

Marine (189 ⁶) Department.

G.O., No. 65 *haz*

DATED 3/2/96.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Cover addressed to the Marine Dept.
Letter from the Presidency Port Bureau
forwarding report on the removal
of postage stamps affixed to a
~~Cover~~ Recorded

TRANS RECORD OFFICE.

6.4.85 v. 319.

Received.

copy 1/2/56

From

The Postmaster General,

MADRAS.

No. 32589

Dated 30 Jan'y } 1896
Received

No. of Enclosures 1

SUBJECT.

Regarding a cover
despatched without
postage labels.

from the Superintendent of Post Offices, Cocanada Division
to the Postmaster General, Madras.

Refce to No 22992 & 24604 of 15/11/95

In returning the enclosure of your communication quoted above I regret the case is inexplicable.

2. The letter box of the Masulipatam Post Office is always opened by the sorting clerk and the contents are brought to the stamping table by a packer accompanied by the clerk. On the 6th September /95 the date on which the letter is alleged to have been posted the clerk in charge of the sorting Department was Ramabramha Sastry one of the best clerks in the Division and about whose honesty there can possibly be no question. The cover however bears the Masulipatam stamp dated the 12th September, and on the assumption that it was posted and removed from the letter box on the 6th the cover was in the custody of some postal official for 6 days. A postal official who could keep a letter for 6 days is not likely to repost it the safest means to get rid of the cover after removing the stamps being to destroy it.

3. What makes the matter suspicious against the Masulipatam Post Office is the fact that that office failed to make any remark concerning the absence of the stamps although the traces of their having been removed are so distinct. With reference to this I may submit that the month of September was cloudy almost throughout, and the evenings used to be dark. If therefore the cover was posted late in the evening it was just possible for the traces of the stamps having been removed to escape notice.

4. It is not unusual for servants entrusted with the posting of letters to remove the stamps affixed to them before posting. Recently a case occurred in the Masulipatam Post Office itself in which the letters posted by the Firm of Messrs: Maiden & Co used to be frequently found with traces of the stamps having been removed. One day a servant of that Firm brought some labels for sale to the Post Office and could not explain how he came by them. The matter having been

brought to the notice of Mr Maiden he dismissed the servant, This case is mentioned here to shew not onlt the honesty and carefulness of the sorting clerk but also to shew the tendency of servants to commit these small acts of theft. The difficulty in the present case is the statement of the sender that he had the letter posted in his almost immediate presence. Except therefore on the assumption that the sender is making a mistake as to the identity of the cover which he got posted in his presence the case remains inexplicable. I have however noted the case against the Masulipatam Post Office.

Post Office Department.

From

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

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

Marine DEPARTMENT.

Fort St: George.

No. C.M.S. No. 1718 dated Madras the 30th January 1896
32589

SIR,

In continuation of my letter dated 1st November/95 No. 22991, I have the honor to forward the accompanying copy of a report from the Superintendent of Post Offices Cocanada Division who has held an investigation into the matter, and to remark that the theory that the Port Officer has made a mistake in thinking that this was one of the letters posted by him on the 6th September seems a probable one : for there have been no other complaints against the Masulipatam Post Office and if the sorting clerk had kept it back and taken the stamps he would in all probability have made away with the letter altogether.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

For Postmaster General.