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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 115 53-54.	Press / Mis.
Dated 16-2- 1864.	

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53-54

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,

16th February 1864.

No. 53. Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart., Secretary of State for India; to His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated India Office, London, 9th January 1864, No. 1.

Herewith is forwarded, for your information, copy of a Financial Despatch to the Government of India, No. 140 of 8th August 1863, respecting the transmission of Returns of all Stores under provision in this country for which packing accounts have not been forwarded.

2. In conformity with that Despatch, Returns up to the 31st of October last will shortly be forwarded for each Department in your Presidency, addressed to the Chief Secretary to Government.

From the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart., Secretary of State for India; to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 8th August 1863, No. 140.

I have had under my consideration in Council your letter, No. 149, dated 22nd November 1862, enclosing a Report of the Audit Board, dated 15th August 1862, together with the copy of a Resolution of your Government thereon, recorded on the 22nd November, on the regulation of the supplies of stores from England, and recommending for my adoption the suggestions contained in paragraphs 14 to 17 of the above Report.

2. The Resolution of Government, dated the 25th April 1863, a copy of which was transmitted in your letter, No. 55, of 25th April 1863, rescinds that part of your Resolution of the 22nd November last, which refers to the checks upon and transmission of Indents to this country. I should have, otherwise, called your attention to the probable inconvenience and delay which would result from the proposal to forward all Indents through the Financial Department, Calcutta, and which, in two or three instances, had already been felt in this country.

3. The suggestions of the Audit Board, contained in the 14th to 17th paragraphs of their Report, refer, in the 14th and 15th paragraphs, to the transmission of certain periodical returns &c. from this country, and, in the 16th and 17th, to certain suggestions made by the Mint Master. This officer's remarks as to the invoices and tonnage accounts will receive attention, but confusion would arise by adopting the further proposal to place him in direct communication with the contractors for Mint stores in England. These persons should receive all instructions through the officers of the Secretary of State's Department, and as the stores supplied for the Mints in India are not more exceptional in their character than those supplied to other Government establishments, I see no reason for departing from the ordinary rule in the case of this Department. Indents should contain full information and detailed descriptions, with drawings or plans, if necessary, of the stores demanded, for the guidance of officers of the India Store Department in purchasing them.

4. The 14th and 15 paragraphs of the Report propose the transmission to India of various periodical returns connected with the receipt of Indents in England, the progress of purchasing, and of the shipment of stores, &c., &c.

5. The complaints of delay, and of lack of information, on which the necessity for these returns is stated to be grounded, appear to be founded on the experience of past years, and to refer to a period when the same attention was not paid to these points of detail as at the present time.

6. The adoption of the returns of invoices and stores despatched, proposed in the Audit Report, would involve very great clerical labor, and would not furnish any information which is not already transmitted in a more concise and valuable form. These returns would, in fact, be merely transcripts of the invoices and packing accounts, which are now regularly transmitted, in the case of every shipment of stores, and by which they would invariably be anticipated.

7. I am not, therefore, disposed to sanction these particular returns, but as it appears desirable that the heads of Departments in India should be more fully informed of the progress making towards compliance with their Indents and requisitions, I have sanctioned a return, according to the accompanying form, which is to be transmitted every two months to each Department, in each Presidency.

8. The return will include all stores under provision in this country, for which Indents have been received and sanctioned, but for which packing accounts have not been transmitted, and it will show, as nearly as can be calculated, the probable period of their despatch. It will thus obviate, to a great extent, complaints of the character which have latterly been made, and it will give heads of Departments the opportunity of hastening, or, if necessary, cancelling the supply of stores which may have been demanded in their Departments.

INDIA STORE DEPARTMENT, 186

RETURN of Stores under provision by the Director General of Stores for India.

Presidency for which Packing accounts have not yet been transmitted; showing the Requisitions or Authorities.
Department upon which they are being provided, and the arrangements made for their shipment from England.

Date of Indent or Requisition.	No.	When Indent was received in England.	Description of Articles.	Quantity.	Date of Contract.	Name of Supplier.	When reported ready for Shipment.	Probable date of Despatch from England.	Remarks, *i. e.*, causes of delay, names of Vessels engaged, when known, &c., &c.

No. 54. ORDER THEREON, 16th February 1864, No. 115.

Ordered that a copy of the foregoing Despatch and its enclosure be furnished to the Public, Military, and Public Works Departments, and the Mint Master for information.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd: J. Tulloch.

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Financial Deptt.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read Despatch from the R. H. the Secy. of State for India.

/Dated 9th Janry: 64 No 1/

Order. 18 February 1864 No 113.

Ordered that a copy of the foregoing Despatch & its enclosures be forwarded to the Publics, Military & Public Works Departments & the Mint Master for information & guidance

H/G

To Publics Deptt.
Military
Public Works
Mint Master.

Financial 1864. Department.

No. 115

PROCEEDINGS of GOVERNMENT.

Dated 16th February 1864

Communicating to certain Departments the Secretary of State's Despatch requesting the transmission of Returns of all Stores under provision in England for which packing Accounts have not been forwarded &c.

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