M.R.O. 1—30,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	2485	Press ~~Mis.~~
399-600 Dated	28-9-	19 1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 399. Read the following letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Camp at Ootacamund, 19th September 1868, No. 931:—

In my letters recorded in Government Orders No. 3,360 and 549, dated 13th December 1866, and 5th March 1867, I brought to the notice of Government the inconvenience arising from the new Postal system, by which any of our Officers in charge of two Revenue Districts are compelled to stamp all letters passing from them to the Collectorate in which they are not then encamped or located, although the departmental range is one, and all letters addressed to these Officers by the lowest class of our subordinates (Peons and Duffadars) have also to be stamped in a similar manner. This subject was commented on by Government in their Order No. 1,043, dated 20th April last, and referred to the Supreme Government; but no final orders seem to have been received. I have now the honor to forward a letter from the Officer in charge of the Salem Range, by which it will be seen that the Postmaster General has now decided that even all the correspondence in one and the same Revenue District, must be stamped, unless addressed to the Divisional Officer or to a Privileged Officer: by this arrangement all correspondence and reports on forest matters between our Duffadars and Overseers and the Tahsildars, &c., will have to be stamped in future; this will cause so much inconvenience, and is so detrimental to the interest of the Department and to Government, that I have thought it expedient to lay the subject before Government.

From the Deputy Conservator of Forests, to the Officiating Conservator of Forests, dated Camp at Salem, 7th September 1868, No. 147.

1. I have the honor to report that, on a question raised by the Deputy Postmaster of Tripatur, the Inspecting Postmaster has decided that Forest Overseers are only entitled to frank (even within District limits) to their immediate superior, the Divisional Officer or to a Privileged Officer, and that in all other cases, such as addressing their subordinates, Duffadars in charge of Talooks, other Overseers or Talook Tahsildars, they must affix service labels if the covers are sent by Government post, which has now almost superseded the Talook Tappal.

2. I have seen the Postmaster General about this, who confirms his subordinate's decision, and informed me that such has *always* been the rule, even before the issue of the new rules regarding service labels, &c., and that it applied equally to correspondence of Tahsildars, Department Public Works Overseers, &c., &c., all of whom, in common with our Overseers, have been and are in the habit of franking *all* their service letters within District limits, and to this course no objection has, I believe, ever been raised hitherto, and seems only now to have attracted the attention of a Deputy Postmaster at Tripatur!

3. I have of course had no option save to order the Overseers to stamp all letters except as abovementioned, but would request a reference on the subject.

4. It can surely never be intended that, if there is to be such a thing as franking at all, a Tahsildar or Overseer cannot frank to the Tahsildar or Overseer of a neighbouring Talook or Range in the *same District*, or even to his own subordinates.

5. If such is really the case, our Overseers, Duffadars in charge of Talooks, &c., will require to carry with them wherever they go a stock of service labels, which will always be liable to be expended and inconvenience result, and also letter weights in order to ascertain the exact number of stamps which should be affixed. Surely it would be better that the Post Officer should keep an account with each Department, weighing all letters, &c., as despatched or received, and noting the amount on each cover as they have the means at hand in each Post Office.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th September 1868.

6. If such is not done, my estimate for Service Postage must be raised from Rupees 100 to at least Rupees 1,000, and I doubt if even that amount will cover the expenditure, as the correspondence of an Overseer with the Tahsildars, village officers, and his own subordinates is necessarily large and often bulky; letter weights, &c., will also be required by each Overseer and Duffadar in charge of a Range or Talook.

No. 400. ORDER THEREON, 28th September 1868, No. 2,485.

Miscellaneous.

Forwarded to the Postmaster General for his remarks, and with the request that he will report the practice in other Departments.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Postmaster General.
,, the Officiating Conservator of Forests.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Ro 13 Dec. / 66 Nos 204-205
5 March / 67 " 93-94
20 April / 68 " 426 @ 428

Pers - 1868 & 69 Vol.
Govt. Letter
No. 3029.
Forests Department.

From

The Officiating Conservator of Forests.

To,

The Asst. Secretary to Govt. R.D.

Dated 19th September / 68
Received 22nd

No. 931

Enclosure No 1 to Subject
No. 2485. 28 Septr.

Submits for consideration Orders of Govt. a letter from Lt. Walker on the subject of fixing postage labels to Offr. Covers -

Rs. 399 4.00.