

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	<i>404</i>	Press
		<i>Ms</i>
<i>213-4</i>		
Dated	<i>29-3-1870</i>	<i>N</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
29th March 1870.*

No. 213. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th February 1870 :—
Read the following letter from the Controller of Public Works Accounts, Madras,
to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chepauk, 24th January
1870, No. 2,030.

ADVERTING to the Accountant-General's Memorandum, No. 6,397, (Book Department,) dated 21st January 1870, regarding the pre-payment, by ordinary Postage Stamps, of correspondence on the subject of Local Funds, I have the honour to request that you will be so good as to obtain, for my guidance, the views of the Board on the following points :—

I. Are the instructions of the Comptroller-General of Accounts applicable to the Madras Presidency?

II. If so, from what source am I and other officers of the Public Works Department to obtain funds to meet these charges?

2. The Accounts of Imperial and Local Fund outlay are not separated, but form one set, and monthly clearances are, moreover, given in one document at the same time; and while it is not clear how more than the *correspondence* can be kept distinct, it appears to me that the charge to be made on this account alone would not fairly represent the actual proportion which Local Funds should bear on account of official postage.

3. Under existing Rules the Comptroller-General of Accounts furnishes this Office with a periodical statement of official postage debitable to the Public Works Department. This debit has been hitherto raised against the Imperial Grant for establishments, sub-head "Contingencies." It appears to me that in the event of it being decided that Local Funds should bear a fair share of postage charges, it would be more convenient in account to apportion the debits in the Comptroller-General's statements between Imperial and Local according to the outlay from each source.

—

The Board resolve to submit this letter for the orders of Government.

2. The Controller's questions show that the rule, requiring all Local Fund correspondence to be stamped with ordinary Stamps, which, in spite of its novelty, seems to have been promulgated without the authority of either the Supreme or the Local Government, is one which it will be impossible to carry out in its entirety in this Presidency.

3. If the Rule is prompted by considerations of book-keeping, the Board submit that it will only lead to inaccuracy, because the administration of Imperial Funds and of Local Funds is conducted by the same officers, and often in the same documents, and the line dividing the one from the other is so indistinct that mistakes must continually occur as to whether ordinary Stamps should be used or not.

4. If the Rule is intended to increase the Imperial Revenue, the Board submit that it is most impolitic to injure funds which in every case set free Imperial Funds for Imperial purposes. It will be necessary either to supplement Local Funds by just so much as the Postal Department absorbs, or the development of the country will be retarded to a corresponding extent.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
29th March 1870.*

5. In any case the inconvenience which will be caused throughout the Presidency by the Rule is so great that no slight advantage in the keeping of Accounts or in the Imperial Revenue can justify it. The complicated consideration, whether ordinary Stamps, Service Stamps, or Franks, should be used in despatching papers, will add considerably to the work, and appreciably increase the delays in every revenue-office in the country. It will be specially difficult to arrange for using Postage Stamps at the Offices of Government, the Board, and the Controller of Public Works Accounts.

(True Copy.)

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

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT SAINT GEORGE,
29th March 1870.

No. 404.

No. 214.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Separate Revenue, No. 10.

Stamps.

Notification of Accountant-General, dated 21st January 1870, No. 6,397.
Letter from Controller of Public Works Accounts, dated 24th January 1870, No. 2,030.
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th February 1870.

Sir,—I am directed to forward, for the orders of His Excellency the Viceroy in Council, the marginally noted enclosures, relating to the prepayment, by ordinary Postage Stamps, of correspondence on the subject of Local Funds.

2. The transmission to the Accountant-General of Madras, "for information and guidance," of letter, No. 4,824, from the Comptroller-General of Accounts, to the Accountant-General, North-West Provinces, in which the former Officer directed that correspondence relating to Local Funds should be pre-paid by ordinary Postage Stamps, would appear to indicate that the terms of the letter were intended to apply to this Presidency, and the Accountant-General has taken this view. The Madras Government, however, are not aware that the subject has been before His Excellency the Viceroy in Council, and they desire to bring to notice certain objections to the introduction of the proposed measure, on the grounds that a satisfactory elimination of correspondence relating to Local Funds is impossible, and that even if this were not the case, the inconvenience entailed by the alteration in question would, in the opinion of the Government, outweigh the financial accuracy which it would insure. These arguments are more fully set forth in the Board's Proceedings, dated 15th February 1870.

3. The Madras Government do not consider that any change in existing arrangements is called for, because the accurate distinction between Local and Imperial Funds, which an attempt to debit the cost of correspondence to the former would imply, is not at present borne out by a corresponding distinction between the objects to which both are devoted. But should the Government of India be of a different opinion, I am to suggest that a rough estimate of the cost of postage, which would be incurred on correspondence relating to Local Funds in the absence of the system of franking hitherto in vogue, might be framed, and that this amount might be credited to Imperial Funds.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,

Acting Secretary to Government.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

Financial 1870 Department.

From Government of

Port St. George.

Dated 23rd March.

No. 404.

Enclosures

6 spare copies.

D. No.

Prags.

D.

E. No.

No.

MARCH.

No. 214.

Forwarding papers relating to the payment by ordinary Postage Stamps of correspondence on the subject of Local Funds, and bringing to notice certain objections to the introduction of the proposed measure.

7 copies
Despatch 20

Rev. & Department
Page marked by
H. 404

To

The Secretary to Govt of India
Financial Department

Sir,

Notification of Accts. Genl. d/21st
Jan. 4/70 No. 6397

Letter from Controller of P. Works
accounts d/24th Jan. 4/70 No. 2030

Letter of the Ld. of Rev. d/15th Feb. 4/70

I am directed to forward
for the review of His Excellency
the Viceroy in Council the
marginally noted enclosures
relating to the prepayments
by ordinary Postage stamps
of correspondence on the
subject of Local Funds.

The transmission to the
Accountant General of charges
for information and guidance
of letter No. 4024 from the Comptroller
General of Accounts.

R. H. A.
M. H.

to the Accountant Genl. H. W. Prévost
in which the former officer
directed that correspondence
relating to Local Funds
should be prepaid by
ordinary postage stamps,
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that the terms of the letter
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the Presidency, and the ac-
countant General had taken
this view. The Chinese
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the Viceroy in Council, and
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~~the introduction~~ ^{prevent the introduction}
of the proposed measure.

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3 The Chinese Govt.
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Yrs.

J. R. S. P.