M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 88

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer 2/7.6.68

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1513 Press

~~B.P. No.~~ Mis.~~—~~

Dated 15-10-1875 ~~196—~~.

Not to be folded or roughly hand

No. 132. Read the following letter from Major the Hon. E. R. BOURKE, Postmaster-General, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 29th March 1875, No. 16,041 :—

As I am about to proceed on privilege leave shortly before the end of the official year, I submit this report of the working of the district post in the districts now under my control.

2. Shortly after assuming charge of the Postmaster-General's Office in May 1872, I found the question of the transfer of the district post from the control of the Collectors to the Postmaster-General beset with considerable difficulties.

3. At the time of my taking charge, the only district that had been permanently transferred was Trichinopoly. No one apparently knew exactly what to do, or how far the transfer affected the administration and controlling authority of the Imperial Post-office officials. The internal arrangements of the several district posts were in a most incomplete condition through the want of proper system and organisation, and, though the control of this (the Trichinopoly District post) was effected as far back as June 1867, the transfer was merely nominal. No change of any importance had been attempted. There was no elaborated, recognised scheme for the development of the post, such as opening new district post-offices, employing rural and district delivery peons, organising new and extended delivery beats, and arranging that there should be a punctual and regular periodical delivery and collections of letters, newspapers, &c., to every portion of the district at a distance from the cusbah stations; the old system of delivery into the distant parts of each taluq being still effected through the agency of the Revenue Department by subordinate village-servants, who naturally took little or no interest whatever in effecting a punctual and early delivery of non-official covers, often neglecting to make any delivery at all, and when, after a considerable delay, delivery was effected, in many cases a charge greater than the legal one was demanded, which, if not paid, the article was not delivered, but returned to the Imperial post-office as "Not found" or "Refused." It was almost a matter of chance if even District Gazettes were delivered to the distant parts of the taluq in anything like reasonable time.

4. It depended very much on the accident of one of these village-servants (Talliaries) being sent to the cusbah town on revenue matters when the correspondence of the district, including delivery of District Gazettes, was taken out. The actual delivery to the addressees residing at a distance depended again on these village-servants' nonpostal duties leading them to the residence of the addressee, for these menial servants draw but small pay (about Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 4 per month), and have such a multiplicity of duties to perform that the delivery of nonofficial correspondence was only attended to when there was nothing else to be done, or when it could be combined with other duties.

5. Some idea may be found of the delay and detention to correspondence for the district when District Gazettes were often a week and ten days old before reaching the addressees.

6. As regards the collection of covers from outlying portions of each district for delivery elsewhere, there was no attempt whatever made on the part of these village-servants to collect nonofficial correspondence from villages, or to sell stamps and embossed envelopes to the public during their tours and rounds; neither was there a single letter-box at any village where correspondence could be posted. All letters to be posted had to be carried to the cusbah station by private hand, unless there was an Imperial post-office nearer which was very unlikely.

7. The control of the district post was usually vested in one of the Collector's Covenanted Assistants, who, in fact, was supposed, in addition to his other duties, to be the Postmaster to arrange for the postal wants of the whole district, the delivery and collection of official and nonofficial correspondence.

8. In some districts where this officer took special interest in the district post, the postal arrangements were better than in others; where the same amount of personal interest and attention to postal work was not forthcoming, they were less good. A great diversity of practice prevailed; every district had some sort of individuality and peculiarity of its own, arising chiefly from the constant changes in the controlling head. There was no universal rule, custom, or organisation; the arrangements for each district depended on the personal will of a separate individual, who was not experienced in post-office work, and often did not care to make himself acquainted with its details, intricacies, and ramifications.

9. The entire district post allotment for each district was scarcely ever wholly spent: the total budget grant never, under the then prevailing system, could be spent while the whole country was starving for want of an efficient postal service and the attendant civilising influence of a good rural postal dâk for the collection and delivery of correspondence in the districts at a distance from cusbah stations.

10. In my letter to the Board of Revenue, No. 111, dated 4th April 1874, I pointed out that, under the then existing system, large savings must accrue annually and be lost to the district post, and the Government was pleased to accede to my recommendations therein contained, and passed an order, No. 570, dated 8th May 1874, which has worked most satisfactorily, enabling me, in communication with the Collectors, to spend the allotment up to the sanctioned amount without awaiting the orders of Government.

11. It will thus be seen that, previous to the transfer of control, there was, in fact, nothing that could be called an efficient system of delivery or collection of nonofficial correspondence made over the greater area of this Presidency at a distance from large towns where Imperial post-offices were not located. It will be seen from the extract, as per margin, from a late report of the Collector of South Arcot the progress made in that district since the transfer. I hope the remaining 800 square miles will soon be brought under the influence of the post-office. In fact, as long as the control rested with the Revenue officials, it was not possible to have an efficient district post service, as the individuals, whose duty it was to

"The total number of Imperial post-offices is eighteen, of which two, being on the coast, only dominate 100 square miles; while the total area influenced by the ten district post-offices is 785 square miles; thus making a total area of 4,185 square miles brought within the influence of the post-office, and leaving about 800 square miles still to be brought under its influence."

arrange and control the same, were entirely unacquainted with the postal system, and had not the time at command to supervise it, neither would it be possible to conduct such a service, except as a whole and under one head, who has, at his disposal, trained officers with special departmental knowledge and a fixed and comprehensive code of rules and regulations to work under. It follows, therefore, that, however efficient the district post arrangements of one particular district post might be, its utility was marred by its individuality, and being entirely a distinct system instead of all district post being amalgamated and controlled under one fixed organisation.

12. Since June 1872, in addition to the Trichinopoly District, twelve* other districts have been transferred to my control, and three more have been applied for as far back as August 1874. All arrangements are complete for introducing the change, but the orders of the Government for the transfer have not as yet been received.

* Tinnevelly.	Tanjore.
Madura.	Godavery.
North Arcot.	Chingleput.
Nellore.	South Arcot.
Coimbatore.	Malabar.
South Canara.	Salem.

13. The system I have worked upon in endeavouring to improve and develop the district post and in utilising the grant to the best possible advantage is as follows:—

14. By personally visiting each district and making myself acquainted with its requirements; to elaborate, with the assistance of the Collector and his subordinates together with the Inspector of Post-offices, a scheme by which an improved service can be completely and thoroughly organised and placed on a permanent footing; arranging that the whole of the allotment shall be economically and judiciously spent; fixing the beats of the several rural delivery peons, &c. To illustrate the system that has been introduced into the districts under my control, and what eventually, I trust, will be in full working order before many years in each taluq in this Presidency, I attach a specimen map of the Torryore Taluq in the Trichinopoly District; this shows clearly the system I am endeavouring to implant. When the whole of the districts come under my control, and the scheme is completed and in full operation, there should not be a village in the Madras Presidency that will not be in easy and convenient postal communication with the rest of the world; the correspondence of each village being regularly and punctually delivered and despatched.

15. Each delivery peon has a small letter-box which is sealed by the Postmaster before he leaves for his beat, in which the public may post their letters. All district delivery peons, in addition, carry postage stamps and half-anna embossed envelopes for sale; they also clear all fixed letter-boxes during their tour. Thus each district delivery peon is also a small moving post-office, with whom letters can be posted in a sealed letter-box, and by whom letters posted in the fixed village letter-box are collected.

16. Each Inspector, on the first transfer of a district post, has, in communication with the local Revenue-officials, to prepare one of these maps for each taluq, clearly defining the beats of each delivery peon; a very large proportion of these

maps have already been completed, but the work takes time, and must be carefully done to be of any advantage.

17. It will be seen from the statement given below that, for the past five years, the total allotment for the district post has not been spent. Considerable unexpended balances have been permitted to lapse. It will be seen that, during the current year, nearly the whole of the grant has been expended, and even this small balance would not exist had all my proposals been sanctioned; had even more money been available, it could have been most usefully and profitably employed. It is very much to be regretted that more money was not available, as numerous recommendations for much needed establishments had to be deferred on account of want of funds. I consider that, at least, Rs. 1,20,000 is necessary if the district post is to be made efficient; and I trust the matter may be considered and the allotment increased to this amount, which is about what it was five years ago. Considerable economy in district post establishments became possible by the transfer of control. A district post gumastah and usually a clerk in addition was formerly entertained at each cusbah station. As there is an Imperial post-office at almost every cusbah these district post establishments were done away with. All district post-offices at stations where an Imperial post-office already exists have also been closed, and the money utilised to the best possible advantage in providing more district post delivery peons or in opening new district post-offices and lines where needed. Previous to the transfer this economy (which, taken as a whole, is considerable) was not possible. The savings accruing from these sources and utilised as above in the districts already transferred amount to nearly Rs. 3,000 annually:—

Statement showing the District Postal Grant and the Expenditure, &c., in the Madras Postal Circle, during the last five years.

Years.	Budget Grant.	Actual Expenditure.	Lapsed.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
1869-70	1,19,400	1,03,509	15,891
1870-71	1,19,400	1,01,609	17,791
1871-72	1,14,380	98,481	15,899
1872-73	1,08,000	93,323	14,677
1873-74	1,08,000	92,115	15,885
1874-75	1,00,000	about 99,000	1,000

18. G. O., No. 570, dated 8th May 1874, previously alluded to, has enabled great progress to be made in at once utilising these funds without having, as formerly, to await sanction, which usually took about four months, during which time the money could not be spent, and, consequently, lapsed; a considerable amount of needless correspondence has also thus been saved.

19. The returns sent in to my office monthly by Collectors, showing the exact state of their respective district post allotments (copy as per statement given below) have enabled me, when necessary, to communicate with the Collectors at once for utilising the grant to the full; and I beg to offer my thanks to the several

Collectors for complying with my request in this matter in furnishing me with this most useful return:—

Statement showing the Amount sanctioned for and the Amount actually expended by the District Post Establishment in the District during the month of .

Total Grant for the year 1874-75.	Amount actually expended during the current Month.	Balance remaining unexpended.	Remarks.
RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	

20. It is most difficult to compute precisely the financial benefit accruing to Government by the transfer of control, but the statement given below will give an idea of how great has been the increase. Since the return was made, as shown in the last column of the statement given below, the receipts may fairly be considered as having considerably increased, and will doubtless continue to increase in proportion to the facilities offered to the public to correspond:—

Name of District.	Mean of the monthly average postage on Covers posted for despatch and received for delivery at District Post-offices and Imperial Post-offices situated on District Post Lines.	Total Cost of establishment of District Post-offices and lines of Imperial Post-offices situated on District Post Lines and of Sub-Inspector.	Excess of Receipts over Expenditure.	Remarks.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	
Trichinopoly	.....	.....	.....	
Tinnevelly	1,487 2 3	708 4 0	778 14 3	July 1872.
Madura	2,784 3 0	1,179 12 0	1,604 7 0	Aug. ,,
North Arcot	4,252 11 0	1,381 4 0	2,871 7 0	Sept. ,,
Nellore	1,081 5 1	508 11 0	572 10 1	Dec. ,,
Coimbatore	2,118 12 0	824 4 0	1,294 8 0	July 1873.
South Canara	621 13 5	402 8 0	219 5 5	March 1874.
Tanjore	2,703 14 9	1,029 12 0	1,674 2 9	April ,,
Godavery	1,221 7 4	584 4 0	637 3 4	,, ,,
Chingleput	419 14 11	417 12 0	2 2 11	,, ,,
Total ...	16,691 3 9	7,036 7 0	9,654 12 9	

21. In reviewing the work of the district post, it must be borne in mind that, as correspondence develops and district post-office establishments become self-supporting, they are converted into Imperial, and are then paid for from Imperial funds, thus releasing district post funds for employment elsewhere in less important and more remote parts of the district.

22. If district post establishments which pay were permitted to remain district post establishments, and not so converted, the returns of the district post would show immense development and progress. But this cannot be; the district post

must, of necessity, always be in a transition state, always developing to a certain standard till it becomes self-supporting, when it is converted into Imperial, and has as it were to begin afresh. The great test of the utility of the district post is to be found in the large number of district post establishments that have, during the past two years, developed to such an extent as to be converted into Imperial. Every district post establishment that has been so converted enables me to extend the benefit of the district post farther and farther into the more distant portions of each district, cereating, as it were, a correspondence, and facilitating communications useful both for the official and nonofficial, which, by careful and periodical supervision, early attention to complaints and prompt investigation of all irregularities by trained and competent departmental officials, soon engenders confidence and thereby fosters correspondence.

23. I append an extract (A) from the last Annual Report (1873-74) of the Director-General of Post-office in India. It will be seen that the operations of the district post in this Presidency compares very favorably with other Presidencies; and I have little doubt that the returns for the current year will be more favorable still. The greater proportion of paid articles passing through the Madras District Post-office shows that there is greater confidence in the post and a higher standard of civilisation prevailing amongst the rural population in this than in any other Presidencies.

24. Statement B shows that the total number of articles passing through the general post has increased during the past few years to a much greater extent in Madras than in any other postal circle, excepting Bengal; this, also, indicates a satisfactory degree of progress:—

In 1872-73, the increase was	7,62,108
,, 1873-74	1,995,896
,, 1874-75 (returns just received)	2,504,382
Making a total increase during the past three years of	5,262,386

which indicates more rapid progress than any other postal circle, excepting Bengal which includes Assam.

25. Statement C shows the number of district post establishments, during my tenure of office, that have been converted into Imperial, a few of which are still undergoing experiment; the total amounts to 113, releasing, by their conversion, a sum of Rupees 17,604 available, and being utilised in extending the district post. When it is remembered that only twelve district posts have been transferred, and some of those only quite recently, the progress made in this particular branch is most encouraging. Much more has still to be done, and it will take several years before the maximum benefit accruing from the transfer of control is fully apparent.

26. Statement D is a comparative statement showing the operations of the district post of those districts that have been transferred from immediately previous to the transfer up to October 1874. The remarks at foot of the statement explain the various changes.

27. The great progress shown by the few letters now returned to Dead Letter Office is very satisfactory indeed.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th October 1875.

28. It must, also, be borne in mind, though the number of offices and district post establishments have not increased by reason of the district post grant not having been augmented, the present existing offices and establishments are all new, the previous ones having, in nearly every instance, been converted into Imperial.

29. The increase in the sale of stamps and the great improvement in the revenue are indications from which it is fair to conclude that the post-office is appreciated and largely used by the rural population, wherever it has been brought within its reach; and it only remains now to raise the grant to what it was five years ago, to enable me to hasten on this most useful measure which is calculated to confer lasting benefits on the whole community as well as permanently increasing the revenue.

A.

Names of Postal Circles.		Bengal (Including Assam).		Madras.		Bombay.		North-West Provinces.	
Detail of Covers.		Number given out for delivery.	Number returned undelivered.	Number given out for delivery.	Number returned undelivered.	Number given out for delivery.	Number returned undelivered.	Number given out for delivery.	Number returned undelivered.
To District Post-offices.	Letters paid ...	286,810	5,240	568,225	12,957	61,632	731	208,388	6,935
	,, unpaid ...	537,985	72,088	282,510	37,725	75,320	5,319	424,416	67,159
	Service, privileged	76,206	130	17,936	78	573	.....	116,878	860
	Registered ...	18,198	208	21,665	834	2,242	182	13,974	339
	Papers	46,355	678	108,561	1,356	5,709	104	26,853	548
	Packets	3,232	.....	12,123	26	1,695	.....	4,380	208
	Parcels	2,138	52	2,083	.....	130	.....	2,320	52
	Total ...	970,924	78,396	1,013,103	52,976	147,301	6,336	797,209	76,101

B.

Statement showing the estimated Number of Letters and Newspapers received for delivery in the Post-office of India during the years 1871-72 *to* 1873-74.

Names of Postal Circles.	1871-72.	1872-73.	1873-74.
Bengal (including Assam) ...	20,152,311	21,107,835	28,211,888
Madras	13,526,666	14,288,774	16,284,670
Bombay	17,041,034	17,345,323	18,527,236
North-West Provinces ...	17,268,533	16,016,111	16,610,544

C.

District Post-offices and their Establishments which have been dispensed with owing to the opening of Imperial Post-offices at those Stations.

Name of District Post-office.	Cost of Establishment per Mensem.			Name of District Post-office	Cost of Establishment per Mensem.		
Trichinopoly District.	RS.	A.	P.	*South Canara District.*	RS.	A.	P.
Kilapauloor	12	8	0	Mulkey	15	0	0
Jayamcondasholapoorum	18	0	0	Beltangoody	16	8	0
Manapaurai	12	0	0	Upinangady	15	0	0
Laulgoody	12	0	0	Sullia	17	8	0
Perambalore	12	0	0	Karkal	16	0	0
Musseri	12	0	0	Hosdroog	15	0	0
Torriore	12	0	0	Manjeshwar	6	8	0
Kulitalai	12	0	0				
				Tanjore District.			
Tinnevelly District.				Kovilady	13	0	0
Trichendore	12	0	0	Kodavassil	18	0	0
Sivagasi	7	0	0	Adrampatam	12	0	0
Rathapooram	12	0	0	Paupanasem	19	8	0
Covilputty	13	0	0	Madukur	19	8	0
Vullyoor	13	0	0	Oothanaud Chuttrum	24	8	0
Morapanaud	12	0	0	Valangamaun	14	8	0
Kytaur	12	0	0	Terumalavassil	5	0	0
Vellaticolum	12	0	0	Vadarniem	5	0	0
Palamcottah	12	0	0				
				Godavery District.			
Madura District.				Alamoor	12	0	0
Oosilumputty	12	12	0	Chintalapoody	12	0	0
Vadasundoor	12	12	0	Kothapettah	12	0	0
Madura	10	0	0	Pentapaudu	12	0	0
Sholavandum	13	0	0	Pothaverum	12	0	0
				Sivacode	12	0	0
North Arcot District.				Pruttipaud	12	0	0
Nursingaroyapett	12	0	0	Tallapoody	12	0	0
Kunniembady	17	8	0				
Vencatagherry	12	0	0	*Chingleput District.*			
Karvaitnugger	17	8	0	Satheavadu	12	0	0
Venkatagherricottah	12	0	0	Sydapett	22	0	0
Brahmadasem	17	8	0	Poonamallee	12	0	0
Teruvullum	12	0	0	Guduvancherri	17	0	0
Pennapaukum	17	8	0				
Virinjipoorum	12	0	0	*South Arcot District.*			
Timery	17	8	0	Manargoody	22	0	0
Chetput	12	0	0	Trickalore	12	0	0
Damulcheru	17	8	0	Trivenellore	12	0	0
Banaverum	12	0	0	Cullacoorchy	12	0	0
Desoor	17	8	0	Oolundoorpet	12	0	0
Maderpauk	12	0	0	Ellavanasore	12	0	0
				Trinomalay	12	0	0
Nellore District.				Kurinjipaudy	12	0	0
Raupore	12	0	0	Ginjee	12	0	0
Ramapatam	12	0	0	Mercanum	5	0	0
Dursi	12	0	0				
Kundakur	12	0	0	*Malabar District.*			
				Puttamby	12	0	0
Coimbatore District.				Anathoor	12	0	0
Pulladum	12	0	0				
Kongium	12	0	0	*Cuddapah District.*			
Avanashy	12	0	0	Pulivendla	12	0	0
Perundoray	12	0	0	Voilpaud	12	0	0

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th October 1875.

District Post-offices and their Establishments which have been dispensed with owing to the opening of Imperial Post-offices at those Stations,—(Concluded).

Name of District Post-office.	Cost of Establishment per Mensem.			Name of District Post-office.	Cost of Establishment per Mensem.		
Bellary District.	RS.	A.	P.	*Ganjam District.*	RS.	A.	P.
Hurpunhully	13	0	0	Sooradah about	12	0	0
Huvinhadagally	13	0	0	Sonapore do.	12	0	0
Raidroog	13	0	0				
Pennacondah	16	0	0	*Madura District.*			
Pamidi	13	0	0	Abiramum about ...	12	0	0
Dhurmaveram	13	0	0	Teroovootracasamungai do. ...	12	0	0
Hindoopoor	13	0	0	Gundamanaiknore do. ...	12	0	0
				Nellacottah do. ...	12	0	0
Vizagapatam District.							
Gunpore	12	0	0	*Tinnevelly District.*			
Kothavalsa	12	0	0	Alvarterunagery about	12	0	0
Sringavarapoocottah	12	0	0	Terukarungoody do.	12	0	0
Veeraguttum	12	0	0				
Konada	12	0	0	*Malabar District.*			
Nuckapully	12	0	0	Anjengo about	12	0	0
Lauvaroo	12	0	0				
Royagada	12	0	0				
Balacheruvu	12	0	0				
Nellore District.							
Doorgarajapatam about	12	0	0				
Ulloor do.	12	0	0				
				Total Cost per Month ...	1,467	0	0
							12
				Total Cost per Annum ...	17,604	0	0

Statement showing the Number of Letters, &c., delivered in the Districts of Tanjore, Godavery, Chingleput, and South Canara in the Months of September and October 1874.

Tanjore District.				Godavery District.				Chingleput District.				South Canara District.			
During the period when the District Post was under the control of the Collector.	When under the Imperial management.			During the period when the District Post was under the control of the Collector.	When under the Imperial management.			During the period when the District Post was under the control of the Collector.	When under the Imperial management.			During the period when the District Post was under the control of the Collector.	When under the Imperial management.		
	September 1874.	October 1874.			September 1874.	October 1874.			September 1874.	October 1874.			September 1874.	October 1874.	
7	d 2	d 2		7	d 3	d 3		3	8	2		9	9		
270	606	556		270	a 577	a 608		362	133	a 129		1,405	a 2,913	a 3,219	
390	682	640		390	a 709	a 681		1,146	433	a 479		2,963	a 3,694	a 3,910	
7	50	50		7	30	30		15	20	18		29	162	162	
c	12	12		c	33	33		60	54	64		107	90	90	
.....	.....	.....		.....	.....	.....		.....	.....	.....		.....	.....	.....	
c	10	10		c	38	38		65	47	57		78	99	99	
c	78	78		c	29	30		78	62	93		73	214	214	
c	10	15		c	8	7		75	89	68		.....	b 93	b 87	
.....	.....	.....		.....	.....	.....		.....	.....	.....		.....	3	3	
104	d 63	d 63		104	d 222	d 222		10	80	50		324	143	148	
2 to 2½	e 4 7 31	e 4 7 30		2 to 2½	e 4 5 11	e 4 6 14		4	e 5	e 5		.....	e 4	e 4	

No. 133. ORDER THEREON, 15th October 1875, No. 1,513.

Miscellaneous.

AT various times, from 1867 to the present year, the control of the district post of sixteen out of the nineteen Collectorates of the Madras Presidency has been transferred from the Revenue authorities to the Postmaster-General. It was thought that the effect of placing the executive management of the district post in the hands of the Postmaster-General's Department would be to increase the efficiency of the district post, and to extend its operations to villages which were hitherto beyond the reach of regular delivery; and it was desirable, also, to do away with the divided authority that naturally existed in districts where parts of the postal arrangements were Imperial and part under the Collector, and to set on foot a system that had for its object the gradual merging of the latter form of administration into the first named.

2. It was, therefore, arranged that, while the management of the postal funds of each district was to remain with the Collector, the executive control of the district service should vest in the Postmaster-General, and that the latter officer should direct his attention towards the conversion of these district establishments into Imperial charges, which end can, under the rules of that department, be only attained when any particular post-office receives and despatches covers whose postage slightly exceeds the cost of that establishment.

3. With these objects in view, *i.e.*, the extension of the advantages of the post to villages remote from the district post-offices, and the gradual improvement of the latter up to the rank of Imperial offices, Major Bourke entered on the work with praiseworthy earnestness, and, in the report under notice, he describes the state of affairs when he first took charge and the improvements that he has effected or hopes to effect.

4. The Postmaster-General dwells, at some length, on the defects of the former system, and then gives a general sketch of his method, which was to visit each district and talk over its requirements with the Collector, the Assistants, and his own Inspector of Post-offices, and then to elaborate and to completely and thoroughly organise and place on a permanent footing his improved service.

5. The Government are satisfied, from information received on all sides, that immense improvement to the postal service has resulted wherever the control of the Postmaster-General over district establishments has superseded that of the local authorities, and the most experienced of those local authorities are the most ready to admit the fact and to hail the improved result. The successful introduction of these reforms is due no less to the tact and judgment with which Major Bourke has advanced his measures than to the energy and ability with which he has elaborated and carried out the details; and His Excellency the Governor in

Comparative Statement of the Operations of the Postal Department in the undermentioned Districts during the Period when the District Post was under the Control of the Co

District.		Madura District.			North Arcot District.			Nellore District.			Coimbatore District.		
n under the Imperial management.		During the period when the District Post was under the control of the Collector.	When under the Imperial management.		During the period when the District Post was under the control of the Collector.	When under the Imperial management.		During the period when the District Post was under the control of the Collector.	When under the Imperial management.		During the period when the District Post was under the control of the Collector.	When under the Imperial management.	
er 1874.	October 1874.		September 1874.	October 1874.		September 1874.	October 1874.		September 1874.	October 1874.		September 1874.	October 1874.
9	d 9	3	3	4	10	d 7	d 7	e	11	11	4	d 1	d 1
,167	a 1,951	299	459	741	2,204	a 1,427	a 1,314	e	1,371	1,374	1,753	a 179	a 193
,781	a 2,301	1,045	466	901	2,305	a 1,338	a 1,327	e	1,275	1,379	2,696	a 163	a 149
48	48	.....	.....	.....	1,247	100	105	e	30	30	4	4	4
154	154	.....	.....	.....	4 Office.	107	115	e	1,123	1,133	.....	10	10
.....	.....	3,782	2,043	2,043	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
114	114	.....	.....	.....	4 Office.	80	89	e	.....	.....	.....	10	10
85	85	.....	.....	.....	2 do.	78	116	e	163	163	.....	10	10
7	b 8	82	b 15	b 18	256	b 6	b 11	e	28	30	86	b 2	b 2
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	e	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
185	d 185	406	d 302	d 302	149½	236	236	e	407	407	138	154½	154½
3 4	e 3 6 9	2 4 10	e 4 1 22	e 4 2 8	4 4 5	e 4 6 32	e 4 6 36	4 old records sold.	e 5	e 5	1 7 20	e 2 6 34	e 3 6 30

a. Decrease caused by the conversion of District Post-office into Imperial.
b. Denotes great improved working since the transfer of control.
c. Inspectors report that the information cannot be obtained
d. Establishments cannot be increased unless the grant is augmented.
e. Speed shows a steady improvement throughout.

TINNEVELLY.					
TRICHINOPOLY DISTRICT.	When under the Imperial management.		During the period when the District Post was under the control of the Collector.	Wh	
	September 1874.	October 1874.		Septemi	
Number of District Post-offices	d	d	13	d	
Number of covers posted at the District Post-offices ...	a	a	3,510	a	
Do. do. received for delivery at do. ...	3,541	3,950	3,533		
Number of towns and villages in which there is a regular delivery daily by the District Post-offices ...	.....	.....	141		
Do. do. twice a-week	.....	.....	204		
Do. do. thrice a-week	1,339	1,339	.....		
Do. do. weekly	.....	.....	226		
Number of covers sent to Dead Letter Office by District Post-offices	.....	.....	222		
Number of complaints received against District Post-offices	62	74	163	b	
Number of miles of District Post Lines	.....	.....	.....		
Average rate of speed on District Post Lines	d 1524	d 1524	335	d	
	e 5 0 0	e 5 0 0	3 2 34	e 3	

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th October 1875.

No. 133. ORDER THEREON, 15th October 1875, No. 1,513.

Miscellaneous.

AT various times, from 1867 to the present year, the control of the district post of sixteen out of the nineteen Collectorates of the Madras Presidency has been transferred from the Revenue authorities to the Postmaster-General. It was thought that the effect of placing the executive management of the district post in the hands of the Post-master-General's Department would be to increase the efficiency of the district post, and to extend its operations to villages which were hitherto beyond the reach of regular delivery; and it was desirable, also, to do away with the divided authority that naturally existed in districts where parts of the postal arrangements were Imperial and part under the Collector, and to set on foot a system that had for its object the gradual merging of the latter form of administration into the first named.

2. It was, therefore, arranged that, while the management of the postal funds of each district was to remain with the Collector, the executive control of the district service should vest in the Postmaster-General, and that the latter officer should direct his attention towards the conversion of these district establishments into Imperial charges, which end can, under the rules of that department, be only attained when any particular post-office receives and despatches covers whose postage slightly exceeds the cost of that establishment.

3. With these objects in view, *i.e.*, the extension of the advantages of the post to villages remote from the district post-offices, and the gradual improvement of the latter up to the rank of Imperial offices, Major Bourke entered on the work with praiseworthy earnestness, and, in the report under notice, he describes the state of affairs when he first took charge and the improvements that he has effected or hopes to effect.

4. The Postmaster-General dwells, at some length, on the defects of the former system, and then gives a general sketch of his method, which was to visit each district and talk over its requirements with the Collector, the Assistants, and his own Inspector of Post-offices, and then to elaborate and to completely and thoroughly organise and place on a permanent footing his improved service.

5. The Government are satisfied, from information received on all sides, that immense improvement to the postal service has resulted wherever the control of the Postmaster-General over district establishments has superseded that of the local authorities, and the most experienced of those local authorities are the most ready to admit the fact and to hail the improved result. The successful introduction of these reforms is due no less to the tact and judgment with which Major Bourke has advanced his measures than to the energy and ability with which he has elaborated and carried out the details; and His Excellency the Governor in

16/10/03 +
16-1-04

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department
15*th October* 1875.

Council is glad of this opportunity of recording his sense of the valuable service rendered in this direction by Major Bourke.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) L, A. CAMPBELL,
Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Postmaster-General.
" the Board of Revenue.
" Major the Hon. E. R. Bourke.

B-132-33

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

A

1513/7

of Postal Circles	Bengal (including Assam)		Madras		Bombay		North West Provinces	
iel of Concert	number for delivery	number returned undelivered	number for delivery	number returned undelivered	number for delivery	number returned undelivered	number for delivery	number returned undelivered
Letters Paid	286,810	5,240	568,225	12,957	61,632	731	208,388	6,935
Unpaid	537,985	72,088	282,610	37,725	75,320	5,319	424,416	67,159
Service Privilege	76,206	130	17,936	78	573	"	116,378	860
Registered	18,198	208	21,665	834	2,212	182	13,974	539
Parcels	16,355	678	108,561	1356	5,709	104	26,353	548
Packets	3,232	"	12,123	26	1,695	"	4,380	208
Parcels	2,138	52	2,083	"	130	"	2,320	52
Total	970,924	78,396	1,013,103	52,976	147,301	6,336	797,209	76,101

Statement Showing the estimated number of Letters and Newspapers remitted for delivery in the Post Offices of India during the years 1871-72 & 1873-74.

1513/8

Names of Postal Circles.	1871-72	1872-73	1873-74
Bengal (including Assam)	20,152,311	21,107,[illegible]35	28,211,888
Madras	13,536,666	14,288,774	16,284,670
Bombay	17,041,034	17,345,323	18,527,236
North West Provinces	17,265,533	16,016,111	16,40[illegible]544

C. 14

District Post Offices and their establishments which have been dispensed with owing to the opening of Imperial Post Offices at those stations.

1513/G

Name of district Post Office	Cost of establishment per mensem	Name of District Post Office	Cost of establishment per mensem
		Brought over	386 " "
Trichinopoly District		**North Arcot Dist. Continued**	
Kilapaulloor	12 8 "	Tinery	17 8 "
Vamcondacholapooram	18 " "	Chetput	12 " "
Manapaurai	12 " "	Dammelcherry	17 8 "
Caulgoody	12 " "	Bananeroom	12 " "
Perambalore	12 " "	Deloor	17 8 "
Musseri	12 " "	Maderpauk	12 " "
Torriore	12 " "	**Nellore District**	
Kulitalai	12 " "	Raupore	12 " "
Tinnevelly District		Ramapatam	12 " "
Trichendore	12 " "	Durdi	12 " "
Sivagasi	7 " "	Kundakur	12 " "
Rathapooram	12 " "	**Coimbatore District**	
Sovilputty	13 " "	Pulladum	12 " "
Vullyoor.	13 " "	Kongicum	12 " "
Morapanaud	12 " "	Avanashy	12 " "
Kytaur	12 " "	Perundorey	12 " "
Vellaicolum	12 " "	**South Canara District**	
Palamcottah	12 " "	Mulkey	15 " "
Madura District.		Bellangady	16 8 "
Dosilumputty	12 12 "	Upidangady	15 " "
Vadasundoor	12 12 "	Sullid	17 8 "
Madura	10 " "	Karkal	16 " "
Sholavandum	13 " "	Hosdroog	15 " "
North Arcot District		Manjeshwar	6 8 "
Nursingarayapett	12 " "	**Salem District**	
Kunnicumbady	17 8 "	Kovilady	13 " "
Vencatagherry	12 " "	Kodaveril	18 " "
Karnaitimugger	17 8 "	Adrampatam	12 " "
Venkatagherricottah	12 " "	Pampanaud	19 8 "
Brahmadesum	17 8 "	Mandur	19 8 "
Jeruvulum	12 " "	Cothanaud Chuttrum	20 8 "
Punnapauk	17 8 "		
Virinjipooram	12 " "		
Carried over	386 " "	Carried over	778 8 "

1513/10

Name of District Post Office	Cost of establishment per annum	Name of District Post Office	Cost of establishment per annum
Brought over	778 "	Brought over	1109 "
Tanjore Dist^t Continued		Cuddapah District	
Valangamaun	14 8 "	Pulivendula	12 "
Serumalanajeel	5 " "	Voilpaud	12 "
Vadarnisme	5 " "	Bellary District	
Godaverey District		Herpunhully	13 "
Alangoor	12 " "	Kuvindadagally	13 "
Chulalapoody	12 " "	Raidroog	13 "
Kothapettah	12 " "	Penacondah	16 "
Pentapaudu	12 " "	Panidy	13 "
Pothaverum	12 " "	Dhurmaverum	13 "
Sivacode	12 " "	Hindoopoor	13 "
Pruttipaud	12 " "	Vizagapatam District	
Tallapoody	12 " "	Gumpore	12 "
Chingleput District		Kothacotta	12 "
Satheanadu	12 " "	Singavarapoocottah	12 "
Sydapett	22 " "	Veraguttum	12 "
Poonamallee	12 " "	Konada	12 "
Gudduvanchery	17 " "	Nuckapully	12 "
South Arcot District		Lanvaro	12 "
Manargaudy	22 " "	Royazada	12 "
Pitchalore	12 " "	Balacherum	12 "
Perumallore	12 " "	Nellore District	
Pullacoorchy	12 " "	Doorgarajapatam about	12 "
Oolundoorpet	12 " "	do	12 "
Ellamanatore	12 " "	Ganjam District	
Periomalay	12 " "	Soorada about	12 "
Kurinjipandy	12 " "	do	12 "
Gingie	12 " "	Madura District	
Mercanum	5 " "	Abiramum about	12 "
Malabar District		Perovoothacadamungai do	12 "
Puttanchy	12 " "	Gundamanaickanore do	12 "
Anathoor	12 " "	Nellacottah do	12 "
Carried over	1109 " "	Carried over	1431 " "

Name of District Post Office	Cost of establishment per annum
Brought over	1431 " "
Tinnevelly District	
Alvarterunagery about	12 " "
Srukarungoody do	12 " "
Malabar District	
Anjingo about	12 " "
Total Cost per month	1467 " "
	12
Total Cost per annum	17604 " "

No. 16041

POSTMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Madras, 29th March 1875.

FROM

Major the Honorable E. R. Bourke

Postmaster General,
MADRAS.

To

The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT,
Public Department,
FORT SAINT GEORGE.

SIR,

As I am about to proceed on privilege leave shortly before the end of the official year, I submit this report of the working of the district Post in the Districts now under my control.

Shortly after assuming charge of the Postmaster Generals' Office in May 1872, I found the question of the transfer of the District Post from the Control of the Collectors to the Postmaster General beset with considerable difficulties.

At the time of my taking charge the only District that had been permanently transferred was Tinnevelly, no one apparently knew exactly what to do or how far the transfer affected the

administration

administrakon and Controlling authority of the Imperial Post Offie Officials — the internal arrangements of the Several District Posts were in a most incomplete Condition through the want of proper Syetem and organization, and though the Control of this (the Trichinopoly District Post) was effected as far back as June 1867, the transfer was merely nominal — no Change of any importance has been attempted. There was no elaborated recognized Scheme for the development of the Post such as opening new District Post Offices, employing Rural and District Delivery Posts organizing new and extended delivery beats, and arranging that there should be a punctual and regular periodical delivery and Collections of letters, News-papers &c to every portion of the District at a distance from the Kusba Stations. The old Syetem of delivery into the distant

distant parts of each Taluq being still effected through the Agency of the Revenue Department by Subordinate village Servants who naturally took little or no interest whatever in effecting a punctual and early delivery of non official Covers, often neglecting to make any delivery at all — and when after a Considerable delay a delivery was effected, in many Cases a Charge greater than the legal one was demanded which if not paid the article was not delivered but returned to the Imperial Post Offie as "Not Found" or "Refused" — It was almost a matter of Chance if even District Gazettes were delivered to the distant parts of the Taluq in any thing like reasonable time.

It depended very much on the accident of one of these village Servants (Talliaries) being sent to the Kusba town on Revenue matters when the Correspondence of the District — including

delivery of

delivery of District Gazettes was taken out. The actual delivery to the addressee residing at a distance depended again on these village Servants non Postal duties leading them to the residence of the addressee. For these menial Servants drawing but small pay (about 2-8-0 to 4 Rupees per month) and having such a multiplicity of duties to perform in that the delivery of non official Correspondence was only attended to when there was nothing else to be done, or when it could be Combined with other duties.

Some idea may be found of the delay and detention to Correspondence for the district when District Gazettes were often a week and 10 days old before reaching the addressee.

As regards the Collection of Covers from outlaying portions of each District for delivery elsewhere there was no attempt whatever made on the part of these village servants to Collect

1512/13

Collect non-official Correspondence from villages or to sell stamps and embossed envelopes to the public during their tours and rounds. Neither was there a Single Letter Box at any village where Correspondence could be posted. All letters to be posted had to be carried to the Head Station by Private hand unless there was an Imperial Post Office nearer which was very unlikely.

The Control of the District Post was usually vested in one of the Collectors Concomitant Assistants who in fact was supposed in addition to his other duties to be the Postmaster to arrange for the Postal wants of the whole District, the delivery and Collection of Official and non Official Correspondence.

In some districts where this Officer took Special interest in the District Post, the Postal arrangements were better than in others; where the

Same

same amount of personal interest
and attention to postal work was not
forthcoming they were less good.
A great diversity of practice prevailed.
Every District had some sort of
individuality and peculiarity of
its own arising chiefly from the
constant changes in the Controlling head.
There was no universal rule Custom
or organization, the arrangements
for each District depended on the
personal will of a separate
individual who was not experienced
in Post Office work and often did
not care to make himself acquainted
with its details, intricacies, and ramifications.

The entire District Post allotment
for each district was scarcely ever
wholly spent - the total budget grant
never under the then prevailing system
could be spent, while the whole
country was clamoring for want of
an efficient Postal Service and the
attendant civilizing influence of a

good

good Rural Postal Cart for the
Collection and delivery of Correspondence
in the Districts at a distance from
Kutcha stations.

In my letter to the Board
of Revenue No 111 dated 4th April 1874,
I pointed out that under the then
existing System large Savings must
accrue Annually and be lost to
the District Post and the Government
was pleased to accede to my
recommendations therein contained
and passed an order No 570 dated 8th
May 1874, which has worked most
satisfactorily enabling me in
Communicating with the Collectors
to Spend the allotment up to the
Sanctioned Amount without awaiting
the orders of Government.

It will thus be seen that
previous to the transfer of Control
there was in fact nothing that could
be called an efficient System of delivery

or

1513/15

or Collection of non Official Correspondence
mise, over the greater area of this Presidency
at a distance from large towns where
Imperial Post Offices were not located.
It will be seen from the Extract as
per margin from a late report of the
Collector of South Arcot - the progress
made in that district since the
transfer. I hope the remaining 800 Square
miles will soon be brought under the
influence of the Post Office. So fast as
long as the Control rested with the
Revenue Officials it was not possible
to have an efficient District Post
Service as the individuals whose
duty it was to arrange and Control
the Same were entirely unacquainted
with the Postal System and had not the
time at Command to Supervise it
neither would it be possible to Conduct
such a Service Except as a whole and under
one head who has at his disposal trained
Officers with Special departmental knowledge
and a fixed & Comprehensive Code of rules
and

+ "The total number
"of Imperial Post
"Offices is eighteen,
"of which two being
"on the Coast, only
"dominate 100 Square
"miles while the
"total area influenced
"by the 18 district Post
"Offices is 735 Square
"miles, thus making
"a total area of
"1185 Square miles
"brought within the
"influence of the
"Post Office & leaving
"about 800 Square
"miles still to be
"brought under
"its influence

and regulations to work under. It
follows therefore that however efficient
the District Post arrangements of any
particular District Post might be,
its utility was marred by its individu-
ality and being entirely a distinct
system instead of all district Post
being amalgamated and controlled under
one fixed Organization.

Since June 1872 in addition
to the Trichinopoly district 12 other
Districts have been transferred to my
Control and 3 more have been applied for
as far back as August 1874 —
All arrangements are complete for
introducing the change but the orders
of the Government for the transfer
have not as yet been received.

* Tinnevelly
Madura
North Arcot
Nellore
Coimbatore
South Canara
Tanjore
Godavery
Chingleput
South Arcot
Malabar
Salem

Bellary Kistna, Nellore

The System I have worked upon
in endeavouring to improve and
develope the district Post and in utilizing
the Grant to the best possible advantage
is as follows:—

By personally visiting each
District and making myself acquainted
with

with the requirements to elaborate with the assistance of the Collector and his subordinates together with the Inspector of Post Offices a scheme by which an improved service can be completely and thoroughly organized and placed on a permanent footing, arranging that the whole of the allotment shall be economically and judiciously spent fixing the heats of the several Rural Delivery Posts &c &c - To illustrate the system that has been introduced into the districts under my Control and what eventually must will be in full working order before many years in each Taluq in this Presidency. I attach a Specimen map of the Tarrypore Taluq in the Trichinopoly District - this shews clearly the system I am endeavouring to implant - When the whole of the districts come under my Control and the Scheme is Completed and in full operation there should not be a village in the Madras Presidency that

that will not be in easy and Convenient Postal Communication with the rest of the World - the Correspondence of each village being regularly and punctually delivered and despatched.

Each Delivery Post has a Small Letter Box which is sealed by the Postmaster before he leaves for his beat in which the Public may post their letters. All District Delivery Posts in addition carry Postage Stamps and Sale some embossed envelopes for sale, they also clear all fixed Letter Boxes during their tour. Thus each District Delivery Post is also a Small moving Post Office with whom letters can be posted in a sealed Letter Box and by whom letters posted in the fixed village Letter Box are cleared.

Each Inspector on the first transfer of a District Post has in Communication with the local Revenue Officials to prepare one of these maps for each Taluq clearly defining

the

the heats of each delivery Row, a very large proportion of these maps have already been completed but the work takes time and must be carefully done to be of any advantage.

It will be seen from the marginal statement that for the past 5 years the total allotment for the district Post has not been spent. Considerable unexpended balances have been permitted to lapse. It will be seen during the current year nearly the whole of the Grant has been expended and even this small balance would not exist had all my proposals been sanctioned, had even more money been available it could have been most usefully and profitably employed - it is very much to be regretted that more money was not available as numerous recommendations for much needed establishments had to be deferred

Statement showing the district Post Grant and the Expenditure &c in the Madras Postal Circle during the last 5 years.

Years	Budget Grant	Actual Expenditure	Lapsed	
	Rs	Rs	Rs	
1869-70	119,400	103,509	15,891	
1870-71	119,400	101,609	17791	
1871-72	114,380	95,481	18,899	
1872-73	108,000	93,323	14,677	
1873-74	108,000	92,115	15885	
1874-75	100,000	about 99,000	1000	

on

1513/17

on account of want of funds - I consider that at least 120,000 is necessary if the District Post is to be made efficient and I trust the matter may be considered and the allotment increased to this amount which is about what it was 5 years ago. Considerable economy in District Post establishments became possible by the transfer of Control. A District Post Gomastah and usually a Cask in addition was formerly entertained at each Kusba Station - As there is an Imperial Post Office at almost every Kusba these District Post Establishments were done away with. All District Post Offices at Stations where an Imperial Post Office already exists have also been closed and the money utilized to the best possible advantage in providing more District Post Delivery Rows or in opening new District Post Offices and Lines where needed. Previous to the transfer this economy (which taken as a

whole

whole is considerable) was not possible. The savings accruing from these sources and utilized as above in the districts already transferred amounts to nearly Rupees 3000 annually.

Government Order No. 670 dated 8th May 1874, previously alluded to has enabled great progress to be made in at once utilizing these funds without having as formerly to await sanction which usually took about 4 months during which time the money could not be spent and consequently lapsed - a considerable amount of needless correspondence has also thus been saved.

The returns sent in to my Office monthly by Collectors shewing the exact state of their respective District Post allotments (Copy as per margin) has enabled me when necessary to communicate with the Collectors at once for utilizing the grant to the full, and I beg to offer my thanks to the several Collectors for complying with my request in this matter in furnishing me with this most useful returns.

It is most difficult to compute precisely the financial benefit accruing to Government by the transfer of Control but the Statement in the margin will give an idea of how great has been the increase.

Since the return was made as shewn in the last column of the marginal statement the receipts may fairly be considered as having considerably increased and will doubtless continue to increase in proportion to the facilities offered to the public to correspond.

Name of District	Sum of the monthly savings from Contingent Grant, Postage &c. &c. utilized during the year 1873-74	Total Cost of the Establishment of Chief Post Office and Sub Offices in the District during the year 1873-74	Excess of Receipts over Expenditure	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Trichinopoly	1187 2 3	708 4 -	778 14 3	July 1872
Tinnevelly	2784 3 -	1179 12 -	1604 7 -	August 1872
North Arcot	4252 11 -	1381 4 -	2871 7 -	September "
Nellore	1081 5 1	508 11 -	572 10 1	December "
Coimbatore	2118 12 -	824 4 -	1294 8 -	July 1873
South Canara	621 13 5	402 8 -	219 5 5	March 1874
Tanjore	2703 14 9	1029 12 -	1674 2 9	April 1874
Coldanary	1221 7 11	684 4 -	537 3 11	April 1874
Chingleput	419 14 11	417 12 -	2 2 11	April 1874
Total	16691 3 9	7036 7 -	9654 12 9	

In reviewing the work of the District Post it must be borne in mind that as Correspondence develops and District Post Office establishments become self supporting they are converted into Imperial and are then paid for from Imperial funds

thus

8

1513/18

thus releasing District Post funds for employment elsewhere in less important and more remote parts of the District -

If district Post establishments which pay were permitted to remain district Post establishments and not to commuted the returns of the District Post would shew immense development and progress. But this cannot be - the District Post must of necessity always be in a transition State, always developing to a certain standard till it becomes self supporting when it is commuted into Imperial and has as it were to begin a fresh. The great test of the utility of the District Post is to be found in the large number of District Post establishments that have during the past 2 years developed to such an extent as to be commuted into Imperials - Every District Post establishment that has been so commuted makes me to extend the benefit of the District Post farther and farther into the more distant portions of each district,

creating -

1513/19

creating as it were a correspondence and facilitating communications useful both for the Official and non Official which by careful and periodical supervision early attention to Complaints and prompt investigation of all irregularities by trained and competant departmental officials soon engenders confidence and thereby fosters correspondence -

I append an Extract (A) from the last Annual* Report of the Director General of Post Office in India. It will be seen that the operations of the District Post in this Presidency compares very favorably with other Presidencies and I have little doubt that the returns for the current year will be more favorable still - the greater proportion of paid articles passing through the Madras District Post Office shews that there is greater confidence in the Post and a higher standard of civilization prevailing amongst the rural population in this than in other Presidencies.

* 1873-74

Statement

Statement B shews that the total number of articles passing through the General Post has increased during the past few years to a much greater extent in Madras than in any other Postal Circle excepting Bengal this also indicates a Satisfactory degree of progress.

In 1872-73 the increase was 762,108
in 1873-74 ——————— 1995,896
" 1874-76 returns just received 2,504,382

(1A)

making a total increase during the past 3 years of 5,262,386

which indicates more rapid progress than any other postal Circle excepting Bengal which includes Assam.

Statement C shews the number of District Post establishments during my tenure of Office that have been converted into Imperial - a few of which are still undergoing experiment - the total amounts to 113, releasing by their Conversion a sum of 17,604 Rupees available and being utilized in extending the District Post, when it is remembered that only 12 district Posts have been transferred and some of

10

1513/20

of those only quite recently the progress made in this particular Branch is most encouraging. Much more has still to be done and it will take several years before the maximum benefit accruing from the transfer of Control is fully apparent.

Statement D is a Comparative Statement shewing the operations of the District Post of those districts that have been transferred from immediately previous to the transfer up to October 1876 - the remarks at foot of the Statement explain the various Changes.

The great progress shewn by the few letters now returned to Dead Letter Office is very Satisfactory indeed.

It must also be borne in mind though the number of

Offices

offices and District Post establishments have not increased by reason of the District Post Grant not having been augmented, the present existing Offices and establishments are all new the previous ones having in nearly every instance been converted into Imperials.

The increase in the Sale of Stamps and the great improvement in the Revenue are indications from which it is fair to conclude that the Post Office is appreciated and largely used by the rural population wherever it has been brought within its reach and it only remains now to raise the Grant to what it was 5 years

ago

1873/21

ago to enable me to hasten on this most useful measure which is calculated to confer lasting benefits on the whole Community as well as permanently increasing the Revenue.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your obedient Servant

Postmaster General

Revenue 1875 Department

From No. 1129

Mr Rochmarle Gunnel

Madras

To Mr Chief Secretary

to Government

Public Works Department

Fort Saint George

No 16041

Dated 29th } March 1875.

Rec'd 30th }

En: 5.

Subject

Oct 15th 13 - 15th October 1875

Submits Policy

Report on the

working of the District

Post in the Districts

under his Control

No 132

C 29 Sept 75 - No 13 Oct 75

AC 22 May 75. Rb 29 May 75.

C 18 May 75. Rb 20 May 75.

Comparative Statement of the operations of the Postal Department in the undermentioned districts in the months of September and October 1874

	Trichinopoly District		Tinnevelly District			Madura District			North West District		
	During the period when the District Post was under the Control of the Collector	When under the Imperial management	During the period when the District Post was under the Control of the Collector	When under the Imperial management		During the period when the District Post was under the Control of the Collector	When under the Imperial management		During the period when the District Post was under the Control of the Collector	When under the Imperial management	
	September 1874	October 1874	September 1874	October 1874		September 1874	October 1874		September 1874	October 1874	
Number of District Post offices	10	□	□	13	9	9	3	3	4	10	7	7
Number of Covers posted at the District Post offices	5,050	+ "	+ "	3,510	+ 3,167	+ 1,951	299	459	741	2,204	+ 1,327	+ 1,314
Dr. Dr. received for delivery at — Dr	2,209	3,541	3,950	3,533	3,781	+ 2,301	1,043	466	901	2,305	+ 1,338	+ 1,327
Number of towns and villages in which there is a regular delivery daily by the District Post offices				141	48	48				1,247	100	105
Dr Dr thrice a week				204	154	154				40	107	115
Dr — Dr thrice a week	1,174	1,339	1,339				3,782	2,043	2,043			
Dr — Dr. Weekly				226	114	114				40	80	89
				222	83	85				2 Dr	78	116
Number of covers sent to Dead Letter Office by District Post offices	238	62	74	168	* 7	* 4	82	* 16	* 18	256	* 6	* 11
Number of Complaints received against District Post offices	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Number of Miles of District Post Lines	206	□ 152½	□ 152½	335	□ 185	□ 185	406	□ 302	□ 302	149½	236	236
Average rate of Speed on District Post Lines.	3-3-4	△ 5 —	△ 5 —	3-2-64	△ 3-6-4	△ 3-6-9	2-4-10	△ 4-1-22	△ 4-2-8	4-4-5	△ 4-6-32	△ 4-6-36

4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4

\+ Decrease caused by the conversion of District Post Office into Imperial.

* Denotes great improved working since the transfer of Control.

0 Inspectors report that the information cannot be obtained

□ Establishment cannot be increased unless the grant is augmented.

△ Speed shews a steady improvement throughout.

Districts during the period when the District Port was under the Control of the Collector

1513

Nellore District			Coimbatore District			South Canara District			Chingleput District			Godavery District			Tanjore District		
During the period when the District Port was under the Control of the Collector	September 1874	October 1874	During the period when the District Port was under the Control of the Collector	September 1874	October 1874	During the period when the District Port was under the Control of the Collector	September 1874	October 1874	During the period when the District Port was under the Control of the Collector	September 1874	October 1874	During the period when the District Port was under the Control of the Collector	September 1874	October 1874	During the period when the District Port was under the Control of the Collector	September 1874	October 1874
0	11	11	4	1	1	8	9	9	3	3	2	7	3	3	7	2	2
0	1,371	1,374	1,753	+179	+192	6,278	+2,913	+3,219	362	138	+129	1,405	+577	+608	270	506	566
0	1,275	1,379	2,696	+162	+149	7,232	+3,694	+3,910	1,146	433	+479	2,263	+708	+681	360	682	640
0	30	30	4	4	4	0	162	162	15	20	18	29	30	30	7	50	50
0	1,123	1,123	"	10	10	0	90	90	60	54	64	107	33	33	0	12	12
0	-	-	-	10	10	0	99	99	55	47	57	78	38	38	0	10	10
0	163	163	"	10	10	0	214	214	78	82	92	73	29	30	0	78	78
0	28	30	86	÷2	÷2	170	÷93	÷87	75	89	65	"	3	7	0	10	18
0	"	"	"	"	"	"	3	3	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
0	407	407	138	154½	164½	148	148	148	50	50	50	324	222	222	104	63	63
4 Vessels sold	5	5	1-7-20	2-6-34	2-6-30	1¾	4	4½	4	5	5	"	4-5-11.	4-6-14	262½	4-7-31.	4-7-30.

Under Review

From Post Master Genl
1832 29/3/5 No 16041
23

At various times, from 1867 to the
present year, the control of the
District Post of sixteen out of the
nineteen Collectorates of the Mad
Presidency has been transferred
from the Revenue Authorities to
the Post master General -
thought that the effect of placing
the executive management of the
District Post in the hands of the
Post master General's Department
would be to increase the efficiency
of the District Post and to extend
its operations to villages which
were hitherto beyond the reach of
regular delivery - Mad

It was desirable also to do away
with the divided authority that ex-
isted in districts where part of the Post
Arrangements were under Superin-
and part under the Collector and to set on
foot a System that had for its object
the gradual merging of the Collectors
into the former.

for form of administration into the first-named.

It was therefore arranged that
while the management of the Posts
Funds of each District should re-
-main with the Collector, the exec-
-tive control of the manner in

-rect his energies towards the
conversion of these Districts es-
tablishments into Imperial
orfes - This end can, under
rules of that Department, be only
achieved by showing that any par-
ticular Post Office receives and
dispatches covers whose postage
exceeds the cost of that es-
tablishment - (Therefore, as Major
Burke in this Report explains, it is
result to show what specific ad-
vantages have accrued to the State
by assumption of the management
District Post, for, so soon
a District Office shows signs of
being able to pay its way than it is
conferred with an Imperial
rder)

With these objects in view, & the
conversion of the advantages of the
Com: to villages remote from the
District Post Offices and the gra-
dual improvement of the latter
up to the rank of Imperial Offices,
Major Bourke entered on (his,
his great measure, self-appointed
work & in the report under notice
he describes the state of affairs
when he first took charge & the
improvements that he has effec-
ted & hopes to effect.

It is to be regretted however that

succinct detail of the changes effected
in each particular District.

The Post Master General does
some length on the want of proper
and organization of former days,
the want of punctual and regular
periodical delivery to every part
of a District, on the inefficiency a-
it would seem, corruptness of the
village servants who delivered the
mail correspondence and on the neces-
sity of the Covenanted Assistant
who had charge of the Post and wa-
was unhappily ignorant of the in-
-tricacies & complications of
Postal work

he talks of the bitterness
of Postal Starvation and the ap-
-tant attitude of civilization and
the inauguration of a good Post

Major Bourke then gives
sketch of his method of
each District & talk over
-ments with the Collector the
& his own Inspector of Post Offices &
then to elaborate & to completely & th
-roughly organize & place on a per-
-manent footing his improved Ser-
-vice -

Here, however, the Report
comes But Government wishing to
know what this improved Servi
is & to what extent it has been
Collect

extract from a letter from the
ctor of South Arcot and some
explanatory remarks —

the information conveyed by
sources is not so clear as to
rant their submission without
ded explanation —

Taking the Tanjore map, the
rnment does not know whether
present things as they are in fact
y, or things as they are to be.
the footnote attention is directed to
at 120 villages that are visited
weekly, but there are other
ces where Boys are kept placed
eons with next. Nor do the
ernment understand whether
things of this and other districts
-ted in the same elaborate
ner whether the postal ster-
is course of being
-ryne taking the
, 6th beats are of
miles each; for a bi-weekly de-
very these lines must require a
ff of at least nine peons & the
th, 5th, & 7th will require three
ore, making a total of twelve
eons for 120 villages — The dis-
tricts marginally named have all
en under the P.M. G's control
two years & upwards

Districts	Year when handed over to P.M.G.
Trichinopoly	1867
Godavery	1873
S. Arcot	1873
Combaconum	1872
Tinnevelly	1871
Madura	1872
N. Arcot	1872
Nellore	187
Chingleput	187
Tanjore	18

minimum.

I made enquiries about
this and found that the system
is not only yet in force in
all the talugs, but that it
never was carried out, in
the entirety, in Tanjore —

1513
28

I have made enquiries about
this too & find

that the covers
C that were delivered by District
last year, though received at
Imperial Post Office.

fairly clear. All is then the
inference to draw from Major K.
having submitted the Tanjore as
as an illustration of his Reforms &
that all the talugs in all these dis-
are patrolled by postmen in the
that this one of Tanjore is served
and that, consequently, there
is an average of one peon
letter peon to every ten hamlets in
throughout the greater part of
Presidency.

Before they can accept such
welcome but astounding as
assure the Collectors of the sever
Districts to submit a statement whether
inference is right or wrong —
Nor is much information
gathered from statement D.

Taking the Trichinopoly
appears that ten District Post
been converted into Imperial
& consequently, all the letters
in the District were posted at
penal Offices & do not appe
the statement D. But then comes
last entry which shows that
were received for delivery
at the District P. Offs, all
as stated above, there were
District P.Os remaining. On
grounds, the key statement

Passing over the proposal to
present the Government's
approbation the marked increase
which has taken place in the
speed on District post lines in
the character of the accommodation
of District Post Offices and in the
relations which exist between
those establishments & those
supported at Imperial c

and they enjoin Postal Surveyors
of this opportunity of acknowledging publicly
the active interest that they have taken
constantly manifested in the improvement
of the very important public service
entrusted to their charge.

1513/96

periodically during the week
on the District Post offices is
unobjectionable - Nor is it plain
to us in stating of the Post Lines,
whether they are included in
the Messengers are called Post
& if so, how the rates of
have been calculated -
Regarding the Madura District
see under the Collector's ma-
ment. There were 3782 villages
visited once a week
week, or every day, as
2043 rows. This does
not satisfactorily the
they occur in the
Salem, N. Arcot & Coda-
pitrich alone, with Ma-
the aggregate decrease a-
mts 319 as against an
increase of 218 in the
ct of Trichinopoly, Coim-
& Chingleput.
he however that the
se in the number of villages
attributed to their having
special Establishment, but
ctions show that this is

Returns from Post Lines are
through the
Post Offices
to the Superintendent

It will appear that

In reference to my Proceedings
on the Report of
Inspection, but meanwhile

District Post Office

Original
Enc: with a dft no
from Mr Tarver

This is known in the
present form. Mr Hodgetts
to expend as above. Returned
Circd. & W. T. himself the proof
that the post should be carried by
the Rail & do be

Cat[illegible]
9th September/75
Desp'd 15th Septr/75

1513
78

My dear MacGregor.

I have endeavoured to recast Form D, in Major Bourke's report as you requested, but I find that no information exists for forming such a Comparative Statement as would shew you in a clear way what we have been about with the District Post and what we propose to accomplish.

You will see from Major Bourke's report that the great principle that directs the operations of the Imperial post is the necessity of every undertaking paying its own expenses. The Imperial Department will not open a new Post Office, or start a new line of runners,

or

lines

or establish a new Postman, unless there is a chance of the undertaking being self supporting, and, in order that no mistake may be made, every such new operation has to undergo a tentative period, when its income is closely watched and tested as to its capability of answering this requisite—

Another great principle of the Imperial department is, that it is no respecter of persons and classes— Every body must be guided by its provisions and no one possesses privileges by virtue of his position. In these two points the System of the District Post was at variance with the Imperial System, for the former was kept up for the benefit of Government, and it was not

Supposed

1513/29

Supposed to pay its own way. Therefore it was that the Imperial Department could not amalgamate with the District Department and hence arose the necessity for separate establishments. But these things are gradually passing away— Animated in a great measure by the personal influence of Major Bourke, by the multitudinous duties which prevented them from minutely superintending their District Post, and by the unfavorable comparison that their administration of it presented when contrasted with that of the Imperial Department, the Collectors have looked with satisfaction the transfer that is now going on.

Mr. Garstin of South street says that the postal arrangements have

The other objection:— that the lines

have certainly been improved, but states that the transfer has not been copious enough.

Mr Vans Agnew of Bellore "is surprised that there are any doubts of the success of the transfer – to say that "Postal facilities have been greatly increased and Order and regularity instead of the old hugger-mugger" – He adds that he is "only too glad to avail himself of the trained agency of the Imperial Post" – and he is "quite satisfied that the Revenue department is incapable of maintaining decent postal arrangements even for their own use" –

Mr Logan of Malabar is of opinion that the change of system is decidedly beneficial and Mr Blyth,

Sub

1513/27

1513/30

Sub Collector of Madura speaks in equally eulogistic terms of it.

From these dicta and from the favorable opinions that I have gathered from personal conversation with other Collectors, it is inferred that the desirability of maintaining the District Post as a partially Government institution is no longer of force, and that in all cases where postal facilities exist for the benefit of the Public no, or very few, Special privileges are needed by the Collectors and other Government Officials – If this be allowed, and with concession on both sides, there is no doubt that it will stand, one objection to the amalgamation of the Imperial and district Systems falls to the ground –

The other objection :– that the

lines

have certainly been improved, but states that the transfer has not been copious enough

Surp
of t
that
gre
reg
m
ge
a
h
d
d
t

Lines, Offices and postmen must pay-
it being gradually dealt with-
I have not been able to procure
any reliable data as to the extent of the
deserption of the District establishment
into the Imperial bottom since the
respective districts have passed under
the Control of this department. But it
has been very great and the magni-
If the conversion warrants the conclusion that in
a short space of time, there will not be a
Single Post Office or line of runners that will
be supported from the District funds and that
the whole allotment to the District Post in the
Presidency will be exclusively spent in main-
taining Village postmen.

The village postman is the unit of the
Rural Delivery System and I wish to draw
attention to the fact that his pay and prospects
are not kept on the importance of his duties
demands-

(513/27)

demand- They are also inferior in every
respect to the Similarly situated official
who belongs to the Imperial Service-
Therefore we have the Anomaly of two men
doing the same work, but, from a mere
matter of account, drawing different
Salaries- The men feel their position
keenly and the hardship is creating diffi-
-culties in recruiting for the District
Service- Nor are the monetary interests
at Stake Small- As I have shewn above
we may, in a very short time, expect that
the whole of the allotment made by the
Madras Government will be devoted to the
upkeep of these District Postmen- and this
involves the right disposal of a lac of
rupees. The difference in the pay between
one functionary and the other is, in the
earliest Stages, as the difference between
Rupees 6½ a month drawn by the
Imperial

Imperial Servant and Rupees 5 by the
District Boss - and whereas there is prospect
of the former drawing increased salaries
up to Rupees 10/ the latter dies where he
began, and there is no hope that he will
ever get an increase - A Service framed
in this way cannot expect Success - The
remedy I propose is that the two Services
be united and that there be no clash
distinction between peons belonging
to them - I would take the 120,000 Rupees
which major Bourke rightly says is
required for perfecting his Scheme, and
which we hope will be granted by this
Government, and the Rupees 80,000 that
the Imperial Department spends on their
peons and form one fund -

The Imperial Service in this
circle requires for its town delivery 750
peons - Taking the Presidency of Madras

excluding

demand -

(excluding Mysore and Travancore
and certain Hill Tracts where postal
requirements are unknown) to consist
of 125,000 Square miles, and Calculating
(from a large number of actual cases)
that a postman will be required in
every 100 Square miles of Country, it
may be broadly laid down that, to
effect a Semi-weekly delivery to
every village in the Circle, 1250 village
postmen will be required.

The funds thus supplied by
the Madras Government will be, after
the absorption into the Imperial
department of the new existing district
lines and Post offices, sufficient for
the support of this force of 1250 men - If
therefore the Services are Amalgamated,
there will be eventually a force of
2,000 men and a fund of two lacs to

Support

15B/32

Support them -

The advantages of the ~~union~~ union are manifold - First, we at once do away with the invidious distinctions that exist between the two departments - We shall have a uniform, graded Service of, as I would propose, three rates of pay, Rupees 6½, Rupees 8, & Rupees 10 a month. I should allow subsistment in the two lower grades only and that according to qualification; and the increment of salary should be only obtained by length of Service, the term qualifying for promotion being five years in duration.

A Service found in this way would prove most attractive and I have little doubt that a body of men would be got together which would ensure a most efficient delivery throughout the Presidency.

I

153/33

I have introduced the proposition to the notice of the Director General, and if the Madras Government consider that the Amalgamation of the Services is desirable, no time should be lost in giving expression to their views - The Government will have to decide whether a delivery to every village twice a week is sufficient for present wants and they will understand that the complete realization of the Scheme will depend on the release of the District funds from any appropriation other than the upkeep of the Village postmen - The step will therefore be a gradual one: that is to say, although the new Service should be formed at once, it can only be formed to the extent rendered possible by the funds at our disposal; and its increase to the limit set forth in the

the above remarks will depend on the progressive absorption of the still existing District Post Offices and Lines into the Imperial System.

When I first joined the Department, I was under the impression that the transfer of the District Dâk to the Control of the Postmaster General was premature and that it would hamper the administrative machinery of Collectors - But the opinions that I have gathered from these Officers do not warrant this Conclusion and, from further experience, I have little doubt that with, as I said above, some concessions on both sides, the transfer of the Control will be of the greatest benefit both to the

administration

1513/34

administration and to the public.

I am yours Sincerely

H. G. Turner.

Note. This is the reply to a Demi. Off. addressed to me as directed in Council. The original report was returned, to be recast with reference to various points which the report now with the aid of its accompanying tabular statements, did not sufficiently elucidate.

It will be seen that the records do not enable the Framer to supply the necessary explanation. The fact probably being that the District Pr is not required in the forms of statistics prescribed for the Imperial Post Office.

A revised draft is herein circulated in more general terms.

Revenue Department.

No. 1513/36

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the May 1875.

Read the following Letter from the Postmaster General.

Submitting report on the working of the District Post in the districts under his control — H. E. 29 March 1875 No. 16041

Considered by Revised Draft

At various times from 1867 to the present year, the control of the District Post of sixteen out of the nineteen Collectorates of the Madras Presidency has been transferred from the Revenue Authorities to the Post Master General. It was thought that the effect of placing the executive management of the District Post in the hands of the

28/5

I pap the draft but it would perhaps be better to let Mr. Farmer recast the original report. P.N.

Post Master Generals Depart-
-ment would be to increase
the efficiency of the District Post,
and to extend its operations to
villages which were hitherto
beyond the reach of regular
delivery, and it was
desirable also to do away with
the divided authority that
naturally existed in Districts
where parts of the Postal arrange-
-ments were Imperial and part
under the Collector, and to set
on foot a system that had
for its object the partial
merging of the latter form of
administration into the first-named.

It was therefore arranged
that, while the management of
the Postal Funds of each District
was to remain with the Collector,
the executive control of the
District service should
vest in the Post master
General and that the latter
officer

1513/37

officer should direct his
attention towards the conversion
of these District Establishments
into Imperial charges, which
end can, under the rules of
that Department, be only
attained when any particular
Post Office receives and despatches
more covers whose postage slightly
exceeds the cost of that Estab-
-lishment. [Therefore, as Major
Bourke in this Report explains,
it is difficult to show the specific
advantages that have accrued
to the State by this assumption
of the management of this District
Post, for, no sooner does a
District Office show signs of being
able to pay its way, than it is
transferred to the Imperial
Department, and the District
funds released are again
employed in extending the
District service.].

With these objects in view,
i.e, the extension of the advantages
of

of the Post to villages remote from the District Post Offices, and the gradual improvement of the latter up to the rank of Imperial offices, Major Burke entered on the work, and in the report under notice, he describes the state of affairs when he first took charge and the improvements that he has effected or hopes to effect.

It is to be regretted, however, that the value of the report is considerably diminished by the want of succinct detail of the changes effected in each particular district.

The Post Master General dwells at some length on the defects of the former system, and then gives a general sketch of his method, which was to visit each

such District and talk over its requirements with the Collector, the Assistants, and his own Inspector of Post Offices and then to elaborate and to completely and thoroughly organize and place on a permanent footing his improved service —

The nature however of this improved service, and the extent to which it has been introduced into the various Collectorates, are illustrated only by a map of the Tipperary Riding, in the Dickinsonby District, by an extract from a letter from the Collector of South Brest, and by certain tabular statements, so afforded and the information ~~conveyed~~ by these ~~letters~~ is not very clear or complete -

Taking the Tipperary map, the

the Govt are uncertain whether it represents things as they are in that Taluq or things as they are to be — In the former instance attention is directed to about 120 villages that are visited bi-weekly, but there are other places where Boxes are to be placed and runners will meet. Nor do the Govt understand whether the taluqs of this and other Districts are already all served in the same Shabnavis way, or whether this service is only in course of being introduced. In this Tornjore Taluq the 2d 3d 4th and 6th beats are of 60 miles each; for a bi-weekly delivery these lines must require a staff of at least nine runners, and the 1st 5th & 7th will require three more, making a total of twelve runners for 120 villages. The Districts marginally named have all been under the Post Master Generals control for two years and upwards and therefore it is presumed that that Officers scheme has been fairly

Districts	Year when handed over to the Post Master Genl
Trichinopoly	1867
Godavery	1873
S. Arcot	1873
Coimbatore	1873
Tinnevelly	1872
Madura	1872
North West	1872
Nellore	1872
Chingleput	1873
Tanjore	1873
S. Canara	1873

fairly elaborated in effect.

151/37

The inference from Major Bourke having submitted the Tornjore Map as an illustration of his reference is that all the taluqs in all these Districts are patrolled by postmen in the way that this one of Tornjore appears to be served, and that, consequently, there is an average of one letter person to every ten villages throughout the greater part of the Presidency.

The Govt desire to hear from the Ag. Post Master Genl whether this inference is correct or otherwise.

Again from Statement D, it would appear that taking the Trichinopoly District, the ten District Post Offices have been converted

converted into Imperial offices and, consequently, all the letters posted in the District were posted at Imperial offices and do not appear in the Statt. But the next entry shows that 3950 covers were received for delivery in October 1874 at the District Post Offices, although, as stated above, there were no District Post Offices remaining and the succeeding entry that there were 1339 towns and villages which received letters daily and periodically during the week from the District Post Offices becomes ~~incomparable~~ incomparable. Nor is it plain whether, in treating of the Post Lines, the Imperial Lines are included or not — or whether the beats

1513/UP

beats of the Rural Inspectors are called Post Lines, and if so, how the rates of speed have been calculated.

As regards the Madura District it would appear that under the Collector's management 3782 villages were visited once or twice or thrice a week, or every day, as against 2043 now. A similar falling off occurs in the Tinnevelly, Kistna and Godavery Districts, the aggregate decrease with Madura amounting to 3119 villages as against an aggregate increase of 218 in the Districts of Trichinopoly, Coimbatore & Chingleput.

It may be that the apparent decrease in the number of villages served is due to their transfer to the

the Imperial Estab.t, but there is nothing to show that this is the case.

The Gov.t desire to have further explanation on these points- but meanwhile note with approbation the marked improvement that has taken place in the speed on District Post lines in the character of the administration of District Post offices and in the relations which exist between these Establishments and those supported at Imperial cost and they are glad to avail themselves of this opportunity to acknowledge publicly the active interest that Major Bonta constantly manifests in the improvement of the very important public service entrusted to his charge.

Dr 21/5/5

(5) G-O

Post Master Genl's Report on working of the D^t Post in Districts under his control

Recd

Mr. Turner will be asked D.O. & resubmit the report, inserting such portions as are found to be in arrear & recalling the former.

Circ

1129

Original report with Genl. forwarded with D.O. to Turner June 20/75 — with regret to show how far District arrangements have been merged in Imperial P.O. arrangements & the result; also stating that it appears that while on the one hand the object secured is simply an economic important & the object sought, & which the transfer was actual] an accomplished fact, points seemed to have been omitted which if stated might show a greater improvement than the report under

C 22 May/75 Rec^d 29 May/75.

Revenue Department

No. 1542

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 18 Oct^r/75.

Read the following letter from the Postmaster General.

Subject Report on the working of the District Post in the Districts under his control } (M.C. 29 March 1875. No 1604)

At various times, from 1867 to the present year, the control of the District Post of sixteen out of the nineteen Collectorates of the Madras Presidency has been transferred from the Revenue Authorities to the Postmaster General. It was thought that the effect of placing the Executive management of the District Post in the hands of the Post Master General's Department would be to increase the efficiency of the District Post

Post, and to extend its
operations to villages which
were hitherto beyond the
reach of regular delivery,
and it was desirable also to
do away with the divided
authority that naturally
existed in Districts where
parts of the Postal arrange-
ments were Imperial and
part under the Collector, and
to set on foot a system that
had for its object the
gradual merging of the
latter form of Administra-
tion into the first named.

It was therefore arranged
that, while the manage-
ment of the Postal Funds
of each District was to
remain with the Collector,
the Executive Control of
the District service should
vest in the Postmaster-
General and that the
latter Officer should
direct

direct his attention towards
the conversion of those District
Establishments into Imperial
charges which ended each,
under the rules of that
Department, be only
attached when any particu-
lar Post Office receives
and despatches more than
postage slightly exceeds the
cost of that Establishment

With these objects in
view, i.e. the extension of
the advantages of the Post
to villages remote from
the District Post offices,
and the gradual improve-
ment of the latter up to
the rank of Imperial
Offices, Major Bourke
entered on the work with
praiseworthy earnestness and,
the Post under notice

he

he describes the state of affairs when he first took charge and the improvements that he has effected or hopes to effect.

The Postmaster General dwells at some length on the defects of the present system, and then gives a general sketch of his method, which was to visit each District and talk over its requirements with the Collector, the Assistant, and his own Inspector of Post Offices and then to elaborate and to completely and thoroughly organize and place on a permanent footing his improved service.

The Govt. are satisfied from

1513/04

from information received on all sides that immense improvement to the Postal Service has resulted wherever the control of the Postmaster General over District Establishments has superseded that of the Local and the most experienced of those Local authorities he most freely bears the fact and their testimony to the improved result. The successful introduction these reforms is due less to the tact and judgment with which Major Banks has advanced his measures than to the energy and ability with which he has elaborated and carried out the details of his plan.

His Excellency the Governor

in Council is glad
this opportunity of record
ing his sense of the
valuable service rendered
in this Action by
Major Burke.

All

2 Folds Bad Musters Signed
in the Board of Ord
1 Major the Honorable E O P O