

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Rubbie DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

39

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated

10-1-1867

Not to be folded or roughly handled

10th January 1867.

Read the following papers :—

- No. 85. From the Under Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George ; dated Simla, 31st July 1866, No. 3223.

Home Department.
Electric Telegraph.

I am directed to forward the accompanying extract from a letter, No. 1190, dated the 25th ultimo, from the Officiating Director General of Telegraphs in India, in which he proposes the abolition of the Telegraph Offices at Cannanore or Telli-cherry, Beypore, Quilon, and Nagercoil, belonging to the Malabar Coast Division, and to request that the Governor General in Council may be favored with an expression of the opinion of the Government of Fort Saint George in respect to the proposed abolition.

- No. 86. From the Collector of Ganjam, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Chatterpore, 24th August 1866, No. 2127.

With reference to paragraph 2 of the Proceedings of Government, No. 721, Public Department, dated the 16th July 1866, I have the honor to forward copy of a letter addressed in June last to the Assistant Superintendent in charge of Telegraph Superintendent's Office, Ganjam, and advising the retention of Chicacole in preference to Calingapatam.

From the Collector of Ganjam, to the Assistant Superintendent in charge of Superintendent's Office, Ganjam ; dated Chatterpore, 13th June 1866, No. 1244.

If it is decided to abolish any branch Telegraph Office, I am of opinion that it should be Calingapatam.

2. Chicacole is a large populous town, and it is desirable that direct Telegraph communication between it and other stations should be maintained.

- No. 87. From the Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Vizagapatam, 26th July 1866, No. 579.

In reply to Government Order, dated 16th July, instant, No. 721, I have the honor to state that I cannot advance any satisfactory reasons for the retention of Vizianagram as a Telegraph station, under the circumstances of the case.

- No. 88. From the Collector of the Godavery District, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Cocanada, 27th July 1866, No. 17.

With reference to the Order of Government, dated 16th instant, No. 721, I have the honor to forward copy of a letter from the Assistant Superintendent in charge of Superintendent's Office, Telegraph Department, dated 9th ultimo, and of my reply. I consider that no practical inconvenience will result from closing the Telegraph Office at Neelapilly or Georgepettah.

From the Assistant Superintendent in charge of Superintendent's Office, Ganjam Division, to the Collector of Godavery District, Cocanada ; dated Vizagapatam, 9th June 1866, No. 212.

I am directed to request the favor of your opinion on the expediency of closing the Telegraph Office at Neelapilly.

2. The Director General of Telegraphs in India proposes to close the office at Neelapilly with other branch offices in the Ganjam Division, on account of their not being remunerative, and the distance between them and offices on the main line being very inconsiderable he anticipates that no very great inconvenience would be felt thereby.

From the Collector of the Godavery District, to the Assistant Superintendent in charge Telegraph Office, Ganjam Division; dated Cocanada, 13th May 1866, No. 135.

In reply to your letter of the 9th instant, No. 212, I have the honor to inform you that I consider that no practical inconvenience would result from closing the Telegraph Office at Neelapilly.

No. 89. From the Collector of Nellore, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Nellore, 23rd July 1866, No. 35.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of Government, Public Department, of the 16th, and state that the Ongole Telegraph Office I have always understood was more for the working of the line than the public. It is a convenience to the merchants of Kottapatnam, and Itamukala, another port, but I could not on these grounds urge its retention at the expense of the State.

No. 90. From the Collector of South Arcot, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Cuddalore, 23rd July 1866, No. 31.

I am in receipt of the Government Proceedings, No. 97 of the 10th instant, with orders thereon, No. 721 of the same date, and in reply I beg to enclose copy of a letter* already addressed by me to

* No. 607, dated 25th instant.

the Superintendent of Telegraphs, on the subject of the continuance of the Telegraph station at Cuddalore; and I have nothing to add to the remarks and comments offered in that letter in support of the general wish to retain this place in the list of Telegraph stations.

From the Collector of South Arcot, to the Superintendent of G. T. M. D., Madras; dated Cuddalore, 25th June 1866, No. 607.

I am favored with your letter of the 2nd instant, No. 269, enclosing copies of correspondence on the subject of the abolition of the Telegraph Office at Cuddalore.

2. I have been aware for some time past that the monthly cost of the office here has greatly exceeded the receipts, a result which I confess I had hardly looked for, although in full anticipation that the income of the office would not equal its expenditure. I originally proposed to guarantee either the deficiency or a proportion of it to the extent of 100 Rupees a month. This offer was, however, refused by Colonel Douglas in his letter to me of the 14th August 1863, No. 1057, and therefore I made no further move in the matter.

3. I desire to draw your attention to the fact that when the office was first opened, I provided, gratis, both the office room and accommodation for the signallers, &c., but this arrangement was subsequently abandoned with the idea, I believe, that the situation of the office was not favorable, and that the change to its present locality near the high road would lead to increased use of the Telegraph, an expectation, however, which, as I understand, has not been realized, although the change necessarily increased the monthly cost of the office.

4. With regard to the present proposal by the Officiating Director to abandon the station, I feel that in the face of the financial loss at which the Telegraph is worked here, I can offer no substantial grounds for its retention; at the same time the abolition of the office will be a very serious deprivation, as will be apparent to Major Glover when I mention that the society, in conjunction

with Messrs. Parry & Co., are prepared to guarantee 100 Rupees monthly towards the expense of keeping up the office, and that expense may be further reduced if the present building, which is rented, I believe, at 20 or 25 Rupees a month, be given up and the office and signallers be removed to their old quarters.

5. On the score of public utility I confess I cannot advance any argument for the retention of the office which might not readily be over-ruled; I, therefore, rest my hopes on the earnest desire and great interest the society have in keeping up a Telegraph office at Cuddalore; and I still trust that, in consideration of all I have stated, Major Glover may have it in his power to allow another year's trial under the guarantee of 100 Rupees a month, and for which I hold myself responsible; and, meanwhile, the office can be removed to its original locality, which will still further reduce the monthly expenditure.

No. 91. From the Officiating Collector of Tanjore, to the Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Vallam, 22nd August 1866, No. 921.

I have the honor to submit the remarks called for in Proceedings of Madras Government, dated 16th July 1866, regarding the Telegraph Stations of Pattukotta and Karrical in this District. I may remark that by mistake the Bengal authorities write "Poodocottah," which is the Rajah's territory, instead of "Pattukotta," the chief town of the Taluq of that name in the Tanjore District.

2. *Pattukotta*.—As regards this station it is useless as far as the transmission of intelligence is concerned; there are only a few merchants there who sometimes out of curiosity telegraph to know the prices of rice and other produce elsewhere, and the earnings are, I fancy, not more than 12 Rupees per month, whereas the maintenance of this office costs Rupees 182 per mensem. But it is, I learn, advisable to retain it upon Departmental grounds, as a medium station between Negapatam and Paumbem; the distance between these two places rendering this arrangement necessary, in order to maintain the current sufficiently effective. But of the necessity or otherwise of this precaution the Telegraph Department must be the best judges.

3. As regards "Karrical" the French Government are, I learn, unwilling to go to any expense in the way of subsidizing this now losing concern, so as they evidently do not lay much stress upon its maintenance and as Negapatam is only 12 miles off, there seems no objection to closing this office. I do not think we need consider the requirements of Tranquebar; whatever importance it may have possessed once upon a time is daily diminishing, and the few telegrams that pass to and fro might be communicated by means of the Negapatam office, 19 miles distant.

No. 92. From the Collector of Malabar, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Calicut, 27th July 1866, No. 100.

Adverting to Government Order, dated 16th instant, No. 721, calling for any remarks I may have to make on the proposition of the Director General of Telegraphs in India, to do away with the Telegraph Offices at Cannanore and Beypore, I have the honor to observe, that I think both may be dispensed with.

2. I do not think Telegraph Offices at both Cannanore and Tellicherry are really required; and in a commercial point of view, Tellicherry is much the most important place. Special runners to convey messages backwards and forwards should certainly be entertained if either office is abolished.

3. At Beypore there is even less necessity for a Government Telegraph Office, for the Railway have their telegraph eastwards.

No. 93. From the Collector of Tinnevely, to the Under Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Tudukudi, 7th December 1866, No. 558.

In reply to your Memorandum, requesting the submission of my remarks on the Telegraph Offices proposed to be abolished in Government Proceedings, No. 721, dated 16th July 1866, I have the honor to inform you that as it is not proposed to abolish any offices in this District, I have no remarks to offer.

2. Nagercoil, mentioned in Government Proceedings as being 47 miles from Palamecottah, is situated in the Travancore territory.

No. 94. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Fort Saint George, 10th January 1867, No. 39.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Under Secretary Montagu's letter of the 31st July last, No. 3223, requesting the opinion of this Government on a proposal submitted by the Officiating Director General of Telegraphs in India for the abolition of certain Telegraph Offices belonging to the Malabar Coast Division.

2. Prior to the receipt of that letter Major Glover had suggested to this Government the abolition of certain other Telegraph Offices in the Malabar District. Reference was accordingly made to the Collectors of the District in which these offices are situated, and I now forward copies of the replies to those Collectors, and a short summary of the replies given by the several Collectors, and of the views of this Government on each case, is appended.

CALINGAPATAM.—In consequence of the proximity of this office to that at Chicacole, and of the greater importance of the latter place, the Collector recommends that, in the event of any Telegraph Office in the District being abolished, that at Calingapatam should be closed. The Government approve this recommendation.

VIZIANAGRAM.—The Collector has no reasons to urge for the retention of an office at this place. It may therefore be closed.

NEELAPILLY OR GEORGEPETTAH.—The Collector is of opinion that no practical inconvenience will result from closing this office. It may consequently be dispensed with.

ONGOLE.—No sufficient grounds can be adduced for the retention of this office. It may therefore be closed.

CUDDALORE.—The abolition of this office would, it is represented by the Collector, be seriously felt by the community. They, in conjunction with Messrs. Parry & Co., are prepared to guarantee 100 Rupees monthly towards paying the cost of the establishment. It appears that there is a building, formerly used as a Telegraph Office, which can be placed at the disposal of the Department free of rent. The reduction of expenditure consequent on this provision of office room and accommodation for the signallers, will, it is believed, ensure an excess of receipts over expenditure.

The Government are unwilling to recommend the immediate abolition of this office, and would suggest that it be retained for another year, advantage being taken of the offer made by the Collector.

KARRIKAL AND PUTTUCOTTAH.—There appears to be no necessity for retaining either of these offices. They may accordingly be closed.

CANNANORE AND TELlichERRY.—The Governor in Council does not agree in the opinion of the Collector of Malabar, that the office at Cannanore might be abolished. Cannanore is an important Military Station, and it is very desirable that it should be connected by Telegraph with the Presidency and with Calicut, the Head Quarters of the District in which it is situated. The Government would also be disposed to retain the office at Tellicherry, which is a place of some commercial importance, but if one of the two offices must be closed it should be that at Tellicherry.

BEYPORE.—There does not appear to be any pressing necessity for the retention of an office at this station. It may therefore be abolished.

QUILON AND NAGERCOIL.—The retention of Telegraph Offices at these stations is unnecessary.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Extract from a letter from the Off^y Director General of
Telegraphs in India to the Secy to the Government of India. No.
1190 under date the 25th June 1866.

In further continuation of this Office No. 885
dated 11th instant, I have the honor to forward the follow-
ing List of Offices in the Malabar Coast Division which
might apparently be dispensed with.

Cananore & Tellicherry — The distance between
these two places is only 13 miles — Are two Offices re-
quired in such close proximity? They both it is true
pay pretty well — Their expenses being Rupees 320 and
329 and their collections Rs. 313 and 335 monthly;
still if one Office could do the work, the saving of
the expenses of the other would be a gain, while the
collections might remain almost the same. For the
convenience of the public a couple of runners so as to
give an intermediate postal delivery for messages
might be arranged for; this would not cost more than
8 or 10 Rupees monthly and if a low paid Telegraph
Master were kept at the station, where the Office was
abolished, to receive and charge for messages and to
deliver those received, the cost would be very small
and a large saving might be effected. I mention this
merely as a proposal but would submit a detailed
scheme

Scheme if my suggestion is entertained by the Government. Cannanore is a large Military Station, garrisoned by one European Infantry Regiment - 2 Regiments N.I. and a detail of Artillery, but if the Office were abolished there is seldom such important communication that the delay in sending from Tellicherry need cause inconvenience. Tellicherry Helpline was established about 3 years ago as a Telegraph Station at the request of the Govt of Madras; it is a place of considerable mercantile importance and is situated on the Coast.

Beypore — Is only distant 6 miles from Calicut where there is a Telegraph Office. The monthly expenditure of these Offices is Rupees 168 and 448 and their collections Rs 58 and 982 respectively. I cannot but think that Beypore as the least important might be dispensed with.

Quillow — Is distant only 42 miles from the Office at Travancore. The monthly cost of this Office is Rupees 192 and its income Rs 53 only. It is not required departmentally and I should recommend its abolition; its importance to the public may be seen from the amount of cash it receives.

Nagercoil — Is but 47 miles from Pottumukha its monthly cost is Rupees 189 and its collections amount to Rs 34 only; I believe it was established at the request of the Travancore State who guarantees to pay any loss that might arise to the Government in its maintenance.

497

It is of course an object of this Department to reduce the number of offices as much as possible and so to render our Establishment already very weak, available for other places; and I therefore mention this Office but do not press its abolition, if the Government for political reasons see fit to retain it; it is of no use departmentally and I should be glad to see it suppressed.

2. The following Table will shew the Financial result of the measures now recommended, which shews a total annual loss of Rs 6648 in the present arrangement; and an annual saving of Rupees 12,636, which will be effected by that proposed in the abolition of the offices. I have estimated the saving with the actual cost of the Offices, as I do not think we should have a loss in the income; the offices being so close together that the messages would still be sent for transmission as heretofore. With regard to Cannanore & Tellicherry I have estimated the saving at the cost of the lesser expenditure as in case of reduction of one of the offices, the Establishment of the other would be required on the larger scale.

Name of Offices	Monthly cost for	Monthly Income	Present Monthly loss to Govt.	Monthly saving that will be effected by abolition of same
Cannanore	Rs 520	Rs 313	Rs 1	Rs 209.
Tellicherry	529	535	110	168
Beypore	168	58	139	192
Quillow	192	53	156	189.
Nagercoil	189	39		
Total.	1398.	998.	405.	878.

(A true Extract)

Mr. Munster

Under Secy to the Govt of India

Prov. 10 "January 1866" L. 1255

In Public No 10241/66.

W. 3223.

From

A. M. Mountath Esq^r.

Under Secy to the Gov^t of India

To

The Secy to the Gov^t of Fort St George.

Dated Simla the 31st July 1866.

Home Dept^t - Sir,
Rec: Sec:

I am directed to forward the accompanying Extract from a letter W. 1190 dated the 25th ultimo from the Officiating Director General of Telegraphs in India in which he proposes the abolition of the Telegraph Offices at Cannanore or Tellicherry, Beypore, Quilon, and Nagercoil belonging to the Malabar Coast Division and to request that the Governor General in Council may be favoured with an expression of the opinion of the Government of Fort St George in respect to the proposed abolition.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obed^t Servant.

A. M. Mountath

Under Secy to the Gov^t of India

20/16 July 1866 97/8

Public 1866 accept
from
Order Secy Genl of India
Honey Dept
No 3223

1/31 July 1866
2/14 Aug 1866

1/10/66

Recd from

Request opinion on
the proposed abolition
of certain telegraph
offices in the Malabar
Coast Division.

-85-

20/15/71

To

The Secretary to the Government
of India,
Home Department.

Sir,

I am directed to acknow-
ledge the receipt of Mr. Under-
Secretary Montague's letter of
the 31st July last No. 3223, request-
ing the opinion of the Govern-
ment on a proposal submit-
ted by the Offg. Director
General of Telegraphs in India
for the abolition of certain Tele-
graph Offices belonging to the
Malabar Coast Division.

Prior to the receipt of
that letter Major Glover
suggested to the Government
the abolition of certain other
Telegraph Offices in the Madras
Presidency. Reference was ac-
cordingly made to the Collector
of

N.
JP
adu

will, it is believed ensure an
excess of receipts over expenditure.

The Government are
unwilling to recommend
the immediate abolition of
the Office and would suggest
that it be retained for
another year, advantage being
taken of the offer made
by the Collector.

There appears to be Surinam and Puttencottah
no necessity for retaining
either of these Offices. They
may accordingly be closed.

~~The Government in Council does not~~
~~agree in the opinion of the Collector~~
~~of Malabar that the office at~~
~~being abolished the Tellicherry~~
~~Office should be retained.~~
Cannanore might be abolished.
Cannanore is an important military

Tellicherry.

Station and it is very desirable that it
should be connected by telegraph with
the Presidency and with Calcutta the
Head quarters of the District in which
it is situated. The Govt. would also
be disposed to retain the office at
Tellicherry which is a place of some
commercial importance, but if one
of the two offices must be
closed it should be that
at Tellicherry.

There does not appear
to be any pressing necessity
for the retention of an Office at
this station. It may therefore
be abolished.

The retention of Quilon and Ponnacil
Telegraph Offices at these
stations is unnecessary.

For St. George's
10 Aug 1873

F.B.

(2)

Public 1809. 1844

1839.

to

of the South

of London

Dated 10 January 1847.

Further note by 6th of 1859 -
" 14 of 1876

Limit