

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd March 1872.*

No. 276. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th March 1872, No. 426 :—

Read the following letter from J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Gudiathum, 5th February 1872, No. 45 :—

I HAVE the honour, with reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st November 1871, No. 4,569, to submit,
* Dated 17th January 1872, No. 18. for their consideration, copy of a letter* from my Assistant Mr. Sewell, who is in charge of the District Postal Establishment.

2. The Board will observe that Mr. Sewell's remarks have mainly reference to Mr. Crole's proposition, as embodied in their Proceedings of the 30th October last, No. 4,545.

As the question is a large and general one, I beg to know whether the proposition which appears from the Proceedings, just quoted, to have the Board's approval, should be worked out in detail, and placed before them so far as it affects this district.

3. I believe the time has gone by when the old " Anche" system (now I think in operation throughout Mysore) could be revived, and the question I suppose is, how postal communication can be most conveniently extended to the more rural parts of the district which are as yet unprovided in view to the general network thus established being gradually developed as may be found possible on the results of a fair trial.

4. The main point for consideration, as it appears to me is not whether the fusion of the two branches of the Postal Service commends itself on the ground of uniformity and undivided responsibility, but whether such fusion will contribute to secure to the public a more perfect system of Postal intercommunication? The Imperial Service, I believe, fulfils its purposes fairly in large towns, and perhaps along the principal lines of communication, but I utterly disbelieve in it as respects its working in the remote rural tracts, and in these, I greatly doubt whether its machinery could ever be brought into real practical activity.

5. An Imperial Postal agency would always be too costly to recommend itself to adoption, and we cannot sacrifice the remnant of the District system which we yet retain until we know more fully how it is prepared to replace it.

6. In Mr. Crole's observations I entirely concur, and believe them to be as applicable to this District as they are to that of Chingleput.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From R. SEWELL, Esq., Assistant Collector, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Chittoor, 17th January 1872, No. 18.

In reply to your letter No. 1,607, dated 16th, December 1871, calling on me to submit my opinion on Mr. Crole's scheme for the improvement of the District Post, I have the honour to state that I have given the matter my full consideration, and now submit the following remarks :—

2. The question appears to have two aspects, 1st. whether the District Post needs improvement; and 2ndly. if so, what is the best way to improve it, whether by handing it over bodily

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to the Imperial Post Office, or by some such scheme as that suggested by Mr. Crole, or in any other way.

3. I have no hesitation in entirely falling in with Mr. Crole's opinion that the District Post needs improvement, and that now as the circumstances of the country have within the last few years considerably changed, some better and more general system should be introduced.

4. In former letter No. 202, dated 4th December 1871, I said that in my opinion, if the District Post was altogether handed over to the Imperial authorities it would work satisfactorily. By this I simply meant that the actual existing state of things, in its integrity should be transferred under different management. I did not contemplate that the present District Offices should be turned into Imperial Offices with increased expenses and establishment. This would be costly, and the advantage to be gained not worth the expenditure. My notion was that without any additional expense, the Department might be taken under the control of the Imperial Post Office; and thus improvements might be effected without the trouble entailed by constant inter-departmental correspondence.

5. It appears, however, that the question at present before the Board is, whether the District Post can be so remodelled as to afford more facilities of correspondence than heretofore?

6. I do not think Mr. Crole quite disposes of the point as to whether the undivided responsibility of one office (the Imperial Post) would not be better under any new system that may be introduced. The objection is the *expense*, and the *expense only*. I do not see why, *if an inexpensive system is introduced*, it cannot be worked as efficiently by the Imperial Post authorities, as by the Revenue Department. There is no absolute necessity for the employment of Gumastahs at the scale now obtaining for Deputy Postmasters. Why should not a sort of sub-system be introduced for Taluq Delivery inexpensive, but working under the same department as the present Imperial Post?

7. As to Mr. Crole's scheme, I beg to offer the following remarks:—

8. Paragraph 10. (1). In many Taluqs there are no sub-divisions. In that case, I suppose there would be only one Post Gumastah. (2) I doubt if men could be found to take up these duties on such small salary. The work would be constant and fatiguing, and I see no reason why they should not receive the same as the present letter peons, viz., Rupees 5. (3) and (4) seem practicable unless it is considered that the Village Officers are now so hard worked that they could not satisfactorily do the duty. The Curnam should, I think, receive some salary as he would actually do all the work. (5) This of course is necessary for the scheme, but it would be expensive. In the large Taluqs in this District many of the Circle head-quarters would be 30 miles from the Taluq Cutcherry. For each of these, six runners would be required. The system is excellent, but Government must be prepared for expense if it is sanctioned. (6) Slight extra expense, but of course necessary.

9. I can see no fault whatever in the scheme if Government are prepared to sanction the expense, on the supposition that it will be recouped by and by by increased sales of Stamps, etc. But it *must* be expensive at first.

10. If sanctioned, however, on those terms, it seems to me that it is an admirable plan for promoting increased facilities of communication in rural tracts, and the benefit to the people would be immense.

11. The Board however in their Proceedings deprecate the idea of any present alteration so great as that suggested unless it is thought that the present system, when properly worked, is insufficient. I have no hesitation whatever in saying that, in my opinion, so far as regards this District, the present system is sufficient, *if the District Post Offices are increased in number*. There are not enough. Whole tracts of country are left without any attempt at Postal communication. If such a system as Mr. Crole's, is considered at present too sweeping, I would earnestly beg that the present system may be extended at some slight extra expense.

12. I am still of opinion that, if the present system is maintained with the existing rates of pay and expenses, there could be no possible harm in placing it under the management of the Imperial Post Office authorities; but on the contrary, I think it would be a great improvement.

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13. If it is thought desirable to show for this district the statistics required for Chingleput, in paragraph 3 of the Board's order, I will draw out a scheme accordingly.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,
Collector.

SUBMITTED to Government together with a copy of the Proceedings quoted with reference to their endorsement, dated 17th October 1871.

2. Mr. Robinson is opposed to the introduction of the Imperial Postal system into the District of North Arcot generally, on the ground that no arrangements for the delivery of letters in remote rural tracts can be made by that department; but, as the Board have always pointed out, it will still be the Collector's business to carry out this part of the scheme in co-operation with the Imperial Post Department, and the Board have not yet seen any reason for considering the scheme for delivery of letters described in their Proceedings, No. 5,795, dated 19th September 1870, impracticable.

3. Mr. Whiteside who has had experience of the working of the Imperial Post in Trichinopoly will report again on the subject with reference to the above remarks.

No. 277.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd March 1872, No. 503.

Miscellaneous.

THE Collector has misapprehended the intention, which is not to introduce the Imperial Post system in lieu of the District Tappal, but to place the latter under the management of the Postmaster-General.

2. The Government cannot doubt that this officer's supervision is likely to prove conducive of great improvement in the working of the District Tappal and sanction the extension of the experiment to the districts named by the Postmaster-General, namely, Nellore, North Arcot, Madura, and Tinnevely.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

to the Board of Revenue.

the Postmaster-General.

The Financial Dept

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

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(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

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

W. H. Financial Dept.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Referred to the
Postmaster-General
for his remarks.

L. Rudolph
Secy for
7. Oct 71

Under C No 917/72

Received & Entered 19 Oct 1871
Returned 21
J. W. Cunningham
Acting Secretary

PM

No. 3308
Rev. 1871. Dept

Department.

From
The Postmaster-General,

Madras.

To
The Chief Secretary to Government,

Department,

Fort Saint George.

No. 3043

Referred
Dated 10 Oct 71.

Received 17 Oct

Answered 23 March 1872 No 503.

Submits for the consideration
of Govt. the expediency of
placing the Post Office
of other Dist. under the
superintendence of the Postal
Dept. consequent on the
satisfactory performance
of the work in the District.

30. 1st March 1872. No. 16-17
19. Board 1872-358-59
2. 1st March 1872-313-14

11. Board of Rev. Dec. 25 March 1872
2. Postmaster Genl.
1. Financial Dept. Dec. 9 1874

Revenue 1872. Chapter

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

No. 917

PROCEEDINGS, 7TH MARCH 1872, No. 426.

Sept. 15 March 1872

Encl. 1

Received 16th

MARCH.

No. 426.

Post, District.—Letter from Collector of North Arcot, forwarding report of Assistant Collector, Mr. Sewell, on scheme proposed by Mr. Crole, Acting Sub-Collector of Chingleput, for improvement of—, and objecting to the introduction of the Imperial Postal system into North Arcot District generally, submitted to Government. Acting Collector requested to report again on the subject.

With order.

No. 503-23 March 1872

No. 503.

With order.

2. 1st March 1872. No. 16-17

19. Board 1872-358-59

2. 1st March 1872-313-14

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