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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	167	Press = Mis.
Dated	5-2-	1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
5th February 1869.*

No. 56. Read the following letter from the Collector of Salem, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Salem, 14th January 1869, No. 2.

I have the honor to submit, for the orders of Government, the copy of a correspondence that has passed between myself and the Postmaster General relative to the removal of the Post Office from Salem to Sooramungalum.

2. The Government lately sanctioned the construction of a building for the Post Office at Salem, and directed the Department of Public Works to carry out the work. The Superintending Engineer proposed, I am not aware upon what grounds, the construction of the building at the Railway Station at Sooramungalum, which is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the town of Salem, instead of in the town ; and to this proposal the Postmaster General appears to have given his consent without any further reference to any one.

3. On the matter coming to my knowledge by an application from the Superintending Engineer to point out a site for erecting the building at Sooramungalum, I addressed a letter to the Postmaster General, No. 17, in which it will be seen I fully explained the inconvenience, and danger, which might ensue by the removal of the Post Office from the Head Station of the District to an insignificant village, resided in wholly by the Railway officials, with the *single exception* of the Superintending Engineer, who is never here for more than two or three months together. I also consulted on the matter with the Division Postmaster, (Mr. Hodges,) who informed me that he also had objected to the new proposition. The Postmaster General you will see from his reply, No. 2809-140, adheres to the arrangement suggested by the Superintending Engineer adopted by him.

4. I cannot really preceive the advantage to be gained by the transfer of the Post Office to Suramungalum, while the inconvenience, and danger arising from such a step cannot be little, as explained in my letter to the Postmaster General. There is a Post Office already at Sooramungalum, and I see no reason why the letters, addressed to the residents of Sooramungalum, or Yercaud, should be sent to Salem.

From the Collector of Salem, to the Postmaster General, Madras ; dated Salem, 20th November 1868, No. 17.

I am this day in receipt of a letter* from the Superintending Engineer, enclosing a copy of

your letter marginally noted, in which you approve of his suggestion that the new Post Office for Salem, and its suburbs, should be built at Sooramungalum Railway Station.

2. As the receipt of this correspondence is the first intimation which I have had of any proposal on the subject, I have had no opportunity of acquainting you with my views in the matter previous to your forming the opinion expressed in your letter above alluded to, and have, therefore, the honor to request that you will be good enough to reconsider that opinion with reference to the following objections which occur to me :—

3. The amount of correspondence daily despatched from Salem and its suburbs, not only from Government Offices, but from the Mercantile Community and general public, incomparably exceeds that sent from Sooramungalum, as a natural consequence of the former being the *cusbah* of the district, whereas the latter hardly deserves the name of a village, having merely sprung into existence from the erection of a Railway Station in its vicinity, and consists almost solely of the residents of Railway officials.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
5th February 1869.*

4. Amongst this mass of correspondence, there is, of course, a very large amount of valuable enclosures, both in the shape of public records, and money transmissions, the safety of the transit of which would undoubtedly be materially affected were there to be merely a Receiving House at Salem, which would involve the entertainment of a far inferior, and consequently less responsible, Postal Establishment, to whose scrutiny the despatch would be subjected in the first instance.

5. It appears to me that a Receiving House is all that can possibly be required at Sooramungalum ; and, independently of the serious risks alluded to in the foregoing paragraph, and that a cusbah station without a Post Office is a circumstance quite unprecedented, I think it but fair that the general convenience and interests of all classes of the public, so much more widely represented at one place than the other, should be better consulted than would appear from the adoption of such an arrangement as that proposed. The latter part of the enclosed extract of the Superintending Engineer's letter alluded to what I take it is either the fault of the correspondents themselves, or that of the tappal people ; viz., by either the former having misdirected their letters, or the latter not having attended to the directions.

From the Postmaster General, Madras, to the Collector of Salem ; dated Cochin, 11th December 1868, No. 2809-140.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 17, of the 20th ultimo, and to inform you that I have given careful consideration to your objections to the proposed location of the Salem Post Office at the Railway Station.

2. I am still, however, of opinion that this arrangement will, on the whole, be the best for the public convenience.

3. If there were any doubt whatever regarding the security of the correspondence of the town of Salem under the proposed arrangement, I should certainly not approve of it, whatever might be said in its favor. But I see no ground for any such doubt. The suburban Post Offices and Receiving Houses, attached to the Madras Post Offices, have, for many years, received and delivered correspondence larger and more important than that of Salem with perfect security. And I may add that, when the Chamber of Commerce lately protested against the design of building the new Madras Post Office at the Railway Station on precisely the same grounds on which you object to a similar measure at Salem, the Government overruled their protest on the ground that the Receiving House, which was to be opened on the beach, would afford ample facilities, and security, for the correspondence of the Mercantile Community of Madras.

From the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to the Collector of Salem ; dated Cuddalore, 22nd December 1868, No. 150.

I have the honor to request you will favor me with a reply to my letter of 18th November 1868, No. 137, about the site for the new Salem Post Office, as the Military Authorities have written to me about the disposal of the Rest House, the compound of which appears to me to be a good site for a Post Office.

From the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to the Collector of Salem ; dated Salem, 18th November 1868, No. 137.

I suggested to the Postmaster General not long ago, that the Post Office lately sanctioned, should be built, not in the town of Salem, but near the Railway Station at Sooramungalum. You will observe from his reply, (a copy of which I forward,) that he approves of my suggestion. But before the work is commenced, it will be necessary to take into consideration any objections that may be made, and ascertain whether a suitable piece of ground is to be had.

2. As regards the latter, it appears to me that the compound of the Rest House will be a very convenient site. I have written to inquire whether the Rest House is now made use of, and whether the building, and the compound in which it stands, could not be made available for other purposes.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
5th February 1869.*

3. A possible objection to the Principal Post Office being near the Railway Station is that Salem is a much larger place than Sooramungalum. The inhabitants of Salem will, however, have the same facilities of receiving and posting letters as before, and as all letters now come by rail, if taken to an office close to the station, they will not be taken out of the way, whether intended for the town of Salem, Asthemputti, Yerkaud, or Sooramungalum. Whereas, if the office is at Salem, letters for the suburbs of Salem are taken out of their way, and the Railway officials have frequently complained of their letters being taken to Salem, and then sent back to Sooramungalum with additional postage.

From the Postmaster General, Madras, to the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, Salem ; dated Madras, 11th November 1868, No. 3366D-140C.

In reply to your letter, No. 128, of the 14th instant, I have the honor to inform you that I approve of your suggestion that the Principal Post Office for Salem, and its suburbs, shall be built at the Railway Station at Sooramungalum, and I request that (provided the site you mention is ample in extent and unobjectionable in other respects) you will build the Post Office lately sanctioned at the latter place.

No. 57. ORDER THEREON, 5th February 1869, No. 167.

It appears from the foregoing correspondence that the Postmaster General and the Superintending Engineer of the 5th Division recommend that the new Post Office sanctioned for Salem should be built, not in the town itself, but at the Railway Station at Sooramungalum, about three and a half miles distant from the town. The Collector objects to this proposal, and points out that Sooramungalum is a place of no importance ; that the great bulk of the postal business is with Salem ; and that it is unprecedented to leave the Head Station of a District without a Post Office.

2. His Excellency in Council observes that the only argument in favor of placing the Post Office at Sooramungalum appears to be that letters for the Railway employes, the Officers of the Department Public Works, and Yerkaud, are sometimes carried out of the way to Salem, an inconvenience which might be easily obviated if the letters are properly addressed, and the separate packets received and distributed by a Receiving Office at Sooramungalum. The Government have no hesitation in deciding that the proper place for the new Post Office is Salem ; but they will be prepared to sanction the construction of a Receiving Office at the Railway Station.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Salem.
,, Postmaster General.
,, Public Works Department.

Ed. J. Wright.

Salem Collectors Office
Salem 11 January 1869.

~~From~~
C. A. Pochum Esquire
Collector of Salem

To
The Honorable R. S. Ellis, C. B.
Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort St. George, Madras.

Sir, I have the honor to submit for the notice of Government the copy of a correspondence that has passed between myself and the Postmaster General relative to the removal of the Post Office from Salem to Srirangapatnam.

2 The Government lately sanctioned the construction of a building for the Post Office at Salem, and directed the Department of Public Works to carry out the work. The Superintending Engineer proposed. I am not aware upon what grounds the construction of the building at the Railway station at Srirangapatnam, which is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the town of Salem, instead of on the town side to the proposal the Postmaster General appears

to have given his consent without any further reference to any one.

3 On the matter coming to my knowledge by an application from the Superintending Engineer to provide a site for erecting the building at Soramungalam, I addressed a letter to the Postmaster General in which it will be seen I fully explained the inconvenience and danger which might ensue by the removal of the Post Office from the head station of the District to an insignificant village, divided in wholly by the Railway Office, with the single exception of the Superintending Engineer, who is never here for more than 2 or 3 months together. I also consulted in the matter with the Divisional Engineer. Mr. Hodges who informed me that he also had objected to the new proposition. The Postmaster General, you will see from his reply to 2802, is in favor of the arrangement suggested by the Superintending Engineer, and adopted by him.

I cannot really perceive the advantage to be gained by the transfer of the

Post Office to Soramungalam, while the inconvenience and danger arising from a ship cannot be little, as explained. My letter to the Postmaster General is a Post Office already at Soramungalam, and I see no reason why a letter addressed to the residents of Soramungalam or General should be sent to Salem.

I have the honor to be
Your Most Obedt. Servant
Chas. Robin
Collector

Salem Collector's Office
 Salem 26 November 1868

From the Director of Salem

To the Post Master General
 at Boston

Enclosed are the receipt
 of a letter from the Superintendent
 of the Salem and Ipswich
 Railroad, enclosing a letter
 from the Superintendent of the
 Salem and Ipswich Railroad
 in which he suggests that
 the line be built at
 Soosamungalam
 and the receipt of the
 same is the first
 notice which I have had
 of the proposed line.

Ms. A. 9. 2. 25
 1868

Ms. A. 9. 2. 25
 1868

Ms. A. 9. 2. 25
 1868

Ms. A. 9. 2. 25
 1868

Ms. A. 9. 2. 25
 1868

Ms. A. 9. 2. 25
 1868

para: and that a ~~Post~~ station
 without a Post Office is a circum-
 stance quite unprecedented,
 thinking but fair that the general
 convenience and interests of
 all classes of the Public, so much
 more widely represented than any
 place than the other should be
 better consulted than would appear
 from the adoption of such an
 arrangement as that proposed. The
 latter part of the enclosed
 of the Superintendent's
 letter alluded to what I take to
 be either the fault of the corres-
 pondents themselves, or that of the
 Safford people. Very often the
 former having misdirected their
 letters, or the latter not having
 attended to the directions.

I have &c
 L. B. C. B. B. B.
 Collectors

Post Master General's Office
 Camp Cochise 11th Decr 1888.

No. 2809
 140

The Collectors of Salem

Sir, I have the honor to ac-
 knowledge the receipt of
 your letter of the 28th ultimo,
 and to inform you that I have
 given careful consideration to
 your objections to the proposed
 location of the future Post Office
 at the Railroad Station.

I am still however of opinion
 that this arrangement will on
 the whole be the best for the
 public convenience.

If there were any doubt
 whatever regarding the security
 of the correspondence of the
 town of Salem under the
 proposed arrangement I should

should certainly not approve of it,
whatever might be said in its
favor. But I see its ground.
For any such doubt. The Madras
Post offices and Receiving Houses
attached to the Madras Post
offices have for many years
received and delivered corres-
pondence larger and more
important than that of others
with perfect security. And
may add that when the Chamber
of Commerce lately protested
against the design of building
the new Madras Post Office
at the Railway Station on
precisely the same grounds as
which you object to a similar
measure at Salem, the Govt.
Council overruled their protest
on the ground that the receiving
house which was to be placed
on the beach would afford
ample facilities and security
for the correspondence of

the Mercantile Community.

The Madras

I have &c

(Signed) H. F. Pears

Post-master General

Superintf. Engineer Office

Cuddalore 22nd December 1868

N^o 150.

From the Superintending Engineer

5th Division

The Collector of Salem

Sir, I have the honor to
request you will favor me
with a reply to my letter of 18th
November 1868 N^o 137 about the
site for the new Salem Post
Office, as the Military Autho-
rities have written to me about
the disposal of the rest house,
the compound of which appears

to me to be a good site for a
Post Office.

I have &c

Signed E. A. Ford, Esq.

Superintending Engineer

in the Principal Post Office

Salem District

No. 137, Sec. 1, Div. 1

From

to the Superintending Engineer

5th Division

The Collector of Salem

Sir,

I suggested to the Post
Master General not long ago,
that the Post Office lately sanc-
tioned, should be built, not
in the town of Salem, but
near the Railway Station

at Sooramangalam. You will
observe from his reply, copy of
which I forward, that he ap-
proves of my suggestion. But
before the work is commenced,
it is necessary to take
into consideration any objections
that may be made, and ascer-
tain whether a suitable piece
of ground is to be had.

2. As regards the latter, it
appears to me that the compound
of the Rest House will be a
very convenient site. I have
written to enquire whether the
Rest House is now made use
of, and whether the building,
and the compound in which it
stands, could not ^{be} made avail-
able for other purposes.

3. A possible objection
to the Principal post office
being near the Railway Station
is that Salem is a much larger

town

True copy/

Wm E A Ford Coll. Me.

Sup. Engineer
5th Division

3
Three Copies

Chas. Verbrin.
A. J. Verbrin.

Chrysomela *indica*.

From this correspondence it
appears that a new Post Office
has been sanctioned for Salem.

The Port master General at St. P.
Bogotia recommend that it
should be built at Bonmangelam
in Kuituma, 3 1/2 miles from
the town, and that there
should be only a receiving office
at Salama.

The collector protests against this proposal. The map of post office business is with Salton & he argues that no large town should naturally have

is to be built, not in
the town itself, but at
the Railroad Station it
is ¹an enlargement about
three and a half miles.
It will be the first

The Post Office instead of Soan-
mangalam which is a place
of no importance except
as a Railway station.

The only argument in favor
of ^{Soanmangalam} ~~this~~ arrangement is that
letters for the Railway ~~posts~~
& the D.D. ^{& Periodic} ~~are~~ ^{carried}
out of their way to Salem.
but this may be easily
avoided if the letters
are properly addressed
& the separate packets
received & distributed
by a receiving Office at

Soanmangalam. -

On the whole Mr. M.
seems to have reason
on his side & I submit
that Mr. G. should
decide that the Post
Office should be built
at the new station
Salem. and a receiving

Office established
at the Railway Station
the cost of either arrange-
ment is the same.

W. A. G.

Public Department

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the
Collector of Salem.
(Here enter in Reg. No. 64)

Order thereon 5th February 1869 No. 7.

It appears from
the foregoing correspondence
that the Post Master
General and the Super-
intending Engineer of the
5th Division recommend
that the New Post Office
sanctioned for Salem
should be built, not in
the Town itself, but at
the Railway Station at
Sooramangalam, about
three and a half miles
distant from the Town.

Yours,

C 20 July
1869.

21
The collector ^{objects to} ~~protests~~
against this proposal.
^{He} points out that
Sooramungalam is a
place of no importance;
that the great bulk of
the postal business is
with Salem; and that
it is unprecedented to
leave the ^{Head} ~~Super~~ Station
of a District without
a Post Office.

2. His Excellency
in Council observe
that the only argument
in favor of placing
the Post Office at Soora-
mungalam appears to
be that letters for the
Railway employees, the
Officers of the Department
Public Works, and
Yeracud, are sometimes
carried out of the way

Sooramungalam

to Salem, an inconvenience
which might be easily
obviated if the letters
are properly addressed,
and the separate
letters received and
distributed by a re-
ceiving Office at
Salem. The Govern-
ment have no hesitation
in deciding that the
proper place for the
New Post Office is
Salem; but they will
be prepared to sanction
the construction of a
Receiving Office at
the Railway Station.

To the Collector of Salem. }
Postmaster General }
Public Works Dept. }

Sept 16/68

Govt of 1868

To
Collector of Salt
1868

Dated Oct 1868

G. O. S. 1868 No. 167

Construction of a new
Office

Nos. 56, 57, 1

Seeing that the new
Post Office is built at
Bain Post at the Railway
Station at Government
which place the
proposed to build a new
construction