M.R.O. 1—77,000—3-6-37.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 692. Press Mis.

113-114.

Dated 28-5- 1872.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

No. 692.

FROM

THE HON. R. S. ELLIS, C.B.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

Referring to your Under Secretary's letter, dated the 5th April last, No. 2487, I am directed to forward copies of the explanations afforded by the Superintendent, Public Works Stores and Workshops, and Mechanical Engineer, F. Harris, who was in charge of the late Mint Stores, regarding the packing of the Plumbago Melting Pots sent to the Calcutta Mint.

2. This Government regret that, notwithstanding the care stated to have been bestowed in the packing and despatch of the pots, so many should have been found broken on arrival at Calcutta.

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

FORT ST. GEORGE,
28*th May* 1872.

Chief Secretary.

From the General Superintendent, Public Works Stores and Workshops, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Fort St. George, dated Chepauk, 8th May 1872, No. 139.

With reference to G. O., dated 3rd May 1872, No. 18, communicating Order of Government in the Financial Department, 20th April 1872, No. 548, calling for an explanation in respect of the packing of the Plumbago Melting Crucibles sent to Calcutta, I have the honour to state that, as the pots referred to were transferred with the machinery, &c., from the late Mint to the custody of the Storekeeper of Machinery, they were stored at the back of the Mint premises under charge of Mr. F. Harris, Mechanical Engineer, to whom I entrusted the duty of packing the pots in question for shipment to Calcutta. Mr. Harris' explanation is herewith enclosed, and in endorsing his statements I beg to observe, from an inspection of the broken pots in store, that there is a wide difference between the English-made crucibles and those which were manufactured in this country, for while the former will bear a little rough usage, the latter break to pieces if not carefully handled. I am of opinion, moreover, that the tumbling about of the cases would in itself be sufficient to cause the damage complained of. Whilst regretting the loss in the breakage of the crucibles, I trust that the material which is still serviceable will be utilized in remoulding the pots, which will then probably be better and stronger than those

sent up from Madras. The loss to Government would thus be considerably reduced, though under any circumstances these country-made crucibles cannot be compared with English crucibles as the slightest damp, which does not affect an English crucible, will cause these crucibles to break even when lifting them. Their inferiority should have been evident to the Mint Officers at Calcutta.

From F. HARRIS, Esq., Mechanical Engineer, to the General Superintendent, Public Works Stores and Workshops, dated 6th May 1872.

I have read with much concern the Order of Government on letter from the Mint Master, Calcutta, reporting the breakage in the Plumbago Crucibles shipped from Madras, and attributing the damage to careless packing.

I cannot set up my opinion against so high an Officer as that of the Mint Master, but having had the duty of packing the crucibles, which were then under my charge, I beg to say that I did my best in packing them carefully, and, moreover, as there was no lack of packing materials, I put in as much as I considered sufficient. I saw the cases and casks removed from the Mint premises to the pier, and there safely and carefully put down and covered from the weather, and I have not the slightest doubt that they were as carefully shipped by the Marine Department here. Every precaution had been taken by me, in marking the packages, to draw attention to the fragile nature of their contents, and had the landing and removal of these stores been attended to as carefully at Calcutta as at Madras, I have no doubt but that the damage reported would not have occurred. I observe that six cases containing 135 crucibles were landed at Garden Reach; out of this number 75 are reported broken, being more than half of the whole consignment landed there; and if the quality of these pots made in the country is further taken into consideration, it will not be surprising to find that dampness or wet would cause them to break from the slightest concussion.

P. S.—In marking the cases I was careful to have them marked as under—

"This side up, with great care. Must be kept dry. Fragile."

The casks being marked as under—

"This side up, with great care. Must be kept dry, and not to be rolled." Fragile.

Some of the cases marked "Crucibles."

1872.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

From

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort St. George,

To

The Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Financial Department.

Dated 28th May, 1872.

Read.

No. 692.

Enclosure.

Furnishing copies of the explanations afforded by the Officers concerned, regarding the packing of the Plumbago Melting Pots sent to the Calcutta Mint.

To

J. N. Granger Esqre.
General Superintendent P.W. Stores Madras

Sir

I have read with much concern the Order of Government on letter from the Mint Master Calcutta, Re-porting the breakage in the Plumbago Crucibles, shipped from Madras, and attributing the damage to Careless pack-ing.

I cannot set up my opinion against so high an officer as that of the Mint Master, but having had the duty of packing the crucibles, which were then under my charge I beg to say that I did my best in packing them carefully and moreover as there was no lack of packing materials I put in as much as I considered sufficient; I saw the cases and casks removed from the Mint premises to the Pier, and there safely and carefully put down and covered from the weather and I have not the slightest doubt that they were as carefully shipped by the Marine Department here. Every precaution had been taken by me in marking the packages, to draw attention to the fragile nature of their contents and had the landing and removal of these stores been attended to as carefully at Calcutta as at Madras, I have no doubt but that the damage reported would not have occurred. I observe

that

that these cases containing 135 Crucibles were landed at Garden Reach; out of this number 75 are reported broken, being more than half of the whole Consignment landed there and if the quality of these pots made in the Country is further taken into consideration, it will not be surprizing to find that dampness or wet would cause them to break from the slightest Concussion.

I have the honor to be &c

6th May 1872

(Signed) F. Harris.

P.S.

In marking the Cases I was careful to have them marked as under.

"This side up.
With great care
Must be kept dry
Fragile"

The cases being marked as under

"This side up, with great care
Must be kept dry and not to be
rolled."

Fragile

Some of the Cases marked "Crucibles"

(True Copy)

J. N. Harper

Genl Supdt Stores & Workshops

P.W. 1313/72

Gl 28th Aug 72 2 Ks 115-116

L. Sept 4/72.

Public Works Store Depôt

No 139 Chepauk 8th May 1872.

From

The General Superintendent

Public Works Stores & Workshops

Chepauk.

To

The Secretary to Government

Public Works Department

Fort Saint George.

Sir.

With reference to G. O. dated 3d May 1872. No 18. Communicating Order of Government in the Financial Department 20th April 1872. No 548. Calling for an explanation in respect of the packing of the Plumbago Melting Crucibles sent to Calcutta, I have the honor to state that as the pots referred to were transferred with the Machinery &c. from the late Mint to the custody of the Store Keeper of Machinery, they were stored at the back of the Mint premises under charge of Mr. F. Harris Mech.l Engineer to whom I entrusted the

the

the duty of packing the pots in question for shipment to Calcutta

Mr Harris' explanation is herewith enclosed and in endorsing his Statement I beg to observe from an inspection of the broken pots in Store that there is a wide difference between the English made crucibles and those which were manufactured in this Country for while the former will bear a little rough usage, the latter break to pieces if not carefully handled I am of opinion moreover that the trembling about of the cases would in itself be sufficient to cause the damage complained of. Whilst regretting the loss in the breakage of the crucibles I trust that the material which is still serviceable will be utilized in remoulding the pots, which will then probably be better and stronger than those sent up from Madras

The

The loss to Government would thus be considerably reduced, though under any circumstances these country made crucibles cannot be compared with English crucibles as the slightest damp, which does not affect an English crucible, will cause these crucibles to break even when lifting them. Their inferiority should have been evident to the Mint Officers at Calcutta.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obed.t Servant
J. Harper
General Supt. W.P. Works
& Workshops

Pay 20 April 1872 No 254-258

Transferred to the Financial Dept with reference to the orders in that Dept of 20th April /72, No 548

G. Walker Cl RR
Offg Secy to Govt
Ind
10th May /72

Ind
Genl

No 2313

From
The Genl Supdt P.W. Stores
Calcutta
To
The Secretary to Government
P.W. Department
Fort St George

No 940
Dated 8th } May 1872
Recd 9th }
Q-M. No 139.

Enclosure.

Furnishes explanation in respect of the Packing of the Plumbs Melting Pots sent to Calcutta.

Transferred

Feb 25th May 1872

20th

To
The Secretary to the Government of India - Financial Department

Sir,

Referring to your Military Secy's letter of the 5th April last No 2487, I am directed to forward copies of the explanations upon the subject by the Superintendent of the Naval Stores & Workshops, Thackeray & Harris, who was in charge of the late Naval Stores, regarding the packing of the plumbago melting pots sent to the Calcutta Mint.

2 ~~Lord Lytton's~~ ~~of~~ this Govt ~~first~~ notwithstanding this care stated to have been bestowed in the packing & despatch of the pots, so many should have been found to have been broken on arrival at Calcutta

1872.

Financial DEPARTMENT

From
The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort Saint George,

To
The Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Financial Department.

Dated May. 28 1872.
Recd.

No. 692
Enclosure.

Nos. 113. 114

Furnishing ~~the~~ copies of the Explanations afforded by the officers concerned, regarding the packing of the Hundees remitted Rs 6 crores to the Calcutta Mint.