M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 2213 Press Mis. —

185-186

Dated 14-10-1862

Not to be folded or roughly handled

14-10-62

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 14th October 1862.

No. 185. Read the following Endorsement of the Director General of the Post Office of India, dated Camp Nynetal, 15th September 1862, No. 1,713 :—

Read the following letter from G. PATON, Esq., Director General of the Post Office of India, to the Post Master General, Bengal, dated Camp Nynetal, 13th September 1862, No. 1,689.

SIR,

1. In reply to your letter No. 233 of the 2nd instant, I have the honor to observe that, under the circumstances stated by you, it is not necessary to submit the Tabular Statement called for until you have ascertained from the several Magistrates the amount that may be fixed by them before the 31st December next, as contributions from Zamíndárs for the maintenance of the District Post establishments.

2. On receipt of your Tabular Statement, I shall communicate with the Government of Bengal in view to ascertain whether permanent arrangement could not be made for the realization annually from Zamíndárs of a certain sum for defraying the cost of the District Post establishments on amalgamation with the General Post taking effect, as otherwise it will be difficult to decide what portion of the cost should be debited to the Post Office Department.

3. The Police officials, Chowkeedárs, &c., who at present (ex-officio) conduct the District Post should not be included in your Tabular Statement, as it should simply show (under the head "Present Establishment") the cost of runners, &c., *exclusively* employed for the conveyance and delivery of District Post Mails, so that on the sanction of Government being obtained to the amalgamation, there may be no difficulty in transferring the above establishments to the control of the Post Office Department.

4. If no establishments are employed exclusively for the purposes of the District Post in any District, and the duty of conveying and delivering the Mails is performed by the ordinary Police establishment (whom the District Officer may consider it necessary to retain at the time of transfer of the District Post to the Post Office Department) your return of present establishments for such Districts should be blank, and the necessary establishments required for conducting the District Post should be proposed according to requirements.

5. You may easily ascertain from the District Post returns for each District the approximate number of covers posted at and forwarded for delivery to each District Post station and estimate the probable cost of establishments accordingly.

6. District Post Offices should be proposed for large Police stations or towns only, and Receiving Houses for smaller stations. In such Police stations where few or no chargeable letters are posted or received, arrangements should be made for the service covers or Police reports being handed over in a small packet or cover to the (road) runner posted there with a view to its being carried to the nearest Post Office station for transmission to its destination.

7. At first it will be difficult for the officials of the Post Office to ascertain in what principal towns besides the Police stations arrangements should be made for opening Post Offices, and for this reason your Tabular Statement should make provision for postal establishments for Police stations only, and such other towns as may be specially recommended by District Officers. Gradually as the Inspecting Post Masters become familiar with the statistics of the several Districts included in their respective divisions they will submit proposals for the establishment of such new, and the closing of such existing Post Offices as they may consider advantageous to the department and the public.

8. With the above view I propose to obtain the sanction of Government to the establishments of District Post Offices in each Post Master General's circle, experimentally for one year, so that there will be ample time for Inspecting Post Masters obtaining the necessary information to enable the Post Masters General to form an opinion as to the Post Offices which should be permanently established when the final sanction of Government will be obtained to the arrangement.

9. Such lines of postal communication as may appear necessary for the connection of District Post Offices with each other or with the head quarters of the District should be included in the Tabular Statement under the head "Road establishment."

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th October 1862.

10. The District Officers, if consulted on the subject, will doubtless give much useful information with regard to the extent and importance of each Police station and principal towns within their respective Districts which will enable Inspecting Post Masters to form a correct estimate as to the number of Post Offices, Receiving Houses and Post lines which will have to be established in each District.

11. It is not meant that postal communication should be extended to each village for which a letter is received, but that it should be confined (at least for the present) to the Police stations in the District which even now must be connected with each other or with the head quarters of the District for the transmission of Revenue and Police reports.

12. It has been proposed that one or two Peons should be attached to each District Post Office (Police station) for the purpose of delivering letters in the villages included in its circle, that distant villages should be visited every second, third, or fourth day as may be most convenient, and that letters in the Police station itself be delivered by the runners employed thereat. I however question the advisability of this plan, at least for the present, and am inclined to think that, as in England, the rural population should be required (in consideration of the saving of the delivery fee of a quarter Anna per cover) to send for their letters to the Post Office at the nearest Police station.

13. I trust that I have given full information on the points mooted by you, so that you will have no difficulty in drawing up your report and submitting the Tabular Statement (formerly indicated) after the receipt of such information as you may require from Inspecting Post Masters, and also from the several Magistrates regarding the amount of contributions to be levied from Zamíndárs for the maintenance of the District Post for the year 1863.

14. I shall request the Post Master General of the North-West Provinces to furnish you with a copy of the Circular issued by him to Inspecting Post Masters calling for information with regard to the District Post arrangements in the several Districts included in their respective divisions, and issuing a similar Circular with such alterations as may be considered advisable to the Inspecting Post Masters in your division.

Copy forwarded to the Chief Secretary to Government Madras, for information, with reference to former correspondence.

(Signed) G. PATON,
Director General of the Post Office of India.

No. 186. ORDER THEREON, 14th October 1862, No. 2,213.

Ordered to be communicated to Mr. Pelly for his information.

(Signed) P. P. HUTCHINS,
Acting Deputy Secretary to Government.

plan – at least for the present – and – am inclined to think that, as in England, the rural population should be required (in consideration of the saving of the delivery fee of a quarter anna per cover) to send for their letters to the Post office at the nearest Police station –

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14 – I shall request the Post Master Genl of the N.W.P. to furnish you with a copy of the circular issued by him to Inspecting Post Masters calling for information with regard to the District Post arrangements in the several Districts included in their respective divisions and issuing a similar circular with such alterations as may be considered advisable to the Inspecting Post Masters in your division.

I am &c
(Signed) G. Paton
Director Genl of
Post Offices

No 1713
Copy forwarded to the Chief Secretary to Govt Madras for information with reference to former correspondence
Camp Nynee Tal
15th Sept 1862

G. Paton
Director Genl of
Post Offices of India

Rec'd 1862 Oct 15
Dep. of Govt for Quotes
No 2812

From the Office for
Sundries of the Post Office
of India

Date 10th Sept 1862
Received 8th Oct 1862.

No. 1713.

With refce to
former correspondence
forwards for informa-
tion copy of a commu-
nication addressed by
Lieut to the Post Master
Genl of Bengal on the
subject of the Dissa
Post — No 2213. 14 Oct

No 2213

Ordered to be communicated
to Mr Kelly for his information.

Fort St George
14th October 1862

To Chief Clerk Home & Colony Dept

No 185 of 1862