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CONFIDENTIAL - G.O.
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- (1) Number of pages 10
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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

JUDL DEPARTMENT

CONFIDENTIAL - G.O.

G.O. No.	1291	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	9-6-1888	187

Not to be folded or roughly handled

187

City Police Office,

Madras 1 June 1888

My dear Stokes

Reserv. Madras

I duly received the Order of Govt of 22 May 187/68. To Enquire into the Case of Sub-Conductor Ford and matters connected with irregularities in the Store and Laboratory Dept of the Arsenal. As directed I communicated my instructions (Confidentially) to General M. Gordon the Inspector General of Ordnance in view to necessary orders being issued in his Dept., and especially to arrange for keeping in Madras such employees as were serving in the branches concerned at the time the alleged misappropriations occurred. He writes (semi-officially) "I think perhaps it is as well that immediate action will not be taken on the subject as I did not ask for any enquiry to be instituted nor for anything by which the Sub-Conductor Ford might be tried by a Civil Court as he could not be by Court-Martial and this was instructed to do by the Director General of Ordnance in India, the Head of my Department - and I think it would be a departure from the usual practice to commence an enquiry into his department without his formal sanction and approval. I have written and

any question of departmental system or conduct

on the subject

has been

sent

Of course, in any investigation of a

"Told him that H.E. Mr. Caw: in Chief, Madras"
"Presidency, had directed the Enquiry and as"
"I had no instructions from him / the Director"
"General, to whom alone I am responsible I"
"have begged him to telegraph his orders on"
"the subject, a little delay may therefore be"
"useful - as, though he may consent to the"
"Enquiry I am convinced he will desire that"
"his sanction for it be asked."

A little delay is not of much consequence as
Sub Conductor Fook is on sick leave at Bangalore.
leave expires on 21st inst. and some preliminary
Enquiry is necessary outside the Dept. concerned.

I fear it is too late now for effective action. There
was a distinct failure of justice when Conductor
Balfour was acquitted by a Court Martial when
tried for selling lead, a large quantity of which the
Police found and traced back to the concerned. Had
Balfour been tried by a Civil Court I am convinced
he would have been convicted, and we could then
have proceeded against others, including Civilian,
and got to the bottom of the frauds. Now there is
apparently nothing but a disagreement of accounts
of the correctness of which, at any stage, there is no proof.

I will continue such preliminary Enquiry as may be
possible in regard to any specific Criminal Charge
dependent of any question of departmental system or conduct
on my part.
D. J. D. J.

3 129/3
Of course, in any investigation of a Criminal Case of this nature, the first step is to ascertain the system of business, and the duties and responsibilities of each officer - such enquiry would be necessary in any event, and could not be dependent on etiquette, or departmental sanction for permission to obtain such information.

I presume that what General de Leon objects to is, really, any enquiry by an extra-departmental officer into the working of his department, with a view to any expression of opinion as to the non-professional opinion as to the efficiency or otherwise of the rules and practice actually obtaining. But, if they place the case in the hands of the proper power they must admit the necessity for such a clear understanding by the investigating officers of the course of business - be the same good or bad - as will enable them to charge responsibility to the right quarter.

Meredon
1-6-88.

You might show him this -
8/10 Am?

W.L.

✓ quite concur in the
last para of the postscript
of Lt Colonel Wedder's letter.
As this case has been handed
over, under instructions from
the Director General of Ordnance
to the Civil Power, it is quite
necessary that the investigating
officers should be afforded
every information they may
require as to the course of
business to enable them to
charge the responsibility to
the right quarter -

L. G. C.

5.6.88 -

Conf. Do. - 8th July 1888

My dear Colonel

I am directed with reference
to your D.O. 10th June 1888, in re
Ordnance Enquiry, I am directed
to send you confidentially, copy
of a note by H.R. M.C. in C. It
is supposed that instructions to
the same effect have since
reached the Lord; but if not
you might show him this.

Yrs. Rm.

S. L.

20/39

From

Colonel T. Welton.

Comms of Police

No.

Dated 1st

Received 4

} June 1888

Enclosures

SUBJECT

Arsenal. Indm.

Wm.

H. R. C. in C.

40. 9 June 1888/1291

Wm.

Recorded.

4/6.

Indm.

4 June

(over)

1291
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[7]

ORDINARY, MS.

<i>Indell</i> DEPARTMENT. G.O., DATED <i>9 June 1898</i> No. <i>124.</i>
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Confidential

When given for copying

[Despatch Abstract.]

5/5/10

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