M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1101 Press ~~Mis.~~

36-37

Dated 4-7-1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 4th July 1860.

No. 36. Read the following letter from EDWARD FANE, Esq., Officiating Postmaster General, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government in the Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 24th August 1859, No. 1,698 :—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Order of Government No. 1,085, dated 13th instant, and to submit in reply for the information of His Excellency in Council that the Postmaster General exercises little more than a nominal supervision over the arrangements of Collectors and others in connexion with District Posts. It rests entirely with those Officers to suggest improved arrangements for the conveyance of District dawks, and any such suggestions would be gladly received, and, if possible, carried out.

Adverting to the two instances of delay, I would submit that with regard to the arrangements between Colligal and Coimbatore, the request made by the Collector to obviate delay in the submission of his accounts involved the recognition of the frank of Tahsíldárs beyond the limits of their respective Districts ; it rests entirely with the Governor and Viceroy of India to grant enlarged powers of franking, and I informed the Collector that the frank of the Tahsíldárs could not be received beyond the limits of their respective Districts.

No report of delay in the transmission of correspondence in the Táluqs of Kurnool, or request of any kind whereby the means of communication in that District might be improved, has ever been made to this office. A route was suggested by the Collector of Coimbatore through Mysore and Ootacamund, but it was quite impracticable, as it would first pass through some 40 or 50 miles of Mysore Táluq Post, and then 100 miles or so of regular post, and probably take longer than even the present route. I suggested to Mr. Thomas the propriety of putting two runners, or Táluq Peons, at each stage, and making them run night and day, which they ought not to fear to do when in company, and at night they might be liberally supplied with firesticks.

The District Posts, as at present conducted, are rightly described, in the Proceedings of Government as neither deserving nor obtaining the confidence of the public. The powers of the Postmaster-General are almost nominal, and its inefficiency will probably continue until either put under the Postmaster General's immediate control, or until each Collector is made to furnish to the Government and publish in the local Gazettes monthly time statements, hours of departure from each Táluq, number of miles traversed, and the time occupied ; the running Peons should also be made to travel night and day, and the department in each Collectorate put under one of the (?)

When I was acting Collector of Salem, I found that the District Post carriers never ran at night, and I drew up a set of rules, and arranged the time of departure from each Táluq, and hoped thereby to get letters from one end of the District to the other in 30 hours or so ; how the plan has answered I know not, but any well organized plan would cause the District Post to be a great boon to the public and traders.

I beg to forward the subjoined Extract of a letter from the Officiating Director General of Post Office in India, relative to the subject of extending the lists of franking authorities in connexion with the subject of the Táluq Posts referred to in the 2nd paragraph.

"In other cases should inconvenience be felt, I can only repeat what I have before had "occasion to say, that it is for the Officer concerned to represent the matter to Government through "the proper channel.

"It is no part of my duty or of that of any Post Office official to suggest to Government "the addition of fresh names to the lists Nos. 1 and 2; on the contrary, it is the part of the Post "Office to deprecate rather than to promote the enlargement of those lists."

No. 37. ORDER THEREON, 4th July 1860, No. 1,101.

Ordered to be recorded.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

R 19 Aug 4/59 № 3-4.

1860.

Revenue 1859 Depart.
Bro: of Govt for July 1860

№ 1551

From the Offg Postmaster

General.

Dated 24 } Augt 1859.
Recd 26 }

Forwd by 30 May/60 Cir 1128.

Subjoins Extract of a letter from the Offg D. Genl of the P.O. in India and submits explanation relative to the delay in the conveyance of Correspondence through the Red Sea Posts—

№ 1101. 4 July.

№ 1101.

To be recorded.

Fort St George
4th July 1603

№ 36 & 37.

№ Copy of Govt Letter to Govt of Bengal in the Revenue Dept. dated 21st August 1859.

Extract of a Letter from the Offg D. Genl of the P.O. in India, dated 4th July 1603, enclosing Explanation relative to the delay in the Conveyance of Correspondence through the Red Sea Posts.