MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1169 Press

18-16

Dated 11 — 7 — 1837

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 15th September 1857.

No. 15. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector of Prisons; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George, dated Ootacamund, 27th August 1857, No. 367.

Sir,

In reference to Extract from the Minutes of Consultation of the 15th August, directing me to send any tenders I may have received, in consequence of my notification at page 939 of the Gazette of 1856, I have the honor to state that I have not received any, but that I ascertained the Columbo prices, when at Allegpi, and that they are still lower than those I quoted.

2. Colonel Balfour is I believe, engaged in the same work as myself, a desire to obtain a better description of articles and to obtain such articles at the lowest cost, and though some expressions in his present letter might lead to the supposition, that we were at variance, we have really been in communication with this common object.

3. My advertisement was in the Gazette, simply as conveying to some 40 Officers in charge of Jails the readiest notification; I adopt the course often, and it is adopted by other Government Officers even when a dozen copies would notify the same to all concerned.

4. I have tested the tools I purchased here by a year's trial, and can say that they are good. The Government mamoties and pickaxes imported are good of their kind, but heavy and expensive. When I notified the relative cost it was with reference to an excessive charge of I believe Rupees 3 and Annas 15 for mamoties, which Colonel Balfour explained to me was in part owing to an average having been taken by which old stores stood occasionally in the books at an undue valuation, an error that he desired to rectify.

I say expensive with reference to the price charged.

5. I believe the Madras market is exceedingly ill supplied with tools, the Bombay and Columbo markets, are far better supplied for obvious reasons. Probably there is no article in which the shippers at home presume more on the public inexperience in general, or which requires more knowledge and experience to select of good quality. I received when in England some hints as to the sources from whence the East India Company's supplies were drawn, and the causes of their not having as good tools as the money paid would demand. I have myself imported tools of excellent quality while others who chose to get them through other channels have in writing for the same article received mere rubbish; the quality, or want of quality, in tools is no reflection on the Inspector General of Ordnance.

6. The Arsenal made mamoties that I have seen are defective from want of attention to trifles. I have already pointed out the defects and the cause.

7. I think it likely Major Mann had occasion for the mamoty of the Madras pattern from employing coolies accustomed to the short handled tool, if so, he had no imported articles to compare them with, and in preferring the store mamoty he had probably only the common country made article to compare it with.

8. If the Government will refer to the registers of imports, I believe it will be found that no mamoties and but few pickaxes are introduced for sale into the Madras market, and this probably may account for my not having received tenders. I have been offered mamoties and pickaxes at the prices stated, and not many days ago arranged with Messrs. Francis Nurserymen for the delivery of 50 mamoties at Calicut.

9. I enclose a copy of a letter from the Sub Judge of Bellary, dated the 1st May 1856, which will show that the charge for tools is deemed excessive by others as well as myself.

10. To shew the Government that I had cause to find fault. On the 6th July 1855, I obtained from the Military Board under signature of their Secretary a statement of "List of "accounting tools of *Europe manufacture*, which are generally indented for by Magistrates "&c., for the use of Convicts, with prices." "Axes pick" are quoted therein @ 1-4-8, but on an indent being sent in I find them charged at more than three times that amount.

11. I believe it is to Colonel Balfour himself that the different departments are chiefly indebted for a system under which every Officer must now become acquainted with the actual

ent of every thing he indents for, he must therefore be content to put up with the consequences to the department under his own charge if it overcharges.

(Signed) J. ROHDE,
Inspector of Prisons.

From M. C. CHASE, Esq., Acting Sub Criminal Judge of Bellary; to J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector of Prisons, dated 1st May 1836, No. 255.

Sir,

With reference to my letters of the 7th and 20th March respectively, and your reply to the first under date the 13th Idem, I have the honor to inform you that, the Indent on the Ordnance Department of Bellary for 100 pickaxes, dated 20th March passed by the Military Board on the 15th April 1836, and returned to me by you, shows that the Military Board have charged for the 100 pickaxes, Rupees 212-10-6, which sum is nearly double the price that was formerly charged; I therefore consider it advisable, in accordance with the discretion given to me in your letter above alluded to, to buy the aforementioned tools from the Tahsildar's Cutcherry at this station, as the said articles are manufactured here nearly as good as those in the Arsenal, for the sum of Rupees 142-7-10, for which sum, I request you will be good enough to grant final sanction.

(Signed) M. C. CHASE,
Acting Sub Criminal Judge.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. ROHDE,

No. 16. ORDER PASSED, No. 1169; dated 11th September 1837.

To be communicated to the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines with, reference to his letter dated 3rd August 1837, No. 225.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,
Acting Chief Secretary.

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No 1169

To be communicated to the

Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines

with reference to his letter dated 3d. August 1837

No 225.

By Order

Fort St. George,

11th September 1837.

To the Inspector General of Ordnance & Magazines } Dispd 15th

Inspector of Prisons }