

Home (1917) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 357

DATED 14-3-1917

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Paper Mill, Punalur.

Approving the proposal to meet from Provincial funds
the salary at the rate of Rs.150 per mensem of the paper maker to
be employed in the-----.

PAPERS PUT UP WITH CURRENT No. _____

Papers of the department to which the current belongs.

Number.	Date.	Original (= O) or spare copy (= S.O.)	Remarks. (In this column such of the papers as have been removed for copying, printing, etc., should be marked with a cross.)	Initials of Referencer with date in token of return to Reference department.

Papers of other departments.

Department.	Number	Date.	Original (= O) or spare copy (= S.O.)	Initials with date of (1) Referencer acknowledging returns of the paper concerned or (2) Despatcher to denote the return of the papers to the department concerned.

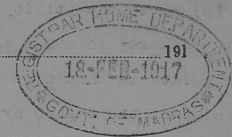
DEPARTMENT.

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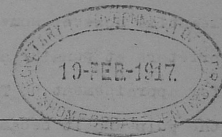
Received 191

Registered 191



Subject.

Regarding the assistance to the Paper Mills, Punalur.



ENCLOSURES.

No.

Spare copies

Proc No. 1094.

Station M. a. d. r. a. s., Dated the 16th February 1917.

From (Name) C.A. Innes, Esq., I.C.S.,

(Designation) Director of Industries.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

HOME (Education) Department.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to G.O. No. 1419 Educational dated 14-12-15 in which Government agreed to certain proposals made by Mr. Tressler in regard to pulp making experiments at Punalur and sanctioned the employment for one year of an Engineer on Rs. 100 per mensem and a pulp maker on Rs. 80 per mensem. The object of the experiment as explained by Mr. Tressler, in his letter No. E. 9 dated 10th November 1915 was to collect data.

(1) as to the cost of bamboos per ton delivered at the factory;

(2) as to the quantity of alkali required for manufacture;

paid to Mr. Tressler 1419 14.12.15

SK

(3) as to the utility of bamboo pulp for paper making; and the general idea was that with information collected on these points we should be in a better position to estimate the value of the bamboo areas in the Presidency for a possible industry in making pulp.

2. Sometime elapsed however before effect was given to the orders of Government and it was not till February 21st 1916 that the engineer and pulp maker were appointed. In the meantime however some pulp had already been made by the proprietors at Punalur and had been sent to the Titagarh Mills for appraisement. The Mills offered only Rs. 60 per ton for the pulp and it became obvious that pulp could not be made at Punalur except at a heavy loss. Better prices could no doubt have been obtained for a better quality pulp, but the condition of the plant precluded the possibility of improving the quality of the pulp except at a totally disproportionate cost. It was therefore decided that as the plant was a ~~paper~~ paper making plant, and as the cost of making brown paper would not greatly exceed that of making pulp while the paper would fetch a much better price, it would be advisable to make brown paper instead of stopping at the intermediate stage of pulp.

3. Attempts were accordingly made to manufacture brown paper, but owing to a series of breakdowns the work was much delayed, and the question of felts also gave constant trouble. Work however was started on the 5th June 1916 and the mill ran more or less continuously till the 22nd July. Certain data were obtained in this period with which I need not trouble Government, but the boilers then began to work so badly that Mr. Dunhill was summoned from Madura to examine them. He did so and found them so badly corroded that work had to be stopped. Other boilers have now been obtained, and the mill will be able to begin work again shortly. The year for which Government sanctioned assistance to the proprietors however expires on the 21st instant, and the question arises whether that assistance should be continued.

4. The proprietors sent a man to interview me on the subject and I told them that I was not even prepared to consider the question unless they on their part would engage a man with real experience in paper making. I was able to indicate a man, and the proprietors have now engaged him. He is a Mr. James and has had many years experience in different paper mills in India.

5. The main reason why Government agreed to help the proprietors was that, as already explained, Mr. Tressler hoped to obtain useful data from the mill in regard to the possibility of starting bamboo pulp making factories in the Madras Presidency. These data have not yet been obtained in a complete form, and prima facie it would appear that a ~~case~~ case existed for continuing the same measure of assistance for another year. As regards the cost of delivering bamboos at the factory, no doubt we shall be able to collect data which may be of use to us in the future. But, from what Dr. Marsden tells me, I have equally no doubt that at Punalur we shall never be able to decide the question of the utility of bamboo pulp for paper making. In Dr. Marsden's opinion this question is mainly one of costs, and hence our data will be vitiated from the outset by the fact that the machinery is not only old but was intended to deal with reeds and light materials and not bamboos.

The cutters are too weak to chop the bamboos effectively into the small chips which are put into the digesters. The digesters again are of antiquated type; it is doubtful whether the beaters are really effective, and the paper making machine, many parts of which had been stolen, is very largely a patchwork of makeshift arrangements. In these circumstances it is doubtful whether we could ever publish any data on this point derived from experience at Punalur without exposing the Department to derision.

6. The proprietors have now written to me asking that Government may be pleased to subsidize them for another year to the extent of providing the salary of Mr. James

*Mr. James stated
in the interview
Common Dept. from
Costs for much to
be made here please
- page 10 of 163*

10-2-17

NOTES.

The proprietors of the mill are a carpenter (Rs. 150 a month), an engineer (Rs. 100 a month), a pulp maker (Rs. 80 a month) and a manager and they also ask me to continue the management for another year. I have nothing to do with the management of the mill, and the requests of the proprietors are of course quite unreasonable. I do not think that the mill will ever become a permanently successful concern, but I think that if it is properly run and if the machinery does not break down altogether, the proprietors ought to make a profit as long as the war lasts and as long as prices of paper remain at this level. I am not prepared therefore to support the proprietors' requests, but I should like the Government to give them some small measure of assistance.

In view of the general scarcity of paper in India now, it is worth our while to encourage the proprietors to work the Punalur mill as hard as it can be safely run, and though I do not hope to get any data of value from the mill as to the cost of converting bamboos into pulp and brown paper, I do want accurate data as to the costs of cutting and conveying bamboos to the factory site, and I should also like to be connected with the mill for it seems to me worth while to enquire whether we could not make arrangements for collection and despatch of waste paper from government offices to the mill for conversion at any rate into badami paper.

7. I recommend therefore that provided the proprietors continue to maintain a clerk under my orders to keep such accounts as I desire Government will contribute the salary at the rate of Rs. 150 per mensem of Mr. James the paper maker for a period not exceeding one year, this assistance to be withdrawn if the mill ceases to work for any period exceeding a month.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Chinn
Director of Industries.

PAPER MAKING.

Towards the close of 1914 the Director of Industries applied to the Government for sanction to carry on experiments in the manufacture of paper pulp in the paper mills at Punalur in Travancore. As the question of the ownership of

the mills was in dispute, the Government refrained from giving the sanction immediately. On the Director subsequently obtaining expert legal opinion as to the feasibility of taking the mills on lease on a nominal rental for a limited period, the Government permitted the Director to make the best terms he could on condition that the mills were run at the expense of the proprietor. The terms settled by him were finally

approved in G.O.No.1419 Edl., dated the 14th December 1915.

These are mainly

- (1) that the proprietor should undertake to bear all charges except those of expert supervision;
- (2) that the department should meet the cost of supplying expert supervision which was to consist of the following:-

(a) the deputation of Dr. Marsden ~~for expert supervision~~ to Punalur to institute experiments and supervise them after a study for a period of not more than ten days at Calcutta of up-to-date processes and

(b) the employment for one year of one engineer on Rs.100 and a pulp maker on Rs.80.

(3) that the sale proceeds of the experimental manufacture should be retained by the proprietor, proper accounts

Page 14 to 17 of
G.O. No. 124 Edl. (A)
8.2.15

Page 37588 of -

G.O. No. 1158 Edl. (B)
28.10.11

being maintained under the orders of the Director for the purpose of arriving at the fundamental data of production,

(4) that the proprietor should undertake to carry on experimental production for such period not exceeding one year as might be necessary for ascertaining the data and

(5) that the Government would not undertake any responsibility for the management of the mill and the proprietor should undertake to indemnify the Govt. against any loss through litigation in connection therewith.

The Director was asked to enter into an agreement on these lines with the proprietor.

No report has been received as to whether the experiments have been begun and if so, what progress has been made with them.

In this connection attention is solicited to a note written by Sir Frederick Nicholson in December 1914 regarding the feasibility of undertaking paper pulp industry in this

(A) Presidency-pages 27 to 33 of G.O.No.120 Edl. dated 8-2-1915.

SK 28.5.16. CA 28.5.16

HA
Sent to him
Consul
28/5/16
29.5.16

Book No 29
29-5-16

Edw. No. 1883-1
30/5/16

Mr. C. S. S. S. S.

10

30/5/16

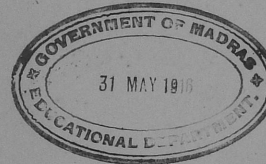
Seen & returned.
When I saw Dr. Menden in Madras
last week he was just starting
for Punalur to see how things
were going on. I shall consult
him about it as soon as
possible.

m.l.
31.1.16

H.E. for perusal.

31.5.16

1.6.16



Letter No 6
1-6-16



In His Excellency's note regarding the appointment of a special officer for the Dept^t of Industries, it has been stated that the special officer should examine and report on each of the industrial experiments carried on by the Dept^t. A copy of this note has been furnished to Mr. Couchman. It is therefore ~~likely~~ likely that he will report on the paper-pulp experiment dealt with in this file ^{entirely separate or collected along with} ~~the other papers in the file~~. This may, it is submitted, be over kill the receipt of the report.

8X
8.6.16. $\frac{CA}{96.16}$ So lie acc^t fr
Mr. Couchman's report.

M
9.6.16.

CN-802. From the officers in charge of the Dept^t of Ind. 11/10/16-1.17.

For an account of the pulp-making experiment undertaken by Mr. Treacher attention is solicited to

Notes
CO
10/6/16

to the papers recorded in U.O. No. 16 dated the 13th February 1917. It is for consideration whether in the circumstances explained by Mr. Innes, the proposal to meet the pay of the paper maker to be employed in the Punalur paper mills for a period not exceeding one year may be accepted. The case for Government assistance appears rather weak and Mr. Innes' recommendation appears to be principally based on the present scarcity of paper and the need for encouraging local manufacture during the time of the war.

3. A draft order is submitted for approval. It may be sent to the Financial Department for acceptance.

The total expenditure on account of the 'paper maker' for the whole year will amount to Rs. (150 x 12) 1,800 and this ^{only} is presumed, be met from the provision for industrial experiments in the budget for 1917-18.



Page 1947 M. G. B. E.



Edl no 802-1

24.2.17
1374

R^o 26.2.17

11/20/17

Edl 24.2.17

Finl u.o.

Financial Dept

For the Asst. Secy.

In the Circumstances stated in Home (Educational) Dept. note above, the proposal to meet from Provincial funds the salary (Rs 150 p.m.) of the paper maker in the Punalur mills for a period of one year, may, it is submitted, be accepted. For provision of funds, please see

Through C.S.R. Section.
with reference to last portion
of para 6 of letter on page 4 CF.

para 2 of Home (Est.) note on page 5 ante.

2. 13.17 The question of the disposal of waste paper in public offices was under consideration of Govt in 1916. The S.G.P. who has the matter in mind will address Govt. on his own motion if and when he can formulate some definite scheme.
2.10.16

1.2.17

For the A.S.

Evidently the S.G.P. has not yet been able to formulate a definite scheme, or else he would have addressed Govt. already. Perhaps the A.S. may ^{ask} the S.G.P. on the telephone if he is ready with his scheme.

1.2.17

Home (Education) (C)

Home (Est.) Sept.

For orders whether the draft order may now issue.

8.3.17. 14.17. 14.17. 14.17.

2. it not time to
remind him?

Removed in file.

A. u.o. noli. can
go to him.

Yn. pl. u.o. h
to rule

u.o. 2.0. 2.0. 2.0. 2.0. 2.0.

1.2.17. 6.2.17. 8.3.17.



Not in 10

Box 42
Circ 10/3
Reld 14/3

Paper mill, Punalur

Approving the proposal to meet from Provincial funds the salary at the rate of Rs. 150 per mensem of the paper maker to be employed in the _____.

READ AGAIN G.O. No., dated 191 .

” ” ” ” ” ” 191 .

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 802, From the Officer in Charge, No. 1094 dated the 16. 2. 1917.

” ” ” ” ” ” ” 191 .

" " " " "..... " " " " 191 .

ORDER.

No. 357, dated 14. 3. 1917.

Misc

The Govt approve the proposal to meet from Provincial funds the salary at the rate of Rs 150 per mensem of the paper maker to be employed in the Punalur paper mill for a period of one year subject to the condition that the proprietors of the mill undertake to maintain a clerk under the orders of the officers in charge of the Dept of

Department of Industries
to keep such accounts
as that officer desires.
This arrangement will
be cancelled if the
mill cease to work
for any period exceeding
a month.

SR
21.2.17.
25/2/17

24.2.17

7

The officer in charge
of the Dept of Indus.
The A.G. (9/5)

When given for copying
When copied
When examined
When signed

191

15/3

READ AGAIN G.O. No.

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

A = Copy full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
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