

Home (1917) Department.
Education

Ordinary SERIES.

Letter
G.O. No. 446

DATED 5-4-17

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Mr. Guthrie.-

Informing the Wheat Commissioner for India
that the Indian Munitions Board has been requested to take
steps for the recall of -----, the Leather Expert from
military duty.

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.

Letter from the Officer in charge of the Department of
Industries, No. 33, dated the 13th January 1917:-

13. Government have suggested that the establishment of
the Leather Trade School in Madras may to some extent assist in
the development of the tanning industry of the Presidency. This
was the object with which the school was founded, the principal
aim being "the improvement of leather, tanned and dressed for
use in this country" by giving a number of operatives thorough
training in all processes of tanning and finishing leather. It
was also the intention to carry out investigation into the loss of
weight due to the solvent action of the warm water used in the
soaks, limes &c., and generally to conduct scientific research
into the methods and processes in use in this country. I believe
also that useful experiments could be carried out at the school
with various tanning materials not now in use and also to see
whether the large quantities of fleshings which accumulate in
tanning could not be converted into glue. I also draw attention
to Mr. Thiruvengkatachari's suggestion that the Leather Trade School
should energetically take up the question of retanning and finish-
ing East India kips, so as to suit market requirements in London.
I agree therefore that the school ought to be able to play a use-
ful part in the development of the tanning industry in Madras and
that important work lies before it. Unfortunately however at
present the usefulness of the school is limited. Up to date only
five students have presented themselves for training and only
two of these come from Madras. The small number of students is
partly due to the Leather Expert's absence, but in any case, as
things are at present, the number could not be greatly increased.
Strictly speaking, the school does not exist. The original idea
was to build the Government Trades School at Vashermanpet and to
construct near it a small model tannery. But the whole scheme has
not yet been carried out, and the model tannery alone has been
constructed. Accommodation in it for students is limited. Again a
mistake was made in building the tannery on the present site. It

Home (Govt) Dept

has been built on a marsh where the water level is within two or three feet of the surface of the ground. Many of the concrete leech and bate pits are some feet deep in water and are perfectly useless for the purpose for which they were constructed. Finally the Assistant Leather expert, though he does his best, is not sufficiently well known and does not command sufficient confidence to enable us to get full value out of the school either as a training school or as a research institution. If I may say so, without disrespect, I cannot help feeling that a mistake was made in allowing Mr. Guthrie to join the Indian Army Reserve of Officers. A leather expert cannot easily be replaced, and I venture to submit that Mr. Guthrie would be of more use to this country here in Madras than he is in the fighting line. There is important work for him to do at, and in connection with the Leather Trade School, and as this file shows, there are important questions to be decided in connection with the tanning industry, on which his advice is most necessary. If it is possible, I think that he ought to be recalled from his military duties.

Memo No. 772-2

With reference to para 13 of his letter No 32, dated the 13th January 1917, ~~these~~ suggesting the recall of Mr. Guthrie, the Leather Expert, from military duty, the officer in charge of the Dept of Industries is requested to report ^{if possible} further as to whether there are any special reasons in connection with the tanning industry and the demand made upon it for war purposes which would justify ^{his recall. It is observed that} ~~his recall~~ ^{over and over permitting} Mr. Guthrie ^{was permitted} to proceed on military duty on ^{view of his special military} ~~8th~~ ^{qualifications.}

6.3.17.

The Officer in Charge
of the Dept of Industries.

8.3.17

DEPARTMENT.

Received



Registered

1917

Subject.

Regarding the recall of Mr. Guthrie, the Leather Expert.



ENCLOSURES.

No.

Spare copies

G. cur. No. 177

Station Madras, Dated the 12th March 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 reply to Government Memorandum No. 772-2 dated the 8th instant in which I am called upon to report whether there are any special reasons connected with the Madras tanning industry and the demands made upon it for war purposes which would justify the recall of Mr. Guthrie from Military duty.

2. Mr. McWatters and I have discussed the question asked by Government and we are of opinion that the answer is most decidedly in the affirmative. Mr. McWatters informs me that the question of tanning barks has more or less solved itself and that he has abandoned his proposal that the Forest Department should take over the collection and control of

5-2

these barks. But he is on the point of asking the Munitions Board to take power, under the Defence of India Act, to control the working of all the tanneries in the Madras Presidency. If the proposal is accepted, the Board through its representatives will inform the tanners exactly the class of work they are required to do (hides instead of skins and so forth) and will exercise a rigorous supervision over the tanneries with the object of preventing waste of tanning materials, adulteration and under tanning. For this work a touring inspecting officer will be required ~~both~~ to advise and help the tanners, to supervise the tanneries and to keep the War Office expert (Mr. Henderson) in touch with what is being done. I understand that when the scheme for collection of bark was being considered it was proposed to place a Civilian in charge of it. But a civilian would be useless for the scheme now proposed. A man with some experience of tanning and some knowledge of leather will be absolutely necessary, and Mr. McWatters considers that Mr. Guthrie with his local experience and expert knowledge is exactly the type of man he wants. I understand that he will address Government independently on the subject.

3. If Mr. McWatters' scheme goes through and Mr. Guthrie is recalled, the latter will presumably be required primarily for War office work. But at the same time, he will be working in the Presidency, and I shall be in touch with him and shall be able to consult him regarding the various questions connected with the Leather Trade School and the improvement of the tanning industry which I raised in my letter No. 32 dated 13th January last. If therefore the point is raised, Government may reasonably agree to pay half or some other proportion of Mr. Guthrie's pay. But the main thing I would urge is that if Mr. McWatters proposes Mr. Guthrie's recall Government should support the request. Mr. Guthrie may be a good officer, but I am quite sure that he will be of more use to his country at the present time here in Madras doing his proper work than

6

he is in Mesopotamia.

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

Calhoun
Director of Industries.

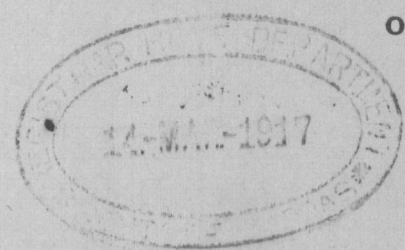
M.N.

* extract on
page 1 + 2

✓ C No. 1344 En
14.3.17 1,000-12-12 16.
O.R No. 835 OF 1917. b

OFFICE OF THE WHEAT COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA,
Custom House, Madras,

Dated 12th March 1917.



From

A. C. McWATTERS, Esq., I.C.S.,

WHEAT COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA



To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Home Department,

Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I have the honour to invite your attention to the following matter in connection with the War Office Scheme for purchase of tanned hides in the Madras Presidency. The progress of the scheme has revealed a number of matters on which a closer control of the tanners is desirable. In particular we wish to prevent.-

- (1) Adulteration of hides
- (2) Undertanning of hides
- (3) Excessive tanning of skins in preference to hides
- (4) Wasteful use of tanning bark
- (5) Tanning of unsuitable class of hides.

For this purpose it is very desirable to obtain power to enforce on tanners proper methods of working and I have -- already addressed the Government of India on this subject with a view to such powers being specially taken by the -- Munitions Board--under whose orders I come from the 31st -- instant--in case their general powers do not provide for such control of tanneries among other industries engaged on War work. In order, however, to secure that this control is effective it will be necessary to have a tanning officer touring in

-4- 8

in close touch with the tanners and with the War Office representative at Madras.

Originally I had contemplated a scheme for the control of tanning materials by Government and its distribution under my direction and I had suggested obtaining the services of an I.C.S., Officer to work out this scheme but circumstances have ~~altered~~ sufficiently in the last two -- months to make a scheme of this nature no longer necessary since (1) prices of bark have fallen from the level of -- Rs.70 to 75 Rupees in December to about Rs.40 to Rs.45.

- (2) the greater facilities now granted by the Railways for the carriage of tanning bark are making supplies come forward more regularly,
- (3) the competition of skin tanners in raising bark prices is now less formidable, particularly in view of the recent Government restriction of Import of tanned skins into the United Kingdom.

This difficulty--the high cost and shortage of bark--seems in a fair way to solve itself.

While therefore abandoning the idea of employing an I.C.S., officer on working out a scheme of bark control, the control of the working of tanneries remains of the -- first importance, and for this work an I.C.S., officer has not sufficient technical knowledge to be of much use. I do not know of any suitable man in Madras who could be ~~made~~ ^{made} -- available for this work, but it has occurred to me that if the services of Mr.Guthrie# could be spared from his -- Military duties, he would be the very best man for this work. Mr.Guthrie had, I believe, experience as a practical tanner with Messrs.Cooper Allen and has several years direct experience of Madras tanning when serving under the Government of Madras.

I have not yet approached the Government of India on the subject as Mr.Guthrie is still in the service of the

-8- 9

Madras Government; but if the Madras Government are prepared to support this application I shall do so. The improvement of tanning which such an appointment would make for is in the interests of the Madras Presidency as well as of the War Officer Scheme.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

acm Wattus

Wheat Commissioner for India.

Wattus
Wattus

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

LETTER No. 1175-1 W of 2-4-17

To

The Secy. Indian Munitions Board,
Carlton Hotel, Simla.

Sir,

(with copy of 7-9 CF.)

I am directed to transmit a copy of letter O.R.835 dated 12-3-17 addressed to this Govt. by Mr. McWatters, Wheat Commissioner for India, ~~relative to a proposal to employ~~ Mr. Guthrie, Leather Expert, Madras, in connection with the War Office scheme for the purchase of tanned hides in this Presidency.

2. Mr. Guthrie is now in Military employ, having been permitted by this Govt. in June 1915 to proceed on service under Expeditionary Force D. The Governor in Council has ~~fully concurred~~ ^{concurred} Mr. McWatters' proposal and fully concurs in the remarks made by him that Mr. Guthrie is ~~exactly~~ ^{the} type of officer required for work in ~~question~~ ^{the} and that no other qualified person ~~is~~ ^{is} procurable. Mr. Guthrie's ~~services~~ ^{services} being thus essential in the interests of the War Office Scheme, it seems likely that at the present juncture he will be of considerably greater use to his country in Madras than in Mesopotamia. In these

circumstances

Despatched with
2/4/17
(1175-1 W of 2-4-17)

1175-1 W of 2-4-17
71152830.6.15. E.

Page 8 CF

Connection with
training operations

circumstances, I am to request that the Government of India may be pleased to arrange in consultation with the Military authorities for ^{his} ~~the~~ early reversion of Mr. Guthrie from his present military duty, ~~appointment~~. In the event of his reversion, ~~in this case, HE is to be in line~~ ~~this~~ will be glad to place his services at the disposal of the Govt. of India for employment under Mr. McWatters.

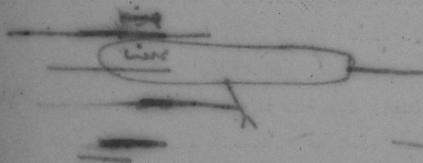
I have etc.

CMU
31.3.17

room
24/2

FC for

room
24/2



NOTES.



Home Department,
(Education).

Subject.- Indian export trade in raw hides.

From the Officer in charge of the Dept. of Industries
No. 32, dated the 13th January 1917.

x x x

7. Leather Trade School in Madras.- The school was started with the object of giving a number of operatives thorough training in all processes of tanning and finishing leather. Mr. Innes also considers that useful experiments may be carried out at the school with various tanning materials not now in use and also to see whether the large quantities of fleshings which accumulate in tanning could not be converted into glue. As there are now important questions pending in connection with the tanning industry, Mr. Innes suggests that Mr. Guthrie, the Principal of the school, should, if possible, be recalled from military duty. The Public (War) section may be consulted whether this can be arranged for.

Very desirable.

E.A.H.
26-1-17.

I hardly think that we can press this just now. It is for Public (War) to decide.

P.R.
29-1-17.

N.Y.
25-1-17.

20100772-1
16-2-17

Submitted that the above extract may be sent to Public (War) Dept.

6930
(War)
Regd. 16-2-17

8K
15-2-17
11/15/17

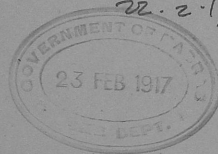
16-2-17

Public (war)

To Ch. Secy.

E Mr Guthrie was permitted in
go. 711 Est., 23.6.1915, to proceed on
military service: and office venture
to submit that the first step appears to
be to obtain (i.e. the Governor's orders) which
then he can be recalled. If this is decided
in the affirmative, we may address the
"K" goe, 9th Division. Subd. that the
papers may be returned to Home
Est. (Est.) for action as above.

Pub no 693-1W
22.2.17



Noted in ca
23.2.17

Box 11
Ais. 13.17
Reid 6/5

22.17

Home (E) (100)

mm up

Home (Est.) Dept.

Attention is solicited to H.E.
the Governor's remarks on
page 13 of go. 11-711 Est., dated
E the 31st June 1915. The file
is submitted for orders and reference
8X. to Mr Jones' recommendation
27.2.17 on page 2 of CF

1M
27.2.17

N.M.

N.E.

Submitted for adv.

Est
1.3.17

I do not think
that we should ask
for his future recall
from military duty.

10
2/3/17

His Excellency used to go
to hear further from Mr
James as to whether there
are any special reasons in
connection with the tanning
industry & the demand made
upon it for war purposes
which would justify a reconsideration
of the position as regards
Mr Guthrie.

Let him
6.3.17.

Draft O.M. please.

CLH
5.3.17

A draft memo is subd.

82
5.3.17.

CLH
6.3.17
Memo No 772-2 848.3.17

CN-1345 From the office in charge of the Dept
of Industries N-177 of 12.3.17
CN-1344 From the Wheat Commission for
India N-835 of 12.3.17.

page 2 by ref.

Mr James + Mr McWatters, the Wheat
commissioners for India, both point
out that Mr Guthrie's services
will be required in connection
with a scheme which is under
contemplation for bringing the
work of tanneries in this Presi-
dency under the control of
the Munitions Board. Before
applying to the Govt of India
for sanction to appoint a
special officer for the work
Mr McWatters desires to know
whether this Govt would support
his application. It is for
orders what reply should be
given to him + whether Mr Guthrie
^(from military duty)
will be recalled for the work
proposed.

Box 14
acc 15/3/17
Retd 17/3/17

OK
15.3.17. H. M.
H. E. J.
(15/3/17)

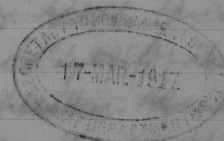
Ed
15.3.17

In view of what has been
I have said we may agree
to support the proposal
for the further recall.

[Signature]
16/3/17

To. I should be glad to see the draft
letter: it may be desirable to support it by a

P.
16.3.17.



Submitted that with reference
to the Public (War) Dept's note at
"K" on page 2 supra the file may
be sent to that Dept. for
addressing the G. O. C., 9th Div.

8K
19.3.17
[Signature]
19.3.17

19.3.17

Pub. no.



Edno 772-3

19.3.17
NT NO.
1175
(War)

19.3.17

C. N. 1342. from the office in charge of the Dept.
of Education N. 1774-13. 2. 17
C. N. 1344. from the District Commissioner
for N. 832. 2. 17. 13. 17

prop. to def

The Bureau to the Director, the District
Commissioner for Education, N. 1774-13. 2. 17
at that in furtherance of the
will be required in connection
with a. to be in a position to
contribution for bringing
work of the Bureau in the
change under the control of
the Commission. Bureau. before
applying to the Govt of India
for sanction to appoint a
special officer for the work
Mr. The Director desires to know
whether this post would support
his application. It is for
others but reply to the
giving to him & to be able to
will be recalled for the

19.3.17
19.3.17
19.3.17

Box 23
 Cir 26/3.
 RD 27.3.

Draft letter to the G.O.C. subd. For
 orders whether it should go to Home (Col.)
 for acceptance before submission to the.

2. After issue the case may go to
 Home (Col.) who may wish to inform Mr
 McWaters of the action taken so that
 he may address India - vide p. 9 C.F.

To H.O. with draft
 For H.O. to H.F. *with draft*
 H.F. *with draft*

26.3.17

27.3.17

His Excellency considers that
 it would expedite this matter if instead
 of addressing the G.O.C. 9th Division
 we addressed the Govt of India direct
 in the Department under which Mr. H. Mutton
 is serving. A copy of his letter should
 be forwarded approving with an expression
 of our concurrence. The Govt of India
 should be asked to arrange for his
 relief in consultation with the military
 authorities & inform that on his
 return he shall gladly place his
 services at their disposal for employment
 under the Mr. Mutton. Kethon
 (Bo) 28.3.17

by hand
 immediately
 time soon
 28/3

From the Circular memorandum at flag K,
it is observed that the E. of D. ~~has~~ Secretariat
has now a branch entitled 'Indian
Munitions Board'. It is accordingly but?
that with reference to the P.S.G.'s note of 2.3.17
on page bank, the communication in this
case should be addressed to the Secretary,
Indian Munitions Board, Simla. A revised
draft letter is but? for approval. After issue
the case may go to Home (25.) as suggested on page bank.

Cm

31.3.17

Domic draft to issue

Jom
Jm

[Letter to the Govt of India, Indian Munitions
Board, No. 1175-1W of 2-4-17.]



Pb no 1175-1W

31.3.17

The Home (Educated) section

Home (25.) Dept.

A draft letter to Mr Mc Khatton
is submitted for approval.

8K It may issue with the concurrence
of the P.W. (War) section.

4.4.17.

M

4.4.17

/scm.

E.H.

5.4.17

had not to put.

The case is I think a / Home case & it may now
be done.

E.H.
5.4.17

18
Home(Education)Department.

10.8.17
10.6.17
LETTER:- 44685-4-17.
mis

To
The Wheat Commissioner for India,
Custom House, Madras.

Sir,
I am directed to reply to your
letter No.835,dated the 12th March 1917
regarding the recall ~~xxxx~~ from military
duty of Mr.Guthrie, the Leather Expert

2. The Madras Government agree with
you that it is desirable to secure
closer control of the tanneries in the
Presidency supplying tanned hides to the
War Office and that Mr.Guthrie is the
best officer to be entrusted with the
work. The Indian Munitions Board
has been requested to take steps for
the recall of Mr.Guthrie from military
duty and I am to enclose for your inform-
ation a copy of letter No.1175-1 V,
dated the 2nd April 1917 addressed to
the Secretary to the Board.

18/4/17

E.A.H.
5.4.17

When given for copying

When copied

When examined

When signed

191

READ AGAIN G.O. No.
191

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES to C. 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 in full.

B = Not to be copied.

P = Copy abstract only.

Q = Copy heading only.