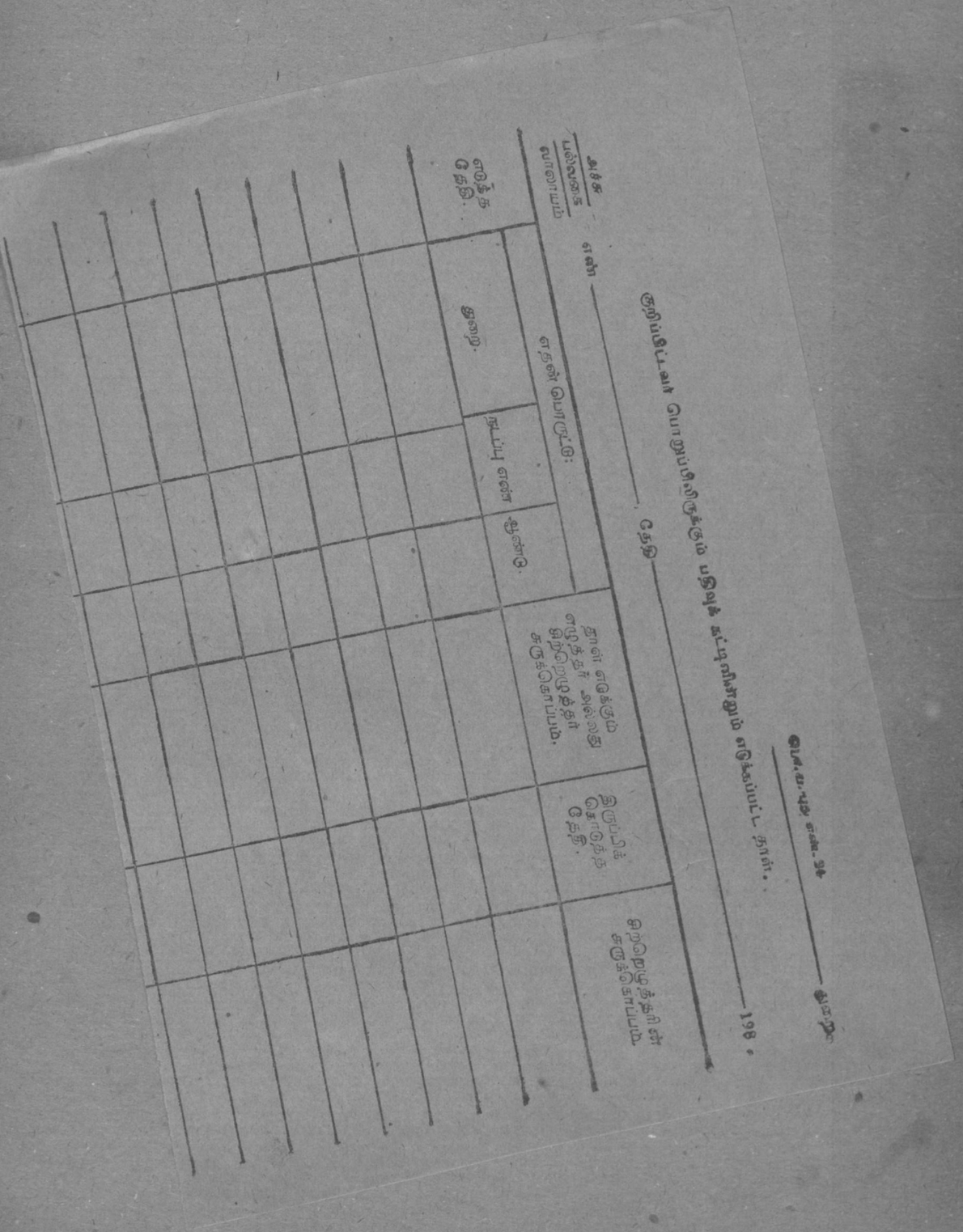


M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1534 Press ~~Mis.~~

12.14

Dated . . 8. 1861.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
1st August 1861.

No. 12. Read the following letters:—

From R. H. WILLIAMSON, Esq., Postmaster General, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Public Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 17th July 1861, No. 1,360:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to submit for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council the following circumstances, and beg you will be good enough to obtain the orders of Government thereon.

2. The District Post Establishments in this Presidency are, as His Excellency in Council is aware, composed of three distinct portions:—

(1.) Establishments which existed in October 1854, the cost of which was borne by the Revenue Department.

(2.) Additional Establishments which have since that period been sanctioned under orders of the Madras Government, and charged to the same head.

(3.) Establishments, the cost of which has prior to and since October 1854, been debited to the Postal Department.

3. The cost of these last has since the introduction of the new Postal system, been met by payments made on bills submitted by Collectors and countersigned by me. Care has in every instance been taken, that the charges countersigned by me have not exceeded 500 Rupees per month, the limit up to which I am empowered to pass contingent charges. The bills continued to be submitted monthly to me, and on being countersigned were passed by the Civil Auditor. On receipt of the orders of the Government of India in October 1860, the Civil Auditor refused audit to these bills after November last, and this has placed me in considerable embarrassment in meeting the District Post charges since that period. I have applied for sanction to the portion of District Post Establishments debitable to this Department, and my letter of the 1st instant, No. 971, will have placed you in possession of the circumstances that prevented the earlier submission of the tabular Statement on this account. Prior to the submission of this application, Mr. Riddell directed that I should pass no more bills on account of these Establishments, till the sanction of Government of India was obtained through him.

4. I regret to say, however, that a further difficulty has arisen in obtaining the sanction of the Government of India to these charges, from the fact that the amount has not been provided for in the Estimate for the year 1861-62, furnished by me to the Director General of the Post Office in India. These charges have never hitherto entered the accounts of the Post Office. They have been drawn and disbursed by Collectors altogether independently of the Deputy Postmasters within whose range of payment they may be situated, and have never formed a portion of the probable yearly estimate hitherto submitted by me to the Accountant General.

5. The Director General of the Post Office in India does not, apparently, consider himself at liberty to submit the charges in question to the Government of India for sanction, unless they are provided for either in my estimate or in those of the Collectors. The Accountant General is uncertain as to whether or not they have been entered in the latter, and has, I believe, issued a circular on the subject. Under the circumstances detailed, a doubt exists as to the Budget estimate in which they should have been entered, and I greatly regret that I failed to guard against all doubt and difficulty on the subject, by entering them in the estimate I submitted.

6. I requested the Director General by telegram, to obtain sanction to the disbursement of pay to the District Establishments up to the end of the last official year, but he intimates that he has no authority to pass them. In the meantime no pay has been passed to these Establishments since December last, and I apprehend that before the sanction of the Government of India can be obtained, the posts may stop for want of pay, to the great inconvenience of the public. I have just received another telegram from the Director General of the Post Office in India, in reply to my application for his instructions, which I beg to annex in original, from which

it will be perceived that the Director General is of opinion that the present arrangement should not be disturbed, from which I conclude that he thinks the charges should be shown in the Estimates of the Collectors. Should Government be inclined to take this view of the matter, I would respectfully solicit, in the event of the charges in question not having been entered in the Budget Estimates already submitted by Collectors, which will be ascertained when replies are received to the Accountant General's Circular adverted to, that instructions may be given to those Officers to insert them in the Supplemental Budget Estimates lately ordered to be prepared under date the 4th instant, No. 1,339, in the Revenue Department; were this done, it would enable the Director General to go at once to the Government of India for sanction.

7. As the Director General remarks, it will be seen that no new expense to Government will be incurred by such an arrangement, for when sanction is obtained, it will be but a transfer from the Contingent to the fixed head of Establishments.

8. With respect to the pay now overdue on account of these Establishments since December last, I would submit for the consideration of Government whether, as in the case of South Arcot, the Collectors might not be instructed to disburse the pay as usual, as an advance to be adjusted hereafter when sanctioned.

No. 13. From R. H. WILLIAMSON, Esq., Postmaster General, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Public Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 26th July 1861, No. 1,575.

SIR,

1. I wish to correct an error in my letter to Government, No. 1,360, under date the 17th instant.

2. In paragraph 3 referring to the District Post charges, the following observation occurs:—"These charges have never hitherto entered the accounts of the Post Office."

3. I beg to state that since 1857, under sanction of the Accountant General, Statements or Bills for the charges of the District Posts have been sent by the Collectors of Districts to the Deputy Postmasters of the disbursing Post Offices for adjustment in their monthly accounts.

4. This was done simply for the purpose of showing that the amount was debitable against the Post Office.

5. The money, however, has all along been drawn and disbursed by the Collectors themselves, wholly irrespective of the Deputy Postmasters, and the sums on account of the charges in question have never been included as a portion of the yearly expenditure of the Postal Department in the annual Estimate of "probable expenditure" furnished by me to the Accountant General.

No. 14. ORDER THEREON, 1st August 1861, No. 1,534.

1. Resolved that a copy of these letters be furnished to the Accountant General, with a request that he will make sufficient provision in the Supplemental Budget under preparation for the District Post Establishments of the several Districts, if it has not been done in the origina Budget.

2. Mr. Harrison will also issue instructions to the Collectors for the payment of the salaries of the Establishments, which Mr. Williamson states in the concluding paragraph of this letter are in arrear from December last; the disbursements being debited to "advances" till the Supplemental Budget receives the sanction of the Government of India.

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

Vide Letter to Govt dy 17th July 1861 Para 2

MONTHLY OFFICE No. 130

H. M.'S TELEGRAPHS IN INDIA.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.

PREPAID MESSAGES ARE TRANSMITTED ON THE TELEGRAPH LINES IN INDIA AT THE FOLLOWING RATES:—

For distances of 400 miles and less, Messages of 16 words and under are charged one Rupee.
Over 16 words the charge increases at the rate of one anna for every additional word.
Beyond 2 miles Peon-hire is charged at the rate of 2 annas per mile, from each Telegraph Office.
Cypher Messages are sent at the ordinary price, but can only be received in numbers written in full, or in common English words.

The Rates are Doubled for distances over 400 miles and under 800 miles.
" " Tripled for distances over 800 and less than 1,200.
" " Quadrupled for distances over 1,200 and less than 1,600; and so on, an additional rate is charged for each distance of 400 miles, or part of 400 miles.
When the Messages are to be repeated, one-half extra is charged and it is *only* for "*repeated*" messages that refunds of charges are granted on account of inaccuracies or delays.

FROM Calcutta To Madras
FROM Director General To Post Master General
& Post Offices WORDS 45 Service Paid

15th — Cannot the district dak be paid from the same source or fund as heretofore If so there will be no new expense to be incurred by Government. The present arrangement should not be disturbed, You had better consult with the Madras Government at once.

Madras
H. M.'s TELEGRAPH OFFICE.
Sent out
15th July 1861

R. H. Williamson
for Insp. Assistant in Charge.

No. 118

Petn. recd.

From The Director General
of the P. O. in India

Dated 18 Letter for

Recd 10

Desires to be informed if the District Dâk Cash cannot be paid from the same source or Fund as heretofore. Requests the Govt to consult with the Madras Govt on the subject.

Secretary to Government.

are in arrear from December last; the disbursements being debited to "Advances" till the supplemental Budget receives the sanction of the Govt of India.

Read 15th 1825.

No 1534

Read a letter from the Secretary to Government of Fort St George dated 4th Augt 1825 forwarding for the sanction of the Court of Directors a Supplemental Estimate of Charges for the Year 1825-26 amounting to Pagodas 1,30,000 and requesting that the Court will be pleased to authorize the Application of the Surplus Revenue of the Ceded Districts to the Payment of the Charges specified in the Supplemental Estimate.

Ordered that the Court do agree to the Supplemental Estimate of Charges for the Year 1825-26 amounting to Pagodas 1,30,000 and that the Court do authorize the Application of the Surplus Revenue of the Ceded Districts to the Payment of the Charges specified in the Supplemental Estimate.

Ordered that the Secretary do prepare a Letter to the Government of Fort St George in conformity with the Resolution of this Day.