M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

## Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. ~~193 295~~ 1735 Press Mis.

93-295

Dated 15-8- 19 12

**Not to be folded or roughly handled**

## *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 15th August* 1862.

Read the following papers:—

No. 193. From R. H. WILLIAMSON, Esq., Postmaster General, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government in the Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 4th July 1862, No. 1425.

SIR,

With reference to paragraph 28 of Mr. Pelly's Report on the District Posts in this Presidency No. 1,210, dated 20th March 1862, copy of which was furnished to me, I have the honor to forward for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, copy of a letter addressed by me to the Director General of the Post Office in India, when submitting transcript of the Report to that Officer.

2. You will perceive that I therein state that I have not had time to report minutely and give my opinion on all and each of his propositions; and that my observations have been confined to certain points in the Report regarding the conveyance of the District Post Bags by the runners of the regular Post Office; and to the expediency of the District Post Officers, under certain circumstances, being placed under the control of the Postmaster General and his Officers.

3. I take this opportunity with reference to the portion of Mr. Pelly's Report, which treats on the point of the amount of Pay he proposes to give to the District runners, to annex for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, copy of a letter to my address from the Director General of the Post Office in India, relative to the amount of pay, which he considers sufficient for the regular Postal runners in this Presidency.

---

From R. H. WILLIAMSON, Esq., Postmaster General, to the Director General of the Post Office in India, Madras, 9th June 1862, No. 24.

SIR,

No. 2682, dated 3rd February 1862.
" 2775, " 13th do. "
" 3013, " 14th March "
" 3172, " 2nd April "

1. I have the honor, with reference to your letters quoted in the margin, to forward for your information, copy of the Honorable Mr. Pelly's Report to the Madras Government on the District Posts in the Madras Presidency.

2. I have gone over the Report in question, but have not had time nor shall I have time for some weeks to come to report minutely and give my opinion on all and each of the propositions of Mr. Pelly; but I may say that the attention I have been able to bestow on them leads me to the opinion that in a general point of view they are well calculated to effect the object desired.

3. There are however certain points in the Report concerning the Department of the regular Post Office, respecting which I see difficulty, and to which I would at once invite your attention; and as you are anxious to see the Report as early as possible, I shall confine my present observations to those points and make them as brief as possible.

4. I have first to remark on the conveyance of District Post bags by the runners of the regular Post, on lines over which lies the Route of both Posts, and I must premise by adverting to the 15th paragraph of the Report under notice, in which Mr. Pelly observes "should the extra weight of the District Packets prove daily too much for the runners, (*i. e.* regular) there are additional set of runners or a more effective mode of conveyance, horse or cart dawk, should be established by the Postmaster General—the requirements of the public service showing clearly that such extra aid was called for in that Department;" and again "on many roads the District Mail is now carried by the General Post Office runners, and in my opinion should be so carried on every road where there is a General Post. But should it be found necessary to have additional runners, they should be provided under the orders of the Postmaster General and superintended by the Inspecting Postmasters and Officers of his Establishment." I submit that this Report professes to set forth a separate and distinct scheme for the conveyance of the District Posts throughout this Presidency; but that in the portion just quoted, it is proposed to saddle the Regular Post Office Department with both the responsibility and expense of conveyance of very considerable portions of them—which as long as the Establishments remain unamalgamated, I contend, should not be;

and it is for you to decide, with reference to the correspondence which has lately taken place between yourself and this Office with respect to the employment of extra runners, whether or not such a principle should be admitted.

5. I take leave moreover to state my opinion that Mr. Pelly has in no one instance met the objections which on former occasions I made with respect to the regular runners conveying the District Bags, which he quotes in detail in the 11th and 12th paragraphs of his Report; nor has he in any way shown how they can be removed. He disposes of what he considers the only strong argument advanced by me, *viz.*, the over-weighting of the runners, summarily by saying, let the regular Post Office Department increase its Establishments; all the other objections, he says, are capable of remedy by proper departmental arrangements; but he has not shown what these arrangements should be.

6. I think Mr. Pelly is mistaken when in the 12th paragraph of his Report alluding to a letter of mine as per margin, he says that the opinion previously given by the Postmaster General is somewhat modified when he assents to the suggestions of the Collector of Nellore, being carried out experimentally on second class and cross lines of road. I have not the letter adverted to by me, and do not now remember its exact tenor. For the reasons which Mr. Pelly has detailed, I have hitherto, and do still under the present circumstances of the District Posts object as a general principle to the conveyance of their Mails by the regular runners; but on lines where by test of experiment, it has been ascertained that the joint weights of both regular and District Wallets, never exceed or even approach that prescribed by the Department for a runner's load, and where the arrangements are such as to preclude detention of the Mails, not only would I not object to the conveyance of District Mails over them by the regular runners, but would consider it my duty to spare expense to Government, by making use of the regular Establishment for the purpose.

No. 1548, dated 25th July 1861.

7. Moreover, whenever I considered it feasible, as for instance, when a Cart Mail existed on the Northern road, every assistance was given by the regular Post Office Department to the conveyance of the District Mails on the line.

8. While however the Establishments remain separate, I still object to the runners of the regular Post *on main and important lines*, being made use of for the conveyance of the District Mails; nor do I see how it can possibly be effected without employing the extra runners for the purpose. Mr. Pelly in giving his opinion as to the feasibility of using the regular runners in the 15th paragraph of his Report, observes "as a general rule however, I believe that under proper arrangements, daily District correspondence will add but little to the weight of the Mails (*i. e.*, regular);" but he has omitted the very essential point of showing what the weights of the District Mails are in such cases likely to average. I have written to him to know if his opinion on this subject has been guided by any statement of weights, and if so, to let me have a copy of it.* I am under the impression that the daily weights of the District Mails are in many instances very considerable, so much so as to have the effect of greatly over-burdening the regular runners, if added to their legitimate loads, which latter on the lines I have adverted to, usually closely approach and often exceed the prescribed weight of 18lbs. There can be little doubt that on most occasions, the addition of the District Mails would be such as either greatly to overload the runner, and so interfere materially with his speed, or necessitate the employment, not occasionally, but constantly, of extra assistance by the General Post Office Department—an expense which the weight of the District Mails alone would scarcely justify—and a separate District Establishment of a single runner at long stages, would therefore be more economical to the State. Mr. Pelly proposes to arrange the stages for the District Posts at five and six miles. Those of the regular Post on the greater number of main and important lines are at four miles. I therefore designate those proposed by Mr. Pelly as long stages.

* Since writing this, I have received Mr. Pelly's reply to the effect that he had no statement of weights.

9. I take this opportunity of stating my opinion that on all lines of road over which District Mails are carried by runners of the regular Post, the District Post officials should be

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
*15th August* 1862.

placed under the regular Post Department to be appointed or dismissed by the Postmaster General, and to be under the undivided control of the Inspecting Postmaster of the Divisions. Not only do I urge this arrangement, in the event of its being decided that the regular runners are to be generally availed of for the conveyance of the District Mails, but recommend its being carried out as early as possible on all lines on which the District Mails are now so conveyed. The adoption of this course I consider to be highly desirable to prevent delay and disputes which are always likely to occur while the Officers of the regular Department have no authority or control over the parties by whom the District Mails are delivered to and taken from the runners, and whose delinquencies cannot therefore be visited with prompt punishment. Under present circumstances, some difficulty presents itself to the carrying out of this arrangement; as hitherto in many instances, the Officers in charge of a District Post Station discharge at the same time some petty office in connection with the Revenue branch, but as, if I rightly understand the 6th paragraph of Mr. Pelly's Report, he proposes to entertain Goomastahs on the pay allowed to Táluq Peons exclusively for receiving and making over bags from and to Railways and runners—the existing obstacle to what I recommend will at once be removed.

10. Adverting to your Circular, No. 478, of the 26th March last, it appears to me that the Statements therein called for will not be required until a decision is come to on Mr. Pelly's proposition.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) R. H. WILLIAMSON,
*Postmaster General.*

---

From G. PATON, Esq., Director General of the Post Office in India, to the Postmaster General, Madras, dated Camp Nyne Tal, 9th May 1862, No. 82.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 393, of the 15th ultimo, and to observe that I am unable to perceive any sufficient cause for raising the pay of runners, in the Madras Presidency, beyond that of the standard rate in the North Western Provinces, Punjaub and Bengal, *viz.*, Rupees 4, notwithstanding works of Railways and irrigation and famines of unprecedented nature in the North Western Provinces, Punjaub, it has not been found necessary to raise the pay of the runners. I annex for your information copy of extracts from a letter addressed to the Postmaster General of Bombay, illustrative of the demands made for increase of pay for runners and the measures by which they were overcome. If the Overseers and Inspecting Postmasters in your Division cannot or will not exert themselves to procure able-bodied runners at 4 Rupees per mensem, they must be superceded. The reduction of cost of runners should be made gradually by giving the Overseers and Inspecting Postmasters timely notice, say three months, for finding others if they make objections to serve at the standard rate of pay. If you be firm with the Overseers, you will, I have no doubt, find that not one of them will resign rather than allow you to select others to take their place. I have therefore to request that you will lose no time in commencing the revision of the Establishment of runners on such lines of road where the pay is above the standard rate. I shall feel obliged by your informing me by what date you will be able to effect the revision.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) R. H. WILLIAMSON,
*Postmaster General.*

---

No. 194. From the Honorable C. PELLY, Member of the Board of Revenue, to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 11th July 1862.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward copy of a communication from the Postmaster General, enclosing copies of correspondence to and from the Director General of Post Offices in India regarding the pay of the runners, and to state, for the information of Government, that I have informed him that I do not think it now necessary to discuss the points alluded to in them, as

the Government have already disposed of my Report on the District Postal Establishments—copy of which was, as intimated to Government, forwarded to that Officer on the 5th July last.

From R. H. WILLIAMSON, Postmater General, to the Honorable C. PELLY, Member of the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated 4th July 1862, No. 1424.

SIR,

With reference to your letter, No. 1223, of the 28th March last, enclosing copy of your Report to the Madras Government on the District Posts in this Presidency, I have the honor to forward for your information, copy of a letter addressed by me to the Director General of the Post Office in India when submitting a copy of your Report to that Office.

You will perceive that I therein state that I have not had time to Report minutely and give my opinion on all and each of your propositions, and that my observations have been confined to certain points in the report regarding the conveyance of the District Post bags by the runners of the Regular Post Office, and to the expediency of the District Post Officers, under certain circumstances, being placed under the control of the Postmaster General and his Officers.

I take this opportunity with reference to the portion of your Report which treats on the point of the amount of pay you propose to give to the District runners, to annex for your information and for any observations you may have to make thereon, copy of a letter to my address from the Director General of the Post Office in India, relative to the amount of pay which he considers sufficient for the regular postal runners in this Presidency.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. PELLY,
*Member.*

No. 195. ORDER THEREON, 15th August 1862, No. 1,735.

1. With the first of these letters the Post Master General forwards copy of a letter addressed by him to the Director General of the Post Office in India on the subject of Mr. Pelly's recent report to Government respecting the District Postal Establishments of this Presidency. He also forwards a letter to his address from the Director General relative to the amount of pay, viz., Rupees 4, which the latter Officer considers sufficient for the regular postal runners. Mr. Pelly's letter also recorded above gives cover to copies of the same communications forwarded to him by the Post Master General.

* G. O. 14th June 1862, No. 1314.

2. Mr. Pelly's scheme for the Establishments in question has already been considered and approved* by Government, and will shortly be laid before the Government of India, with an expression of their views on the question of the amalgamation of the District with the General Post. No orders from this Government seem therefore necessary on the points referred to in the Post Master General's present letter.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
*Chief Secretary.*



Memorandum furnishing information on the several points indicated by the Government of India in their Circular of 15th March 1862.

1. The charges of the Establishments now recommended for the District Dawk are to take effect after the receipt of the Sanction of the Government of India

2. The item is provided for in the Budget Estimate of 1862/63.

3. The provision is made under X Miscellaneous Charges against Income Revenue Department

4. The charges are entirely permanent

5 & 6. No saving is expected by the arrangement.

7. There are no arrears of Charges.

8. The Charges are payable from General Funds.

Revenue Board's Office
Madras
5 July 1862

Pelly
Member

Rec: 1320.

Rec: 1928/62

Revenue Department

Nos 1918 & 2001

No. 1735—5

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 15th August 1862.

Read the following Papers
from the Post Master General Madras

Forwards for information of Govt a copy of letter addressed by this Office to the Director-General of Post Offices in India transmitting Copy of a letter from the Member of the Board of Revenue Madras to Govt of Madras, on the District Posts in this Presidency with certain observations.

(Here enter 4th July 1862 No 1)

From the Honorable C Pelly,
Member of the Bd of Revenue

Forwarding copy of a communication from the Post Master General enclosing copies of correspondence to and from the Director General of Post Offices in India.

(Here enter 11th July 1862 No 1382)

With the first of these letters the Post Master General forwards copy of a letter addressed by him to the Director General of the Post Office in India on the subject of Mr Pelly's recent report to Govt respecting the District Postal Establishments of this Presidency. He also forwards a letter to his address from the Director General relative

to

to the amount of 6½ Rs/4 Lacs which the Letter Officers consider sufficient for the Regular Postal Runners. Mr Polly's letter also recorded a line given over to copies of the same communications forwarded to him by the Post Master General.

2 Mr Polly's scheme for the Establishments in question has already been considered and approved by Govt, and will shortly be laid before the Govt of India, with an expression of their views on the question of the amalgamation of the District with the General Post. No orders from this Govt seem therefore necessary on the points referred to in the Post Masters

General's

× G.O. 11th June 1862 No 1314

General's present letter

2 Copies to the Post Master Genl Desp. 14 Augt
4 — Hon'ble Mr Polly
1 — Bd of Revs

District Postal Establishments

22-7-16 ✓ 4

Revenue 1862 Deptt
Pro: of Govt for Augt

№ 1735.

Pro: of the Madras Govt
of 15 Augt 1862

Read 23/12/62

Copy in a Letter to England
of 11th December № 88 of 1862

Pro: No. 309-310
23-4-62

№ 1930 1935

Passing orders on
papers relating to Mr
Pelly's recent report
respecting the District
Postal establishments
of this Presidency.