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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	681.	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	17-3-1876	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Provincial Services—Budget.

No. 14. Read the following letter from H. G. TURNER, Esq., C.S., Acting Postmaster-General, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 28th February 1876, No. 12,168:—

In the Proceedings, Madras Government, Financial Department, 20th January 1876, I find that the District Post Budget for 1876-77, submitted by the Board of Revenue, has been approved, and that the appropriation of funds for this purpose is finally decided upon.

This is the first intimation of the disposition which has reached me. I, in whom the Government have placed the administration of this department, have had no opportunity of setting forth my views on its requirements for the ensuing year.

In conjunction with the Collectors of the Districts marginally noted, I am introducing a scheme of village post which will entirely alter the footing on which this establishment has hitherto existed.

North Arcot.	Tinnevely.
South Arcot.	Salem.
Trichinopoly.	Coimbatore.
Tanjore.	Malabar.
Madura.	

The Collectors have accepted my proposals, and they are very eager to afford me all the assistance that is required to ensure if they had have obtained my views on their budgets before they went on to the Board of Revenue. If this had been done in the present case, the Board would not have been driven, from lack of knowledge, to the course they have adopted in dealing with the Collectors' proposals. They have accepted economies without any knowledge of the circumstances that guided the district authorities in advocating them, and they reject the enhancements on the same ground of want of information.

It is easy, therefore, to see that the principle that has guided the Board in framing this Budget has not had reference to the efficiency of the District Postal Service, but only to the possibility of reducing the expenses connected with it.

I beg then to submit to Government that, both in fairness to myself as the administrator of the department and in view to the better consideration of the necessities of the service, these Budgets may be returned through the Board to me for an expression of my opinion.

2. I trust that the Government do not endorse the policy of the Board as set forth in the concluding sentences of paragraph 19. The system, which I and the Collectors are now trying to introduce, has for its aim the endeavor to expend the District Post grants to the greater advantage of the public. Hitherto, this money has been applied to a necessary, but, at the same time, to a very limited, purpose. It has been expended to comfort the administration, and the conveniences enjoyed by the public on account of this great expenditure are as nothing compared with those given to the Collector and the District Officers. We hope to alter this state of things, to make this post emphatically a District Post, not, as it has been hitherto, an Administration Post.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
2nd March 1876.*

The money will be expended in paying postmen to go on specified beats from village to village throughout the district and in feeing certain residents in those villages to look after the local box and to sell stamps to the public.

3. The Board, therefore, are under a misapprehension when they assert that the District Post Funds are now destined to keep non-paying offices afloat until they prove to be self-supporting, and are taken on that account to the Imperial bosom. It is true that no establishment can be converted into Imperial, or set on foot, for the first time, as such, until it is shown to be self-supporting. It is true that, by applying this principle, I have been able to bring over nearly all the District Post Offices and Post Lines to the larger department. But this once done, I no longer propose to devote the District Funds to pioneer, in this way, to the Imperial Department.

4. I foresee some difficulty in procuring sufficient funds to carry this scheme into execution. It is not, at present, my purpose to address Government on this point, not, indeed, until I can come to them with evidence of success from the experiments now under trial; but, in order that there may be no hindrance to the due execution of these experiments, I have arranged to convert every district peon, who is shown to collect and disburse sufficient postage to pay the expense of his up-keep, to Imperial, and thereby to provide funds for entertaining another district peon in his stead.

So far therefore is the assertion of the Board, that the District Post is department that proposes to step over the bounds that have hitherto circumscribed its operations, in order to hold out a hand to its struggling sister.

5. The Board, I see, propose to spend the savings that accrue, in their view of the matter, from this assistance rendered by the Imperial Department, on roads.

In the first place, I trust that Government will not be led away by the assumption of the Board that they have, or are likely to have, any funds to dispose of. There can be no question that the funds of the District Post are wholly inadequate to carry out a district collection and delivery without the assistance of the Imperial Department; and, secondly, if the help of the Imperial Department is to be received in this spirit, the Government must abandon all hope of having a District Post.

A road or two more is unquestionably a good thing, and weight must be allowed to the opinion of the Board; but I am in a position to assert that these views are not held by the Collectors. Every such officer would, no doubt, be glad to get an extra grant for his communications; but if, it were proposed to give it to him at the expense of all his present hopes of improving his District Tappal, I feel sure that he would reject the offer.

No. 15. ORDER THEREON, 2nd March 1876, No. 441.

The Acting Postmaster-General is right in assuming that the Government have no intention of transferring any portion of the District Post grant to other purposes so long as it is required for the development of the original object.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
2nd March 1876.*

2. The Government assumed that the details of the Collectors' proposals in those districts of which the Postmaster-General has undertaken the administration of the post were made with his concurrence, and have every desire that this should be the case. The details are open to revision throughout, and the Acting Postmaster-General can communicate with the Board of Revenue on the subject.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Officiating Postmaster-General.
.. Board of Revenue.
.. Revenue Department.

Exd. A. Grubert.

30 26-1-76 A: 210 hrs

No 681

It is observed that under instructions
given in 96 & April 1875 No. 556, the Dist. Post.
Budget has been submitted ~~to him~~ to him
He will keep it at the Post. The Board of Post will
observe this rule in future.

To the Board of Post & Telegraphs

17. Mar 76

10 11 3 76

Revenue of Postmaster

No 1058

Cost of 1876 30 30 35

FINANCIAL.

To THE OFFICIATING POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

Dist. Post. 2nd. 11

Dated March, 2nd.

Recd. 11

G.O., 2nd March 1876, No. 441.

MARCH.
Nos. 14-15.

No 681-17 General 1876

General Services - Budget - Order passed
on letter from the Acting Postmaster-General
requesting that the District Post Budgets for
1876-77 may be sent to him for his opinion.

with order

10. 12. 3 76