M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	1455	Press / Mis.
28-29 Dated	4-10-~~19~~ 1864	

4/4

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, 4th October 1864.

No. 28. Read the following letter from E. C. BAYLEY, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India; to the Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Simla, 12th September 1864, No. 2666.

Home Department.

Police.

I am directed to transmit the accompanying copy of the communication noted on the margin, on the subject of utilizing the present stock of muskets of the old pattern by the issue of them to the Police,

Extract, Military Department, No. 391, dated 18th August 1864.

and to enjoin the strict observance of the rule laid down therein.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council, Military Department, No. 391, under date the 18th August 1864.

Read the following correspondence respecting the advisability of equipping all the Regiments of Native Infantry, in the Bengal Presidency, as soon as possible, with muskets of the new pattern, those of the old pattern being made available for the Police, with the replies of the local Governments and Administrations to the inquiries made respecting the number of fire-arms which would probably be required by the Police during the next two years:—

Paragraph 8 of letter No. 4483, dated 19th September 1863, from the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines.

Reply No. 708, dated 29th October 1863.

Consultations, April 1864, Nos. 430—31.

From the Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 133, dated 9th May 1864.

From the Chief Commissioner, Oudh, No. 1038, dated 9th do.

Do. Central Provinces, No. 2186, dated 10th do.

From the Secretary to Government, Bengal, No. 3389, dated 11th June 1864.

Do. North-Western Provinces, No. 425A., dated 20th do.

To Inspector General of Ordnance, No. 388, dated 18th August 1864.

OBSERVATIONS.—The Governor General in Council observes that it is of great importance that the substitution of the musket of the new, for that of the old pattern should be effected with as little delay as possible, for the reasons urged by the Inspector General of Ordnance: and, in order that the present stock of the latter weapons may be utilized as far as possible, they should be issued to the Police, either cut down or as they are, as may be found most convenient.

His Excellency in Council observes that large supplies of fire-arms for the Police have been obtained direct from England, instead of through the Ordnance Department, and that the practice is an objectionable one, which should in future be prohibited.

ORDERED that copy of the foregoing, and of the papers marginally noted, be forwarded to the Home Department for information and the issue of the necessary orders.

Paragraph 8, of letter No. 4483, dated 19th September 1863, from the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines.

Military Department letters Nos. 382—387, dated 13th April 1864.

Ditto. ditto. No. 388, dated 18th August 1864.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. K. BURNE, Lieut. Colonel,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt of India.

No. 390. To the Foreign Department.

Extract of a letter from Colonel F. TURNER, C. B., Officiating Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines; to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, (No. 4483, dated Fort William, 19th September 1863).

Paragraph 8. With reference to the remark that the provision of 15,000 smooth-bore muskets will be suspended for the present, I would bring to the notice of Government that 27 Regiments are now armed with this weapon, for which, agreeably to the orders of Government,

the reserve stock at 50 per cent., the number in use, should amount to 8600; the actual stock at present is 6700, which may perhaps be considered sufficiently near to prevent any immediate inconvenience from the decision of the Home Government, but it precludes this Department from re-placing the old pattern arms in use with the remaining 29 Regiments when condemned and worn out, with those of the new pattern, and thus as arms are required to last from 10 to 15 years, it may result in one-half of the Native Army being armed for that period with an arm different from the other half, and necessitating thereby different pouches, ammunition, &c., being kept in reserve for each. The latter, I consider, is a very serious objection in a military point of view, as it may possibly, however carefully the contingency be guarded against, result in most serious inconvenience, and perhaps disaster on service—when a Regiment that has run short of ammunition may be prevented, at a critical time, from replenishing from the reserve stock of any other Regiment that may be nearest at hand. I would, therefore, strongly advocate that the Home Government may be moved to re-consider their decision on this most important military question, and that I may be again allowed to re-submit the demand in my next annual indent. I should remark that the reserve stock at 50 per cent., number in use, of old pattern muskets should be 8640, while the actual stock now amounts to 8617 serviceable and 2228 repairable; the greater portion, however, of both the serviceable and repairable have been in use, and I think on military grounds that it would be far preferable for Government to direct, if such be necessary on grounds of economy, that these arms should be used by the Police force now being armed all over India, rather than that new arms should be provided for them, while there exists such a serious want of uniformity in the equipment of the regular Native Army.

From Colonel H. W. NORMAN, C. B, Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department; to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, (No. 382, dated Fort William, 13th April 1864).

As a large portion of the Native Army is now armed with the new pattern smooth-bore musket, and it is considered most desirable to avoid the serious inconvenience, in a military point of view, of having many Regiments armed with the old pattern musket, which, though a very efficient weapon, is of a different calibre, and cannot be properly used with the ammunition required for muskets of the new pattern, it appears to the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council very desirable that the serviceable old pattern muskets (about 26,125) should be used by the Police, as they may be required, rather than that new arms should be obtained for the latter.

2. It has been ascertained that the weapon can be cut down and transformed into an efficient Police carbine, and that a considerable number of them so transformed have already been issued.

3. I am, therefore, to request that you will move the Honorable the Lieutenant Governor to cause Government to be informed whether any, and if so, how many, carbines are required for the Police force in Bengal, and what number will be probably required during the next two years, in order that arrangements may be made to obtain from Home a sufficient number of the new pattern pieces, to admit of the requisite number of those of the old pattern being supplied to the Police.

No. 383. Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces.
No. 384. Secretary to Government, Punjab.
No. 385. Inspector General of Ordnance.

From Colonel H. W. NORMAN, C. B., Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department; to the Chief Commissioner, Oudh, (No. 386, dated Fort William, 13th April 1864).

As a large portion of the Native Army is now armed with the new pattern smooth-bore musket, and it is considered most desirable to avoid the serious inconvenience, in a military point of view, of having many Regiments armed with the old pattern musket, which, though a very efficient weapon, is of a different calibre, and cannot be properly used with the ammunition

required for muskets of the new pattern, it appears to the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council very desirable that the serviceable old pattern muskets (about 26,125) should be used by the Police, as they may be required, rather than that new arms should be obtained for the latter.

2. It has been ascertained that the weapon can be cut down and transformed into an efficient Police carbine, and that a considerable number of them so transformed have already been issued.

3. I am, therefore, to request that you will cause Government to be informed whether any, and if so, how many, carbines are required for the Police force in Oudh, and what number will be probably required during the next two years, in order that arrangements may be made to obtain from Home a sufficient number of the new pattern pieces, to admit of the requisite number of those of the old pattern being supplied to the Police.

No. 387. To Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces.

From Lieutenant Colonel H. K. BURNE, Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department; to the Inspector General of Ordnance,) No. 388, dated Fort William, 18th August 1864).

With reference to your letter, No. 9312, dated 9th March last, I am directed to acquaint you that the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council has decided that the surplus muskets of the old pattern should be made available as they may be wanted for the Police, as laid down in the letters, Nos. 382—7, dated 13th April last; and that the Right Honorable the Secretary of State will be requested to comply with the requisition for the 15,000 muskets of the new pattern, in order that these may be substituted for those of the old pattern, now in use in some Regiments of Native Infantry, as early as possible, for the reasons urged in paragraph 8 of your letter, No. 309, dated 22nd October 1863.

Docket to Inspector General of Ordnance, No. 385.

No. 389. To the Controller of Military Accounts.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) H. K. BURNE, Lieut. Colonel,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 29. ORDER THEREON, 4th October 1864, No. 1455.

Communicated to the Inspector General of Police, and to the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector General of Police.
" Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines.
" Military Department.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

No. 1455 - 4th October 1864.

Communicated to the Inspector Genl. of Police & to the Inspector Genl. of Ordnance & Magazines.

The Inspector Genl. of Police. } desp 10/10
" Inspector Genl. of Ordnance & Magazines. } [illegible] desp 10/10