

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <i>454</i>	Press Mis.
Dated <i>7-7</i>	1858

B. No. 2. 3

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 2. From G. L. PRENDERGAST, Esq., Accountant General; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 24th June 1858, No. 67.

SIR,

1. In November last, the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines made a proposition to me to dispense with the Annual Statements of transactions on account of Political Stores which are usually sent to me, and transmitted from this Office to the Honorable Court of Directors, with the Annual Territorial Journals and Ledgers. In reply I stated on the 10th November last, that as these Statements were Annually furnished by the late Military Board, and appear to have been done under specific instruction from the Honorable Court, I could not offer an opinion as to their discontinuance.

2. I beg to enclose copy of a letter from that Officer, dated the 10th Instant, from which his opinion as to the utility of furnishing these Statements will be apparent. The original correspondence received by Colonel Balfour from the Bombay Presidency, which has been sent to me for information, shows that the Political Statements of that Presidency have been discontinued to be sent to the Honorable Court, on the recommendation of the Store Account Committee. The Honorable Court of Directors in their letter* to the Bombay Government, dated the 12th June 1855, on that occasion stated, that they saw no objection to the discontinuance of the Statements. Under these circumstances I would beg to suggest, that a reference be made by Government to the Honorable Court, with the view that should they be pleased so to direct the Statements of Political Stores furnished from this Presidency may also be discontinued, as their preparation entails much labor in the Ordnance Department.

* No. 42, para 5. dated the 12th June 1855, on that occasion stated, that they saw no objection to the discontinuance of the Statements. Under these circumstances I would beg to suggest, that a reference be made by Government to the Honorable Court, with the view that should they be pleased so to direct the Statements of Political Stores furnished from this Presidency may also be discontinued, as their preparation entails much labor in the Ordnance Department.

From Captain E. F. FASKEN, Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines; to the Accountant General, dated 10th June 1858, No. 1466.

SIR,

In 1851 in consequence of the Ordnance Accounts being prepared in the form of Journal and Ledger, the Military Board were of opinion that the separate "Political Statements" might be discontinued, and the Secretary to the Board, in letter, No. 6989 of 15th November 1851, proposed that they should be discontinued, but in your letter, No. 707 of 28th November 1851, you stated as your opinion that the Political Statements could not be discontinued, as the Ordnance General Books did not exhibit "separately the receipt and expenditure of Stores out of the supplies received from England with the balance remaining." the consequence has been that these long Accounts, which are tedious in their preparation, have been regularly furnished up to 1856-57, and the more I have seen of them the more have I been convinced of their utility, more especially since our local resources have so much improved of late that Tools and other articles are manufactured in the country, and have become so mixed up with similar Articles of Europe manufacture, that it is impracticable and unnecessary to distinguish one Article from the other.

2. In furnishing the Political Statements for last year 1856-57, I again wrote* asking whether these Accounts could not be dispensed with, but with like results to the former application, you stated† that the Political Statements have annually been sent to the Honorable Court, under specific instructions given in Extract Minutes of Consultation, 1st June 1857, in the Financial Department, and therefore you cannot offer an opinion in respect to their discontinuance without their previous authority.

3. Although receiving such a negative reply, I was still of the same opinion that the Statements prepared as they now are, could be of little or no utility, and I thought the easiest way of solving the thing, was to ascertain whether similar Statements were continued to be sent from the sister Presidencies. I accordingly wrote last March* and received for an answer from the Inspector General, Bombay, that the Political Statement of Stores had been discontinued to be sent to the Honorable Court, under the authority of the Accountant General in

letter, No. 1195 of 25th October 1855, based on the orders of Government, No. 872 of 20th October 1855, but wishing to know more full particulars as to the causes which lead to the Order of Government in question, I wrote‡ to the Accountant General, Bombay, asking to be favored with copies of the orders of the Bombay Government, and that Gentleman, in replying thereto, mentions that the motion for the discontinuance of the Statements in question emanated from the Store Account Committee, and as I find the Committee's opinion so nearly coincides with my own, I beg to quote para 9 of their letter of the 22nd August 1854.

* Letter No. 11327 of 9th April 1858
† Letter No. 2279 of 22nd April 1858.

N. 456

Ordered accordingly
that a reference be made to the Hon^{ble}
the Court of Directors on the subject
of the foregoing letter, and then instructions
submitted whether, under the circum-
stances represented by the Accountant
General, the Statements of Political
Stores furnished from this Presi-
dency may be discontinued.

Subd. 2 of 2
7 July, 1853-3

To the Accountant General -

W. H. H.