

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

Resolution of the Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department (Accounts, &c.—Stores), dated Simla, 18th April 1895, No. 1760-S.R.

Read—the following despatch from the Right Honourable Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 21st March 1895, No. 49, Financial :—

I have considered in Council your letter, dated the 22nd of May last, No. 128, and the returns transmitted therewith of stores purchased in India during the year 1892-93.

2. The returns indicate a greater use of stores manufactured in India, which is satisfactory.

3. The encouragement of the production in India of articles which could be substituted for stores formerly supplied by indenting on this office was expected to lead to a diminution of the sums required to be remitted to this country ; but, owing to the large increase in the supplies of military stores in recent years, this expectation has not yet been fulfilled. I trust, however, that, with the completion of the re-arming of the troops, it will have been found possible to reduce considerably the expenditure in this country on stores for India.

4. A report by the Director-General of Stores (dated 29th January 1895) is enclosed for your information and such steps as you may deem necessary.

ENCLOSURE.

REPORT by Director-General of Stores, dated 29th January 1895.

With reference to the accompanying India Finance and Commerce letter No. 128 of 22nd May 1894, forwarding returns showing the expenditure on stores for 1892-93, I have to observe that the decrease shown in the value of imported stores purchased locally compares favourably with the increase in the other modes of purchase. A satisfactory and continued increase is shown in the value of the stores manufactured in India and substituted for imported stores.

2. In paragraph 6 of the letter the Government of India states that the reasons for the local purchase of Europe stores are explained in most cases. It appears very desirable that the reasons should be given in all cases in which a loss was incurred and that, whenever possible, the estimated cost of the stores, if supplied through this office, should be inserted in the returns. The Government of India, however, appears in most cases, and especially in the Public Works and Railway returns, to have made a careful scrutiny in regard to the local purchases, and has directed future compliance with the rules in all cases where the explanations are insufficient.

3. There appears to be nothing in the abstract calling for remarks, and with regard to the returns only the following call for special observations :—

No. 6, *Bengal*.—8,401 yards of imported blue serge bought locally, but no explanation is afforded, and the estimated cost, if obtained through this office, is not given.

No. 8, *Bombay*.—Rs. 17,669 worth of imported paper bought locally, but no explanation is given nor estimated cost if obtained through this office. In this return, in Part 3, it is stated that Rs. 32,950 have been gained by the supply of locally-made foolscap paper, 2nd sort, at Rs. 3-1-7 per ream, as against Rs. 9-13-0 per ream if obtained through this office. There

appears, however, to be some doubt whether this was a real saving, inasmuch as in the same return foolscap paper, 1st sort, purchased in India at the higher rate of Rs. 4-8-1 per ream is shown as costing in England only Rs. 4-10-4 per ream. Nos. 23-37, Military and Marine Departments, have been dealt with separately as usual.

4. From the information given as to the effect of the relaxation of the restrictions on the local purchase of iron and steel work, it appears that the result is so far encouraging on the whole.

Ordered—that copy be forwarded to all local Governments and Administrations and to the Public Works and Military Departments.

(Signed) J. E. O'CONOR,
Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

ORDER—dated 2nd May 1895, No. 356, Financial.

Communicated to the Departments of the Secretariat, to the Superintendent of Stationery and to the Accountant-General.

(True Extract.)

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Departments of the Secretariat.
„ Superintendent of Stationery.
„ Accountant-General,

Gobt. of {1895} Madras.
FINANCIAL.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 2nd May 1895, No. 356.

MAY.

Returns of Expenditure on Stores.

Communicating to the Departments of the Secretariat, to the Superintendent of Stationery and to the Accountant-General, copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State and of its enclosure embodying remarks on the — for the year 1892-93.

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