

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

~~Press~~
Mis.

44

Dated 1 — 2 — 1859.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

CIRCULAR No. 19.

FROM

W. GREY, Esq.

Offg. Director General of the Post Office in India,

TO

THE POST MASTER GENERAL OF MADRAS.

Dated Calcutta, 4th August 1858.

SIR,

As some uncertainty seems to prevail on the subject of the obligation on public officers to receive letters, purporting to be public letters, which are charged with postage, I beg to send you herewith an extract of an order by the Supreme Government No. 884 dated the 13th of July 1855, and published in the Calcutta Gazette, * and likewise an extract of a recent proceeding† by the Honorable the President in Council, in reference to a case in which a letter had been refused by a public officer on account of its being charged with postage.

2nd—It is desirable that the rule in this matter should be known as widely as possible, and all officers of this Department, at all events, should have it constantly in mind, in order that they may direct attention to it, when necessary.

3rd—If any public officer, after his attention has been directed to the order, should nevertheless refuse to receive a letter charged with postage and superscribed as on the public Service, the case should at once be brought to the notice of the Government to which the officer may be subordinate.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. GREY,

Offg. Director General of the Post Office in India.

Extract of an order by the Supreme Government, No. 884 dated 13th July 1855

"No public officer is authorized to send covers on the Public Service by Post, without payment of postage, unless he is at the time on active duty, and in charge of the office, by virtue of which the privilege is enjoyed. All letters superscribed, as on the Public Service only, must, even though the postage thereon be not paid, be received and opened by the officer to whom they are addressed, but if any such unpaid or partially paid letter, so superscribed, and addressed to any officer, except a Secretary to Government, be found, when opened, to relate to the private affairs of the sender, the postage will be debited to him, and he will be further liable to be dealt with under Section 47, Act No. XVII of 1854.

"His Honor in Council further directs, that unpaid or insufficiently paid letters addressed to any such officer or Department and not superscribed on the public Service only, be refused; or if opened, that it be at the risk and cost of the opener."

*Dated, 21st July 1855.
†Dated, 28th July 1858.

† Extract from the Proceedings of the Honorable the President of the Council of India in Council, in the Home Department, under date the 28th July 1858.

"Some time in December last Mr. * * * sent by the Post an envelope containing * * * * The envelope was superscribed as on the public Service only, and was signed by Mr. * * * without any official designation. It seems to have been sent free by post from Persia, as it bears the red Persian field force post mark, but on arrival at Bombay, it was charged with postage (not being franked by an authorized officer) and forwarded to its destination.

"On being delivered to Mr. * * * that officer wrote upon the letter "Bearing postage, Refused A. B." It was accordingly returned to the Calcutta Post Office and sent back thence to Bombay. At Bombay it was opened in usual course according to law, and returned with its enclosure to Mr. * * *

"Mr. * * * now complains to the Government of India, and lays the blame on the Post Office.

"The Honorable the President in Council considers that it is not the Post Office that is to blame in the matter, but Mr. * * * who, on receiving the envelope superscribed "on the Public service only" and signed C. D. refused to receive it merely because it was charged with postage, instead of paying the postage and charging it in his contingent bill. Mr. * * * thus acted in direct contravention of a positive order of the Government of India contained in the notification of the 13th July 1855, (No. 884.)

"The Post Office acted strictly according to law and rule, and blame cannot fairly be imputed to the Officers of that Department for failing to discover the importance of the letter and not treating it exceptionably."

True Extract.

(Signed) W. GREY,

Offg. Director General of the Post Office in India.

CIRCULAR No. 40 of 1858-59.

True Copies forwarded for the information and guidance of Inspecting Postmasters, Postmasters and Deputy Postmasters.

Every Post Office will be supplied with a spare copy of this Circular, in order that whenever a Public Officer refuses a service letter charged with postage, it may be sent to him for perusal.

Every case of an Officer refusing letters of the above description after he has been made acquainted with the order of the Supreme Government, must be at once reported to the Postmaster General, to whom the refused cover is to be sent at the same time.

Madras,
Postmaster General's Office,

4th September 1858.

R. H. WILLIAMSON.

Postmaster General.

1859

Madras General Post Office

27th January 1859

To
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Fort St George

Sir

In returning the enclosed
bearing postage B.A. letter refused by you I have the honor to
solicit the favor of your attention to the
accompanying order of the Government of
India.

I have the honor to be

Sir
Your Most Obedient Servant
R. H. Williamson
Postmaster

Revenue 1839 Depts
Govt of Maryland
1839 Edw. M. M. M. M.

From

The Post Master

Madam

October 27 } January 1839
Recd -

Return of the
letter referred by the
Govt. House of Reps. and
which is returned, to
the order of the Govt. of
the House of Representatives
the letter which
was changed with
postage in

Office sent 31 Jan 1839