Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 23rd July 1873.

Read the following papers :—

No. 205. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th June 1873, No. 948.

Read the following letter from H. E. SULLIVAN, Esq., Acting Collector of South Arcot, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 29th April 1873, No. 109 :—

In reply to the Board's Proceedings, dated 24th March 1873, Miscellaneous No. 1,772, I have the honour to state that I have no objection to the transfer of the District Post Offices in this district to the Postmaster-General provided no change is made by him in the existing lines of postal communication without the assent of the local officers, and provided also that proper arrangements can be made by him for the prompt and punctual despatch and delivery of official letters and District Gazettes.

2. I observe from Mr. Banbury's letter to the Board, printed at page 3,741 of the Board's monthly volume for May 1869, that the arrangements made by the Postmaster-General for the conveyance of the taluq tappal in Trichinopoly were eminently unsatisfactory. I therefore think that before the transfer is sanctioned the Postal Department should be required to submit a scheme for the approval of Government, giving in detail the lines of communication intended to be maintained, the rate of speed at which the mails are to be carried, and the arrangements it is proposed to make for the delivery of letters and Gazettes at outlying villages. The local postal arrangements are better in this district, I think, than in many others, but with stricter supervision are doubtless susceptible of improvement. If the Postmaster-General can show that this can be effected especially in regard to the conveyance and delivery of District Gazettes I would recommend the transfer being made.

3. If the arrangement is carried out I presume that the cost of the establishment will be provided for in the Post Office Budget. The Postal Department taking credit for the revenue derived from the conveyance of the district mails while the cost of the establishment is met from a distinct source is an anomaly which I think has had its day and which now should be put an end to.

In replying to G. O., dated 18th March 1873, No. 335, the Board observe that the South Arcot District is not the only one which the Postmaster-General desires to take under his own management for postal purposes.

Answers have not yet been received to the Proceedings dated 25th March 1873, No. 452, so that full information is wanting as to the existing district lines.

2. It appears, however, that the districts already made over are not very liberally served, and the Board would desire that before handing over any more districts the Postmaster-General should be required to lay before Government a scheme drawn up, in communication with the Collector of the district to be transferred, giving information as to the lines to be maintained, the speed at which mails are to be carried, and the distribution to outlying villages provided for.

3. In the districts managed by the Postmaster-General the grant appears not to be fully expended: a form is appended giving the information received from Collectors up to the present time, from which it will be noticed that some regulated system is most desirable, the districts being now very unequally and insufficiently served:—

FORM A.

District.	Length of lines.	Length of lines per 100 square miles.	Runners	Gumastahs.	Peons.	Total cost.	More or less than grant.		Stations	Stations not being Tahsildars' or Deputy Tahsildars'.	Remarks.
			RS.	RS.	RS.						
Nellore ...	239	3½	225	42	35	3,624	...	3,376	18	6	Postmaster General's district.
Tinnevelly...	278	5½	276	70	50	4,752	...	1,248	11	6	
Coimbatore	139	1¾	135	28	50	2,556	...	420	11	...	
Kurnool ...	221	3	222	49	45	3,792	...	108	13	...	
Salem... ...	166	2½	145	28	60	2,556	...	1,414	16	...	
Average...	...	3	1,003	457		...	...	...	...	...	
Vizagapatam	579	3	591	160	150	10,812	...	488	28	12	Other districts.
Bellary ...	429	3¾	450	149	114	8,556	...	48	19	1	
Malabar ...	112	1½	132	226	122	5,760	...	240	24	9	
Godavery ...	327	4⅓	395½	107	135	7,650	250 Sanction requested.	...	22	2	
Average...	...	3¼	1,568½	1,163		...	...	...	...	...	

In Bengal the length of line appears to be four per 100 square miles.

4. On referring to the form it will be observed that the Postmaster-General's districts have about the same accommodation as the other districts—three miles of line to every 100 square miles of area and a station to every 500 square miles. The Postmaster-General spends only two-thirds of his allotment, and of the money spent in his districts as in the others rather less than seventy per cent. is spent on runners, the rest on gumastahs and peons.

5. It is plain to the Board that the existing arrangements do not provide for the distribution of letters and their collection much beyond the Tahsildars' and Deputy Tahsildars' cusbah villages, and it appears to them that in laying out the lines for the districts which may be made over to him the Postmaster-General should provide much increased facilities in this direction. The Postmaster-General has applied for South Canara, South Arcot, Tanjore, and Godavery, and besides the five districts entered in the form Madura and North Arcot are administered by him.

Note.—In nine districts covering 80,000 square miles there are *thirty-six* postal stations which are *not* Tahsildars' or Deputy Tahsildars' stations.

6. The first transfers were avowedly made as an experiment. Of the success of the experiment no report has been under the consideration of the Board, and they are of opinion that great confusion may result if the District Postal Service is not based on a uniform system in all the districts, due consideration being had to the funds available or in prospect.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd July 1873.

7. They resolve to forward the letter of the Collector of South Arcot to Government with reference to G. O., dated 18th March 1873, No. 335, and the statement (B) of existing lines in Godavery, received in the Collector's letter, No. 114, dated 24th April 1873, with reference to the proposal of the Postmaster-General to take over that district.

No. 206. From Major the Hon. E. R. BOURKE, Postmaster-General, Madras, to the Hon. R. A. DALYELL, Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 19th June 1873, No. 249.

REFERRING to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 948, of 6th June 1873, it appears to me that the Board have not a clear understanding what is the effect of handing the District Post in any particular district to the control of Postmaster-General.

2. They appear to be under the impression that once a district is handed over, that the local Revenue-officers have no more to say to the District Post, and actually cease to have anything whatever to do with it.

3. This is wrong, as I will now proceed to show.

4. When any particular District Post is transferred, the executive control and management only of the existing lines and offices are transferred; the disbursement of the pay of the District Post employés, the appropriation of the grant, the opening of new lines and offices, and closing of useless lines and offices, still remain entirely and solely with the local Revenue-officers.

5. The imperial grant made to local Governments for District Post purposes is a completely separate grant to the postal budget grant: the grant is meant to be spent on lines and offices which are necessary for revenue purposes, and are of a necessity maintained at a loss; on the other hand, it is the theory as well as the practice of the Imperial Post that all lines and offices must pay; and if they do not, they cannot be maintained. It will, therefore, be seen when a District Post is transferred the control only of what actually exists comes under the direct management of the Postmaster-General, and the power of opening new lines and offices still remains with the Revenue-officers. The Postmaster-General does not even know the amount apportioned to each district by the Board, nor is he consulted as to the appropriation or amount required for each district; neither need he, in my opinion, be consulted, as he is not in a position to know the requirements of each district; it being a matter upon which the local Revenue-officers can alone give an opinion. An extension of the District Post lines once decided on by the local Revenue-officers, I would suggest that they communicate with the Postmaster-General direct, stating how often communications with the new locality would be necessary, once a-week or oftener, and at the same time informing him of the amount of money available. He would then be in a position to furnish them with a tabular statement, showing how the service can be efficiently maintained for the sum available either by establishing a Branch Office, Receiving House, or Rural Messenger, according to the service required [illegible] money available.

6. It is impossible for the Postmaster-General t[illegible]ner in which the Revenue-officers consider it best to spend their [illegible] no use his

being consulted on that matter, neither is he in a position to know if any particular existing office or line should be maintained or closed, as the amount of correspondence has no bearing on the question; but he is able to determine the description of service that is best suited, and can be efficiently and economically maintained for a given sum better than the Revenue-officers, therefore should be consulted on this point.

7. It will be seen that instead of desiring to take the whole as a whole over, I am endeavouring to show that the District Post cannot be economically and efficiently worked without the cordial assistance and co-operation of the local Revenue-officers, they maintaining full and complete control over the disbursement of their allotment, what offices are to be either opened or closed, and in what direction the District Post is to be extended, the executive resting with the Postmaster-General, whose orders to all District Post employés on all matters connected with postal duties should be supreme. If this was thoroughly understood by the Board and by the Revenue-officers throughout the country, I have little doubt a very much more efficient service could be established and the District Post extended; but it should be a *sine qua non* that no District Post Office should be allowed to remain open at a station where an Imperial Post has been opened; for the money thus expended is completely wasted, and might, with advantage, be spent in opening a District Post Office in a new place.

8. In conclusion, I should wish it most clearly to be understood that in applying to take over the management of the District Post in certain districts, I am only carrying out the orders of the Supreme and as well as the Madras Government; and I distinctly assert that I am most unwilling to take over any district without the free and full assent of the local Revenue-officers; for, without their cordial assistance and co-operation, the change is robbed of the major portion of the benefit it is calculated to effect. I have, however, no hesitation in saying that I believe the benefits resulting, if the system upon which the transfer of the executive control is fully understood, would be highly beneficial in every way: extension of the District Post, increase in the revenue, economy in establishments, superior efficiency, thorough supervision, increased speed, and greater punctuality.

No. 207. ORDER THEREON, 23rd July 1873, No. 770.

Miscellaneous.

THE Postmaster-General's letter recorded above will be communicated to the Board of Revenue for the information of all Collectors. It is clear from the observations contained in this letter that if the District Postal Service is defective owing to the non-utilization of the grant, the Postmaster-General cannot be blamed. The Collectors of the first five districts named in the Board's form should at once be directed to make proposals of the nature referred to in paragraph 5 of the Board's Proceedings, as funds are available.

2. As to the districts of South Arcot and Godavery, the Board are authorized to transfer the management of the District Post to the Postmaster-General after communication with the Collectors and when the best distribution of the respective grants has been determined upon.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
***23rd July* 1873.**

3. The report called for in the G. O. noted in the margin should be submitted with as little delay as possible. After its receipt, it will be determined in what other districts the District Post shall be handed over to the Postmaster-General.

6th May 1873, No. 456.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Asd. F. R. Bantleman.

№ 249

Postmaster General's Office
Octacamund 19th June 1873.

№ 206

From

Majr the Honble C.R. Benke
Postmaster General
Madras

To

The Honble R.A. Dalyell
Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Octacamund

Sir

1 Referring to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue № 948 of 6th June 1873, It appears to me that the Board have not a clear understanding what is the effect of handing the District Post in any particular District to the control of Postmaster General.

2 They appear to be under the impression that once a District is handed over that the Local Revenue Officers have no more to say to the District Post and actually cease to have anything whatever to do with it.

3 This is wrong as I will now

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When any particular
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and Offices and closing of useless
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entirely and solely with the
Local Revenue Officers

The Imperial grant made
to Local Governments for District
Post purposes is a completely
separate grant to the Postal
Budget grant, the grant is
meant to be spent on lines and
Offices which are necessary for Revenue
purposes and are of a necessity main-
-tained at a loss - On the other
hand it is the theory as well as
the practice of the Imperial
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must pay and if they do not
they cannot be maintained - It
will therefore be seen when a District
Post is transferred the control
only of what actually exists comes
under the direct management of
the Postmaster General and the
power of opening new lines and
offices still remains with the
Revenue Officers - The Postmaster
General does not even know the
amount apportioned to each
District by the Board nor is
he consulted as to the appropria-
-tion or amount required for each
District - Neither need he in my
opinion be consulted as he is not
in a position to know the re-
-quirements of each District, it
being a matter upon which the
Local Revenue Officers can alone
give an opinion - An extension
of the District Post lines, once
sanctioned, can by the Local Revenue
Officers - I would suggest that
they

they communicate with the Post Master General direct stating how often communications with the new locality would be necessary, once a week or oftener, and at the same time informing him of the amount of money available. He would then be in a position to furnish them with a Tabular Statement shewing how the service can be efficiently maintained for the sum available either by establishing a Branch Office a Receiving House or Rural Messenger according to the service required and money available.

It is impossible for the Postmaster General to know the manner in which the Revenue Officers consider it best to spend their allotment, so it is no use his being consulted on that matter, neither is he in a position to know if any particular existing Office or line should be maintained or closed as the amount of correspondence has no bearing on the question, but he is able to determine the description of service that is best suited and can be efficiently and economically maintained for a given sum better than the Revenue Officers, therefore should be consulted on this point.

It will be seen that instead of desiring to take the whole as a whole over. I am anxious owning to show that the District Post cannot be economically and efficiently worked without the cordial assistance and co-operation of the Local Revenue Officers - they maintaining full and complete control over the disbursement of their allotment - what Offices are to be either opened or closed -

and

and in what direction the District
Post is to be extended the preven-
-tive resting with the Postmaster
General, whose orders to all
District Post employes, on all
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In conclusion I should
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is fully understood would be highly beneficial in every way. Extension of the District Post, increase in the revenue, economy in establishments, superior efficiency, thorough supervision, increased speed, and greater punctuality.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Obd Servant

J. H. Reagan
Postmaster General

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reduc
expen
-mission
great

Rec'd 1873 Sept
No 1768
To
Secy to Govt
Rev. Dept.
From
The Post Master General
Dated 19 Aug 73
Received 20th
No 249

Ans No 770 23d July 1873

Informs the
cause of his taking
over the manage-
-ment of the Dist
Post in certain
Districts Revn

C.R. 17573

Lr. 205 @ 207

D. 18 Aug 73 @ 23 July

Statement showing the rentals of the District Post and the cost of establishments as now employed in the District of Godavery.

Lines	Routes. Miles	Stages	Runners. No.	Runners. Cost	Names.	Whether Taluq Kacha Sub-registered or other Station	Runners. No.	Runners. Cost	Peons. No.	Peons. Cost	Horses. No.	Horses. Cost	Remarks
1 From Rajahmundry to Cocanada via Peddapur	40	7	14	70	Hagoor	"	1	20	"	"	"	"	
					Drakshárama	O.S.	"	"	2	10			Former Taluq Kacha.
2 " Rajahmundry to Narsapur via Samulcotta	47	6	12	60	Narsapuram	T.K.	"	"	2	10			
3 " Peddapur to Juni via Pittapur	37	6	12	60	Samulcotta	T.K.	"	"	2	10			
					Veeravaram	O.S.	"	"	1	5			
4 " Cocanada to Amalapur via Drakshárama	35	5	10	50	Rajahmundry	T.K.	1	10	2	10			
					Ellore	T.K.	"	"	2	10			
					Peddapur	T.K.	"	"	1	5			
5 " Drakshárama to Palacoor	12	2	2	10	Pittapur di	T.K.	1	7	2	10			
					Palacoor	S.M.	1	7	1	5			
6 " Drakshárama to Ramachendrapur	5	1	1	5	Kattapeka	S.M.	1	7	1	5			
7 " Amalapur to Kattapeka	12	2	2	10	Kattapilly	S.M.	1	7	1	5			
8 " Samulcotta to Ra=jole	2	1	2	10	Penkapadu	S.M.	1	7	1	5			
					Pittapadu	S.M.	1	7	1	5			
9 " Narsapur to Akiveed via Veeravaram	26	2	4	20	Chintalapudi	S.M.	1	7	1	5			
					Repakavaram	S.M.	1	7	1	5			
10 " Juni to Penkapad	12	2	2	10	Cocanada	S.M.	1	10	2	10			
11 " Rajahmundry to Pittapudi via Kattapilly	16	3	3	15	Pittapur	S.M.	"	"	1	5			
					Juni	S.M.	"	"	1	5			
12 " Pittapudi to Repa=kavaram	24	2	4	20	Chinnaganjam	S.M.	"	"	1	5			
13 " Peddapur to Penkapad	13	2	2	10	Extra allow=ance to Zamin=dary Kutcherry	O.S.	2	4	"	"			
14 " Ellore to Chintalapudi	31	2	4	20									
3 Returns 2 at 2 Rs Each and one at 1½ Rs	"	"	3	5½									
Proposed line			77	375½									
From Palacoor to Rajahmundry	15	2	× 4	20									
			81	395½			14	107	27	135	118	61 7/2	
										4	20		
										122	637½		or Rupees 7,650 per annum

Godavery District
Collector's Office
Cocanada 24th April 1873

W Foster
Asst Collector

1873
A letter from
the Collector of
Galway
to the Secretary of
the Board of Inland
Revenue
Dated 24th January
1873
Ref 14th.
Under consideration
21/1/73.
Aug 26th 21/3/73
B1

No 770. 23 July 73

Read Brs No 6 June 23 No 940

Letter from P. M. G. d. 19 June 73 No 149.

Transfer of management of certain Br. Post Offices to Imperial Postal Dept.

The Postmaster General's letter recorded above will be communicated to the Board of Revenue for the information of all Collrs. It is clear from the observations contained in this letter that if the District Postal service is defective owing to the non-utilization of the grant, the P. M. G.

communication with the Colrs, and when the best destination of the respective grants has been determined upon.

The report called for in the G.O. noted in the margin should be submitted with as little delay as possible after it receipt should be determined upon what other Districts the District first should be handed over to the P.W.D.

6 May 1873 No 456

1st To the Board of Rev. Dec 1873
2. The Surveyor General
3. The Financial Dept Dec 9 Nov 1874

cannot be blamed. The Colrs of the first five Districts named in the Board's proceedings shewed at once the direction to make proposals for one of the Nations referred to in para 5 of the Bd's Proceedings, as funds are available.

As to the District of S.A. & Godavery, the Board are authorized to transfer the management of the District first to the P.W.D. after