

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Lalitha DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	790	Press ~~Min~~
Back no. 61-63		
Dated	5-7	18/8/7

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers :—

- No. 61. From A. MacGREGOR, Esq., Acting Resident in Travancore and Cochin, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Trevandrum, 26th April 1867, No. 20.

I have the honor now to report fully on the subject of Telegraph offices in Travancore.

2. I informed you that the Nagercoil office had been closed, and that the closing of that at Quilon was threatened.

3. The former has been re-opened as a provisional measure. The latter has since been closed, and the proposal to re-open it on the guarantee of losses being made good, pending settlement, has not been acceded to.

4. This office having been established by the Department on its own account no question of guarantee arose, but it may be remarked that its importance to this State as head quarters of the Subsidiary Force and, generally, is far greater than that of Nagercoil, while its receipts also being greater, the expense of a guarantee would be less.

5. If, therefore, an office is to be kept open at only one of these two places, by all means let it be at Quilon.

6. The value of Nagercoil is due partly to its convenient situation, with regard to the rising Colony of European Coffee Planters on the Assambo Hills, on the one hand, and to the seaport of Collechhal, the natural outlet for the produce of those parts, on the other.

7. In making a proposal for the future maintenance of the office I think it is not asking too much to require that the financial results of all the four Telegraph offices in Travancore shall be taken as a whole, and that the guarantee of His Highness to make good the net losses will be considered sufficient.

8. This guarantee he is prepared to give, and the following terms are proposed :—

1st.—That the aggregate cash receipts at the four offices be increased by 50 per cent. to represent the value of messages despatched from outside.

2nd.—That a fair deduction be made from the aggregate office expenditure to represent the unavoidable cost which is due to the maintenance of through traffic, *i. e.*, the establishment of one office and of line riders.

3rd.—That His Highness should have the option of relieving himself from the engagement on giving due notice, say three months.

9. On the first head I will observe that, in the arrangement sanctioned* by the Supreme Government for calculating the losses on the Nagercoil office, the cash receipts were to be doubled, in order to

represent the value of messages received there, but paid for elsewhere.

10. The same system applied to the case of two or more offices would, of course, give an exaggerated return for, to the extent to which messages were interchanged between any two of those offices, payments would be shown twice over.

* Vide No. 2331, dated 26th August 1864.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
5th July 1867.*

11. It has, therefore, been suggested to increase the receipts by one-half only, but if the Department can give the exact proportion, that might be substituted.

12. On the second head it may be remarked that the distance between Cochin and Palamcottah requires at least one repeating station. The entire distance is 200 miles, the stations being situated at intervals of about 40 miles in the following order:—Cochin, Alleppy, Quilon, Trevandrum, Nagercoil, Palamcottah. I am under the impression that Alleppy, the best paying office of the four, would not suffice for this purpose, not being central, and that it would anyhow be necessary to have a station at Trevandrum.

13. I annex copy of a Return furnished by the Department, showing the receipts and disbursements for 27 months, ending 31st March 1867.

14. This shows an average monthly expenditure of 829 (including four line riders on 30 Rupees each), and of cash receipts amounting to 441, and if the latter be increased as above explained by 50 per cent., and the expenditure diminished by 120 Rupees, or the pay of the line riders (an expense solely due to through traffic), it will be seen that the deficit is about 50 Rupees a month.

15. If it is admitted that in any case 200 Rupees a month must have been spent on a repeating office, and that the calculations above are correct, it would seem that there is little or no pecuniary loss to the Department by the offices in the Travancore State.

16. I trust that in view of the protection afforded over 150 miles of line, and of the recent interportal arrangements between the British Government and this State by which immediate revenue has been sacrificed in expectation of eventual recovery by expansion of trade, it may be decided that in the matter in question the wishes of His Highness are entitled to a consideration beyond that derivable from the mere financial results.

Statement showing the Receipts and Disbursements of the undermentioned Offices from 1st January 1865 to 31st March 1865.

Receipts.			Disbursements.		
	RS.	A. P.		RS.	A. P.
Quilon Office.....	1,845	13 0	Quilon Office.....	5,831	5 0
Alleppy do.	6,709	10 0	Alleppy do.	5,734	1 11
Trevandrum do.	2,513	6 0	Trevandrum do.	6,198	10 3
* Nagercoil do.	857	0 0	* Nagercoil do.	4,628	5 1
Total...	11,925	13 0	Total...	22,392	6 3

* From 1st April 1865.

CAMP COCHIN,
11th April 1867.

(Signed) H. E. THOMPSON,
Offg. Supt. Tels., M. C. Divn.

(True Copy).

(Signed) A. MacGREGOR,
Acting Resident.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
5th July 1867.*

No. 62. From A. MacGREGOR, Esq., Acting Resident in Travancore and Cochin, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Cochin, 25th May 1867, No. 23A.

In continuation of my letter, No. 20, of the 26th ultimo, I have the honor now to forward Returns furnished by the Telegraph Department, from which it will be seen that the actual proportion of receipts from telegrams despatched from offices in Travancore to offices in British territory is 75 per cent. This should be substituted for the assumed proportion of 50 per cent. on which my former calculation was based, and the result will then be all the more favorable as regards the pecuniary position of these offices.

2. The office at Nagercoil was re-opened some time ago, and that at Quilon has been re-opened within the last few days.

3. The Travancore Government being now liable to make good losses occurring on these two offices pending settlement, while not at present entitled to set off the profits of the Alleppy office, the Dewan has requested me to urge that the decision may be expedited as far as possible.

	Cash collections on messages to other offices in Travancore.	Cash collections on messages to offices in British territory.	Number of messages despatched to other offices in Travancore.	Number of messages received from other offices in Travancore.	Number of messages despatched to offices in British territory.	Number of messages received from offices in British territory.
Alleppy.....	386	2,536	286	287	386	825
Quilon.....	316	873	218	209	316	187
Trevandrum.....	365	832	299	365	258	302
Nagercoil.....	220	275	120	97	158	78

Resident's Office,
Cochin, 25th May 1867.

(Signed) A. MacGREGOR,
Acting Resident.

No. 63. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Fort Saint George, 5th July 1867, No. 790.

Adverting to the letter from this Government, dated the 10th January last, No. 39, intimating that the retention of the Telegraph offices at Quilon and Nagercoil was unnecessary, and to the Telegraph message, dated the 26th March last, requesting that, pending the receipt of a representation which His Highness the Maharajah of Travancore was about to make, the abolition of the Telegraph office at Nagercoil be postponed, and to the reply from the Government of India, dated the 29th March, intimating that the order to close the office was suspended, I am

directed to forward the enclosed copies of letters* from the Acting Resident

of Travancore for the favorable consideration of the Government of India.

2. The Acting Resident shows that the importance of the Telegraph office at Quilon, to the Travancore State, as being the head quarters of the Subsidiary Force and, generally, is far greater than that of Nagercoil, while the receipts

* No. 20, dated 26th April 1867.
No. 23A, dated 25th May 1867.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department.
5th July 1867.

realized there being greater, the expense of a guarantee would be less. The value of Nagercoil, it is stated, is due partly to the rising Colony of European Coffee Planters on the Assambo Hills, and partly to the seaport of Colleechal, the natural outlet for the produce of that portion of the country. If an office is to be kept at only one of these two stations, the Acting Resident considers that Quilon should have the preference.

3. Adverting to the proposal for the maintenance of the Telegraph offices, the Acting Resident thinks that if the financial results of all the four Telegraph offices in Travancore be taken together the guarantee of His Highness the Maharajah may be considered sufficient. The guarantee which he is prepared to give is detailed in paragraph 8 of the Acting Resident's letter, dated the 26th April last, No. 20. In the following paragraphs, 9 to 14, Mr. MacGregor remarks on the mode of calculating the receipts and losses, and in paragraph 15 he states that if his calculations are correct there would be little or no pecuniary loss to the Telegraph Department from the offices established in the Travancore State. Mr. MacGregor submits that on account of the protection afforded over 150 miles of the Telegraph line, and of the interportal arrangements between the British Government and the Travancore State by which revenue has been sacrificed in expectation of trade, the wishes of His Highness are entitled to a consideration beyond that derivable from the mere financial results.

4. With the letter, dated the 25th May, No. 23A, the Acting Resident forwards a Return furnished by the Telegraph Department, and states that it will be seen from it that the actual proportion of receipts from telegrams despatched from offices in Travancore to offices in British territory is 75 per cent. This, he adds, should be substituted for the 50 per cent. on which his former calculation was based, when the result will appear more favorable as regards the financial position of the Telegraph offices.

5. The offices at Nagercoil and Quilon both being now re-opened, and the Travancore Government being liable to make up any deficiency in the working of these offices, the Acting Resident requests the decision of the Government of India at an early date.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Pro 27 March/67 No. 205 & 206.
10 Jan — 85-94
16 July/66 — 97-98
10 Nov 1864 — 54-55.

1867
From Pro. 5 July
The Acting Resident
in Travancore Cochin
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St George
Dated 26 April 1867.
Received 26 July
No. 20

Enclosures one
No. 601

Report on the subject
of Telegraph Offices in
Travancore.

22 July
R.S.

Public Department.

No. 790.

To

The Secretary to the Government

of India,

Home Department.

Sir,

Adverting to the letter
from the Government dated the
10th January last No. 89, inte-
-mating that the retention of the
Telegraph Offices at Quilon
and Nagarcoil was unnecessary,
and to the Telegraph Message
dated the 26th March last
requesting that pending the
receipt of a representation
which His Highness the
Maharajah of Travancore
was about to make, the abo-
-lition of the Telegraph Office
at Nagarcoil
be postponed, and to the
reply from the Government
of India dated the 29th
March

W.D.

March intimating that
the Order to close the Office
was suspended, I am
directed to forward the en-
closed Office of letters from
the Agt. Resident of Tra-
-vancore for the favorable
consideration of the Govern-
-ment of India.

* L. 20. of 26. April/67.
L. 20. of 25. May/67.

2. The Agt. Resident
shows that the importance
of the Telegraph Office at
Dindoor to the Travancore
State, as being the Head
Quarters of the Subsidiary
Force and generally, is far
greater than that of Nagro-
coil, while the receipts
realized there being greater
the expense of a guarantee
would be less. The value
of Nagrocoil ^{it is stated} is due partly
to the rising colony of
European Coffee Planters
on the Aboambo Hills, and
partly to the shipment of
Coffee

Collected the material ² ~~outlet~~
for the produce of that portion
of the country. If an office
is to be kept at only one
of these two stations, the
Agt. Resident considers that
Dindoor should have the
preference.

3. Adverting to the pro-
posal ^{for} ~~of~~ the maintenance
of the Telegraph Office, the
Agt. Resident thinks that
if the financial results
of all the former Telegraph
Offices in Travancore be
taken together the guarantee
of His Highness the Maha-
-rajah ^{may} ~~would~~ be considered
sufficient. The guarantee
which he is prepared to give
is detailed in paragraphs
of the Agt. Resident's letter
dated the 26th April last ~~at 29~~
~~and~~ in the following para-
-graphs 9 to 14. Mr. McGregor
remarks on the mode of
calculating the receipts and
losses

Letter, and in paragraph 15 it
states that if his calcula-
tions are correct there would
be little or no pecuniary
loss to the Telegraph
Department ^{from} by the Office
established in the Travancore

State. ~~Particulars~~ Mr. Meagher submits that
the protection afforded over

150 miles of the Telegraph
line, ~~and~~ of the interpostal
arrangements between the
British Government and
the Travancore State.

by which Revenue has
been sacrificed in expecta-
tion of trade, ~~therein any~~
~~decision on the question~~

trusts the wishes of
His Highness are entitled
to a consideration beyond
that derivable from the
same financial results.

With the letter dated
the 21st May 1823, the Mr.
Resident forwarded a return
furnished

5
furnished by the Telegraph
Department, and states that
it will be seen from it that
the actual proportion of re-
ceipts from Telegrams
despatched from Offices
in Travancore to Offices
in British Territory is
75 per cent. This he adds
should be substituted for
the 50 per cent on which
his former calculation
was based, when the
result will appear more
favorable as regards the
financial position of
the Telegraph Office.

5 The Offices at Kagn-
crib and Quilon both
being now reopened, and
as the Travancore Govern-
ment ^{being} ~~are~~ liable to make
up any deficiency in
the working of these
Offices the Mr. Resident
urges the Government

~~perhaps~~ ^{perhaps} ~~regard~~ ^{regard} that the decision
of the Government of
India may be made
at an early date.

Fort St. George
5 July 1867

Public 1867 Report.

24/1/90

the Deputy: to the Govt
of India

Dated 5th July 1867.

7/12/1890.

the 12th Dec 1889: