

1. Number of pages 12
2. Date of receipt 5-10-3
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M.L.O. 1-52400-23-11-30

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Puducherry DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1194	Press
	127-128	~~Mis.~~
Dated	21-11-	1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

FROM

A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq.,

Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

HOME DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council, the accompanying report from the Acting Advocate General on a case in which, at the late Session of the High Court, an employé of the Telegraph Office at Madras was unsuccessfully prosecuted for embezzlement.

2. The report shows that the commission of the offence was facilitated by defective office arrangements.

3. In the suggestion of the Acting Advocate General, that no messages should be despatched except on actual payment of cash, this Government are unable to concur. On the contrary, they would reduce cash payments to a minimum by the use of service stamps for all public messages, and by allowing stamps to be used for private messages under all circumstances. This arrangement would be a great convenience both to the Officers of

The Telegraph stamps now supplied can only be used when it is necessary to send a message by post to a Telegraphic Station.

Government and the public. The present rule of cash payments necessitates the retention in the different public offices, of a considerable sum of money, which might be more advantageously reserved for *bona fide* use: it is opposed to the rule, prohibiting inter-departmental cash payments, which prevails in all other branches of the administration, and, if strictly enforced, as has lately been notified, will be productive of great inconvenience in such offices as that of the Government Secretariat, where important public messages have often to be despatched when the Government Office is closed.

When the Salt tax was raised in March last, the Revenue Secretary had to send messages on a Sunday to every Collector and several Salt Superintendents, to prevent the measure being anticipated by the mercantile community.

4. To the public the arrangement will doubtless be acceptable, on account of the additional security it will afford against the dishonesty of messengers, as well as malpractices in the Telegraph Office.

5. So far as the Telegraph Office is concerned it is obvious that, in whatever degree the plan reduces the receipt of cash, it will diminish the opportunities of speculation. The stamps might be impressed on paper as well as adhesive, and should be sold *not* at the Telegraph Offices, but by the vendors of Judicial and Postal stamps, so that, even if removed from messages before obliteration, their sale by the Telegraph employés to any extent would be both difficult and hazardous.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
21st November 1866.

Chief Secretary.

Ed. J. Tulloch.

Public Department.

No.

To

The Secretary to the Government
of India,

Home Department.

Sir,

By clause 43 of the revised rules for the Government Telegraph Department, it is required that Service Messages from all public functionaries shall be paid for in cash prior to despatch. The system is peculiar to the Telegraph Department, interdepartmental cash payments being prohibited in all other departments.

2. The clause in question is particularly inconvenient to the Government.
Their

W. H. P.

Then Secretaries are frequently obliged to send urgent messages from their private residences, on days and at hours when their offices are closed. In 1864 last when the Salt duty was raised the Revenue Secretary had to telegraph on a Sunday to the Collector of every maritime district and the Superintendent of many detached Salt Stations, so as to ensure the levy of the enhanced rates without delay, and prevent private traders from anticipating the measure. The charge

5
charge for these messages amounted to about
Rupees. As the Department receives cash only, and is not bound to accept private cheques, it may often happen that important public messages may be delayed by the accident of the Secretary not having at hand sufficient coin to pay for them. I am therefore directed to request that the Telegraph Department may be directed to despatch, without actual payment, all Govt. messages accompanied by an order for their despatch.

Handwritten notes at top left of page 1.

127-128

Public Dept. 21/11/1866
7th Nov 1866 -
11-11-1866 of 1866

Public Dept.
To
The Secy. to the Govt.
of India

clasp 27/11

90

Public Department.
 No. 1196.
 To
 The Secretary to the Government
 of India,
 Home Department.

Sir,

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council, the accompanying report from the Acting Advocate General on a case in which at the late Session of the High Court an employee of the Telegraph Office at Madras was unsuccessfully prosecuted for embezzlement.

2. The report shows that the commission of the offence was facilitated by defective office-arrangements.

Per Judicial Dept.
21 Nov 1866. N^o 1196
paras 1 to 40

Handwritten initials and signature.

Handwritten signature at bottom right.

3. In the suggestion of the Acting Advocate General that no messages should be despatched except on actual payment of cash, this Government are unable to concur. On the contrary, they would reduce cash payments to a minimum by the use of Service Stamps for all public messages ~~and by having appropriate stamps for private messages.~~ This arrangement would be a great convenience both to the Officers of Govt. and the public. The present rule of cash payments necessitates the retention in the different public Offices of a considerable sum of money, which might be more advantageously reserved for bona fide use

+ Messages into
 The Telegraph
 Stamps now
 supplied
 can only be
 used when it
 is necessary
 to send a mes-
 sage by post &
 in telephone
 station.

and following stamps
 to be used for private
 messages under all
 circumstances. +

It is our intention
 to issue a special stamp
 for use in the
 Government Office
 for messages on a
 Sunday to prevent the
 measure being anticipated
 by the mercantile community.

The present plan
 is to issue a special
 stamp for use in the
 Government Office
 for messages on a
 Sunday to prevent the
 measure being anticipated
 by the mercantile community.

use: it is opposed to the
 rule prohibiting inter-
 departmental Cash pay-
 ments which prevails in
 all other branches of the
 administration and, if
 strictly enforced, as has
 lately been notified, will
 be productive of great in-
 convenience in such offices
 as that of the Government
 Secretariat, where important
 public messages have often
 to be despatched when the
 Government Office is closed.
 To the public the
 arrangement will doubtless
 be acceptable, on account of
 the additional security it
 will afford against the
 dishonesty of messengers
 as well as malpractices
 in the Telegraph Office.

So

When the Salt tax was raised
 in March last the Revenue
 Secretary had to send ~~in~~
 messages on a
 Sunday to prevent the
 measure being anticipated
 by the mercantile community.

5. So far as the telegraph office is concerned it is obvious that in whatever degree the plan reduces the receipt of cash, it will diminish the opportunities of speculation. The stamps might be impressed on paper as well as adhesive, and should be sold not at the telegraph offices, but by the vendors of judicial and Postal stamps, so that, even if removed from messages ^{before obliteration}, their sale by the telegraph employees to any extent would be both difficult and hazardous.

JDS

These will be used for general purposes & it is made a department with stamps as here attached. obliterated messages & no further circulation & a separate office where duty should be performed. stamps should be sold once a week or monthly.

Total Charge
21st Nov 1863