M.R. O. 1—32,000—15-10-28.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 175 Press ~~Misc.~~

66-45 Dated 8-2-1870. No.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 8th February 1870.

No. 44. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th December 1869, No. 9,254 :—

Read the following letters :—

From	Collector	of	Nellore,	dated	4th May 1869,	No. 840.
,,	,,		Cuddapah,	,,	14th April ,,	,, 42.
,,	,,		,,	,,	20th May ,,	,, 72.
,,	,,		Madras,	,,	18th Aug. ,,	,, 271.
,,	,,		North Arcot,	,,	20th May ,,	,, 141.
,,	,,		Madura,	,,	15th ,,	,, ,, 167.

THE letters above recorded are the replies of the Collectors who had been addressed by the Board on the subject of the proposed transfer of the District Post to the Postal Department, mooted in Government Order, 31st March 1869, No. 843.

2. It will be observed that three Collectors, viz., those of Madras, North Arcot, and Cuddapah, are opposed to the transfer, while those of Nellore and Madura are in favour of, or see no objection to it. The replies of the latter were written before the unfavourable results of the experiment in the Trichinopoly District, communicated in Board's Proceedings, dated 12th May 1869, No. 3,224, were before them.

3. The Board have now before them applications from the Collectors of Coimbatore and Kistna, in which they urge that the transfer as regards their districts should be carried out at once. Before making any definite recommendation on the subject, the Board resolve to await the report from Mr. Banbury, called for in Government Order, 18th August 1869, No. 2,359, which should be submitted at once, and to request Colonel Pears to confer with them personally with a view to arranging a transfer.

No. 45. ORDER THEREON, 8th February 1870, No. 175.

Miscellaneous.

THE Board's Proceedings are approved.

2. They will, however, be good enough to submit the result of their conference with the Postmaster-General for the information of Government, before issuing orders for the transfer of any of the District Postal Establishments to his department.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of India
1870 Sept.
REVENUE
THE BOARD OF REVENUE
Dated Fort William, 30th
Read
G. O. the Financial Dept. No. 699,
Dated 30th January 1869.
Dated 1st April 1869.
No. 2,150.
FEBRUARY

No. 2,150.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 1st April 1869.

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 31st March 1869, No. 843, Revenue Department:—

From Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. PEARS, Postmaster General, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 3rd March 1869, No. 5,649-23.

WITH reference to Order of Government, No. 639, of the 16th March 1867, placing the District Post Offices and lines of the Trichinopoly District under the superintendence of the Postal Department, I have the honor to state, for the information of Government, that on the experiment proving successful, and being reported to the Director General of the Post Office in India, that Officer has obtained the sanction* of the Government of India to the necessary establishment for making the arrangement permanent, and for the gradual extension of the same to other districts.

* No. 669, dated 30th January 1869, copy enclosed.

2. The districts best suited for the same experiment at present appears to be those of Madura, Nellore, Cuddapah, Madras, and North Arcot, and I request that orders may be passed for placing the District Post Offices and lines of these districts at once under my superintendence.

From G. H. M. BATTEN, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India, to the Director General of the Post Office of India, Financial Department, dated Fort William, the 30th January 1869, No. 699.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 3,811, dated 22nd January 1869, reporting that on the 25th June 1867 a Sub-Inspector on Rupees 60 per month, with travelling allowance (while on the march) at Rupees 2 per diem, was appointed for the supervision of the District Post lines and offices in the Trichinopoly District, of the Madras Circle, under the control of the Imperial Post Offices.

2. In reply, I am desired to inform you that His Excellency in Council is pleased to accord his sanction to the arrangement, and to authorise the system being extended to other districts.

3. His Excellency, however, desires that in each case of extension a separate report will be submitted to this department.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. C. PEARS,
Postmaster General.

ORDER THEREON, 31st March 1869, No. 843.

REFERRED to the Board of Revenue for their remarks.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

IN his letter of the 3rd March 1869, the Postmaster General of Madras refers to the success of the experimental transfer to his department of the District Post in Trichinopoly, and proposes to extend the transfer to the districts of Nellore, Cuddapah, North Arcot, Madras, and Madura.

2. The Board accordingly call on the Collectors of these districts to give their opinion on the subject.

3. Copy of these Proceedings will be sent to the Collector of Trichinopoly, with a request that he will state the results of the change of system as shown on further experience.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Acting Secretary.

To the Collector of North Arcot.
,, the Acting Collector of Nellore.
,, the Acting Collector of Cuddapah.
,, the Collector of Madras.
,, the Acting Collector of Trichinopoly.
,, the Officiating Collector of Madura.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

1869.

Board of Revenue
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 1ST APRIL 1869, No. 2,150.

Encl.

Received

APRIL.
No. 2,150.

District Post—in Nellore, Chuddapah, North Arcot, Madras, and Madura.—Letter addressed to Government by Postmaster General, recommending transfer of — to Postal Department, communicated to Collectors concerned for their opinion. Collector of Trichinopoly requested to report results of similar transfer carried out in his district.

From J. W. B. DYKES, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Camp Krishnapatnam, 4th May 1869, No. 840.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's Proceedings of the 1st ultimo, No. 2,150, requesting my opinion on the proposal to transfer the District Post to the Postal Department.

2. At present there is a sort of joint arrangement and the result is unsatisfactory. In some directions if it is necessary that an order should reach its destination quickly, it is better to send it by a peon than trust it to be transmitted by post.

3. And I think that in all probability these defects would be remedied and the District Post put on a satisfactory footing, were it wholly transferred to the Postal Department.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

From G. VANSAGNEW, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 14th April 1869, No. 42.

ADVERTING to the Proceedings of the Board, dated 1st instant, No. 2,150, I have the honor to state that I highly approve of the proposal to transfer the Cuddapah District Post to the regular Postal Department ; indeed, I contemplated suggesting to the Postmaster General that he might, with comparative ease, and with advantage, undertake the whole of the postal arrangements in this District as in Trichinopoly.

2. There is considerable room for improvement in our present arrangements, and some steps are now being taken in that direction, but what is required is regular inspection of the lines and offices. The superior Revenue Officers have not time for this, while little can be expected from the nominal supervision of Tahsildars and their subordinates, to whom punctuality in the receipt and despatch of the mails is, as a rule, a matter of the supremest indifference.

3. The transfer of the District Post, therefore, to a special Department having at its command an intelligent inspecting agency, would be a step, in my opinion, obviously tending towards increased efficiency.

Exd. T. Cartledge.

From G. VANSAGNEW, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to the Sub-Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated on Circuit at Voilpaud, 20th May 1869, No. 72.

PRIOR to the receipt of the Board's Proceedings of the 12th instant, No. 3,224, which I have now the honor to acknowledge I had, in a letter, dated 14th ultimo, No. 42, replied to their Proceedings of the 1st April, No. 2,150, recommending the transfer of the District Post to the regular Postal Department.

2. I did so under the impression that the transfer in Trichinopoly had been really successful.

3. In the face of Mr. Banbury's experience of the actual working of that transfer, I now beg leave to withdraw the recommendation I then made.

4. I will do my best to improve the existing arrangements of the District Post.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

From G. THORNHILL, Esq., Acting Collector of Madras, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 18th August 1869, No. 271:—

With reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 1st April 1869, No 2,150, regarding the working of District Posts, I have the honor to forward copy of a letter on the subject from Mr. McIver, Assistant Collector of this district, who has lately had charge of the District Post.

2. The chief work performed by the District Post is conveying the official correspondence between the different officers of Government, and that duty is carried out with fair efficiency under the existing arrangement. I do not think a change of system would work any material improvement in that respect. The amount of private correspondence conveyed by District Post is but small, and the only short-coming in respect to it is the delay in distributing letters on a very large area of country.

3. I doubt if the general Post could effect any improvement in this matter, except at a very greatly enhanced cost; indeed I observe from the correspondence between the Post Master General and the Collector of Trichinopoly that on that point the former officer expressed doubts as to his power of carrying out the delivery of letters without the aid of the District authorities. Under these circumstances I am of opinion that the time has not yet come for the transfer of the District Post to the General Department.

4. At the same time I think that whenever a considerable corresponding community is established at any place not provided with a Post Office, and within a reasonable distance of a line of regular post, that it should be provided with an office from the General Department.

5. On this ground I concur with Mr. McIver in recommending the establishment of offices at Red Hills and Ennore or Trivattore, possibly the latter with a receiving box and delivery at Ennore would be the better plan.

Enclosure No. 1.

From L McIVER, Esq., Assistant Collector, in charge of the District Post, to the Collector of Madras, dated Sydapet, 16th August 1869, No. 39.

With reference to the Board's Proceedings of the 5th August 1869, No. 5,752, enclosing Proceedings of the 15th June 1869, No. 4,286, and requesting to expedite the transmission of report called for in Board's Proceedings of the 1st April 1869, I have the honor to inform you that the delay in forwarding the answer required has been caused by the remissness of some of the talook officials in submitting necessary returns.

2. From such opportunities as I have had of observing the working of the Postal arrangements in this district, I think that a general transfer in order to show substantial improvement could only be effected at an expense altogether disproportionate to the benefit derived.

3. Some District Posts are, I believe, very unsatisfactorily worked, and ours is nothing to boast of; but it is very cheap and quite good enough for its purpose. Its main use is as a vehicle of communication between District authorities and the District inhabitants. Under the existing system the Collector's Office and the centre of the District Post are one; under the proposed system they would be divorced, and in the busiest part of the year they might be at remote ends of the district. The best intentions of the Post Master General would never be so effectual in facilitating this species of correspondence as the wishes of a Collector vested with complete authority over the posts.

4. As to the distribution of private letters, if the proposed system were to be thoroughly carried out, it would be very pleasant for private correspondents, but very expensive for Government. I believe the transfer to be premature now just as much as it will be necessary a few years hence. There is not sufficient private correspondence to justify both the probable inconvenience that would arise to public correspondence and the increased expense which would be incurred by the transfer.

5. All the important villages (some twenty in number) in the district are conveniently connected by a line of regular posts. To this number I would add, for the present, Red Hills and Ennore, (at both of which places there is, I believe, considerable private correspondence,) and for the future any place where the increased convenience to a growing private correspondence would justify to the increased expense.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) G. THORNHILL,
Acting Collector.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Sub-Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Palmanair, 20th May 1869, No. 141.

I HAVE the honor, with reference to the Proceedings of the Board, dated 1st and 12th instant, Nos. 2,159 and 3,224, to observe that with the results communicated in the latter of these papers before me, I should be exceedingly reluctant to see the experiment attempted in this district. If the transfer of the District Post to the Postal Department has failed in a small and compact district like Trichinopoly, the issue of any experiment of the kind would, I am assured, be still more unsatisfactory in a large and in many parts undeveloped district like North Arcot.

Exd. T. Cartledge.

From C. BANBURY, Esq., Collector of Trichinopoly, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 7th June 1869, No. 123.

From Board, dated 1st April 1869, No. 2,150.
To ,, ,, 22rd ,, ,, ,, 77.
,, Post Master General, dated 22nd April 1869, No. 60.

In continuation of the correspondence marginally noted regarding the District Post, I have the honor to forward for the Board's perusal, the reply I have received from Colonel Pears, and my answer thereto.

2. Colonel Pears is anxious to do all he can to make the new system answer, but he admits that the Talook Post is mainly for the service of the Revenue authorities, without whose aid the distribution of covers cannot be satisfactorily conducted.

3. As the Revenue authorities are naturally more interested in the welfare of this Talook Post which effects them so materially, and as they have greater facilities for maintaining the system in proper working order, I would suggest the expediency of the Board's considering whether the former arrangement should not be reverted to in this district.

4. It seems certainly strange that when the management of the District Post has been taken from us, that we should be asked to continue the distribution to avoid delays. It is like the Department of Public Works, who get a channel and Corumboo under their control, upon the pretext of superior efficiency in management, and then come running to us for aid, whenever there is really any thing to be done.

Enclosure No. 1.

From Colonel A. C. PEARS, Post Master General, to the Collector of Trichinopoly, dated Madras, 7th June 1869, No. 1,730-638.

With reference to your letter, No. 60, of the 23rd ultimo, your docket No. 61 of the 28th ultimo, and my letter No. 941-638, dated 30th ultimo, I have the honor to observe that the defects of which you complain in the Postal arrangements of your district appear to be mainly these four:—

1st.—Excessive delay in transmission of correspondence between the Head-quarters of the district and the talooks.

2nd.—Entire failure in delivery of letters and Gazettes in the villages.

3rd.—That letters, etc., for the Collector when on circuit are often delayed in consequence of the Deputy Post Masters or District Post Goomastahs not taking the trouble to ascertain where he is, and,

4th.—That the Mails at the branch and District Post Offices are now closed and despatched without any regard to the convenience of the Cutcherries. I wish that these defects had been brought to my notice sooner.

2. With regard to the first point, I am sorry to find that the Inspecting Post Master has been very greatly to blame. I have given such orders as will remedy this defect immediately to a very great extent; and I hope that it may be possible, before long, to effect a further improvement. The second defect, I have no doubt, exists to a much greater extent than I could wish, though I have some reason to think that your Tahsildar's representations upon this point are somewhat exaggerated. The rural delivery (especially that of the *District Gazettes*) is no doubt a very difficult matter. Formerly it was effected, I believe by means chiefly of the Village Vettians and Toties, and I cannot see why this should not still be done at least to some extent. I am recommending to Government the employment of additional District Letter Carriers; and I shall be glad if you will inform me whether, and to what extent, you could assist the Department in the distribution of the *District Gazette* through the agency I have mentioned. With regard to the third and fourth points, I have now pointed out to the Inspecting Post Master and directed him to explain to those under him that the principal object in the establishment of the District Post is the transmission of the official correspondence of the Revenue Department, and that this object is on no account to be lost sight of. I have given strict orders to all Deputy Post Masters to do their utmost to ascertain where the Collector is when he is on circuit; and I have ordered that the Mail shall be closed and despatched at any place where the Collector may happen to be on circuit at

much time as may be most convenient to him. I would at the same time suggest, that it would be a great convenience to the Postal Department if you could publish your intended movements in the *District Gazette*. Deputy Post Masters would, in that case, have no excuse for any mistakes they might make in forwarding your letters.

3. With reference to two complaints made by the Assistant Collector that he was unable to obtain a Money Order or to purchase stamped letter paper at the Moosery Post Office, you are no doubt aware that the Post Office has nothing to do with Money Orders in this country; and that Postal servants though required to sell Postage Stamps, are under no obligation to sell stamped paper.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) G. BANBURY,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From G. BANBURY, Esq., Collector of Trichinopoly, to the Post Master General, dated Madras, 7th June 1869, No. 83.

IN returning you many thanks for the attention you have paid to my representations regarding the unsatisfactory condition of the District Post, I have the honor to state, I do not anticipate that much real benefit can arise from inciting the subordinates to increased activity. They are now a separate body, wholly independent of the Revenue Department; they care nothing for us, and will in the natural order of affairs, think far more about their own convenience than ours: for instance, I have never even seen the Inspecting Post Master who, I believe, has the management of all the details connected with the Talook Post. Nothing but a retransfer to the old system can, I think, prove effectual.

2. I quite concur with you that the "principal object of the establishment of the District "Post is the transmission of the official correspondence of the Revenue Department" and that under the former regime the *Gazettes* "were distributed by means of the Village Vettees and Tolics." As, therefore, the Revenue Department is more directly concerned in the well-being of the District Post than any other, and as the system naturally worked well under those most interested in its proper management, I cannot see any grounds for the change. Again you suggest that we should still take part in the delivery of covers. It is, however, certainly incongruous that we should first be deprived of the management of our own tappal, and then be told to continue delivering as heretofore.

3. I will not trouble you with any more instances of delay, except the following, which has caused us some considerable trouble. My Takeeds to the Marungapury Manager, whose station is 20 miles from Trichinopoly, take one month or even six weeks to reach their destination. One cover posted early in March, has not got there yet. We are obliged to send any thing important by messengers.

4. I apprehend that one reason amongst others for the failure of the new system is that the Inspecting Post Master has turned out several of our old experienced Tappal Goomastahs who had been doing the work for years, to make room apparently for inexperienced hangers-on of his own.

5. It would certainly be an advantage to have extra Delivering Peons in the talooks, but I doubt whether Government will consent still to increase the monthly additional charge of Rupees 187-4-0 which the new Talook post now costs the State, in excess of the charges under the old system.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) G. BANBURY,
Collector.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

From J. R. ARBUTHNOTT, Esq., Officiating Collector of Madura, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 15th May 1869, No. 167.

ADVERTING to the Board's Proceedings, dated the 1st ultimo, No. 2,159, I have the honor to inform the Board that I see no objection to the experimental transfer of the District Post Offices in this district to the Postmaster-General's Department.

Exd. T. Cartledge.

Revenue Department.

Gr. 175.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.
Under date the 8th January 1870.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting Replies of certain Collectors to Board's Proceedings regarding proposed transfer of District Post from Revenue to Postal Deptt.

(R. & C. 17th Decr. 1869, No. 9254)

The Board's Proceedings are approved.

2. They will however be good enough to submit the result of their conference with the Postmaster General for the information of

of Government, before
issuing orders for the
transfer of any of the
District Postal Estab-
-blishments to his
Department.—

14 Folios Bp of the Dept.q.
2 of the Post Master General Dec. 10 Feb