

(1) Number of pages 8
(2) Date of repair 2-11-1973
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Judicial DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	4488	~~Press~~
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	15-10-1888	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Sub 488-15X-88
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8-11-73

Confidential

Stamps

18.10.88

Arsenal Cases

x Transferred to
Dept.
Military
18/10/88

My dear Price

I have sent in rather a formidable looking Budget on the Arsenal Cases. But the gist of it all is, that although there has been, no doubt, systematically fraud, yet a Criminal Prosecution would be a doubtful manner of dealing with the offenders as, from want of local checks and supervision, the books can be made to show errors either way. Although this would not affect the main facts yet in the hands of a clever Advocate, and the accused would certainly employ Counsel, a great deal would be made of the points whether, even admitting the deficiencies, there was such conclusive evidence of personal Criminal intent, and not merely gross neglect of duty, as would justify a conviction on a Criminal Charge.

But the fact of this searching Enquiry, and the feeling of insecurity engendered by the unpleasant discovery that there may at any time be an investigation by an independent Department, will of itself be most has already been of great service. How long this wholesome restraint may last is another matter but at present eyes are being opened very wide and we are having examples of this. A Storekeeper was lately reduced and relieved. Several

Yours truly
J. A. Delany

gross of screws were deficient. He
Somehow replaced a great portion
but these he got from the Store-
keeper of the Unserviceable
godown and made them up as
serviceable. It was found also
I believe that there were screws in
Store of an inferior quality to those
used, or rather paid for, by Govt.
It was suggested that it would be
well to take stock at the Gun
Carriage Factory also. This was
done but the Sup^d of the Gun
Carriage simply counted quantities
he was advised to examine quantities
also, so, on asking to see the screws
again, 48 Gross of brass screws
which had been marshalled
on the first day had disappeared
altogether! They had evidently been
borrowed somewhere for private
purposes and returned under
the impression that the scrutiny
was over. A fuss was made and
now they are producing some
screws and even showing a
surplus and trying to persuade
Capt. Torcheut that he must
have made a mistake the first
day when he thought he saw
packets of brass screws. John
Bretton asked us to make some
enquiries quietly.

During 1885/86 large work orders
were received for the Burma
Expedition and the Gun Carriage
obtained sanction to make local
purchases. Mr. D'Orey, now an
Hon^y Lieut^{nt} was the factorum
at the Factory. Sir John Hogg was the
Storekeeper. He got hold of the
merchants' books and found that
refunds were made to D'Orey
on the transactions. The statement
is that when the selling price -
to be charged to Govt. and for which
sanction of S^t. of Ordnance was
obtained - was fixed, D'Orey
arranged that the rebate was to
be, and this appears in the books
as "Difference in Price". Then the
merchant was required to sign an
invoice setting out the highest price
to be charged to Govt. and he also
signed in blank a bill which was
filled in in the Factory Office for
the highest rates, money drawn on
this and the "difference in price"
returned to D'Orey through Hogg.
I suspect the "difference in price"
was not merely a kind of discount
but was really what is stated, that
is, difference in price between the
article Government paid for and
an inferior article actually supplied
and accepted as per agreement.
I hope I am not indiscreet in mentioning
these matters but Col. Bretton has?

been kept informed and in anticipation
of eventualities has obtained the sanction
of the Director General of Ordnance to take
any steps he deems proper. I think
Col. Brewster has addressed the
Adjutant General suggesting
that these Gun Carriage Cases
be also investigated by us.

Besides the juggling with the
bills and supplies - and in this
connection I may remark that
the traders books show that their
account is not kept as with the
Government, but as a private
account of O'Neary's - he has
come with some petty dealers a
quantity of large, brand-new, like-
worthy articles - Govt property. The
possessor says they bought them
at a sale of unserviceable stores
at the Gun Carriage Factory! If they
did, then it must have been by ar-
rangements with the Storekeeper.
(Hogg again) But such stores/files
must not be sold, though a advantage
might be taken of a sale to pass them
out with unserviceable lots. If they
have been sold out of the workshops
to which they may have been issued.
O'Neary has hitherto been almost
omnipotent in that Factory and the
opinion of him has for long - till now
coincided with that of others more
dependent on him -
We will probably hear soon from the
at the Gun Carriage Factory.

Confidential

cc.



From

Colonel J. Weldon
Comd. of Police

Dated 15th October 1888

J. W. 4488
15-10-88

Note The Current accounts are
4488 of 1888
being now being sent to
the Military Dept.

18/10/88

Ordnance Department

Regarding alleged and
suspected frauds in Arsenal
and Gun Carriage Factory

P. 418-1164