No. 116. Read the following letter from G. BANBURY, Esq., Director of Revenue Settlement, to the Hon. R. A. DALYELL, Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Ootacamund, dated Madras, 26th August 1873, No. 1,789-46 :—

In their Proceedings, dated 29th February 1872, the Government, when passing orders upon Mr. Thornhill's report upon the state of Ganjam, requested me to consider how effect could best be given to Mr. Thornhill's suggestion "for the early revision of the land-assessment;" and on the 14th of May following the Government approved of my proposal that the task should be entrusted to Mr. Goodrich on his return from furlough. Subsequently it appeared that Colonel Priestley had made a clerical error in his letter, stating that the Survey records would be ready by the end of 1872-73, and that they could hardly be prepared before the end of 1873-74. I wrote to the Board accordingly, and it was resolved* to postpone work until the end of 1873-74.

* *Vide* Board's Proceedings, dated 15th March 1873, No. 385.

2. From correspondence which has since taken place it appears that survey work has been so far pushed on in Ganjam that the Chicacole Taluq is fully, and the Berhampore Taluq nearly, ready for us to begin upon. As Mr. Goodrich's services will, in all probability, be available about the middle of October, it seems, therefore, only proper that he should then at once enter upon this task, as it is evident Government were anxious, after the receipt of Mr. Thornhill's report, that Settlement work should be undertaken as soon as possible.

3 The only point upon which I feel any difficulty is regarding the large deduction of Rupees 59,900 which has recently been made in the budget of this department by orders of the Government of India, and which will considerably cripple my efforts to push on operations in the various districts in which we are now working, unless the Government are disposed to aid me by savings from other heads, and thus allow me to work upon the data of the budget as sanctioned originally by them.† If this be permitted, Mr. Goodrich can begin Ganjam with drafts from other parties, and can commence early in November. I need hardly inform Government that a deduction of the kind now alluded to tends to increase the cost of the work considerably, as the superintendence must remain the same whilst the area dealt with diminishes; thus unavoidably running up the outlay per square mile, and delaying the introduction of the revised rates.

† Rupees 3,27,000, G. O., 17th December 1872, No. 1,685.

No. 117. ORDER THEREON, 15th September 1873, No. 990.

Miscellaneous.

UNDER the circumstances reported by the Director of Revenue Settlement, it is essential that Mr. Goodrich should commence Settlement work in the Ganjam District when relieved from his present

duty in the Board of Revenue. If the party is made up of drafts from existing parties, the additional cost should not be heavy, and can doubtless be met from general savings in the Land-revenue Budget.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Director of Revenue Settlement.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant-General.

No. 43. Read the following letter from Major the Hon. E. R. BOURKE, Postmaster-General, Madras, to the Hon. R. A. DALYELL, Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Ootacamund, 21st August 1873, No. 321-2,775 :—

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of Government, copies of correspondence that had passed between this department and the Collector of Nellore relative to receipts for registered letters being attested with the full signature as required by paragraph 18, page 39, of the Post Office Manual, instead of being simply initialled as will be seen from the accompanying two yellow receipts, Nos. 789 and 793, which are sent as specimens, and request that the Government will be pleased to issue the necessary orders to the Collector of Nellore, with a view to such receipts being in future signed.

2. I need not, I feel sure, point out the absolute necessity for the strict enforcement of the Registration Rules, and if an exception is made in favour of one, it will be impossible to refuse it to others; for receipts simply initialled would not hold good in a Court of law to establish proof of delivery, or to assist a prosecution under the Postal Act; and it is only by a strict observance of the rule that safety and security can even with difficulty be ensured

ENCLOSURE No. 1

From H. D. THEOBALD, Esq., Inspector of Post Offices, 5th Division, to Major the Hon. E. R. BOURKE, Postmaster-General, Madras, dated Nellore, 1st August 1873, No. 1,369.

I HAVE the honour to bring to your notice that on the representation of the Postmaster of Nellore, that Mr. VansAgnew, the Collector, did not sign but only initialled, and that in *pencil*, the receipts for registered letters to his address, I wrote to the Collector on the subject, and requested that such receipts may be signed in full, and in ink.

2. I append copy of my communication, * to which I have as yet received no reply ; and from the fact that Mr. VansAgnew still continues the practice, and had merely returned the receipts sent to him to be signed in full without a word, I gather that he declines to comply with the request. I have, therefore, no alternative left but to report the matter for your orders.

* No. 1,815, dated 25th July 1873.

3. I beg to send, for your inspection, two receipts so initialled, and to observe that such important documents are unsafe as vouchers, and their legality open to doubt if required at any time in evidence.

Further, I beg to say that there will be nothing to prevent *others* doing the same if they choose, as the rules of the Postal Department do not draw the discriminating hue of preference between officials and the public generally, particularly where merchants are concerned who doubtless, in numerous cases, consider these receipts filed in the Post Office sufficient guarantee, in absence of others, when they make remittances, etc.

4. I beg to draw your attention to the following correspondence on this very subject :—

(1.) Your endorsement, No. 1,835-1,075, dated 6th May 1873, and my reply, No. 289, dated 8th May 1873.

(2.) My letter, No. 318, dated 9th May 1873, and your order thereon.

From H. D. THEOBALD, Esq., Inspector of Post Offices, 5th Division, to G. VANSAGNEW, Esq., Collector of Nellore, dated 25th July 1873, No. 1,315.

I HAVE the honour to bring to your notice that the Postmaster, Nellore, represents that receipts for registered letters to your address are merely initialled by you, and that in pencil.

2. As this is not in accordance with rule, and the Postmaster-General has directed that signatures to such receipts should be in *ink*, I beg you will kindly comply with this request, and sign the receipts the Postmaster of Nellore will be directed to send to you for the purpose.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) H. D. THEOBALD,
Inspector of Post Offices, 5th Division.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

Demi-official letter from Major the Hon. E. R. BOURKE, Postmaster-General, Madras, to G. VANSAGNEW, Esq., Collector of Nellore, dated Ootacamund, 7th August 1873.

A COMPLAINT has come to me respecting the manner in which you sign registered letter-receipts by initialling them with a red pencil instead of signing them in ink by your usual signature. I need not point out to you that the Post Office subordinates are only doing their duty in bringing this to my notice.

2. Registered letter-receipts are, by the rules laid down in the Post Office Manual, and sanctioned by the Government of India, required to be signed with the usual signature of the addressee before the letter can be delivered.

3. I feel sure this has only to be pointed out to you: for you will see that an initial, which is not always very distinct, would not stand good in a Court of law when proof of delivery is necessary to establish a fact or to assist a prosecution under the Postal Act. I should, therefore, feel obliged if you would be so good as to comply with the rules of the Postal Manual in future.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

Demi-official letter from G. VANSAGNEW, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to Major the Hon. E. R. BOURKE, Postmaster-General, dated 10th August 1873.

COLLECTORS are pestered with numbers of registered petitions, none of which need be or would be registered but for the ignorance of the writers. They are brought for delivery at all hours, and often several times in a day. However busy one may be, one is interrupted to sign not once but twice for each of these covers. It is a tax on one's time and patience, even one initials them with a coloured pencil. To annoy one, who like myself has a longish name to sign, to write it twice in ink on each of the receipts would be a double annoyance. Since the system began, I have never done more than initial them in pencil. I have never been asked to do more. I have never been called upon to prove my signature, nor have I ever heard of any Revenue-officer being so called upon. These petitions, as I have said, are of little importance, and it is only ignorantly suspicious Natives who go to the useless expense of registering them; on the other hand, all sorts of important papers are attested daily in public offices by initials of responsible officers. The mode of initialling is as characteristic as is that of signing in full, and it would be as easy to identify one as the other if necessary. I think there is an obvious difference between the case of a private individual receiving something of real value and being required before delivery to write his name in full twice on the receipt for it, and the case I have put of a public officer being interrupted in the performance of important and highly paid duties to exhaust his time and patience in laboriously signing receipts for a lot of rubbish petitions.

2. Hitherto I have ordinarily been able rapidly to affix my initials, and return the receipts there and then to the delivering Peon; but if it were necessary to sign my full name with pen and ink, I would not, if busy, allow myself to be interrupted for the purpose, and the delivering Peon might lose a good deal of his time in waiting till I was at leisure. I wish you would reconsider the matter from the point of view in which I have presented it, and would decide to leave me in the comparative peace I have hitherto rested in. If you cannot do this, as I am only doing as I have done for many years with the full knowledge of the Postal Authorities, and without the smallest complaint from them or inconvenience to the public service, I will ask you to make an official matter of it. I would do my best to persuade the Government to abate the registered letter-nuisance by drawing a distinction between private persons and public officers, and by having it widely notified in the districts that to register ordinary petitions is wholly unnecessary, and is equivalent to the payment of self-imposed taxation.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

Demi-official letter from Major the Hon. E. R. BOURKE, Postmaster-General, Madras, to G. VANSAGNEW, Esq., Collector of Nellore, dated Ootacamund, 14th August 1873.

IN reply to yours of the 10th August, I have done as you have suggested, and have referred the matter of signing registered letter-receipts to Government.

2. I may mention that it is one of the strictest rules of the Post Office that registered letter-receipts should be signed, and it is only by enforcing such rules that security and safety can be relied upon.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) E. R. BOURKE,

No. 44. ORDER THEREON, 8th September 1873, No. 954.

Miscellaneous.

MR. VANSAGNEW will be instructed, through the Board of Revenue, to comply with the requirements of the rules of the Postal Department in regard to the signing of receipts for registered letters.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Office of Inspection of P.O.S.Ds. 5-1A(a)

No. 1369. Vellore, the 1st August 73

To The Undersigned Clerk

Madras.

SB

Sir,

I have the honor to bring to your notice that on the representation of the Postmaster of Nellore, that Mr. Vans Agnew, the Collector did not Sign, but only initialled, and that in pencil the receipts for Registered letters to his address, I wrote to the Collector on the subject and requested that such receipts may be signed in full and in ink

. No. 1315 Of 25 July 73. 2. I append copy of my Communication to which I have as yet received no reply, and from the fact that Mr. Vans Agnew still continues the practice and had merely returned the receipts sent to him to be signed in full, in think a week, I gather that he declines to comply with the request, I have therefore no alternative left but to report.

respectin the matter for your orders.

3. They to send for your inspection his receipts so initialled and to observe that such important documents are unsafe as vouchers and their legality open to doubt if required at any time in Evidence.

Further, they to say, that there will be nothing to prevent others doing the same if they choose as the rules of the Postal Department do not draw the discriminating line of preference between officials and the public generally particularly where merchants are concerned who doubtless in numerous cases, consider their receipts filed in the Post office sufficient guarantee in absence of others when they make remittances &c.

4 They to draw your attention to the following Correspondence on this very subject.

1. Your Endorsement No 1836/1075 dated 6 Augt/73

and

1843. Read to follow 7 Nov 1

7N

Postmaster Generals Office
Melbourne, 21 August 1873

No. 321/2775

Sirs.

The Postmaster General
Launceston

To,
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Fort St George.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward for the information of Government; Copies of Correspondence that had passed between this Department and the Collector of Nelloor relative to receipts for Registered letters being attached with the full Signature as required by para 18 page 39 of the Post office manual instead of being simply initialled as will be seen from the accompanying 2 Yellow Receipts Nos

789

789 and 793 which are sent as specimens and request that the Government will be pleased to issue the necessary orders to the Collector, Nellore, with a view to such Receipts being in future signed.

I need not, I feel sure, point out the absolute necessity for the strict enforcement of the Registration Rules and if an Exception is made in favor of one, it will be impossible to refuse it to others. for. Receipts simply initialled would not hold good in a court of law to Establish proof of delivery or to assist a prosecution under the Postal act and it is only by a strict observance of the Rule that Safety and Security can Even with difficulty be Ensured.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your obedient Servant
[illegible]
Postmaster General

and Enq[y] reply Dr. 289 D/8 Enq[y]/73.

II. My Letter Dr. 318 dated 9 Enq[y]/73 and Your order thereon.

I have &c
Sd. H. D. Theobald
Inspector of P.Os 5 Ds.

Copy of Letter Dr. 1315 dated 25 July/73. from the Inspector of P.Os 5 Ds., to Vans Agnew Esq[re]. Collector of Nellore.

I have the honor to bring to your notice that the Postmaster Nellore represents that receipts for Registered Letters to your address are merely initialled by you and that in pencil.

2. As this is not in accordance with the Rule and the Postmaster General has directed that Signatures to such receipts should be in ink, I beg you will kindly comply with this request and sign the receipts the Postmaster of Nellore will be directed to send to you for the purpose.

Sd H. D. Theobald.
Inspector of P.Os 5 Ds.

(True copy)
Sd H D Theobald
Ins[r] of P.Os 5 Ds

To

Copy of a Demi-Official Letter from the Postmaster General Enstone to G. Vans Agnew Esqre, Nellore

Dated Ootacamund, 7 August 1873

Dear Sir,

A complaint has come to me lately respecting the manner in which you sign Registered Letter Receipts by initialling them with a Red pencil instead of signing them in ink by your usual Signature. I need not point out to you that the Post office Subordinates are only doing their duty in requiring this to be done

Registered Letter receipts are by the Rules laid down in the Post office Manual and Sanctioned by the Govt of India required to be signed with the usual signature of the addressee before the Letter can be delivered

I feel sure this has only to be pointed out to you for you will see that an initial which is not always very distinct would not stand good in a Court

Court of Law when proof of delivery is necessary to Establish a fact or to assist a prosecution under the Postal act. I should therefore feel obliged if you would be so good as to comply with the Rules of the Postal Manual in future.

Sd/ E. R. Bourke

Copy of a Demi-official Letter from G Vans Agnew Esqre, Nellore to the Postmaster General.

Dated Nellore 10 Aug/73.

Dear Sir,

Collectors are pestered with numbers of registered petitions none of which need be or would be registered but for the ignorance of the writers. They are brought for delivery at all hours and often several times in a day. However busy one may be, one is interrupted to Sign not once but twice for Each of these Covers. It is a task on one's time and patience Even when one initials them

them with a colored pencil. To many one who like myself has a longish name to sign to write it twice in ink on each of the receipts would be a double annoyance since the System began, I have never done more than initial them in pencil. I have never been asked to do more. I have never been called upon to prove my signature nor have I ever heard of any Revenue officer being so called upon. These petitions as I have said are of little importance and it is only ignorantly suspicious natures who object to the useless expense of registering them; on the other hand all sorts of important papers are attested daily in public offices by initials of responsible officers. The mode of initialling is as characteristic as is that of signing in full, and it would be as easy to identify one as the other if

necessary

130

necessary. I think there is an obvious difference between the case of a private individual receiving some thing of real value and being required before delivery to write his name in full twice on the receipt for it and the case I have put of a public officer being interrupted in the performance of important and highly paid duties to exhaust his time and patience in laboriously signing receipts for a lot of rubbish petitions

Hitherto I have ordinarily been able rapidly to affix my initials and return the receipt there and then to the delivering person, but if it were necessary to sign my full name with pen and ink I would but, if busy, allow myself to be interrupted for the purpose and the delivering person might lose a good deal of his time in

waiting

wishing till I was at leisure. I wish you would reconsider the matter from the point of view in which I have presented it and would decide to leave her in the Comparative peace I have hitherto resided in. If you cannot do this, as I am only doing as I have done for many years with the full knowledge of the Postal authorities and without the smallest complaint from them or inconvenience to the Public Service, I will ask you to make an official matter of it. I would do my best to persuade the Government to abate the Registered letter nuisance by drawing a distinction between private persons and public officers and by having it widely Intimated in the districts that to register ordinary petitions is wholly unnecessary and is Equivalent to the payment of Self imposed taxation.

Sd/ E. Vans Agnew

Copy of a Demi-official Letter from the Postmaster General Madras to G. Vans Agnew Esq^r Collector D/d Ootacamund 14 August 73.

Dear Sir

In reply to yours of the 10 Instant, I have done as you have suggested and have referred the matter of Signing Registered letter receipts to Government.

I may mention that it is one of the strictest rules of the Post office that Registered letter Receipts should be signed and it is only by enforcing such rules that Security and Safety can be relied upon.

Sd/ E. R. Bourke

(True copies)

Sd/ E. R. Bourke

Postmaster General

Revenue 1873 Dept
No 2552.

From
The Postmaster General
Madras

To The Secretary to Govt.
Revenue Deptt.
Fort St. George

No. 321/2775
Dated 21 Aug/73
Received 22 "

Subject: General

Requests that Collector of Bellary may be directed to sign Receipts for Registered letters in full & in ink. With [illegible]

c 22nd Aug No 93 [illegible] 1st Sept

I have some doubt ... For the Collector or his [illegible] to sign in full. You may try this without complaint. The [illegible] is quite well able to initial the letters without inconvenience.

No. 954

1. The Govt. agrees with the Board of Revenue to comply with the requirements of the rules of the Postal Dept. in regard to the signing of receipts for registered letters.

2. The G. in C. regret that Mr. [illegible] opinions and language should have rendered a reference to Govt. necessary by failing to acquiesce in the decision of the Head of Dept. in a matter in regard to which a well known rule existed.

8 Sept 73

To Bd. of Rev.
2 Post Master Genl. with 2 [illegible] Sept 15/9

No. 990.

Under the circumstances reported by the Board of Revenue Settt. it is essential that Wm Frederick Bennett commence Settlement work in the Ganjam District when relieved from his present duty in the Bd. of Rev. If the party is made up of details from existing parties the additional cost need not be heavy, and can doubtless be met from General savings in the Land Revenue Budget

Rept. in MS. to Bd. of Rev. Sett.

15 Sept. 93

17N

The Chief Secy. to Govt. Revenue Sett. & Agric. Dept.

Govt. of {1873} Madras

REVENUE.

To

THE DIRECTOR OF REVENUE

SETTLEMENT,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated September 15th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 15th September 1873, No. 900.

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 116-117.

Settlement-work in the Ganjam District.—Considering it essential that Mr. Goodrich shoul commence the — when relieved from his prese duty in the Board of Revenue, and remarking thi if the party is made of drafts from existing partie the additional cost should not be heavy, and ca be met from general savings in the Land-revenu Budget.