M.R.O. 1—85,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2062 Press ~~Nil~~.

3 5 8 - 5 7

Dated 19-12-1870

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 358. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd November 1870 :—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated Trichinopoly, 12th November 1870, No. 259.

I HAVE the honour to reply to the extract from the Board's Proceedings, under date the 11th May last, No. 688, calling on me to report on the working of the Postal Department in this district up to the end of October.

2. Since the date of Mr. Banbury's report, I consider that there seems to have been a marked improvement in the working of the Post, and the officers marginally noted all concur in stating that since the increase in the number of the Delivery Peons, complaints of delay have been much less frequent, and that if the number of Peons now employed are efficiently and properly controlled, the system ought to work well. The Tahsildar of Moosery also states that in the post year there has been a great improvement over the previous one, although there is still considerable delay in delivering the District Gazettes and other official papers in the more remote parts of his taluq.

Tahsildar of Trichinopoly.
" Kulitallai.
" Perambalur.
" Woodiarpolliem.
Sub-Magistrate of Lalgudi.
" Torriore.
" Rajendrapatnam.

3. The only officer who reports unfavourably of the working of the new system is the Sub-Magistrate of Manaparay, and who states that in the area comprised in the range of the Deputy-Postmaster at Manaparay there are no less than 186 villages, besides hamlets, for which there are only two Delivery Peons, and that hence there is frequently delays of weeks in the delivery of both the District Gazettes and of private letters. It is possible this may be capable of explanation, but the Deputy-Postmaster at Manaparay has positively refused to afford the same unless called on to do so by his official superior.

4. It will be thus seen that there has been very considerable improvement in the working of the District Post Office in the period under report, but it is also to be borne in mind that this has been followed by an increase of expenditure of from 320 Rupees per mensem to 626 Rupees, or nearly 100 per cent. I cannot but think that, especially with our new improved and permanently paid scale of Village Establishments, an equal amount of efficiency could be obtained at a much less cost, and that, with a very small addition to the old scale, the working of the District Post Office might be efficiently carried out by this department. I would, however, most strongly deprecate the idea of placing any of our Village Establishments under a separate department, and would, submit, if the services of the Village Establishments are to be utilized in any way as regards District Post, it can only be done through their local and immediate superiors.

SUBMITTED to Government, with reference to Government Order, No. 688, of 11th May 1870.

2. Considerable improvement has evidently been effected, but at a considerably enhanced cost, and the Board are of opinion that the delivery of paid letters and Gazettes in the villages should be entrusted to the Revenue Department.

3. The Postmaster at each Tahsildar's or Deputy-Tahsildar's station should simply hand over all covers for distribution in outlying villages to the Tahsildar, or Deputy-Tahsildar, as the case might be, and confine his distribution to the Cusbah. It is impossible for two Peons to deliver letters in 186 villages with any reasonable degree of efficiency; whereas the delivery could be effected with the greatest regularity by a judicious organization of the Village Establishments, and at a very greatly reduced cost.

No. 359. ORDER THEREON, 19th December 1870, No. 2,062.

Miscellaneous.

THE Acting Collector of Trichinopoly now submits the report relating to Post Office administration in the Trichinopoly District, which was called for by G. O., dated 11th May 1870, No. 688. Since March 1867 the District Post in Trichinopoly has been under the control of the Postmaster-General; but this arrangement, which was originally instituted as an experiment, has been made the subject of serious complaints, owing to which it has not been extended to other districts; and its continuance in Trichinopoly was made dependent by an Order of Government, dated 11th May 1870, No. 688, on the removal of all cause for the complaints which had been brought against it.

2. As a means of expediting the delivery of letters in the taluqs, the Postmaster-General, at the instance of the Board, and with the* sanction of Government, introduced a new feature into the working of the imperial system in Trichinopoly by calling in the aid of the village-officers. Certain centrally placed villages were selected, the heads of which were created "Village Postmasters," their functions being extended to the neighbouring villages within a radius of four or five miles, and the duties of the Regular Department being limited in the remote villages to the maintenance of regular communication with these "Village Offices." The Postmasters thus established were to be remunerated by a fixed salary from the Postal Department.

*G. O., dated 11th May 1870, No. 689.

3. The tenor of Mr. Cadell's report indicates a marked improvement in the Postal administration of his district; but he does not state whether the system, described in the preceding paragraph, has been thoroughly organized throughout the district. From the report of the Sub-Magistrate of Manaparay, it would appear that this has not been the case.

4. The Board now propose that the operations of the Regular Department should not be extended further than the Taluq Cusbahs, and that the distribution of letters in the outlying villages should be entrusted to the Tahsildars and their establishments. This proposal will be referred to the Postmaster-General for his opinion.

5. Until an effective system has been developed in the Trichinopoly District, the existing arrangements in other districts will not be altered.

6. The Postmaster-General will be requested to forward to the Deputy-Postmaster at Manaparay a copy of paragraph 3 of Mr. Cadell's letter for such observations as he may have to offer.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Bandleman.

Revenue Department

No. 2062

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 19th December 1870

Read the following
Proceedings of the Board of
Revenue.

Submitting with the remarks,
Collector's report on Postal
Department in Trichinopoly
District.

(R. D. 23rd November 1870 No. 1)

No. 1870

Read the following Collector's
of Trichinopoly with reference
thereto the report
of the Inspector of Post Offices
Trichinopoly Division with
reference to the Board's
Proceedings dated 11th May 1870 No. 1887
Madras 1867 No. 1
Postmaster Trichinopoly
Inspector Post Offices

of the Postmaster General,
but this arrangement which
was originally first started
as an experiment has been
made the subject of serious
complaints, owing to which
it has not been extended to
other districts, and the
continuance of Triachinopoly
was made dependent by
an order of Government
dated 11th May 1870, No. 688
on the removal of all causes
for the complaints which
had been brought against
it.

2. In the course of
explaining the working of
the scheme the Postmaster General
mentioned that the Government
considered that the Village Postmasters
should be remunerated
by the receipt of postage
stamps for the amount of
postage prepaid on letters
posted by them and that
Government agreed to this
being done provided that

G.O. dated 11th May 1870
No. 689.

and of the Village officers.
Certain centrally placed
villages were selected, the
heads of which were created
"Village Postmasters", their
functions being extended
to the neighbouring villages
within a radius of four
or five miles, and the
duties of the regular
Department being limited
in the remote villages to
the receipt and dispatch of
communications with these
"Village officers". The Postmasters
were to be remunerated
by a fixed salary from
the Postal Department.

3. The Report of the
Committee indicated an
unwillingness on the part of the
Postal Administration to
this district, both the Village

not states whether the system described in the preceding paras has been thoroughly organised throughout the district. From the report of the Sub-Magistrates of Manapoiary, it would appear that this had not been the case.

The Board move propose that the operations of the Regular Department should not be extended further than the Salary sanctioned, and that the distributions of letters in the outlying villages should be entrusted to the Inhail: runners, establishments ~~to be approved~~ of this proposal ~~should be referred by the Board to~~ be referred by the Post Master General for his opinion

~~is now in the process of the~~
~~Collector, in accordance~~
with the 4th.

5. Until our effective system has been developed in the Fricktinopoly district the existing arrangements in other districts will not be altered. —

6. The Postmaster General will be requested to forward to the Deputy Postmaster at Manapoiary a copy of para 3 of Mr Cadell's letter for such observations as he may have to offer. —

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2 — Post Master General's

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