

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 465

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated 27. 10. 1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 29th October 1857.

No. 17. From the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines ; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated 17th October 1857, No. 403.

SIR,

I have received a communication from the Principal Commissary of Ordnance on the subject of the retention of Arms in the Arsenal pronounced unfit to be purchased for the Service of Government, it would appear the Collector of Sea Customs has required the Principal Commissary of Ordnance to retain in his Custody the 10 double Barrel Guns imported by Messrs. Ashton, Richardson and Co., and the subject of my report as per margin,* and on looking over correspondence I observe that instructions were given in Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 324, dated 21st August 1857, direct to the Principal Commissary of Ordnance "to receive into temporary charge any Arms or Ammunition which the Collector of Sea Customs may send to him for Security."

2. I would have no hesitation in directing the Principal Commissary of Ordnance to decline compliance with Mr. Underwood's request, but I am convinced that the Bonded Warehouse affords ample Security for the protection of these Articles and as, with the option given to the Importers to Export, Government should not be charged with the duty of Storing them.

3. At the same time I am anxious that no responsibility should rest with Government for the Arms by reason of the removal to any other place than that directed by the Customs Act.

(Signed) G. BALFOUR, Lieut. Colonel,

Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines.

No. 18. ORDER THEREON, No. 465 ; dated 27th October 1857.

Government observe that by their Order, No. 451, dated 19th Instant, the Inspector General was authorised to return the Arms imported by Messrs. Ashton, Richardson and Co. to the Collector of Sea Customs. As arrangements have been published for regulating the Importation and Sale of Arms under Act 28 of 1857, the Government do not expect that it will be necessary for the Collector of Sea Customs to send any Arms in future to the Principal Commissary of Ordnance for safe custody. Parcels of Arms imported by private individuals can be kept in the Custom House premises until disposed of, but if any Arms should be landed which the Collector of Sea Customs feels unable to secure, the Order, No. 324, dated 21st August, is to be considered in force.

Port of George, 27 October, 1857.

N^o 465

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In the Dept of Port & Customs
Dated 31 Oct.