M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2263	Press Mis.
489	
Dated 28-11-1860.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 489. *PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.*

Dated 28th November 1860, *No.* 2,263.

1. The great delays occurring in the receipt of certain District Periodical Returns by the Board of Revenue having attracted the notice of Government, explanation was called for, and one of the causes assigned in reply was the slowness and irregularity of the District Post. In particular it was stated that the Tappál from the Táluq of Colligal in Coimbatore District, occupied eight days in reaching Coimbatore; and that the Tappál from a Táluq in Kurnool, name not mentioned, took six days to reach the town of Kurnool.

2. The Government brought these instances to the knowledge of the Post Master General but were informed in reply that the District Dáks are entirely under the management of the Collectors, and this they find to be really the case; for though Act XVII of 1854 empowered the Governor General in Council (Section 70) to frame rules for the District Dáks, and to declare from time to time what parts of the Act should be applicable to those Dáks, yet in fact he has made no other rule than to direct that "All Office or "road Establishments attached to any District Post, will "be under the control and management of the Officer to "whom they may be entrusted by the local Government."

Page 38 of Appendix to Post Office Manual.

3. This Government did in 1844 commit the charge of the District Dáks entirely to Collectors;* that order remains still in force, and thus Collectors are entirely responsible for their due management and efficiency. This appears however not to be everywhere understood; some Collectors, especially those of the two Districts above named, appear not to be aware of their duty in connection with the District Dáks. The Government deem it expedient therefore to call their attention to it; and they resolve to point out at the same time some means by which the efficiency of the District Post may be easily increased.

* *Gazette, page* 718.

4. One great cause of delay is want of method, on the part of the Tahsíldárs. In some Districts it has been the practice to despatch the Tappál from each Táluq Kachéri after the day's work is closed, and thus the Tappál of each Táluq is detained at the next Táluq Cusbah it reaches till the following evening. This practice where it prevails should be immediately corrected. An hour should be fixed for the despatch of the Tappál from the most distant station on each road, and for its arrival and immediate despatch at each station between that and the Collector's head quarters; and the mail at each such intermediate station should be required to be made up ready at the hour fixed.

5. Again, there is now little system in many Districts as respects the Runners' stations and their rate of travelling. Both these things require to be regulated. Stations should be fixed not more than five or six miles apart; and a moderate rate of travelling not less than four miles an hour, should be prescribed, and the proper time for arrival at, and departure from, each office should be fixed by that scale according to distance, and punctuality enforced. For this purpose a Road Index should accompany every mail, the time of arrival and detention at each station being noted in it; and these documents should be carefully scrutinized on reaching the head quarter station, and the requisite orders issued.

6. Another cause of delay is the transmission by the District Dák of heavy dufters or baskets. These are sometimes carried by the runners themselves and sometimes by village toties or taliaries who are required to accompany the Dák. In either case there is delay. In the former the runner is over weighted; in the latter the taliary is changed at each village, and much time is lost in finding a relief. Such heavy dufters should not be sent by the Dák; they should be sent by toties or coolies separately and the mail should not be allowed to exceed the weight of eighteen pounds.

7. Another cause of delay is the abuse of the privilege of franking, Public servants sending private letters and even packets free, and so over-loading the mails. This practice also might be easily stopped by proper care. No letters or packets not on the Public service should be allowed to go free, and the power of franking, even on the Public service, should be strictly

limited, being confined to those servants, and to that correspondence, where it is necessary for the Public service. All letters should be inscribed "on Her Majesty's service only," as required by the General Post Rules.

8. The foregoing remarks will be communicated to Collectors through the Board of Revenue. The Government trust that all Collectors seeing how entirely the management of the District Dáks is in their hands, will give their careful attention to the improvement of their working. There is now a Deputy Collector at every Huzúr station, and this Officer will be always available for the immediate control of the Tappál, unless a Collector should think any other arrangement preferable; and with this means at his disposal no Collector can complain of want of agency for the duty. The Governor in Council trusts that improvement will speedily take place not only in the quicker rate of travelling of the Dáks, but also in their more extended use, by means of lines to connect frontier Offices in adjoining Districts, and of systematic arrangements for the receipt and delivery of letters in other parts of the District besides the Táluq Cusbahs.

9. It may fairly be anticipated that when the attention of intelligent Officers, as the Deputy Collectors are, is given to the subject, such improvements will rapidly take place.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Revenue Dept

No 2263

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 28 ~~July~~ November 1860.

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Page 38 of appendix to
Post office manual.

Go to Page 748.

3

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some Collectors, especially
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strictly limited, being confined to those servants, and to that correspondence, where it is necessary for the Public service.

All letters should be addressed "On the Public Service only" as at present

8. The foregoing remarks will be communicated to Collectors thro' the Board of Revenue. The Govt trust that all Collectors, seeing how entirely the management of the District Police is in their hands, will give their careful attention to the improvement of their working. There is now a Deputy Collector at every Huzzur Station, and this Officer will be always available for the immediate control of the Tappaul, unless a Collector should think any other arrangement preferable;

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and with this means at his disposal no Collector can complain of want of agency for the duty. The Governor in Council trusts that improvement will speedily take place not only in the quicker rate of travelling of the Dâks, but also in their more extended use, by means of lines to connect frontier Offices in adjoining Districts, and of systematic arrangements for the receipt and delivery of letters in other parts of the District besides the Talleg Kasbas.

9 It may fairly be anticipated that when the attention of intelligent Officers, as the Deputy Collectors

Collectors are, is given to the subject, such improvements will rapidly take place; ~~and the Governor~~ in Council reminds the Collectors lastly that under the order quoted in the margin, all collections from the District Debts over and above the charges, are at the disposal of the Collectors for extending and otherwise improving the Debts.

2 Copies to Bd of Wks
Civil Eng
1 — Post Mr Genl
4 — Pub Depts
4 — Mr Pelly

111

Dft. This Draft was prepared some months ago, but it was laid aside on the discovery that under the Treaty no funds are available as is proposed. The case still however commands the attention of Govt. may do much to improve the Colony. Should in coming years, & I think it will be well to issue such an order —

Nov 13—

District Dans

Revenue 1860 Depart.
Pro. of Govt. for November

№ 2263.

8-9-10

Pro. of the Madras Government
Dated 28th November 1860.

Pointing out some
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№ 489