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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1525 Press Mis.

166-167.

Dated 20-10- 1873.

14/15

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
20th October 1873.

No. 166. Read the following despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India:—

Financial.
No. 110.

INDIA OFFICE, LONDON,
16*th September* 1873.

MY LORD,—I have considered in Council your Financial Letter, No. 21, of 27th June last, forwarding the report of the Superintendent of Stationery relative to complaints received of the quality of certain articles supplied from this country.

2. I forward, herewith, for your information, copy of a letter* from the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, and also samples of blue foolscap-paper and black-lead pencils, and I request that you will state which of the samples you consider suitable for the service.

* Dated 15th August 1873.

3. The price is noted on each sample, and those which may be selected are to be returned with your reply.

4. With regard to the steel pens, I request that in future your indents may state, whether fine, medium, or broad nib pens are required.

I have, &c.,
ARGYLL.

His Excellency the Right Honourable
The Governor in Council, Fort St. George.

From W. R. GREG, Esq., Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, to the Director-General of Stores, India Office, dated Stationery Office, 15th August 1873.

In reply to your letter of the 7th instant, transmitting the enclosed report from India as to certain articles supplied by this Department, I beg to report—

(1.) That the blue foolscap-paper was fully equal to the contract sample furnished by you, and that, as a rule, machine-made papers will not bear erasure, unless they are tub-sized and loft-dried, which your sample is not.

(2.) The observations regarding Gillott's Ordnance Pens simply relate to the width of the nib, and this is a matter upon which you should give us full instructions with each indent.

(3.) I enclose a sample of Hinkswells and Co.'s Pen, No. 024, which I can furnish to you at 1*s.* per gross, the price of Gillott's Ordnance Pen being 2*s.* 3*d.* per gross.

(4.) The black-lead pencils complained of were supplied in accordance with your approved pattern (see specimen enclosed). The pencil sent by you is made of very soft lead, and I can furnish a better article at twenty-five per cent. less than the price quoted in the report from India.

No. 167. ORDER THEREON, 20th October 1873, No. 1525.

Communicated to the Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines, with reference to G.O., dated 12th June 1873, No. 821.

2. The Superintendent of Stationery will report on the samples referred to in paragraph 2 of the despatch, and conform to the instructions contained in paragraph 4 when indenting for steel pens in future.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines, with the samples.

Exd. J. Wright.

Govt. of India Madras
FINANCIAL.
To
THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF
ORDNANCE AND MAGAZINES
Dated October, 20th.
Read.
G.O., 20th October 1873, No. 1525.
OCTOBER.
Nos. 166-167.
Stationery.—Orders passed on a despatch from the Secretary of State, forwarding explanation regarding the complaints made by this Government of the quality of certain articles of stationery supplied from England.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

No. 21 OF 1873.

To

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

MY LORD DUKE,

We have the honour to transmit, for your consideration, an extract from the report of the Superintendent of Stationery for the year 1872-73, showing the complaints which have been received regarding the quality of some of the articles supplied from England.

Procs., 12th June 1873, Nos. 95-96.

2. We would particularly request attention to the inferior quality of the steel pens and blue foolscap-paper, and to the fact that a black-lead pencil (of which we forward a sample) can be purchased locally for 3 Pies of a quality much superior to that now supplied, which costs 9 Pies before it reaches the Stationery Office.

We have the honour to be,
My Lord Duke,
Your Grace's most obedient,
humble servants,

OOTACAMUND,
27th June 1873.

(Signed) HOBART.
(,,) FRED. P. HAINES.
(,,) J. D. SIM.
(,,) R. S. ELLIS.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

FORT SAINT GEORGE.

FINANCIAL (1873) *DEPT.*

Letter to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India.

Dated 27th June

No. 21 of 1873.

Transmitting, for consideration, an extract from the report of the Superintendent of Stationery for the year 1872-73, *showing the complaints which have been received regarding the quality of some of the articles supplied from England.*

PUBLIC (SANITARY) DEPARTMENT.

No. 26 OF 1872.

To

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

MY LORD DUKE,

In continuation of our Despatch, dated the 12th July last, No. 20, we have the honour to forward 100 copies of the Report on Sanitary Administration in the Madras Presidency for the year 1871.

We have the honour to be,
My Lord Duke,
Your Grace's most obedient,
humble servants,

OOTACAMUND,
30th September 1872.

(Signed) HOBART.
(,,) FRED. P. HAINES.
(,,) A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
(,,) J. D. SIM.

Exd. J. Wright.

FORT SAINT GEORGE.

PUBLIC (1872) *DEPARTMENT.*
SANITARY.

Letter to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India.

Dated 30th September

No. 26 of 1872.

Forwarding 100 *copies of the Report on Sanitary Administration in the Madras Presidency for the year* 1871.

No. 95. Read the following letter from Colonel A. STEWART, R.A., Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Fort St. George, 17th May 1873, No. 44-S :—

Stationery Department.

I have the honour to enclose report* by the Superintendent of Stationery on the operations of the Depôt during the official year 1872-73.

* No. 147, dated 10th May 1873.

2. With reference to paragraph VI., Complaints"—Clause "Steel Pens, Ordnance," I beg to state that similar objections to these pens have been made in this office, especially as regards the broad-nibbed pen ; the finest-pointed pens now supplied are generally approved of, and the Right Honourable the Secretary of State might be requested to reduce the proportion of the thicker-nibbed steel pens hereafter.

3. Clause "Black-lead Pencils." The pencils supplied are very frequently *most indifferent* as to quality, though occasionally good pencils are to be found in the bundles. I forward the sample pencil alluded to by the Superintendent of Stationery.

From Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. CHILDERS, R.A., Superintendent of Stationery, to Colonel A. STEWART, R.A., Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines, dated Fort St. George, 10th May 1873, No. 147.

I have the honour to forward, for submission to Government, the Annual Report of the Stationery Office for the official year ending 31st March 1873.

I. Stock.—The value of stock at the beginning of the year was Rupees 5,22,767-13-10. The receipts from all sources during the year aggregate Rupees 2,05,535-0-3, while that of issues is Rupees 2,87,964-4-7. The value of stock at the close of the year was Rupees 4,40,338-9-6.

II. Receipts.—The value of receipts from England in 1872-73 aggregate Rs. 1,74,478-4-8 against Rupees 3,76,941-4-8 in 1871-72, or Rupees 51,800-5-8 less than the average of the two preceding years. If we deduct Rupees 30,000 from the above, for value of articles due from England which should have been received last year, there will still be a saving of Rupees 21,800 as compared with the average annual cost of the last two years, notwithstanding the supplemental demands of the 2nd September 1872 for new supplies for the Government Telegraph and Army Veterinary Departments.

III. Issues.—The cost of issues to public offices during the year aggregate Rs. 2,67,324-3-10 against Rupees 3,10,895-10-9 in 1871-72, and to Army and Regimental Schools Rupees 2,062-7-8 against Rupees 4,782-15-0 in 1871-72 ; the issues to public offices and Regimental Schools being Rupees 46,291-14-3 less than similar transactions of the previous year.

IV. Local Purchases.—The local purchases during the year aggregate Rupees 29,257-8-1. French paper was received from England in part supply of the indent on the Home Government, agreeably to samples received from the Revenue Board ; the paper doubtless is of better quality than that heretofore purchased locally, but the actual cost is not known, as the price of the article supplied is not given in the invoice list. It was brought on in stock at an assumed price open to adjustment hereafter.

V. Bound Books.—The books issued to Public Departments are all bound by open contract with few exceptions ; the bound books are of four quires each, and the marble covered books one quire each. Paper only is issued to the contractor, and the rates charged include the cost of

leather, binding materials, and hire of workmen. The contract rates for the last two years were as follow :—

	1871-72. A.	P.	1872-73. A	P.
Leather bound books of four quires each, Royal size ...	13	0	12	8
Medium	10	0	9	9
Demy	7	6	7	3
Foolscap	5	3	5	2
File books	2	3	2	1
Marble covered books, one quire each, Demy size ...	0	2	0	2
Foolscap	0	2	0	2
Quarto	0	2	0	2
Octavo	0	2	0	2

The above rates, I believe, will stand comparison with those charged by other Public Departments. They are considered very favourable, so much so that the Agency of this Department was sought by the Registrar-General to get books bound for his Department by our contractor at equally favourable rates.

VI. Complaints.—The following complaints were received during the year ; these are communicated for the information of Government, in reference to paragraph 18 of the Order of Government, No. 1577, of 28th November 1861 :—

Machine-made Papers.—The Secretary to the Mysore Commission complained that the blue foolscap-paper supplied was of inferior quality, and, if folded, apt to tear when reopened.

The Controller of Military Accounts stated that this paper is of extremely inferior quality, of very little use, is extremely brittle, and liable to tear with the greatest ease when folded. He further states that it does not admit of erasures, which he considers a drawback where native clerks are employed.

The Superintendent of Police, Ganjam District, intimated that the machine-made paper sent is very little better than common Goa paper.

Steel Pens, Ordnance.—The Accountant-General stated that these steel pens are useless both to Accountants and Copyists, as they generally write too thick. He asks to be supplied with quills in lieu, if Magnum Bonums or other equally good steel pens are not available.

Blue Pencils.—The District Engineer, Madura, stated that the blue pencils which bear the name of "Reeves and Son," Makers, are certainly an inferior article.

Black-lead Pencils.—The Revenue Board, in their Official Memorandum, of date 16th September 1872, complain that the black-lead pencils are of very inferior quality. The black-lead in the pencils is stated to be hard, and the joints of the wood not sufficiently glued together.

The price of this article, according to invoice list from England, is one shilling per dozen, or 9 Pies each, including freight charges, &c. These pencils are greatly disliked, and others of the sample herewith sent are preferred ; there is no difficulty in obtaining the latter by purchase locally at 3 Pies each.

VII. English Machine-made Stamped Envelopes.—The Controller of Military Accounts suggested, as an economic measure, the supply of English-made envelopes instead of the unsatisfactory and ill-shaped covers made up in offices by Moochies. He was informed, in reply, that his suggestion would be communicated to Government in due course, whose sanction should first be obtained before the article is included in the general indent of this Department on the Home Government. At present country paper is largely used for this purpose, in reference to the Order of the Government of India re-published in Madras Proceedings, No. 726, of 24th June 1863.

VIII. Check of Indents.—This very important business continues to receive an efficient check under the careful supervision of the Manager, Mr. James Clark. In all instances of demands in excess of estimates or of previous years' annual average expenditure, the necessary explanation was called for, agreeably to paragraph 8 of the Rules for the issue of stationery. Several reports were received, intimating necessity of extra expenditure on account of increased business, but,

notwithstanding the admission of this explanation, there was a reduction in expenditure by a check in this office, viz. :—

	RS.	A.	P.
In issues to public offices	1,366	2	8
,, school materials	240	15	0
Total ...	1,607	1	8

IX. Lithographic Plate Papers.—The quantities in my last report were increased by a consignment, ex *Latona*, of 20 Reams Double Elephant and 10 Reams of special size. The issue transactions during the year aggregate 35 Reams, so that a quantity of this description of paper continues available for sale.

X. Cost of Establishment.—The cost of establishment, including the Superintendent's salary, is Rupees 7,675-12-2 for the whole year, but if we deduct therefrom Rupees 3,935-3-0 for sums realized as noted below, the net cost to Government will be Rupees 3,740-9-2, or less than two-thirds of a Rupee per cent. of the receipt and issue transactions in the year :—

	RS.	A.	P.
By commission realized	833	15	9
,, sale of waste paper, packing materials, &c.	2,579	12	1
,, forfeiture of deposits by contractor	175	0	0
,, gain on sale of maps	289	2	8
,, ,, on sale of Service Books by fractional parts of Pies ...	57	4	6
Total ...	3,935	3	0

No. 96. ORDER THEREON, 12th June 1873, No. 821.

The report of the Superintendent of Stationery above recorded shows that the value of the issues during the year 1872-73 aggregated Rupees 2,87,964-4-7, while the value of receipts amounted to Rupees 2,05,535-0-3, the value of the stock in hand at the close of the year being thus Rupees 82,429-4-4 less than at the commencement.

2. The cost of issues to public offices amounted to Rupees 2,67,324-3-10, being Rupees 43,571-6-11 less than in 1871-72, but Rupees 37,398-15-2 more than in 1870-71. The items of the excess for 1871-72 are given, and a reference to last year's report shows that some of these, such as the requirements for Local Fund work, are annually recurring, which accounts for the issues still being so much in excess of those for 1870-71. The decrease in the contract rates for binding books issued to Public Departments is satisfactory. The Superintendent of Stationery will submit an estimate of the difference of cost which would probably result from the substitution of envelopes of English manufacture for those made at present in the public offices, and will also report, as soon as he is in a position to do so, the difference in the cost of the French paper received from England, which is stated to be superior to that hitherto purchased locally.

3. In connexion with the complaints against the quality of some of the articles supplied, an extract from the Superintendent's report will be sent for the information of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, and his attention particularly drawn to the bad quality of the steel pens and blue foolscap-paper, and to the fact that a lead pencil can be purchased locally for 3 Pies of a quality much superior to that which now costs 9 Pies before it reaches the Stationery Office.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
12th June 1873.

4. With reference to steel pens, the Superintendent of Stationery will make the necessary alteration in future indents on England. "Hinkswells and Co.'s 024 quill-pen" seems to be the kind of steel pen most in favour amongst the clerks in public and private offices in Madras, many of the clerks in the Government Office purchasing them for themselves rather than use those officially supplied.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines,
with samples of steel pens.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Controller.

Copy

Stationery Office
15th August 1873.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 7th inst., transmitting the enclosed report from India as to certain articles supplied by the Department, I beg to report-

1st That the Blue Foolscap Paper was fully equal to the Contract sample furnished by you, - and that, as a rule, machine-made papers will not bear erasure, unless they are sub-sized and loft-dried, which your sample is not,

2nd The observations regarding Gillotts Ordnance Pens simply relate to the width of the nib, and this is a matter upon which you should give us full instructions with each Indent.

3- I enclose a sample of Hicks, Wells & Co. Pen No. 024. which I can furnish to you at 1/ per gross - the price of Gillotts Ordnance Pen being 2/3d per gross.

4. The black lead Pencils complained of were supplied in accordance with your approved pattern (see Specimen enclosed) The pencil sent by you is made of very soft lead, and I can furnish a better article at 25 per cent less than the price quoted in the report from India

Specimen enclosed

I am,
Sir,
Your Obt. Servt.
(Sd.) W. R. Greg.
Controller

The Director General of Stores
India Office.

Govt. of Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To
THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF ORDNANCE AND MAGAZINES.

Dated June, 12th.
Read.

G. O., 12th June 1873, No. 821.

JUNE
Nos. 95-96.

Reviewing the Annual Report of the Stationery Depôt for the year 1872-73.

1844

21

India Office, London,
16th September 1873.

Financial
No 110.

My Lord,

1. I have considered in Council your Financial Letter No. 21 of 27th June last forwarding the report of the Superintendent of Stationery relative to complaints received of the quality of certain articles supplied from this Country.

2. I forward herewith for your information copy of a letter* from the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, and also Samples of Blue Foolscap Paper and Black Lead Pencils, and I request that you will state which of the Samples you consider suitable for the service.

3. The price is noted on each sample

* dated 15th August 1873.

His Excellency,
The Right Honorable,
The Governor in Council,
Fort St. George.

Sample, and those which may
be selected are to be returned
with your reply.

4. With regard to the Steel
Pens, I request that in future
your Indents may state, whether
fine, medium, or broad nib pens are
required.

I have the honor to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordships' most obedient,
humble Servant

Financial 1878 Dept
No. 10.

Financial
16th Sept. 1873.

The
Letter to Lord Kimberley
No. 110.

Colonial. 20 Oct. 1873.
No. 1525.

Communicated to the Inspector General of Ordnance & Inspector with reference to C.O. of 12 June /73. No. 821.

The Superintendent of Stationery with reports on the Samples referred to in para: 2 of this Dispatch and Confirm to the instructions contained in para: graph 4 when indenting for Steel pens in future.



To the Inspr. General of Ordnance & Inspector with the Samples

with reference to complaints made of Stationery Stores supplied from England, forwards copy of a letter from the Controller of H.M's Stationery Office and also Samples of Paper and Black Lead Pencils. —

With ref.

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

Financial

Re Insps. Genl. of Ords & Stores.

Dated Oct. 20
Rcd. Encl.

G.O. 20 Oct., 1873, No. 1525.

Nos. 166. 167.

Stationery - Orders passed on a Mas. from the Secy. of State forwarding Explanation regarding the Complaints made by this Govt. of the quality of certain Articles of Stationery supplied from England.