

1. Number of ... 12
2. Date of receipt ... 15-1-1904
3. Initials of Reference ...
M.R.O. 1-82,400-22-11-80. 4

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	1049	Press
		~~Mis.~~
Dated	21-7-	1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
21st July 1869.

Read the following papers :—

No. 158. From the Postmaster General, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Madras, 4th June 1869, No. 1793-850.

I have the honour to submit, for the consideration of Government, the expediency of making some change in the arrangements for landing and shipping mails at this port.

2. By the Order of Government in the Public Department, No. 1053, dated 11th July 1859, two masulah boats with their crews are maintained by the Postal Department for this duty, and are under the control of the Master Attendant ; and mails are landed and shipped in these boats under charge of a Mail Sergeant or Peon of the Postal Department.

3. I have received a good many complaints lately from the Postmaster of Madras as to the manner in which the Marine Department have done their part of the duty. These I have referred to the Master Attendant, who considers that they are quite groundless. However that may be, I fear it is very probable that complaints of this kind will be often recurring. And the Master Attendant, in one of his letters on the subject, remarks that, "as long as landsmen are sent afloat in all weathers in charge of mails, mishaps are likely to occur, and absurd complaints will be made to shield them from blame."

4. I beg leave, therefore, to propose that for the future the entire duty and responsibility of landing and shipping the mails should be taken by the Marine Department, the Postal Department taking the mails to the beach with a receipt prepared for the signature of the officer of the Marine Department, and receiving in like manner those which are landed.

5. An arrangement of this kind has been in force at all other ports in this Presidency for the last two years, and has answered perfectly.

6. Since the postal communication with Europe has been via Bombay, the bulk and importance of the mails landed and shipped at this port have, of course, greatly decreased, and I see no necessity whatever for their being accompanied in their transit to and from the ships by a servant of the Postal Department, except in the case of the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamers, when the Mail Sergeant must go on board with papers. He might, however, go and return in the mail boat without any responsibility in regard to the mails.

7. It appears to me not impossible that (in addition to other advantages) the Marine Department might be able to perform this duty at a less expense to Government than is now incurred. This is at present Rupees 234 per month on account of wages of boats' crews in addition to the cost of providing and maintaining two boats.

8. The average number of mails landed in a month is about fourteen, and the same number shipped ; so that, if arrangements could be made by a liberal contract or otherwise to secure the services of a crew whenever they were wanted, the expense would, I suppose, be less than half what it is at present.

9. This is, however, a secondary consideration. I propose the change which I have described with a view to a more clear definition of the duties of the two departments, and to prevent a recurrence of the complaints I have spoken of.

— minge

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
21st July 1869.*

veying Military and Marine Officers afloat on inspection and survey duties, superintending the landing and shipping of troops, &c., thereby saving Government the additional expense of boat-hire. They are employed, along with the port boat, in attendance on officers, Civil or Military, of high rank, landing or embarking at Madras.

11. I may here record the fact that the first complaint made by the Acting Postmaster was the employment of one mail boat in attendance on the Viceroy, when it was not otherwise required. With reference to contracts for shipping mails, it must be well known to Government that they have always proved failures, and are not sufficient for the postal service of the port of Madras.

9. This is, however, a secondary consideration. I propose the change which I have described with a view to a more clear definition of the duties of the two departments, and to prevent a recurrence of the complaints I have spoken of.

12. Paragraph 9 requires no remark.

13. To remedy the present shortcomings of the Postal Department, I beg to recommend that the Eurasian official, who receives Rupees 20 per month and is termed a Sergeant, and his attendant peons, be otherwise provided for, and that, in their place, a European seafaring man, chosen by the Marine Department and placed under their immediate orders, be stationed at the Marine Office, there to be ready to go afloat with all mails to and from the shipping, and to obtain the receipts, &c., according to the instructions of the Postal Department.

14. I may, however, here remark that the increase of boat-hire now sanctioned by the Government of India may involve higher rates of pay to the mail boats' crews, and it will be for Government to decide whether to maintain the present establishment at its present strength; to reduce the number of boats, which I deprecate; or to return to the contract system, which has never hitherto given satisfaction.

15. I may here observe that, in forwarding to me the complaints I have referred to, I have received nothing but courtesy from the Postmaster General.

16. In conclusion, I beg respectfully to request that further interference on the part of the Acting Postmaster of Madras with the management of the

mail boats* be prohibited, or otherwise that the Marine Department may be relieved of their charge.

* Placed under the control of the Master Attendant in Orders of Government dated 11th July 1859, No. 1053.

No. 160. ORDER THEREON, 21st July 1869, No. 1019.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that, as the bulk of the English mails is now sent via Bombay, it is unnecessary to maintain two mail boats with expensive crews for shipping and landing the mails. One of these boats will, as an experiment, be dispensed with: a second boat and crew will be hired when occasionally required.

2. The duty and responsibility of shipping and landing the mails should, in the opinion of Government, belong entirely to the Marine Department; and the Master Attendant will entertain, as proposed, a seafaring European for the duty. His pay can be met from the savings effected by the reduction in the Boat establishment. The Master Attendant is requested to report at what amount the salary of this employè should be fixed.

3. The Postal Authorities will deliver the mails to, and receive them from, the officers of the Marine Department on the beach, and will have nothing to do

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21st July 1869.*

with their conveyance to and fro between the steamers and the shore. The Postal Mail Sergeant, who has to take documents on board the Peninsular and Oriental steamers, will have passage on the mail boat.

4. The Government are of opinion that the Master Attendant might with advantage adopt a less impatient and peremptory style of official correspondence.
(True Extract).

Actg. Secy. to Govt.

To the Postmaster General, Madras.

„ Master Attendant, Madras.

„ Examiner of Claims.

Edw. A. S. Rodgers,

Genl. of (1869) Madras

PUBLIC.

To

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL,

Madras.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated July, 21st.

Recd.

Emt.

G. O., 21st July 1869, No. 1019.

JULY.
Nos. 158-160.

Passing orders in regard to the arrangements
to be made for landing and shipping the mails at
Madras.

Public Department
Memorandum of Orders.

This correspondence has reference to frequent complaints made by the Post Master at Madras of the manner in which the Marine Department carry out the shipping and Landing of the mails.

Under the present system the Mail Boats and Boatmen are under the control of the Master Attendant. The mails are in charge of a Mail Sergeant and Post Office Boys. These employees charge

reduction of one boat
and crew.

The Postal Mail
Sergeant who has to
take documents to &
Steamers, to have pas-
sage on the Mail Boat
but not to interfere with
the Marine Department
in the conveyance of
Mails.

This seems the best
way out of the difficulty.
At times when there is
rough weather, or when
the boatmen are unwell,
only a sea-faring Euro-
pean is likely to be
able to control them.

I submit that
Mr.

Would carry these
proposals into effect
W.D.

J. N.

would do so
I think he too be shield
he mildly requested
to assist his
Official correspondence
a less impatient
peremptory tone
N.

Mr. Dalrymple's tone in
the correspondence is
objectionable.

Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter

from the Post Master General, } Here enter 4th June/69 No 1793
Madras. } 852

Master Attendant, Madras. — 22nd June/69 No 5770

Order thereon 21 July 1869 No 1007.

W.H.

M.A.

His Excellency
the Governor in Council is
of opinion that, as the
bulk of the English mails
is now sent via Bombay,
it is unnecessary to maintain
two mail boats with ex-
pensive crews for shipping
& landing the mails.

One of these boats will,
as an experiment, be dispensed with as a
~~permanent~~ ^{second} ~~separate~~ ^{second}
~~separate~~ ^{second} ~~boat~~, a boat
and

cc-fub.
R.D.S.

~~being hired abroad~~
and crew ~~will be hired~~ ^{will be hired}
~~occasionally by the Government~~
~~for the occasion~~ when occasionally required

2 The duty and responsibility of shipping and landing the mails should, in the opinion of Government, belong entirely to the Marine Department; and the Master Attendant will entertain, as proposed, a seafaring European for the duty. His pay can be met from the savings effected by the reduction in the Boat Establishment. The Master Attendant is requested to report at ^{the salary of this employe} what amount ~~it~~ should ~~be fixed~~ ^{be fixed}.

The

3. The Postal authorities will deliver the mails to, and receive them from, the officers of the Marine Department on the Beach and will have nothing to do with their conveyance to & fro between the Steamers and the shore. The Postal Mail Sergeant who has to take documents on board the P. and O. Steamers will have passage on the Mail Boat.

4. The Government are of opinion that the Master Attendant might, with advantage, adopt a less impatient and peremptory style of official correspondence.

To the Postmaster General, Madras }
— Master Attendant to Madras, } ^{dispt 24/7}
to Madras

Cont. of 1863 Orders.

Public

To
The Postmaster General.
Washington.

Dated July 21. }
Recd. 1863, Nov 7

Nos. 1058-160.

Having order in re-
spond to the arrangements
to be made for landing
& shipping the mails
at Wash D.C.