M.R.O. 1—19,000—16-10-39.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	688	Press / Mis.

136-37
Dated 11-5- 1820 19

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 136. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th February 1870, No. 868 :—

Read the following letter from G. BANBURY, Esq., Collector of Trichinopoly, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 11th December 1869, No. 311.

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board, dated 27th August last, No. 6,466, calling for the report required by Government in their Order, dated 18th idem, No. 2,359, I have the honour to state that, on the receipt of the Order in question, I asked all the Tahsildars and Sub-Magistrates in the district to observe the working of the new District Postal arrangements, and to report the result in due course, and the following is an abstract of their replies :—

2. *Trichinopoly.*—The Tahsildar of Trichinopoly reports that he has had no occasion to find fault with the delivery of Service Covers to his address since the receipt of the Collector's orders to report on the subject. He, however, states that there has been a great delay in the delivery of *District Gazettes* and private letters addressed to villagers; that in many instances two or three issues of the *Gazette* have been delivered together; and that the people are therefore not satisfied with the present Postal arrangements.

3. The report of the Town Sub-Magistrate of Trichinopoly is in all respects the same as that of the Tahsildar.

4. *Lalgudi.*—The Sub-Magistrate of Lalgudi states that official letters received at the Post Office between 4 and 6 o'clock in the morning do not reach him before 8 or 9 A.M., and sometimes not till 12, although he lives only a few hundred yards off. The delay in the delivery of *District Gazettes* and private letters is, he thinks, great, except in the case of those residents at the Cusbah station, who receive their letters, etc., pretty regularly. People in the interior of the talook, of course, get their *Gazettes* and letters only after a week or two, and the delay is so great that they often employ special messengers to carry their emergent letters. This officer is of opinion that the number of letter-carriers should be increased, and the District Post re-placed under the management of the Revenue Department before any Tappal arrangement can meet the wishes of the people.

5. *Moosery.*—The Tahsildar of Moosery states that Official Covers which were being delivered till October last only on the third day after their despatch from the Huzoor,* are now delivered on the second day; and that the delivery of *Gazettes* and private letters has also improved of late. This, however, he thinks is the result of the several complaints and the consequent spirt in the department, and suggests that the present arrangement may be tried for another year before it is ultimately made over to the General Post Department.

* Distant 23 miles, 20 of which are by rail.

6. *Toriore.*—The Sub-Magistrate of Toriore says that the delivery of Service Covers is regular since he had orders to report on the working of the District Post, and that there has been an improvement in the delivery of the *District Gazettes*, about which there had been frequent complaints, till very recently, that they were

not delivered before a month or two after the time. As regards private letters he reports that their delivery is not at all punctual, several of them not being delivered till a week after their receipt at the District Post Office, and that several of his own letters addressed to Caroor, Tanjore, and other places, have never reached their destination. The public, he says, are not content with the present arrangements, because they are not sure of the delivery at the proper time of their letters, some of which may be very important to them.

7. *Kulitallai.*—The Tahsildar of Kulitallai submits that Service Covers to the address of officials at Post Office stations, have been delivered regularly since the last four months, but that *Gazettes* are delayed generally for two or three weeks and often for a month or two, notwithstanding the employment of two extra Delivery Peons; and that people complain of considerable delay in the delivery of private letters in parts further removed from the Cusbah stations. His opinion is that the Postal arrangements would work better under the Revenue Department with the present increased establishment.

8. *Manapparai.*—The Sub-Magistrate of Manapparai has no complaint about official covers. He, however, states that the delivery of the *District Gazettes* and private letters is not regular in his division of the talook, which consists of 136 villages, and for which there is but one letter-carrier.

He is of opinion that the District Post had better be restored to the Revenue Department, where the delivery can be made more punctually and surely with assistance of the Village Vettiyans.

9. *Oodiarpolliem.*—The Tahsildar reports that the working of the District Post at present is satisfactory. The number of letter-carriers has been increased and the delivery of letters made more regular.

10. *Rajandrapatnum.*—The Sub-Magistrate of Rajandrapatnum complains that the present arrangements are very unsatisfactory. He states that Official Covers which ought to reach him on the second and third day of their despatch, are often received on the fourth and fifth day, respectively; and that the Village authorities receive their *Gazettes* too late for them to carry out any instructions which they may contain; and that in some instances they have never received these periodicals at all. He further states that in several cases the villagers have complained to him of miscarriage of letters besides delay in their delivery; and that they are therefore anxious for the re-transfer of the District Post to the Revenue Department.

11. From the above reports, and from my own experience, I believe that there has been a decided improvement in the delivery of official letters since the receipt of the Board's Proceedings under reply; but this improvement is such as can be easily effected. Most of the district officers have a Post Office at their head-quarters, and a little care is all that is necessary to set matters right as regards these covers.

12. The efficient working of the department can only be judged from the delivery of private letters and *Gazettes* not only to towns-people, but also to villagers in the interior. There is a universal complaint throughout the district that their delivery is not regular, although there appears to have been a considerable improvement of late. The expense to the State on account of the establishment of the District Post under the present arrangement is far greater than what it was before, but the results are less favourable. No doubt the Revenue Department had several facilities which materially contributed to the regular and punctual delivery of letters; but when the District Post works independently, this circumstance should not serve as an excuse for inefficiency under the new and supposed to be improved system.

13. I am, however, glad that my letters to the Board and to the Postmaster-General, pointing out the defects of the department, have produced the desired effect to a considerable extent. If necessary, measures are adopted so as to satisfy the public in respect to the delivery of their private letters and *Gazettes*, I am certainly unwilling to disturb the present arrangement; but in my opinion, I think it would be better to watch the working of the new system for another year before finally deciding whether the District Post should be permanently joined with the General Postal Department or be re-placed under the Revenue Department. I make this suggestion, as the late improvement may perhaps be somewhat spasmodic, and the hands only temporarily strengthened to quiet a troublesome Collector whose complaints and remonstrances might not be so readily listened to if the department were finally confirmed in their now temporary position in this province.

SUBMITTED to Government, with reference to Government Order, dated 18th August 1869, No. 2,359.

2. It is clear that the defects in Postal arrangements of which the Collector of Trichinopoly complained as resulting from the transfer of the District Post from the Revenue to the Postal Department are susceptible of remedy, and the Board consider that the present arrangement should continue; the special attention of the Postmaster-General being drawn to the defects brought to notice by Mr. Banbury.

3. With reference to their Proceedings of the 17th December 1869, No. 9,254, the Board recommend that a similar transfer be sanctioned in the Coimbatore and Kistna Districts, but still as a tentative measure.

No. 137. ORDER THEREON, 11th May 1870, No. 688.

Miscellaneous.

THE Right Honourable the Governor in Council is not of opinion that the transfer of the District Postal arrangements from the Revenue to the Postal Department can be said as yet to have been attended with satisfactory results in Trichinopoly.

2. It is clear from Mr. Banbury's letter that the present arrangements for the delivery of letters are anything but efficient or complete, and it appears that the expense involved is greater than that incurred under the previous system.

3. Under these circumstances the Government are unable to sanction the transfer of the District Post to the Postal Department in the districts of Coimbatore and Kistna. They will not however object to allow present arrangements to continue in Trichinopoly until the close of the present official year, but it must be on the distinct understanding that if all cause for complaint has not been removed before that date, the management of the District Post must revert to the Revenue Department.

4. The Board of Revenue will be good enough to require the Acting Collector to submit a report on the success of the experiment in October next.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Postmaster-General.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of [1870] Madras.

To REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

&c. &c., &c.

Dated May, 11th.

Recd.

Rect.

G. O., 11th May, 1870, No. 688.

From Secy to Govt. 23rd Nov/70 Ord. 3646

MAY.
Nos. 136-137.

Coimbatore and Kistna District Posts.—Their transfer [illegible] Postal Department declined pending the result of the experiment in Trichinopoly.

Mr. Bambury's letter that the present arrangements for the delivery of letters are very little official or complete, and it appears that the expense incurred is greater than that incurred under the former system.

Under these circumstances, the first one unable to sanction the transfer of the Distant post to the

Postal Dept in the District of Coimbatore & Nilgiris. They will not, however, object to allow present arrangements to continue in Trichinopoly until the close of the present official year, but it must be on the distinct understanding that if no such complaint has not been removed before that date, the management of the Distant post must revert to the Revenue Dept.

The Board of Revenue

will be found in such
to require the Ad Color
to inhibit a repeat on
the success of the experi
mental investigation

WWR.

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