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Financial (1897) Department.

ORDINARY M.S.

G.O., No. 1305

Dated 28.11.97.

INDEXED.

4/5

[Despatch Abstract.]

Communicating to the D.A.G., Madras Command, letter from the Supdt of Stationery explaining the System of Supplying School books & materials to the British Army Schools in this Presidency as Compared with that obtaining in the other Presidencies; and requesting him to favour Govt with the views of the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces on the subject.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
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4111

Financial (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 4111

CHIEF SECRETARY
23. NOV. 1899
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

108

From The Superintendent of Stationery, Madras.

No. 6190

Dated 20—11—99
Desp. 22—11—99
Received } 23-11-99
Registered
Enclosures
Spare copies

C.S.
Order No. 13050/28.11.99
Mis
The letter from the Supdt: of Stationery will be commd. to the D.A.G. Madras Command with the request that the Govt. may be favoured with the ~~opinion~~ views of the L.G.C.

C.M.S. 27.11.99

Supdt of Staty (qd)
D.A.G. Madras Command (and)
Dated 30/11-

C No. 822 Fd
C No. 1162 Fd
C No. 2612 Fd
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SUBJECT.

Submitting for the ~~Consider~~ consideration of Government the system of supplying school books & materials to the British Army schools in this Presidency, as compared with that obtaining in the other Presidencies.

BACK PAPERS.

BACK PAPERS.

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FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

CURRENT No. 4111

200—9-10-99.

Stationery Office,

Madras, 20th Novr. 1899.

Gov. 1305 Fd. 28/11/99

Ref. ~~Dis.~~ No. 6190

Enclosures.

From

HERBERT BRADLEY, Esq., I.C.S.,

Acting Superintendent of Stationery,

Madras,

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,

Financial Department.

Sir,

In accordance with para 6 of G.O. No. 368 Pub. dated 15th March 1879, embodied in G.O. No. 2089 Military dated 19th April 1879, the school books and materials other than stationery, required for British Army Schools in this Presidency are obtained by this office from Messrs F.P. Baker & Co., London, on annual indents forwarded through the local Controller of Military Accounts. The annual indents of the several corps forwarded through the Deputy Assistant Adjutant General for British Army Schools, Madras and Bombay Commands, Poona, are met out of the stock so obtained. The basis on which the home indent is framed is twice the average of the actuals of the past three years as in the case of the home indent for stationery. This system has been found to be unsatisfactory and wasteful as owing to sudden and unexpected changes in the curriculum of school studies, some books of which a stock has already been provided become suddenly obsolete while of others the stock is found

to

to be insufficient and has to be supplemented by local purchases at increased rates. These and other matters have led to delays in supplies which have been the subject of complaint by the Military Educational Department.

2. In addition to inconvenience and delays, the disposal of obsolete books by public auction-which is the only means found available-for ~~which~~ much less than their cost price, and the local purchase of others at enhanced rates to meet urgent requisitions, has involved considerable loss. As an instance, I would mention that school books and materials which had been lying in the stores without demand for sometime and which had cost Rs 6,040, were disposed of in 1898 for Rs 42/-. As recently as August last books etc. originally valued at Rs 4,537 were disposed of by the Government Auctioneer for Rs 174. Another case has just happened which will cause much inconvenience and cannot fail to involve some loss to the state. Before sending home my last indent on Messrs F.P.Baker & Co. I consulted the Deputy Assistant Adjutant General for British Army Schools who informed me that he saw no reason to anticipate any change in the curriculum during the next two years. Among the books indented for and since received are 180 copies of Ransomes History of England costing £0-2-7½ (Rs 1-15-6) per copy. The Military Department has just ordered that the supply of this work is to cease and Arnold Foster's History is to be substituted for it. The 180 copies of Ransome have therefore become obsolete and I doubt whether Messrs F.P.Baker & Co. will take them back at their full value, if at all.

3. I have ascertained that in Calcutta the annual estimate of school books etc. is forwarded to a selected local contractor who procures a stock from England and distributes it to the several Army Schools on receipt of distribution lists. He obtains receipts which form vouchers for his bills which are countersigned by the Superintendent of Stationery for payment by the Accountant General, Bengal. In Bombay, the supply is arranged for through a local agent. In this connection I would invite attention to G.O.No.760 Financial dated 13th June 1899.

Receiving Office No A/B T 8934 9 June 1899

It

It will thus be seen that the practice obtaining in Calcutta and Bombay obviates the possibility of any loss falling on Government and relieves the local Stationery Offices of unnecessary work and unavoidable complaints.

4. In August last the Deputy Assistant Adjutant General for British Army Schools suggested the advisability "of a local school supplier (i.e. an Indian firm of booksellers) being appointed contractors" as "such an arrangement would probably obviate much inconvenience all round." I thereupon addressed the Controller of Military Accounts on the subject but he considered that the existing system "has worked satisfactorily and economically." He recently compared Messrs Baker & Co's rates with those quoted by a Bombay firm and found the former decidedly advantageous. He added that until he is satisfied that the present arrangements are inconvenient and unduly expensive he regretted his inability to disturb them. I have received another communication from the Deputy Assistant Adjutant General on the subject but I have not addressed the Controller of Military Accounts further.

5. It is quite clear that at present this office has a considerable amount of unpleasant and unsatisfactory work to do which is not required of the sister offices in Calcutta and Bombay; and that delays in supplies to schools are largely due to the system in vogue which is also mainly responsible for heavy losses from time to time which it seems to me must more than balance the advantage derived from Messrs Baker & Co's rates. I have therefore the honour to submit the matter for the consideration of Government.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Ag. Superintendent of Stationery.

When given for copying 29/4/88
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When signed _____

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 189 . DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

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STATEMENT WITH DITTO.								
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