

Judicial (1895) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 1151

Dated 28. May 1895

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

JAIL BOOTS.

Communicating to the Inspector General of Prisons letter from the Inspector General of Police with request to report the price at which Jail Department can undertake to supply brown boots of the Cawnpore pattern and quality.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	3091		14/12/94				

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	4284		95				
	4588		95				
	5360		96				

Judicial

(1895) DEPARTMENT.

No. 3091: 14.12.94 mis.
papers.

FROM

M. Hammick Esq. A.C.S.

INSPECTOR-GENERAL

OF POLICE,

For orders.

To

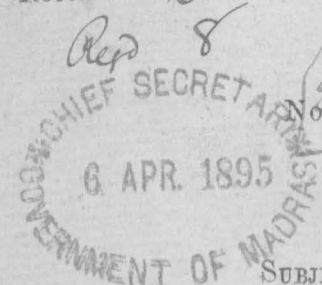
As to whether the supply of Tail boots
may be discontinued & the Police furnished with
Cawnpore boots? The big box ^{containing the} of sample boots
was received in the Madras office on the 19th inst.
& will be got up here if ordered.

No. 2019

Dated

Received

6 April 1895



Encl: one by box
no 19. + 98.
(Conty. 11 pairs of
old boots)

Reporting with reference to
G.O., dated 14th December 1894,
No. 3091, regarding the boots
now supplied by the Tailor
Department to the Police -

us 23/4

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sample boots sent
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DEPARTMENT.

No.

2019

CHIEF OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE,

Madras,

6 April

1895.

FROM

M. Hammick Esquire, I.C.S.,

INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE,

TO

THE Chief Secretary
to Government,
Fort Saint George.

SIR,

Enclosures.

With reference to G.O., 14 December 1894,
No. 3091, regarding the boots now supplied
by the Jail Department to the Police, I
have the honor to say that I delayed in
replying to the order until I had seen
several of the Police District Reserves
and specially acquainted myself with the
facts as regards these boots. I
have now seen the Reserves in the
marginally noted districts and have
carefully enquired into the question of the
boots supplied to them with the following result.
2. In all the districts I have
visited except Tinnevely, I had complaints
from

South Arcot
Tanjore
Tichinopoly
Madura
Tinnevely
Malabar
South Canara
Anantapur
Bellary -

from the reserve men of the state of their
boots. These complaints were not as bitter
in the dry districts as elsewhere. But
in Malabar and Canara the complaints
were from all sides. The men said their
boots were absolutely useless. The fact
that in the drier districts the men did
not complain so much as they did in
the wet districts, arises not from the
boots being better, but from the fact
that men in these inland districts
never attempt to wear their boots except
just when actually on parade. In Timmerelly
where the boots certainly looked better
than they did elsewhere they were so
little worn that they looked in many
cases almost new. They showed clearly
that the men hardly wore them at all.
In Malapudam and Calicut the men's
complaint was that having to appear on
parade and do work in their jail boots
they had to be perpetually spending their
pay on their repair of which I saw
signs everywhere. In other districts
the complaint was that besides the
boots

boots being of such wretched material
that the soles come away from the upper
after very little wear, the leather is
so stiff and thin that it cuts the skin
when the boot is worn a short time
and that it is impossible to wear the
boot except just when actually on parade.

3. I have sent for the inspection
of Government with this letter a
sample of the boots of issues of 1894 and
1895 the latter slightly worn and I
have also enclosed for comparison a
few boots issued to the men which
were purchased from Cawnpore.
The Government can draw its own conclusions
after inspection. I do not think that
there can be two opinions on the subject.
The Cawnpore boot is a serviceable, neat
article, while the jail boot is a badly
made, bad shaped article of wretched material.
4. To refer to the letter from the
Inspector General of Prisons, I admit at
once that the boots worn by our reserves
have all been passed by the Committee
appointed

appointed for the purpose. But Mr. Cardew must surely know that in the first place these Committees consist of Amateurs, who are somewhat pressed for time and that it is a very difficult thing to gauge the quality of a new polished boot especially when the pair forms one of several hundred put before you at one time. Secondly - it may possibly be that the sealed pattern is faulty, though for this of course the Jail Department is not responsible. I cannot imagine how these Committees can possibly be expected to say whether the stitching, the quality of the material and the lasting properties of the boots put before them are up to the standard required. They cannot do it and this is proved by the fact that these jail boots have proved to be incapable of standing ordinary wear for more than a few months.

5. Mr. Cardew rests the defence of his boots again on the Salem District report - a report which admits - that "the Cheap Class of boot supplied does not and cannot be expected to last for

"for the prescribed period" - Surely this is not a very high testimonial to the quality of our jail boots! Mr. Jauces's opinion in Malabar when he says "the boots possess one distinctive quality - badness" is not so different from Mr. Robinson's as Mr. Cardew tries to show. Mr. Robinson certainly said that the boots were of "good quality and workmanship" but the word good is a relative term and clearly what Mr. Robinson meant was that the boots were good considering the price paid and this is the key to the whole matter. A good quality boot such as we want, cannot be produced for the price charged by the jail - viz. Rs. 2-8-0.

6. Mr. Cardew quotes Mr. Armitage but I found Mr. Armitage in conversation quite as severe on the jail made boots as any one else. He represented as I expected, the difficulty of judging of the quality of jail articles, not being a professional man. He only satisfied himself

himself that as far as he could judge
the books shown him resembled the
beated pattern-

7. So far from the wholesale
condemnation of the books by Colonel Portman
and the Superintendent being preposterous
I advisedly say having seen plenty of
them, not new as Mr. Cardew sees them
but after some little wear - that it
is a waste of money to give them to our
Police. They may as Mr. Cardew says
have improved in the last two years
but if so I can only say that the
Government has spent a very large sum
in getting the jails taught how to make
books and that the Police Department
has suffered for it.

8. I will not argue with Mr. Cardew
whether his books are or are not good
value for the money. That depends on the
purpose for which you want the books.
But I do say this that in my opinion
the expenditure of a large sum of money on
such cheap books as these are for the
Police is a waste and that as far as
the

the Police are concerned it would be far
more economical to purchase books at
double the price from Cawnpore or some
good factory and issue them only once
every two years instead of every year as
at present. It is a vain hope that our
Committee can improve the books by greater
vigilance. They cannot be expected to do so.

9. Finally after an inspection of the
Southern Districts, I must take exception
to Mr. Cardew's statement that Colonel Portman's
letter was not a correct presentation of facts.
If Mr. Cardew had been present with me
when I examined the state of the books
issued to the Police and worn for a few months
I think I could have convinced him
that however good a value they may be
for the money paid they are quite unduitable
for issue to the Police.

10. I agree with Mr. Cardew that it
would be a very bad plan to attempt to
get books made by a local firm in Madras.
But there is a large factory for books at
Cawnpore which supplies thousands of
books

boots a year to the Army, in India in Egypt and elsewhere - and in my opinion it is far better that the Police should be supplied from them than that they should continue to get these jail articles

11. The Carnapore factory offer their boots at Rs. 2-15⁰ a pair and thus the additional cost per annum of supplying these boots to our Police instead of the present ones would be Rs. 1879 per annum and the amount would I consider be money well spent - It would moreover probably be found possible to issue these boots only once in 18 months or even once in two years instead of ~~now~~ annually, and if this were done the ultimate cost would not be greater but less than what it is now - Any how if the Government still considers that the jails should continue to supply boots I hope it will see its way to sanctioning the supply of a better class of boot to the following Police

Reserve at Mangalore

— D^o — Calicut

— D^o — Malapuram

— D^o — Ganjam.

* This will probably not include the cost of delivery at district headquarters, as the Madras jail price does. The cost of delivery is calculated in Madras at 2 annas per pair & would be much higher if they were brought from Carnapore
(28's letter n 90. 988)
27.5.90
16.5.90

Reserve

Reserve at Vizagapatnam

— D^o — Godavari

Ordinary police in Nynagel and Nilgiris.

In these Districts the Reserves have hard work and the climate is such as to make the Jail boots absolutely useless for ordinary wear. In the dry inland districts the Police can manage to get on with the boots at present supplied them - But this is merely because they do not wear them and the object of supplying the men with boots at all is frustrated by the wretched quality supplied - The men put them on for parade and at no other time - For their long marches on escort and other duty they prefer to march bare foot - This they would not do, had they a comfortable boot. The men's smart appearance on Parade is impossible when they have to wear a patched up jail boot a few months old.

by 12. I must request to be excused
for the long delay in replying to the
G.O., under reference, but I wished to
see the men of General District before
I replied to Mr. Cardew's letter.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

your most obedient servant,

Mammick's

Inspector General of Police.

End & M.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

[G.O.]
25.
20-8-95.

C. 1758 of 1895

C. No. 1758/95

Order of 28th May 1895 No 1151

Communicated to the J. of Police
with the request that he will
report the price at which the Jail Dept.
can undertake to supply boots of the
Cawnpore pattern & quality.

FOR ORDERS.
The J. of Police, 25. of Police, in which will be found specimens
of the Cawnpore boots referred to in the order.

Ask Mr. Hammick &
Cardew to come to me together
on Saturday morning at 8 A.M.

MS
16/5/95

I have seen the boots on Friday after
noon.

I have inspected the boots
& they certainly are very bad.
Send them all to Mr. Cardew
with copy of Mr. H's letter &
ask him to say for what price
he could supply brown boots
of the Cawnpore pattern also
in the box - we had better say
that a bit better price than
send our money away to Cawnpore

MS
21/5/95

Please see G.O. of 14-12-94 No. 3091
Mr. Cardew's case was that sealed
~~sample~~ patterns of police boots ^{are}
supplied to the Jail Dept. & that every
boot issued is certified to be up to
sample requirements by a Police Committee.
He therefore contended that the remedy was
either to alter the ~~sample~~ patterns, or
to insist on the committee's scrutinizing
the boots more carefully.
Mr. Hammick's reply is (a) that the
committees are not experts & therefore
cannot exercise sufficient scrutiny (b)
that a more costly boot is necessary.
He suggests the Cawnpore boots
which are said to be Rs. 2.15.0 per
pair; but this sum probably does
not include the cost of carriage.
The sample boots to which he refers
are in the office & will be sent up

to H.M. if he desires; perhaps there
 is a large box full of them perhaps
 it will suffice to show them to H.M.
 next Council Day. without ^{accurate} information
 as to ^{the} exact amount of wear & tear
 which each particular pair of boots
 has undergone, an inspection of them
 is, as submitted, of but little value.
 Mr. Hamrick does not press
 the Cawapore supply - though he would
 decidedly prefer that arrangement.
 As an alternative he suggests that
 the jails be authorised to supply
 a "better class of boots" to certain
 prisoners. - The present price
 Rs 2½ is very low, & the jail department
 may be able to turn out a superior
 article if the cost is raised. - Perhaps
 the J.G. of Prisons might be asked
 to have specimens made - after the
 Cawapore model

D
 10.5.55

I am sorry that I must add my
 contribution of jail boots to that of
 Mr. Hamrick. I got one supply for
 the prison which turned out very badly. I wrote
 to Mr. Cardew and spoke about the
 matter & he promised to give instructions
 that a satisfactory article was turned out.
 All that I have had from the jails
 have been as bad as they could be.
 Mr. Hamrick has not over-looked matters
 14/5/55

Jail boots & the
 police

FOR ORDERS.

H.M.

Done
 29/5/55
 J. J. J.

Please have the copied
 as soon as possible and send it
 for the department with the
 necessary boots.

14/5/55

When given for copying _____
 When copied _____
 When examined _____
 When signed _____

189

READ AGAIN G.O. No.
 189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
 IN ORIGINAL.

N.B. -

A = Copy in full.
 B = Not to be copied.
 F = Copy abstract only.
 Q = Copy heading only.