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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Rev. DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 106A. Read the following Proceed  
April 1874,

Read the following letter from Major t

I HAVE now nine District Posts under my control, in eight of which I have arranged, in communication and with the assistance of the Collectors of the districts, a system by which considerable improvement has already been made in extending the benefits of the post and carrying it nearer to the masses. Deliveries to distant villages have been regulated, and correspondence, both private and official, is now delivered at fixed stated intervals through each district. The great delay, which formerly existed in delivering the District Gazettes, has, in a great measure, been overcome; but still there is a good deal to be done before the system, which is now being introduced over the whole of these eight districts, is in full and satisfactory work.

2. From the experience of the past eighteen months, I find that the great obstacle to progress is the delay in having the improvements and changes, which the Collector and myself are agreed upon, sanctioned.

3. Under the present system, before a new line or office established, the sanction of Government must be obtained.

4. There may be, and usually are, surpluses of funds available belonging to the unappropriated District Post grant, which could be advantageously spent in the entertainment of these new establishments; but till the sanction of Government is obtained, this money, which has already been sanctioned and apportioned by the Board of Revenue to Collectors for District Post purpose, cannot be spent: the result of this system I have found from experience is that the full amount of the grant can never be spent, and a large portion of it must, of necessity, annually lapse. As soon as any particular District Post Office has been in existence long enough to develop the correspondence of the immediate surrounding neighbourhood to an extent sufficient to pay the expenses of the establishment, said office is at once converted into an Imperial Office, thus setting free the District Post establishment funds, which should at once be removed to another locality where probably there was only a letter-box previously, and the letter-box removed to a fresh position; but before this can be done the sanction of Government must be obtained. This sanction usually takes a few months, seldom less than three, in some cases exceeding six; during the whole of this time this money, though available, cannot be spent, though the Collector and Postmaster-General are agreed as to how it should best be spent.

5. Government have hitherto always accorded their sanction; but it is to obviate this unnecessary delay, and to avoid, in future, such a considerable portion of the imperial grant being annually unexpended, that I would ask to be allowed to propose a remedy.

6. From the very nature of the District Post, it must, of necessity, always be undergoing changes, being, as it were, the pioneer of the Imperial Post. As corre-

the District Post must be pushed further changes cannot be avoided, must, of necessity, and will become more numerous under my control increases.

for District Post purpose (but not a farthing more), provided the Collector, and Postmaster-General are agreed as to the manner in which it is to be laid out, reporting to the Board immediately every change that through development or otherwise has been found necessary and expedient. If the Board require any explanation as to the cause of change, or why any particular new line or office is opened, or new establishment entertained, the Collector can always be called upon for such explanation. If the Board consider it insufficient or unsatisfactory, they can always direct the abolition and closing of the new line, office, or establishment; for, if the full amount of the grant is expended from the commencement of the year, no really new or fresh establishments can be entertained without the formal sanction of Government being first obtained, but in order that the development of the District Post may not be checked, and that full advantage may, in future, be taken if the whole of the imperial grant permit Collectors, in communication with the Postmaster-General, to make those necessary changes on their own authority without awaiting the sanction of Government, provided always the annual allotment is not exceeded. It is hardly correct to call these changes consequent on development "new establishments;" for, in truth, it is, as a rule, only moving an establishment from one part of the district to another.

8. I would, also, ask the Board to remember that the Collector and Postmaster-General are the only officials who really know what are the postal requirements of each district. From the information in their possession, they can ascertain what new lines, offices, and establishments are required by the people, small merchants residing in villages, tradesmen, and others who use the Post Office.

9. In making this proposal, I have no desire whatever to avoid the control of the Board of Revenue in the disbursement of the District Post grant; quite the reverse, for the stronger that control the greater will be the amount available for developing the District Post and bringing revenue to the Imperial Post; but it is to obviate the existing delay, and to avoid so large a portion of the imperial grant annually lapsing, that I make this proposition for the consideration of the Board. For, having already apportioned a fixed amount for each district, it is not possible for Collectors to spend more. I only ask that they may be permitted to spend their fixed allotment, reporting to the Board the manner it is spent. If something of this sort is not done, the evil now felt will increase more rapidly than perhaps we shall be aware of, for seldom a week passes that I do not find it necessary to establish Imperial Offices where district ones have prepared the way, thus setting free District Post funds for employment elsewhere.

10. It follows, therefore, that, if several months must always elapse before these funds can be re-employed, there must, of necessity, be always a very considerable unexpended balance in each district at the end of every year.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Postmaster-General proposes that Collectors should be empowered to sanction District Postal Establishments, in communication with him, up to the limit of the budget allotment for their respective districts, reporting to the Board. I have no objection to the full extent proposed, as it frequently happens that the allotment to one district requires revision during the course of the year with reference to the requirements of other parts of the Presidency. Moreover, the proposal implies sanction to entertain new establishments without reference to Government, so long as the budget allotment to each district is not exceeded, which is contrary to existing rules.

4. The Board are of opinion, however, that the order of Government of 13th February 1874, No. 193, may be relaxed to the extent of allowing Collectors to re-arrange District Postal Establishments in communication with the Postmaster-General, provided the expenditure sanctioned for their respective districts is not exceeded, and the changes effected are at once reported to the Board for confirmation.

5. Of course, all proposals for an increase of establishment must be submitted for the sanction of Government as heretofore.

No. 107. General Treasury, 8th May 1874, No. 570.

Miscellaneous.

THE Board's recommendation is approved.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,  
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.  
.. the Accountant-General.

Edw. F. R. Lantieri.

the District Post must be pushed further changes cannot be avoided, must, of necessity, be made, and will become more numerous under my control increases.

for District Post purpose (but not a farthing more), provided the Collector and Postmaster-General are agreed as to the manner in which it is to be laid out, reporting to the Board immediately every change that through development or otherwise has been found necessary and expedient. If the Board require any explanation as to the cause of change, or why any particular new line or office is opened, or new establishment entertained, the Collector can always be called upon for such explanation. If the Board consider it insufficient or unsatisfactory, they can always direct the abolition and closing of the new line, office, or establishment; for, if the full amount of the grant is expended from the commencement of the year, no really new or fresh establishments can be entertained without the formal sanction of Government being first obtained, but in order that the development of the District Post may not be checked, and that full advantage may, in future, be taken if the whole of the imperial grant permit Collectors, in communication with the Postmaster-General, to make those necessary changes on their own authority without awaiting the sanction of Government, provided always the annual allotment is not exceeded. It is hardly correct to call these changes consequent on development "new establishments;" for, in truth, it is, as a rule, only moving an establishment from one part of the district to another.

8. I would, also, ask the Board to remember that the Collector and Postmaster-General are the only officials who really know what are the postal requirements of each district. From the information in their possession, they can ascertain what new lines, offices, and establishments are required by the people, small merchants residing in villages, tradesmen, and others who use the Post Office.

9. In making this proposal, I have no desire whatever to avoid the control of the Board of Revenue in the disbursement of the District Post grant; quite the reverse, for the stronger that control the greater will be the amount available for developing the District Post and bringing revenue to the Imperial Post; but it is to obviate the existing delay, and to avoid so large a portion of the imperial grant annually lapsing, that I make this proposition for the consideration of the Board. For, having already apportioned a fixed amount for each district, it is not possible for Collectors to spend more. I only ask that they may be permitted to spend their fixed allotment, reporting to the Board the manner it is spent. If something of this sort is not done, the evil now felt will increase more rapidly than perhaps we shall be aware of, for seldom a week passes that I do not find it necessary to establish Imperial Offices where district ones have prepared the way, thus setting free District Post funds for employment elsewhere.

10. It follows, therefore, that, if several months must always elapse before these funds can be re-employed, there must, of necessity, be always a very considerable unexpended balance in each district at the end of every year.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Postmaster-General proposes that Collectors should be empowered to sanction District Postal Establishments, in communication with him, up to the limit of the budget allotment for their respective districts, reporting to the Board of Revenue the full extent proposed, as it frequently happens that the allotment to one district requires revision during the course of the year with reference to the requirements of other parts of the Presidency. Moreover, the proposal implies sanction to entertain new establishments without reference to Government, so long as the budget allotment to each district is not exceeded, which is contrary to existing rules.

4. The Board are of opinion, however, that the order of Government of 13th February 1874, No. 198, may be relaxed to the extent of allowing Collectors to re-arrange District Postal Establishments in communication with the Postmaster-General, provided the expenditure sanctioned for their respective districts is not exceeded, and the changes effected are at once reported to the Board for confirmation.

5. Of course, all proposals for an increase of establishment must be submitted for the sanction of Government as heretofore.

No. 107. ORDER THEREON, 8th May 1874, No. 370.

Miscellaneous.

THE Board's recommendation is approved.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,  
Acting Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Cantlon an.

5.11

No. 974.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 27th April 1874.

Read the following letter from Major the Hon. E. R. BOURKE, Postmaster-General, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 4th April 1874, No. 111:—

I HAVE now nine District Posts under my control, in eight of which I have arranged, in communication and with the assistance of the Collectors of the districts, a system by which considerable improvement has already been made in extending the benefits of the post and carrying it nearer to the masses. Deliveries to distant villages have been regulated, and correspondence, both private and official, is now delivered at fixed stated intervals through each district. The great delay, which formerly existed in delivering the District Gazettes, has, in a great measure, been overcome; but still there is a good deal to be done before the system, which is now being introduced over the whole of these eight districts, is in full and satisfactory work.

2. From the experience of the past eighteen months, I find that the great obstacle to progress is the delay in having the improvements and changes, which the Collector and myself are agreed upon, sanctioned.

3. Under the present system, before an extra runner can be employed, or a new line or office established, the sanction of Government must be obtained.

4. There may be, and usually are, abundance of funds available belonging to the unappropriated District Post grant, which could be advantageously spent in the entertainment of these new establishments; but till the sanction of Government is obtained, this money, which has already been sanctioned and apportioned by the Board of Revenue to Collectors for District Post purpose, cannot be spent: the result of this system I have found from experience is that the full amount of the grant can never be spent, and a large portion of it must, of necessity, annually lapse. As soon as any particular District Post Office has been in existence long enough to develop the correspondence of the immediate surrounding neighbourhood to an extent sufficient to pay the expenses of the establishment, said office is at once converted into an Imperial Office, thus setting free the District Post establishment funds, which should at once be removed to another locality where probably there was only a letter-box previously, and the letter-box removed to a fresh position; but before this can be done the sanction of Government must be obtained. This sanction usually takes a few months, seldom less than three, in some cases exceeding six; during the whole of this time this money, though available, cannot be spent, though the Collector and Postmaster-General are agreed as to how it should best be spent.

5. Government have hitherto always accorded their sanction; but it is to obviate this unnecessary delay, and to avoid, in future, such a considerable portion of the imperial grant being annually unexpended, that I would ask to be allowed to propose a remedy.

6. From the very nature of the District Post, it must, of necessity, always be undergoing changes, being, as it were, the pioneer of the Imperial Post. As corre-

pendence increases, which it does daily, the District Post must be pushed further and further into the rural districts; these changes cannot be avoided, must, of necessity, continue being the normal state of affairs, and will become more numerous as the number of districts which come under my control increases.

7. The remedy I would propose is this, give the Collectors power to spend the amount of their annual allotments, which the Board of Revenue have allotted for District Post purpose (but not a farthing more), provided the Collector and Postmaster-General are agreed as to the manner in which it is to be laid out, reporting to the Board immediately every change that through development or otherwise has been found necessary and expedient. If the Board require any explanation as to the cause of change, or why any particular new line or office is opened, or new establishment entertained, the Collector can always be called upon for such explanation. If the Board consider it insufficient or unsatisfactory, they can always direct the abolition and closing of the new line, office, or establishment; for, if the full amount of the grant is expended from the commencement of the year, no really new or fresh establishments can be entertained without the formal sanction of Government being first obtained, but in order that the development of the District Post may not be checked, and that full advantage may, in future, be taken if the whole of the imperial grant permit Collectors, in communication with the Postmaster-General, to make those necessary changes on their own authority without awaiting the sanction of Government, provided always the annual allotment is not exceeded. It is hardly correct to call these changes consequent on development "new establishments;" for, in truth, it is, as a rule, only moving an establishment from one part of the district to another.

8. I would, also, ask the Board to remember that the Collector and Postmaster-General are the only officials who really know what are the postal requirements of each district. From the information in their possession, they can ascertain what new lines, offices, and establishments are required by the people, small merchants residing in villages, tradesmen, and others who use the Post Office.

9. In making this proposal, I have no desire whatever to avoid the control of the Board of Revenue in the disbursement of the District Post grant; quite the reverse, for the stronger that control the greater will be the amount available for developing the District Post and bringing revenue to the Imperial Post; but it is to obviate the existing delay, and to avoid so large a portion of the imperial grant annually lapsing, that I make this proposition for the consideration of the Board. For, having already apportioned a fixed amount for each district, it is not possible for Collectors to spend more. I only ask that they may be permitted to spend their fixed allotment, reporting to the Board the manner it is spent. If something of this sort is not done, the evil now felt will increase more rapidly than perhaps we shall be aware of, for seldom a week passes that I do not find it necessary to establish Imperial Offices where district ones have prepared the way, thus setting free District Post funds for employment elsewhere.

10. It follows, therefore, that, if several months must always elapse before these funds can be re-employed, there must, of necessity, be always a very considerable unexpended balance in each district at the end of every year.

7. N.  
SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Postmaster-General proposes that Collectors should be empowered to sanction District Postal Establishments, in communication with him, up to the limit of the budget allotment for their respective districts, reporting to the Board any changes that may be effected.

3. The Board are not prepared to recommend that authority should be conferred to deal with the budget grant to the full extent proposed, as it frequently happens that the allotment to one district requires revision during the course of the year with reference to the requirements of other parts of the Presidency. Moreover, the proposal implies sanction to entertain new establishments without reference to Government, so long as the budget allotment to each district is not exceeded, which is contrary to existing rules.

4. The Board are of opinion, however, that the order of Government of 13th February 1874, No. 198, may be relaxed to the extent of allowing Collectors to re-arrange District Postal Establishments in communication with the Postmaster-General, provided the expenditure sanctioned for their respective districts is not exceeded, and the changes effected are at once reported to the Board for confirmation.

5. Of course, all proposals for an increase of establishment must be submitted for the sanction of Government as heretofore.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

  
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.  
.. the Postmaster-General, Madras.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

13 February 1974. No 110-11.

No 1458

New 1874. Departs  
Board of Revenue,  
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 27th APRIL 1874, No. 974.

27 April 1874  
Encl.

Received 28 May 1874.

APRIL. 1874

District Postal Establishment.—Proposal of Postmaster-General that Collectors should be empowered to sanction—in communication with himself, up to limit of budget allotment, reporting to Board changes effected, submitted for orders of Government, with recommendation that Collectors might be allowed to re-arrange Postal Establishments as proposed, provided expenditure sanctioned is not exceeded.

The Board's decision is in favour of the proposal.

14 Feb 1874. Received 28 May 1874.  
6. Receipts—25th.

(8)