

Revenue (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 3410

DATED 18th Aug 98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Communicating to the Board of Revenue,
for financial & recording purposes on
the operations of the District Post in the attached
Book during 1897-98.

BACK PAPERS.

Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Revenue 1898 Department

Government (1898) of Madras.
FINANCIAL.

Recd. *14 Aug*
Regd. *15* } 1898.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 643, 26th July 1898.

G.O. No 3410 of 18th Aug. 98

Communicated to the
Board of Revenue.

JULY.

11/11/98



2 To the Board of R.

17-8-98
17-VIII-98
22-8-98

District Post.

Recording report on the operations of the — in the Madras Circle during 1897-98.

Post, and the designation of the remaining five was changed to postmen. There remained therefore 736 village postmen on the 31st March 1898 as compared with 815 on the last day of the preceding year.

7. *Appendix B.*—A new runner line (distance 12 miles) was opened between Kodumur and Kappatralla in the Kurnool district with the object of placing the taluk head-quarters at Pattikonda in direct mail communication with the district head-quarters, Kurnool. Besides a revision of Parlakimedi-Chicacole line in the Ganjam district which resulted in a decrease of 19 miles in length, five branch lines of 27 miles in length were closed owing to the transfer to the Imperial Post of certain remunerative District post offices served by them, and two lines of 13 and 10 miles, respectively, in Salem and Vizagapatam districts were abolished during the year 1897-98. The total mileage of the District Post lines at the close of the year was therefore 1,709½ as compared with 1,766½ miles at the close of the previous year. It must here be explained that owing to the distance between Irukkur and Kallerthode in the Malabar district having been incorrectly shown as 8 instead of 6 miles, the total mileage in the appendix for last year was erroneously shown as 1,768½. The number of runners also was reduced from 310 at the beginning to 304 at the close of the year.

8. With reference to the figures relating to Coorg which appear in Appendix A, no remarks are called for as there was no change of any description in the year under review. As regards Appendix B, it will be observed that the line Murnad-Bagamundla, distance 23 miles, was closed, and two new lines Mercara to Bagamundla, distance 23 miles, and Bettigere-Napoklu, distance 4 miles, were opened instead without additional cost to the State, with the result that Napoklu, a sub-treasury station, was placed in direct mail communication with head-quarters of the district, Mercara, as desired by the Chief Commissioner of Coorg. As a result of this measure, the mails from Napoklu are closed 6 hours later, and that from Mercara delivered early in the morning instead of late in the day. The total length of the mail lines in Coorg at the close of the year was therefore 117 miles against 113 miles at the corresponding period of the previous year. In last year's appendix, owing to the distance between Napoklu and Kadiathnad having been incorrectly calculated as 6 miles instead of 5, the total mileage was shown as 114. The following is an abstract of the establishments maintained in the Coorg district at the close of each of the last two years:—

Year.		Office establishment.						Road establishment.				Total fixed charges per month.	House-rent, contingencies and torch allowance.	Total monthly cost.	
		Number of					Cost.	Number of			Cost.				
		Postmasters.	Clerks.	Inspectors.	Postmen.	Village postmen.		Runners.	Overseers.	Boatmen.					
							Rs.				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1896-97	..	..	15	1	1	2	18	363	34	1	..	253	616	30	646
1897-98	..	..	15	1	1	2	18	363	34	1	..	253	616	30	645

and the table below shows the grant, expenditure and income during each of the last two years:—

Year.	Grant.	Expenditure.	Income.
1896-97	Rs. 9,040 0 0	Rs. 8,087 16 0	Rs. 3,875 1 10
1897-98	Rs. 8,700 0 0	Rs. 8,267 4 11	Rs. 3,822 0 2

The decrease in the income during the year under report is only slight and calls for no remark.

9. *Appendix C.*—The several classes of articles that passed through the District Post in the Madras Presidency and Coorg are shown in this appendix, and an abstract of the figures is given in the following table:—

Descriptions.	Total number of articles posted for despatch.		Total number of articles received for delivery.		Total number of articles returned undelivered.		Percentage.
	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	
Money orders	14,057	14,653	67,351	74,451	7,440	9,101	..
Registered articles	40,025	38,541	150,172	150,153	39,645	41,225	..
Paid—							
Letters and post cards ..	1,537,161	1,385,792	2,257,255	2,274,200	55,373	56,478	..
Newspapers and packets ..	38,840	50,502	135,530	150,211	4,317	4,088	..
Parcels	1,312	1,127	17,156	17,555	3,145	2,181	..
Unpaid—							
Letters	175,990	187,734	357,440	347,684	64,245	61,775	..
Newspapers and packets ..	3,179	4,704	5,952	10,089	714	923	..
Parcels	314	381	7,003	7,010	1,330	1,196	..
Total	1,610,878	1,680,434	2,997,865	3,031,453	175,209	177,269	5.84

As in previous years the number of articles received for delivery was in excess of the number posted for despatch owing to residents in rural tracts preferring to post their letters in the nearest post office rather than place them in village post boxes or entrust them to the village postmen. At the same time it is satisfactory to note that except in the number of registered articles and parcels posted for despatch there is a steady increase under all heads, while in the number of articles received for delivery there is a slight fall only under registered articles and unpaid letters. The decrease in the number of registered articles may be due to the issue of fewer legal notices, while the decrease in the number of unpaid articles may indicate the gradual extinction of the popular idea that prepayment rendered the delivery of an unregistered article less secure.

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No. 643, FINANCIAL, 26TH JULY 1898.

ORDER—No. 643, Financial, dated 26th July 1898.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

J. P. L. L.
for Chief Secretary.

To the Postmaster-General.
" Revenue Department.
" Accountant-General.

Exd. A. L. Enclosed.

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189

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189

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CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURE TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DUTY

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