reported in the Parly Papers. Have this point looked up once more please. I am also looking up here. sd US 28/9

DR 1/10.

For Records

About the slip asking for papers reg: Village Schoolmasters being Branch Postmasters (which was returned by you yesterday), the Judicial Reper Boty office writes "The correspondence I remember Us saying is in 1882 or thereabouts".

So kindly look in that period & see if it gives any information –

DR
30/8.

No information could be had on this subject fm 1863 to 1885.
W.S. 1 Sep

For
Parliamentary debate
reg Village Postal Branch
System please see Parly
papers or Blue Books
of 1893 & 1894.

For General Records.

DUR
31/8

Search was
made in the blue
books & Parly papers
for 93, 93-94
here no papers on
the Subject
could be traced —

Please say if
another search is to be
made from 1840

PS
1 Sep

DUR
4/8 Recd 4 P.M.

94

debate of the kind can be
traced. Please see
two L & M papers put
90 & 93 put up

for

opera[illegible] debate [Please see
[illegible] slip marked A]
[illegible] are [illegible]

NOTE FOR THE UNDER SECRETARY.

For Record.

The following is a quotation from the Slip of the judicial Reference – Cty.

Note for office. 2712, 3025, 3078, 3481.

Meanwhile put up a complete file of the correspondence relating to the payment of the village postal service & see if you can trace the debate in Parliament referred to by the Hon. Mr. Bliss.

(Initd) AB
16/8

(Initd) WW
17/8

System of employing village teachers schoolmasters as post master of the branch village postmaster.

In a recent debate in the House of Commons the system was taken objection to — Put.

(Signed) AS

DUR
21/8 Recd 4 P.M.

94

debate of the kind can be traced. Please see two L & M papers ~~put~~ 90 & 93 put up

for

operat... debate [Please see ... Slip ... ted A]

... are ...

Note for General Records.

In continuation of my slip dated early last week here is some further information ~~further~~ furnished by the Coty Judicial Referencer-

"I have not the papers by me. But this is what is wanted I believe-

Correspondence about village school masters being Branch Post masters. There was some ~~correspondence~~ about it

H.S. says-

The above, H.M. says," a system that obtains in England also - In a recent parliamentary debate objection was taken to this system. H.M. wants the Blue Book or Parl.y paper containing or referring to this debate."

Please [illegible]
DK
27/8

DK
27/8

(The Parl.y Debates for 92-93-94 have been looked into - no debate of the kind can be traced. Please see two L & M papers ~~for~~ 90 & 93 put up)

for

[illegible] debate [Please see

operat...

... slip marked A]

...d are [illegible]

Papers

What is the

of your search please

[illegible]

20/9

For Reference

1) From an enquiry made at the G.P. Office there seems to have been a Director-General's Circular (no 62 of 1882) re. the employment of local residents (e.g. shopkeepers + schoolmasters) as village Post-masters. This was not published either in the Fort St. Geo Gazette or in the Gazette of India; and it was not even communicated to this Govt. A reference to this, as a new practice is made in Mr Farrer's letter, p. 8 of G.O. No 694 of 7-9-88 Finl.

2) As regards the Parl.y Debate a search thro' the newspaper files in the Offg Office may give

papers referred to by H.M's

notes including the

~~S~~ is something. ~~up to~~ April 1894 ~~there is no~~. The Debate referred to by H.M. could ~~n~~ not be found in the Parl^y Debates here (up to April '94).

The "Overland Mail" subsequent to it may contain something about it -

I don't see anything about this in the catalogued issues of the mail AS

P.S.
14 Sep.

Some H&M papers have been already sent on this subject.

DR
14/9

Ind. 40. 2647/94

Refce.

See notes below put up papers to forward to the Judl. Clerk, only.

[illegible]
8/9.

For Record
DR
8/9

papers referred to by H.M.s

With reference to Mr David-son's remarks on Ct No. 6876/94 the following expla-nation is submitted. $\frac{3}{5/1}$

The f.o. containing the Hms' notes about the Village postal System was received in the Refce Dept. at ooby a week or so after its issue with instructions to get up the papers referred to by Hms in their notes including the Parliamentary debate. Papers were got up from the Madras office together with slips to show that the Py debate could not be traced and these were submitted in due course to the W.S. Commissioner who returned it for further search for Parly debate [Please see operar… Slip marked A] …are

The file was again sent down to Madras office for this purpose and after making a thorough search for the debate it was re-submitted to the W. S. with my note dated 14th Decr last (Slip marked B). The W S's remarks thereon were understood (it now appears, wrongly) to mean that the question was finally settled. Besides the fact that the G.O. was awaiting a reply from the I. G. of Pol: was lost sight of: ~~the~~ ~~filee~~ and the file of papers collected for the G.O. was broken up.

The I. G's reply was received subsequently and the papers was sent up with the G.O. to which it was a reply under the mistaken impre

that the Que

the Village Postal System had been disposed of finally by the W.S.

Thus it would appear, it is submitted, that an attempt was made to collect the papers reqd. by the H.ms. and that it was under a mistaken impression as pointed out above the file was sent up incomplete.

The papers put up on the last occasion have now been put up together with the Postal Dept reports for three years as contained in the Genl. admn. Report of the Presidency. No further correspondence can be traced & no separate reports dealing with the annual operations of the Postal

d are received. It

the office.

A. Srikantayya
25/11/94.

~~Mr. Kamsetha~~

D.P. all fr. D.G.'s post office circular 8/5.–

Memo sent Postmaster Genl 8/2/95

Recd & posted AS 12/2/95

Ro:

Please put up all the record G.O.s previous to the G.O. 3.9.94 No 2147 in connection with H.M.'s Note on the Village Postal System

Shank

No Papers were found up in the R.C. Sek. Lt Mr. 6 1911

AS
1/3

the reference to that debate of Parliament regarding Village Postal System alluded to by H.M. in his note in G.O. dated 3rd Sepr. 1894 No. 2147 but with no better success than on a former occasion. "Truth" a reference to which might have thrown some light on the point is not received in the Office. The delay in submitting the

B

I think I saw an account of the debate in the "Indian Mail" in Aug[illegible] but it was a passing reference to a question [illegible] the matter [illegible] deposit 7/12

Note for the Under Secy

With reference to the U.S's note in blue chalk on the slip attached, I beg to submit that since the office came down from ooty "Overland Mail" and some important locals have been carefully gone through to find out the reference to that debate of Parliament regarding Village Postal System alluded to by Hw. in his note in G.O. dated 3rd Sepr. 1894 No. 2147 but with no better success than on a former occasion. "Truth" a reference to which might have thrown some light on the point is not received in the office. The delay in submitting the

the file to the U.S. has been due to the anxiety on my part to thoroughly satisfy myself on the point before U.S.'s Slip note ~~was~~ replied to.

A.S.
14th
2

166

[G. / 25]
200—8-2-95.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

C. No.

Read: G.O: 2147: D/3. Septr. 94:
Cr. No 6876 of 94:
Cr. No 645 of 95

FOR ORDERS.

The return submitted by the I. G. of Police shows that there has been in all 23 prosecutions of postal Employés in 1893.

Ganjam:	2
Vizagapatam	1
Godavari	1
Nellore	2
Bellary	1
North Arcot	2
Chingleput	1
Trichinopoly	3
Tinnevelly	1
Salem	2
Malabar	1
S. Canara	1. // 23.

Nine of the accused were Village postmen, Two postal peons, One a clerk, ~~One~~ six branch postmasters And Two sub postmasters

In almost Every Case they were Charged with misappropriating Money orders, the value of which varied from Rs 8 to Rs 766-8..

The Case of the Village postman at Vizagapatam misappropriating 57 money orders by means of forged receipts seems to be a very striking case, calling for special attention: He was sentenced to three years R. I:

It is however not understood how the I. G. of Police sends in a return of only 23 Cases: ~~to~~ for 1893: The Admn report for 1893/94 pag: 147, shows that there were 82 Cases of Offences punishable by Law Committed by Officials of the Postal Dept: And that in 49 of these Cases 40 postal officers were punished judicially: And the Admn Report for 92/93, shows that there were 84 Cases punishable by Law Committed by the postal officials, and that in 54 of these Cases 47 postal officials were punished judicially:

The Circular of the Director General of Post offices No 62 of 2. Septr: 81, urges ~~on~~

FOR ORDERS

the Postal Officers to gradually introduce, ~~the~~ a cheap system of working Branch post offices, & at a cost of only Rs: 2-8-0: which amount is evidently meant to cover the Contingent Expenses of the office:- Since 81, this system must have gradually developed itself in the remote villages, thus affording an opportunity to the Village postmen of embezzling money entrusted to them from time to time for the payment to illiterate villagers:

In 1888, Local Govt. meditated reducing the grant made towards the District Postal Admn: Mr Farrars protest against this proposal will be found in G.O: 694 of: 7 Septr: 88:- In para 10 of Mr Farrars letter he states:

"Now that we employ schoolmasters & other local residents in the management of petty offices the cost of opening new offices is easily met".-

G.O 1105 of 19. May: 93: L & M: has accorded a general sanction to L. Fund schoolmasters being employed as post-masters -

The allowance which these schoolmasters or others doing this work ~~let~~ seems to be only Rs 2/8:-

Please see: para: 3 of the Postmaster Genl's Letter: printed in G.O: 985 Genl: Df 5.10.93, in which the P.M.G promises to submit a proposal for effecting an improvement in the rural posts:- but it was pointed out to him that such improvements should be made feasible by the transfer of remunerative offices to the Imperial Service:-

Report of the Postal Comn in 1851 is put up: and also the Parliamentary Debates, that took place when Sir James Ferguson was the Postmaster Genl: of England and also other debates relating to rural post offices in England: There are several debates ~~on this~~ relating to the Postal System in England, they will be all submitted if the U.S, wishes to see them:

Attention is also invited to the P.M.G's letter No 17035 Df 6.9.94 (G.O: 810: Df 3. oct: 94) Para: 2, from which it will be seen that village postmen on a salary of Rs 5 or 6, are entrusted with the payment of large sums of money -

E.W.le
22.2.95

Return of Postal Employés Convicted during 1893

H: M.

(For orders)

D/4 2,000—25-7-94.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. E

Office Note

Recd 11/3

From

Dated 189 .

I have kept the books here

FOR ORDERS.

It is still altogether impossible to deal with this paper with the references put up.

The postal circular received No 62 Df 2.93 refers back to previous circulars No 93 & 94 Df 18 Octr 1880 which are not here.

para 10 of Mr. Farrer's letter in G.O. 694/7.5.88 mentions the subjects but very little more information is available.

2. What H.M. wants to know apparently is:-

(a) Was the system of employing local residents such as schoolmasters &c as postmasters initiated before or after the M.O. system. Cir of the DG Post-offices 62 Df 9/81: i.e after the M.O. was introduced

(b) Was exception recently taken in Parliament to the similar system in England: exception does not seem to have been taken —

(c) the number of postal embezzlement cases in the last year.

(d) whether it is not desirable to limit the delivery of money orders in rural ~~[illegible]~~ by lowly-paid peons.

5/3/95 [illegible]

Note for the U.S.

These circs have since been obtained & will be found in C No 20.X.37 relating to the same subject

This system was initiated after the introduction of the money-order system

Exception does not appear to have been taken to the

Please see stub in C No 6876/94

[illegible] connection
[illegible] is invited to the copy of the
[illegible] cir under cover of G.O of 3. oct: 94
[illegible]

(1) Was the system (alluded to supra in (a)) established after enquiry & trial with the consent of Govt.

The D.G. of Post-Offices possesses the powers of Local Govt. in his own Deptt.

When Mr. Grose believed that there were many papers on the subject, but hardly any have been found, & it seems to me that it will be necessary to ask the P.M.G. to supply the information, but before taking steps towards doing so, I want to know

(a) When the Money Order system was introduced: — Surely the library contains some history of the development of Postal operations in India? — If not, the back Presidency Admint. reports will say: I believe it was between 1875 & 1885.

(b). What are the several debates relating to the postal system to which Mr. Kamath refers at the end of his note. X

(c) the original of G.O. 3 Oct. 1894 No 810 with circular 145/20-1-94 referred to in para 2 of Mr. Farrer's letter therein.

This must be attended to at once

D
4.3.95

(a): G.O: 350 of: 18/2/80: Pl: see G.I. Notfn.

(b) X I have put up the Genl: Index for 92-93-94, relating to Postal Admn: - No objn seems to have been raised in the to the System of P.M.O: in rural Dists.

(c) The original of G.O: 810: of 94, with Cir: No 145 of 94 are put up

FOR ORDERS.

There is nothing to show that the Local Govt was consulted before ~~the system~~ introducing the system.

Jul nos 6876
645
2037

T

On 1 January 1880. Vide Govt. of India Notn. No 3178 of 11-10-79, published in the F.S.G. of 21-10-79. (copy under cover of G.O. 18-2-80, No 350).

~~Some~~ A brief history of the Postal development of Postal operations (1837-1882) will be found in the report under cover of G.O. 7-9-88, No 694, Genl. It is believed that some further information on this subject will also be found in the report of the Postal Commission of 1851, a copy of which has been called for & will be subd. on receipt.

Subd.

H.S.
28/4/95

Recd & subd
H.T.
29/4

Enclosure to letter, No. 7756 dated 24th December 1894, from the Inspector General of Police-

Statement of cases in which postal officials (including Village Postmasters) were convicted of malversation in respect of moneys entrusted to them in the performance of their official duties during the year 1893-

District	Name and designation of the offender-	Brief particulars of offence-	Remarks.
Madras City	"	Nil	
V.P Ganjam	1 D. Ramiah, Village Post man, Branch Post Office, Haripur, Ichapur Division-	Misappropriated Money Order for Rs. 20 and produced a receipt which was not genuine and was sentenced to 3 years' R. I. and fined Rs. 20 under Sections 409, 467 & 471 I. P. C.	20 Rs 3 years. fine 20 Rs.
V.P	2 M. Suryanarayana, Village Post man, Post Office, Sompeta, Ichapur Division.	Misappropriated Money Order for Rs. 30 and returned a forged Money Order receipt to the Post office and was sentenced to 6 months' R. I. under Sections 409 and 471 I. P. C-	Rs 30. 6 months
Vizagapatam V.P	3 Kannuri Appadu, Village Post man, Yellamanchili	Misappropriated (37) money orders for Rs. 764-8-0 and Rs. 2 in Postage Stamps and returned money orders to the Post Office bearing forged receipts and was sentenced to 3 years' R. I. under Sections 409 & 471 I. P. C.	37 money orders Value 764-8 2 Rs Stamps 766-8 3 years
Jeypore	"	Nil	
Godavari V.P	4 P. Venkataswami, Village Post man, Tuni-	Misappropriated Money Order for Rs. 8 and was sentenced to 4 months' R. I. under Section 409 I. P. C.-	Rs 8 4 months
Kistna	"	Nil	
V.P Nellore	5 Lingisetti Venkataswami, Village Post man, Singarayaconda, Kandakur Division.	Misappropriated 2 money orders for Rs. 25 and 10 and produced forged receipts and was sentenced to 5 years' R. I. under Sections 409 and 471 I. P. C.	Rs 25- 5 years.
V.P	6 Pyola Pitchiah, Village Post man, Kanigiri Post office.	Misappropriated 2 money orders for Rs. 10 and 25 and produced forged receipts and was sentenced to 5 years' R. I. under Sections 467 and 471 I. P. C-	2 M. O: Rs 10 + 25- 5 years.
Kurnool	"	Nil	
Bellary P.P	7 Quadir Muhiuddin, Post Peon, Adoni Town-	Misappropriated a gold chain worth Rs. 60 and was sentenced to 6 months' R. I. and to pay a fine of Rs. 100, in default, to 2 months' R. I. under Section 48 of Act XIV of 1866-	Gold Chain Rs 60- 2 months
Anantapur	"	Nil	
Cuddapah	"	Nil	

	P.P	8	Therunengadaswami Post Man, Arcot Post Office.	Misappropriated 2 Money Orders for Rs 10 and 25 and forged the signatures of the payees on the acknowledgments and was sentenced to 6 Months' R.I. and fined Rs. 50; in default, to 3 Months' R.I. under Section 409 I. P. C.	2 M.O. Rs 10 & 25- X 6 months R I fine 50 Rs or 3 months R I
North Arcot.	C	9	Sundara Aiyar, Clerk and Treasurer, Chittoor Post office.	Committed theft of Rs. 141 given to him by the Post Master on 20th June 1893 for the transaction of the day and disappeared and was sentenced to 18 Months' R. I. under Section 409 I. P. C.	Rs 141. 18 months R I
Chingleput.	B.P.M	10	Sundara Aiyar, Post Master, Alandur Branch Office under Saint Thomas' Mount	Misappropriated Rs. 300 deposited by one Samuelsawmy Doss, by forging a withdrawal application and producing a forged receipt and was sentenced to 2 years' R. I. and fined Rs. 300 under Sections 406, 409, 467 and 471 I. P. C	Rs 300- 2 yrs R I fine 300
South Arcot			"	Nil	
	P.P	11	Pakkiri, Peon, Tranquibar Post Office	Misappropriated a Money Order for Rs. 30 by forging the receipt and was sentenced to 3 years' R. I.	Rs 30- 3 yrs. R I
Tanjore	B.P.M	12	Saminatha Aiyar Branch Post Master, Tirunageswaram, Kumbakonam Taluk.	Opened a registered letter and abstracted therefrom a bill of exchange on the National Bank for Rs. 445 payable to one Veerabadran and was sentenced to 3 years' R. I. under Section 409 I. P. C. and Section 48 of Act XIV of 1866 and to 5 years R. I. under Section 471 I. P. C.	Bill Ex Rs 445 3 yrs Rs 5 yrs } -
	B.P.M	13	Sankaranarayana Mudali, Branch Post Master, Kannanore, Musiri Taluk	Misappropriated 2 Money Orders for Rs. 100 each and was sentenced to 3 years' R. I. and to pay a fine of Rs. 500; in default, to 6 Months' R. I. under Section 409 I. P. C.	2 ~~M.Os~~ Rs 100 Each 3 yrs R I fine 500 -
Trichinopoly	B.P.M	14	Do. Do.	Misappropriated a Money Order for Rs. 150 and was sentenced to 1 years' R. I. under Section 409 I. P. C.	Rs 150 1 yrs R I
	B.P.M	15	S. Issac, Branch Post Master, Pullambadi	Misappropriated a Money order for Rs. 150 and was sentenced to 2 years' R. I.	Rs 150 2 years R I

S.P.M	16	A. R. Gopalayyar, Sub Post Master, Cumbaconam, Periakolam Taluk	Misappropriated a Money Order and was sentenced to one year and 6 Months' R. I. and fined Rs. 50; in default, to 6 Months' R. I.	One M.O 1 yr & 6 mths R.I Fine 50: in Default 6 mos
S.P.M Madura	17	Do. Do.	Misappropriated 2 Money Orders and was sentenced to 6 Months' R. I. and fined Rs. 50; in default, to 3 Months' R. I.	2 M.O 6 months R.I Fine 50: or 3 mo: R.I
P.P	18	Palaniyandi Pillai, Post Man, Tekkadi	Left the place and went away to Travancore without taking leave and without returning 2 Rs. worth of Postage labels entrusted to him for sale and was sentenced to 3 Months' R. I.	2 Rs Stamps 3 months R.I
Tinnevelly B.P.M	19	Muthukumaraswami Pillai, Brach Post Master, Maniachi	Misappropriated 3 Money Orders and was sentenced to 3 years' R. I.	3 M.O. 3 yrs R.I
P.P Salem	20	Venkatarama Nayudu Postman, Namakal Post office	Misappropriated a Money Order for Rs. 40 producing forged receipt and was sentenced to 3 years' R. I. under Sections 409 and 467 I. P. C.	Rs 40. 3 yrs R.I
V.P	21	Saiyid Bada Sahib, Village Post Man, Trickengode	Misappropriated a Money Order for Rs. 20 and produced forged receipt and was sentenced to 30 Months' R. I. under Sections 409, 467 and 471 I. P. C.	20 Rs. ~~1½ yrs~~ 30 months R.I
Coimbatore		"	Nil	
Nilgiris		"	Nil	
Malabar V.P	22	Rarapunni Nair, Village Post Man, Ponnani	Misappropriated a Money Order for Rs. 12-8-0 and was sentenced to 2 years' R. I. under Sections 409 and 467 I. P. C.	Rs 12-8 2 yrs R.I
South Canara V.P	23	Ladru Machado, Village Post Man	Misappropriated 2 Money Orders producing forged receipts and was convicted under Sections 409 and 471 I. P. C. ^ Sentence ?	2 M.O

Chief Office of the
Inspr General of Police,
Madras, 24th December 1894.

Asstt. Inspr General of Police.

Recd. JW

6876

Statistical Department.

No. 7756

CHIEF OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE,
Madras, 24th December 1894.

FROM

M. Hammick Esq. I.C.S.,
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE,

TO

THE Chief Secretary
to Government,
Fort Saint George.

SIR,

Enclosures. One

Agreeably to G.O. No. 2147, dated 3rd as September 1894, I have the honor to forward a statement giving brief particulars of cases in which postal officials were convicted during 1893 for misappropriation &ca of moneys entrusted to them in the performance of their official duties.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedt: Servt,

M Hammick

Inspector General of Police.

6876

Jud. (1894) DEPARTMENT.

FROM

M. Hammick Esq. I.C.S.,

INSPECTOR GENERAL

OF POLICE.

No. 7756

Dated 24th } December 1894.
Received 25th }
Regd 26 }

Encl - 1

CHIEF SECRETARY
No.
26 Dec 1894
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

SUBJECT.

Forwarding a statement giving brief particulars of cases in which postal officials were convicted during 1893 –

Pr

Pl: put up the Parliamentary papers re ref. to in G.O. 2147 Dt 3/9/94

9/1

- G.O. 2147: 3.9.94 pers
- 1150 L: 19.5.93
- 1850 L: 14 vii 90
- 694 7.9.88 Judl S.C.
- 1336: 22 Dec 87. do

Misappropriation Statement of by postal Officials —

Groves

Pl: see pr R.S. & pl. pre-print

No sort of attempt has been made to reference this paper. This unless by itself; all previous papers dealing with the present constitution of the postal service, one or two postal admn. reports of recent years, & one or two at the time when these cases were experimentally tried should be put up —

See also Mr Groves' note in G.O. d/3-9-94 No 2147

What is the name of the clerk who has sent this up so incomplete.

D/12/1

9/1

Jud.

CURRENT NO. 645

From

The Postmaster General,

MADRAS.

No. 33109

UNDER SECRETARY
10 FEB 95
PUBLIC ETC DEPT.

Dated 9 Feby } 1895
Received 10 }

Regd 11/2

No. of Enclosures 1

SUBJECT.

Forwards a copy of cir. No 62 dated 2nd September 1891 regarding the employment of local residents as Branch Postmasters.

8

Form No. 12-9-94—200.

Copy of a Circular from the Director General of the Post Office of India, to all Postal Circles, dated Simla, the 2nd September 1881 No 62.

Employment of local residents
as Branch Postmasters.

I wish again to invite attention to my Circulars noted in the margin* relative to the use of extraneous agencies† for the multiplication of post Offices.

* No 93, dated 18th October 1880
No. 94 " "

† Schoolmasters
Bunias
Shop-keepers
Government pensioners.

2. Schoolmasters‡ have to a large extent of late been utilised as Sub and Branch Postmasters: and with considerable success. Some places however are destitute of schools: and at other places, which possess schools, the officers of the Educational Department are unwilling to allow the masters to undertake postal duties. In such instances the services of a respectable local resident might often advantageously be employed.

‡ In the Punjab alone about 50 such offices have recently been opened:

The Officers of the Ed Dept have no authority.

3. About 20 such offices§ were opened in the Punjab in July last and already exhibit signs of success. One bunia travelled all the way from Jullunder to the Postmaster General's Office at Lahore, bearing a letter of recommendation from an opulent native merchant, with the sole object of securing the opening of a post Office at his shop

§ At a cost of Rs 3 each per month including Contingencies

4. It would thus seem that, if the matter be properly represented there is no reluctance on the part of the natives to assist the Post Office in the manner indicated. One probable result of the scheme will be a reduction of Dead Letter Office work: for every native must deal with a bunia, who is better able than any one else to find residents in the neighbourhood and who will often, when in charge of a post Office, be willing to

advan

advance the small demand for bearing postage which the indigent addressee cannot always immediately furnish.

5. I am beset with applications for experimental establishments — applications which I am compelled reluctantly to refuse owing to lack of funds. Seeing then that the demand for additional postal facilities is in excess of the means at our disposal, it behoves us to consider how this demand can be met at no enhanced expense. No better method occurs to me than the gradual supersession, in suitable localities, of small offices in charge of special postmaster by a larger number of branch offices under local residents.

6. A glance at the marginal figures will show how large the number of these small offices now is and how great the apparent scope for the multiplication of post offices at no extra cost to the state. If one office only at Rs 10 be abolished, four might be substituted at Rs 2-8-0 each out of the saving effected. My object is not the wholesale dismissal of numerous sub or branch postmasters, but their gradual absorption into other offices coupled with the simultaneous appropriation of the saving effected in the manner indicated. Care should be taken in giving effect to such changes; those places only being selected where the work can fairly well be discharged by the new agency contemplated.

Total number of Postmasters in India drawing:—
Rs 10 each — — — — — 1221
" 12 " — — — — — — 156
" 15 " — ——— 1219
" 20 " ——— 795

Note:- The cost of special postmasters is increased by house rent and contingencies, while the allowance to local residents for postal work covers all expenses of this character.

7. I would wish the heads of the several postal Circles to take these remarks into consideration.

Sd/-

Post Office Department.

From

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MADRAS,

To

The Under Secretary to Government,
(Judicial Department), Madras,

No. 33/09 dated Madras ; the 9 February 1895
C.S.2. No4

SIR,

With reference to your memorandum dated 5th February 1895, I have the honor to forward herewith a copy of Circular No 62 dated 2nd September 1891 issued by the Director General of Post Office regarding the employment of local residents as Branch Post Masters.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

For Postmaster General
Sd/-

Judicial Deptt

CURRENT NO 2037

From

The Postmaster General,

MADRAS.

E

No. 1937

Dated 22-4- } 1895

Received 25-4-

No. of Enclosures 2

SUBJECT.

Forwards copies of Director General's Circs: Nos 93 & 94 d/ 18/10/80

Memorandum on the Employment of Schoolmasters as Sub Postmasters.

I am sorry to notice a tendency, in some postal Circles, towards discouraging the employment of Schoolmasters as Sub Postmasters.

2. It is of course more Convenient to have a special officer than to utilise the services of another Government servant, whose postal duties must always be subordinated to the discharge of his regular work.

3. But economy must be Considered; and if ever the Post Office is really to be brought to the doors of the rural population, it must be by the utilisation in small places of agencies outside the department for the performance of postal duties.

4. In the Schoolmaster we have a man of acknowledged local status and of more than sufficient education; we have, moreover, a + Servant of Government but poorly paid, who is generally glad to add to his income by the discharge of other duties. Small difficulties will unquestionably arise, such as the occasional absence of the Schoolmaster on leave or duty, but that difficulty Can probably be met by allowing the man to make his own arrangement as regards a locum tenens.

+ He is not a servant of Govt

5. One frequent reason for the alleged failure of the S le under Consideration arises from the action of the loc Inspector, who finds in the Schoolmaster a man equal education with himself and one who wi

book tyranny. Not infrequently, moreover, the Inspector is surrounded with proteges for whom he is too anxious to provide.

6. I look to the head of each Circle to protect the postal Schoolmaster from attempts at oppression and to discountenance quarrels between such officers and the Inspector. Complete Subordination Cannot be expected from officers of other departments whom the Post Office sees fit to employ, and it is the duty of the department to make the best of a cheap and valuable agency for postal extension.

7. The imposition of fines on this class of officers should be absolutely prohibited as unsuited to the Circumstances of the Case. If a Schoolmaster be deprived of his postal work, the fact, together with the Circumstances which led to it, should be reported to the head of the postal Circle.

8. Many Small Sub Offices are, I fear, now in existence which do not pay their way. Each Postmaster General or Deputy Postmaster General will know where to find such doubtful offices. In such Cases, value returns, should be kept for a week or so: and where the Conditions of self-Support are not fulfilled, a proposal should be sent for the transfer of postal duties to the Schoolmaster or other local resident.

9. From all sides Complaints Come of the low salary id by the Post Office to Sub Postmasters. These Complaints often very just. But the remedy lies in the utilisa- of cheap extraneous agencies, rather than the employment of special Sub postmasters of a more expensive class. I have no desire to see the lower grades of the department under-paid: but I do wish to obtain efficiency Combined with economy, and this Combination Can only be secured by methods like the one under Consideration.

10. I trust that the head of each postal Circle will insist on a more extended use of the Schoolmaster agency for postal work.

11. In Conclusion, I would add that the success or failure of the scheme must greatly depend on the Co-operation of the educational Authorities. The head of each postal Circle should Communicate with the educational Authorities and secure this Co-operation.

12. A Copy of this memorandum will be sent to the head of the educational department in each province.

(Sd) F. R. Hogg
Offg: Dir: Genl: of P. O.

Circular No 93.

Copy forwarded to all postal Circles

Simla
The 18th October 1880

(Sd) F. R. Hogg
Offg: Dir: Genl: of P. O.

1005
Tul Dept.
Enclos. No 1
To
O. No 2037

Memorandum on the Employment of Bunniahs or Borahs and other classes of Shop-keepers as Sub Postmasters.

I regard the extension of postal facilities into the interior of districts as a very important measure. Much has already been done and much more doubtless yet remains to be done in the direction of village postmen. But the multiplication of small post offices is another way of attaining the object in view. Such offices must necessarily be conducted on a very economical scale, and yet the retention of Sub Postmasters on very low salaries is, in my opinion, a policy of doubtful wisdom. Moreover, the work at such insignificant offices would be wholly insufficient to occupy the entire time of one man.

2. A natural solution lies in the employment of small Shop-keepers and others, as is done in England, who for a small trifle gladly undertake the performance of postal duties, the tendency of which is to attract more Customers to their shops.

3. I think that in India the village bunniah* or borah might usefully be employed in this business. He might be given about Rs 2 a month, besides an allowance of 8 annas for Contingencies. His duties should be as simple as possible, and should be Confined to the despatch and delivery of m and to registration. Possibly, money Order work and n

* The work may perhaps be entrusted to a money Changer, any Shop-keeper or other respectable resident.

22 8-94.-200

might be added to the above, but this is a point for future Consideration. No furniture would be wanted besides a letter box, a goldsmith's scale (when necessary) and a seal. The bunniah Village postmaster should be allowed if he likes to work sitting native fashion on the floor; Consideration should be shown him; and he should not be made to submit frequent reports or in other ways worried. For offices of this Character, fines are obviously unsuited, and should never be imposed. The Success or failure of the scheme will depend largely on the attitude of the Inspector: for the local shop-keeper will of Course, not submit to annoyance for so small remuneration. A simple form of daily account need only be kept in these minor offices: this daily account of postage due on articles to be delivered might be prepared and sent by the Head Office or Sub Office and sent back with an intimation that so many Covers Cannot be delivered or are in deposit. This account (and all Correspondence) might be in any vernacular language known to the Head Office or Sub Office, which will keep a record of the items in its Sub-delivery account.

4. When the village Concerned is Situated on a mail line, no Carrying establishment will be required: in other Cases, one or more runners will have to be put on. But speed on such lines should not be looked for and long distances (say 12 miles per man) should be travelled by every runner. A daily service will not be necessary. In the majority of ses, a tri-weekly or Semi-weekly service each way will ffice.

If the Correspondence be trifling, the village postmaster will himself arrange for their delivery. If the number of Covers for delivery be numerous, a gratuity for delivery may be given to the runner or a special allowance given to the village postmaster who will make his own arrangements for delivery.

6. The bunniah or borah has Customers generally in Surrounding villages and knows their residences: his agency, therefore, will be a good one for the delivery of Correspondence. He has also the Confidence of his Customers, which would be a great help to this department, and would tend to extend the use of the Post Office.

7. This is merely intended as the rough sketch of a Scheme, on the practical advantages or otherwise of which I shall be glad to hear the views of the head of each postal Circle, together with any advice he has to offer.

8. It occurs to me that the services of Government pensioners might also be utilised in any like way. But this Class of men are Comparatively speaking rare, while the local shop-keeper is always to be found, and, if well treated, would prove a very valuable adjunct to the postal service.

9. A Similar agency might also be employed in Cities or towns for the multiplication of receiving offices. In some instances advantage would result from the abolition of the Comparatively highly paid local receiving Clerk now employed and the subst-tution of four or five receiving offices under shopke

I

In Such Cases, also, money order, insurance and parcel work may be entrusted to these men, their allowances being correspondingly increased.

(Sd) J. R. Hogg.
Offg: Dir: Genl: P.O.

Circular No 94

Copy forwarded to all Postal Circles

Simla
The 18th October 1880

(Sd) J. R Hogg
Offg: Dir: Genl: P.O.
ser.

1895
Jud Dept.
Enclos. No 2
To
[illegible]
O. No

Post Office Department.

From

H. FARRER, Esq.,
POSTMASTER GENERAL, MADRAS,

CURRENT No. 2037

To

THE Under SECRETARY
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,
Judicial DEPARTMENT.

No. 1937 dated Madras, the 22 April 1895
C.S. 2 to 4

SIR,

With reference to your memorandum dated 20th March 1895, I have the honor to forward herewith Copies of the Circulars Nos: 93 & 94 of 18th October 1880 issued by the Director General of Post Office.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant

For Postmaster General
ser.

[G./25.]
100—21-12-94.

DEPARTMENT.

No.
G.O. D/ 3. 9. 94 No 2147
C. 6876 of 1894
C. 645 of 1895
C. 2037 D/ 22-4-95

From

Dated 189

FOR ORDERS.

As things are, there is hardly a case to [illegible] of India upon. Shd. ask the I.-G. of Police for a list of cases in 1894 & see what that shows

W.B.
10/5/95

We may get a list for '94 but I doubt if it will be of any use. The system could not be improved except at a vast expense

J.G. 13/5

W.
17 May

Order d/21st May 1895 No. 1090

~~This~~ The I.G. of Police will be requested to furnish Govt. with a statement similar to that required in para. 2 of G.O. D/ 3-9-94 No 2147 but containing particulars of cases relating to the year 1894.

ED 24 MAY 95

I.G.-Police [illegible] M.S copies 2416 18-5-95

Please see the notes in orders in G.O. D/ 3-9-94 No 2147 — in which H.M.'s decided that it was expedient to make enquiries into the method of paying rural postal officials with a view to addressing the Govt. of India as to in order that arrangements might be made to secure them higher pay.

2. Para 2 of the order called on the I.G. of Police to submit a return shewing the number of cases in which, during 1893, postal officials were convicted of malversation in respect of moneys entrusted to them in their official capacities. — Current 6876 D/ 24 December is Mr. Hammick's reply. It shews that 23 such cases occurred, the offenders were 9 "village postmen", 5 postal peons, 6 branch postmasters, ~~*~~ 2 ~~[illegible]~~ sub postmasters & one c

they came from 15 districts, & the of

committed was usually the misapp

of money orders.

3. H.M.'s required information on other following points:—

(a). Whether the system of employing local residents ~~on~~ as postmasters was initiated after Enquiry & trial & with the consent of the Govt.

(b). Whether its introduction was prior or subsequent to that of the money order system

(c) Whether exception had not recently been taken in Parliament to the same system in England

4. As regards (c) a careful search has elicited nothing ~~but casual remarks~~ bearing directly on the subject. Questions have been asked in Parliament about the number of thefts &c committed by postal officials & speeches have been made on the inefficiency of the rural postal system, but the office has been unable to discover any attack on the system of employing local shop-keepers as postmasters.

5. As regards (b), the money order system ~~was~~ dates from 1st January 1880, when the business was transferred from the Treasury Department to the Post office. (G.O. of 18 February 1880 & gazette notice therein) The system of employing Schoolmasters & other local residents as postmasters dates from about the same period. It is specially inculcated in Circulars issued by the Director-General of Post offices under date 18 October 1880 .X. & Septr. 1881 †* & appears to have been troduced prior to October 1880 as the mer Circular speaks of a ency to discourage the employment schoolmasters as subpostmasters

Has the office the "Times" paper & the index thereto?

D/1920

.X. in C. 2037
C. 645
† in ~~G.O.~~ of 3 [illegible]

[G. / 25.]
600—8-3-95.

DEPARTMENT.

C. No.

FOR ORDERS.

There is little doubt however, that, though in isolated cases here & there local residents may have been employed as subpostmasters, no attempt to inaugurate a regular system of this description was made until October 1880 — i.e. after the introduction of the money order system .X.

6. ~~As regards a~~ The Circulars were issued from the Director General's office & there is nothing to shew that the Local Govt. was ever consulted on the subject, or that the system was "initiated after Enquiry & trial with "the consent of Govt."

7. It appears therefore that suffici material on which to address Govt. of India does not exist is possible that a case migh made out if a report were

.X. In Madras further steps were taken to press the matter in 1894 vide Circular 145 of 20.1.94 in G.O. of 3.10.94 No. 810

for from the Postmaster-General. There is very little information to be gathered in the Govt. office on postal matters & it is this want of information & the consequent necessity of obtaining copies of postal circulars from the Postmaster-General which (together with a series of mistakes in the office) has delayed the submission of these papers. ~~Sd~~ D for orders.

Orders are solicited as to whether (a) the matter should be dropped (b) the Govt. of India should be addressed in the sense of A.M.'s notes, or (c) a report shld. be called for from the Postmaster General of this Presidency

D
2-5-95

Jd
9/5/95

Payment of postal officials

FOR ORDERS.

A.M. & Circ.

H.C. [illegible]

H.C.

Please return to me after issue as the papers have to be kept intact with file which I am keeping

JW
21 May.

[illegible]

C 4/5 [illegible] 1/5

30/5

---

hen given for copying ______ } 189 .							
hen copied ______							
hen examined ______							
hen signed ______							
D AGAIN G.O., No. DATED 189 .							
RENT No.							
LOSURES TO C. No.							
BE OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
TING OF GOVERNMENT.							
EMENT WITH DITTO.							
ERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.							

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.