

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1397	Press
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Dated	16. 11. 1861	10

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
16th November 1861.

No. 87. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department, dated 4th November 1861, No. 2,027.

Passing remarks on a letter from the Chief Engineer forwarding statement showing the quantity of stores indented for on England for use of the Department of Public Works for the years specified, and requesting the issue of orders from the different Departments of the Secretariat relative to the submission by other Civil and Military Departments of returns in the form prescribed in Government Order dated 5th June last, No. 1,054, Public Works Department.

(Vide Proceedings, Public Works Department, dated 4th November 1861, Nos. 15 & 16.)

No. 88. ORDER THEREON, 16th November 1861, No. 1,397.

The Commissioner of Police and the Inspectors General of Police and Jails, will furnish returns in the form prescribed, if they have forwarded indents for stores from England for the years named.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. HORSLEY, Chief Engineer, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated Chepauk, 2nd August 1861, No. 3,480:—

SIR,

31st May 1861, No. 1,865.
5th June 1861, No. 1,066.
27th July 1861, No. 272.

1. I have the honor, in obedience to the Orders of Government noted in the margin, to forward the enclosed Statement, showing the quantity of Stores indented for on England, for use of the Department Public Works for the years 1856-57 1858-59, the quantity received by this Office on the several Indents, as also the cost of the same, and a copy of the annual Home Indent for the year 1859-60, as specially requested. I regret to state, that the Statement is not so complete as I would wish it to be, for want of reliable information as to the actual receipts from England for the use of this Department in the above years. As the Ordnance authorities were until recently the custodians of the Public Works Stores, I have addressed the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines on this subject, requesting that he would be good enough to furnish me with a full and complete Statement of his actual receipts from England on account of this Department during the years in question. As soon as this information is received in the Central Office it shall be communicated to Government with a revised Statement.

2. In conclusion, I beg to state, that the practice observed in this Office in preparing the annual Home Indent is as follows: on the probable demands of the Districts being ascertained in the Central Office for the ensuing year, they are carefully scrutinized and compared with the demands and entries of previous years, after which, the general Indent is prepared and forwarded to Government for transmission to the Secretary of State.

ORDER THEREON, 4th November 1861, No. 2,027.

1. This letter of the Chief Engineer purports to be a reply to two Orders of Government, viz.:—

I. Government Order, 5th June 1861, calling for a Statement of Machinery, &c., indented for, received, and on its way from England.

II. Government Order, 6th June 1861, calling for the same information, and a copy of the Indent for 1859-60, to enable Government to discover whether any portion of the Stores, worth 13 lacs, believed to have been sent from England in excess of actual requirements and expectations, had been received in this Department.

2. The Chief Engineer can however only partially meet these calls. He sends a statement of the Stores indented for in the three years selected, and of the Stores which passed into the possession of his Department. But formerly the Ordnance authorities were the custodians of the Public Works Stores, and the Chief Engineer has not yet been able to ascertain what Stores were received or are now retained by them.

The first thing to be done is clearly to find out what Public Works Stores the Ordnance Department has. The Chief Engineer has called for a statement but it would be better, if his Assistant Captain Rawlins were to visit the Arsenal and in communication with the Inspector General of Ordnance and Stores ascertain what property belonging to the Department is still there. The Books of the Ordnance ought to show what Stores were received on account of the Public Works Department and what became of them. Once it is known what the Department Public Works have in this General Depot, it can be decided what shall be done with any surplus Stores there may be, and future demands can be regulated accordingly. The Chief Engineer now keeps his own Stores; but this is only a recent arrangement and it is absolutely necessary to ascertain the balance of the receipts of previous years.

As regards the Indents the result of this enquiry shows that the custom of the Department in past years has been to reiterate indents from year to year, so that in point of fact there have been, till quite recently, orders in England for an amount of stores very far in excess of present

In 1856	10,000	were demanded.
In 1857	7,250	do.
In 1858	7,250	do., and
In 1859	9,000	do.

Of these 1,000 have been received, and if the Indent of 1861-62 had not cancelled all previous demands there would still be due an amount at least four times as large as necessary.

So also with other items, Printing Presses with Types complete in 1857, twenty were demanded at a cost of 20,380 Rupees; and in 1858, twenty more were demanded; of these it would appear that two have been received, so that thirty-eight are still due. So again seventy Pile Driving Engines were demanded in 1857 (an enormous and absurd demand for a country where Piles are very seldom used), and in the same year 100 six-horse Power steam Engines were applied for. In 1858, a similar number was indented for, and in 1859, thirty more, of which 10 have been supplied. In addition to these, twenty four horse Power Engines were asked for in 1857, twenty more in 1858, twenty-eight more in 1859, of which also 10 have been supplied; so that there was till quite recently, an outstanding order for:—

70 Pile Driving Machines.
220 Six-Horse Power Steam Engines.
58 Four-Horse Power do. do.

The conclusions to be drawn from the returns already furnished are :—

(1.) That very little care or attention has heretofore been paid by the Department in framing Indents, that is, in scrutinizing the demands sent in from the different Districts.

(2.) That some very extraordinary mismanagement has existed with reference to the receipt and accounting for Stores. The simple facts noted above are conclusive as to the first, the difficulty of getting from the Ordnance Department the receipts of Stores for different years seems to prove the second conclusion.

The last Indent of the Department Public Works sent Home supersedes all previous Indents, so that the evil is stopped for the future, and the Government are satisfied that Colonel Horsley will strictly scrutinize the future demands of his Department.

In paragraph 2 of his letter the Chief Engineer shows how the Indents are now prepared. The basis is three years' demand. In regard to several articles however, this is too much, especially considering that there is now weekly communication with England and orders can be sent speedily. Large stocks involve much sinking of capital, and much expense in keeping the articles in good order, and they induce waste. Further, they cause delay in supplies, which come out at long intervals in small quantities instead of promptly as wanted. The system also shuts Government out from the advantage of new improvements. As regards Military Stores the case is quite different; but in the Public Works Department the allotment should be graduated according to the character of the articles, and this the Chief Engineer can easily do.

The Indent of 1861-62 is very moderate, and the form of Indent seems sufficient.

The results which have followed this partial enquiry into the Public Works Store Department render it desirable to ascertain how the Indents of other Departments are prepared. The Governor in Council therefore desires that returns in the same form as prescribed in the Government Order, 5th June 1861, No. 1,054, above recorded may be submitted by other Civil and Military Departments, with returns from the Ordnance Department of Stores received on account of each showing how these Stores have been expended and the balance in hand. The necessary orders will accordingly issue from the different Departments of the Secretariat.

Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer.

„ Principal Commissary of Ordnance and Magazines.

„ Military Department.

Public, &c., do.

„ Judicial do.

Exd. R. H. Lee,

with Order No. 1054.

Exd. R. H. Lee.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Dated 5th June 1861, No. 1,054.

The Chief Engineer is requested to furnish a Statement drawn up in the accompanying form, of machinery, tools and stores of all kinds indented for from England for the Public Works Department, in each of the years 1856 to 1859, both the quantity actually received and that of which notice of shipment has been sent.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer.

Statement of Machinery, Tools and Stores indented for the Public Works Department in the years 1856 to 1859, showing the quantity actually received and that of which notice of shipment has been sent.

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Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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