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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Copy 22.2.57

G.O. No. 1604 Press Mis.

Dated 22-2 — 1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled.

No. 1. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department dated 6th July 1857.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant Colonel G. BALFOUR, Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines; to Colonel C. A. BROWNE, Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated 25th June 1857, No. 104.

SIR,

With reference to the sanction accorded in Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 2616, dated 10th October 1856, for hiring coolies for extra work in the Arsenal in connection with Civil stores, I have the honor to report for the information of Government that so long as the Arsenal Establishment was equal to the duty without inconvenience to Ordnance work, no coolies were employed but since the 1st May 1857, a large number has been daily engaged. The aid they afford however is very far from effective. The Principal Commissary of Ordnance reports that they require some teaching to make them at all useful, and that it often happens as soon as they are trained to the work required of them, they get tired of the restraints which from a due regard to regularity and order, are imposed upon them, and seek employment elsewhere, thus necessitating the repetition of the instructions. Besides it is not deemed safe to entrust to such irresponsible laborers, as daily hired coolies, the handling of the valuable Machinery now being received from England.

2. There are at present about 20 coolies employed daily at (3-4) three annas and four pice each, and I would beg to recommend to Government for the sake of ultimate economy and present efficiency, to sanction in their stead, an additional establishment of 1 first and 1 second Tindal and 19 Lascars to the grand Arsenal, to be employed specially on duties connected with the Civil stores &c. The Principal Commissary of Ordnance who is the best practical Judge strongly advocates the measure, I entirely coincide with him in opinion of the greater utility of such a body of men and I trust Government will accept this recommendation and accord the necessary sanction.

Referred for the consideration and report of the Military Auditor General.

Fort Saint George,
27th June 1857.

(Signed) C. A. BROWNE, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

A.

1. In returning the letter of the Inspector General of Ordnance, No. 104, of 25th Ultimo, applying for the sanction of Government to the entertainment, in the Arsenal, of the extra establishment as per margin referred for his report of Government of 27th Idem, the Military Auditor General has the honor to observe, that the employment of coolies in the Arsenal was sanctioned by Government, Minutes of Consultation No. 2616, of 10th October 1856, to assist in putting in serviceable order certain Machinery sent out from England for the Public Works Department.

1 1st Tindal.
1 2nd Tindal.
19 Lascars.

2. In the correspondence on this subjet which led the order of Government in question, the Military Board stated, that, they had no desire to increase the Arsenal Establishment, and that they were of opinion that calls for this kind of work would, in future, be lessened.

3. It may, therefore, have been supposed that the work for which the services of these coolies were asked and obtained was occasional, and extra to the ordinary labors of the Arsenal; and the Military Board, with apparently a view to economy, have deferred, so long as lay in their power, to avail themselves of the sanction of Government, the coolies not having been em-

ployed until 1st May 1857, but, since that date, the work has been continuous, 20 coolies being employed daily.

4. This arrangement of the Military Board is however, stated to be attended with inconvenience, and the results of cooly labor are described as unsatisfactory, but the disadvantages complained of do not appear to be greater than may always be expected, when people not amenable to Departmental discipline are called in to assist the permanent Establishment during any press of labor.

5. The Inspector General of Ordnance, however, considers these disadvantages so important as to necessitate a permanent increase to the Establishment of the Arsenal, and recommends the entertainment, in room of the coolies, of two Tindals and 19 Lascars, thus exceeding the coolies in number but as they may also be expected to surpass them in individual efficiency, the necessity for so large an increase is hardly apparent.

Monthly charges of permanent Establishment.	Rs.	A.	P.
1st. Tindal	8	12	0
2nd. do.	7	0	0
19 Lascars	120	5	4
	136	1	4

Monthly charge of coolies.			
20 Coolies for 31 days at 3 As. 4 pice per diem	Rs. 129	2	8

6. The permanent extra expense of the proposed measure, opposed to that caused by the temporary employment of coolies is marginally shewn.

7. It is assumed that, the Establishment solicited is to be entertained for a distinct duty, the expenses of which will be chargeable to the Public Department.

8. Should Government consider the measure recommended by the Inspector General of Ordnance indispensable, the application should be prepared in the established form for submission to the Government of India.

Fort Saint George,
4th July 1857.

(Signed) J. J. LOSH Major,
Military Auditor General.

Referred to Public Works Department.

By Order.

(Signed) C. A. BROWNE, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, No. 1404; dated 22nd July 1857.

The Government remark that the establishment to be kept up in the Arsenal is a Military question, and that these papers require no orders in the Department of Public Works.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Military Department

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
under date the 4th July 1857.

Read the following letter

From No 105

The Inspector General of Ordnance
and Magazines

To

The Secretary to Government
Military Department

Sir,

With reference to the sanction recorded in Extract Minutes of Consultation No 2616 dated 10th October 1856, for hiring Coolies for Extra work in the Arsenal in Connexion with Civil Stores, I have the honor to report for the information of Government that so long as the Arsenal Establishment was equal to the duty without inconvenience to Ordnance work,

work, no Coolies were employed but since the 1st May 1857 a large number has been daily engaged. The trial they afford however is very far from effective. The Principal Commissary of Ordnance reports that they require some teaching to practice them at all useful, and that it often happens after they are trained to the work, required of them, they get tired of the restraints which from a due regard to regularity and order, are imposed upon them, and seek employment elsewhere, thus necessitating the repetition of the instructions. Besides it is not deemed safe to entrust to such irresponsible labourers, as daily hired coolies, the handling of the valuable Machinery now being received from England.

2 There are at present about 20 Coolies employed daily at 3-4 Three annas and Four Pice each, and I would beg to recommend to Government for the sake of ultimate economy and present efficiency to sanction in their stead, an additional establishment of 1 First and 1 Second Tindal and 19 Lascars to the Ground Arsenal, to be employed specially on duties connected with the Naval Stores &c. The Principal Commissary of Ordnance who is the best practical judge strongly advocates the measure, I entirely concur with him in opinion of the greater utility of such a body of men and trust Government will accept this recommendation and accord the necessary sanction.

Inspector General's Office
Fort St George
25th June 1857

Sd/ G Balfour Lt Col
Inspector General of Ordnance
and Magazines

Referred

Referred for the consideration and
report of the Military Auditor General.

Fort Allegre
29th June 1857.

(Signed) C. A. Trevelyan
Secretary to Govt

A.

Inclosing Mr Keller of
the Inspector General of Ordnance's
No 103, of 25th Ultimo, applying for the
sanction of Government to the under-
tainment, in the Arsenal, of the
Extra Establishment as per margin
referred for this report by order of Gov-
vernment of 27th ultimo, the Military
Auditor General has the honor to
observe, that, the employment of
Coolies in the Arsenal was sanc-
tioned by Government, Minutes of
Consultation No 2616 of 10th October 1856,
to assist in putting in serviceable order

L.J.
2 L.J.

certain

certain Machinery sent out from
England for the Public Works Depart-
ment.

2 In the correspondence on
this subject, which led to the order
of Government in question, the
Military Board stated, that, they
had no desire to increase the Arse-
nal Establishment, and that they
were of opinion that calls for this
kind of work would, in future,
be dispensed.

3 It may, therefore, have
been supposed that the work for
which the services of these Coolies
were asked and obtained was occa-
sional, and Extra to the ordinary labors
of the Arsenal; and the Military Board,
with apparently a view to economy, have
deferred, so long as lay in their power,

to

to avail themselves of the sanction of Government, the Coolies not having been employed until 1st May 1857. But, since that date, the work has been continuous, 20 Coolies being employed daily.

11 This arrangement of the Military Board is however, stated to be attended with inconvenience, and the results of Coolie labor are described as unsatisfactory, but the disadvantages complained of do not appear to be greater than may always be expected, when people not amenable to Departmental disciplines are called in to assist the permanent Establishment during any pinch of labor.

5 The Inspector General of Ordnance, Horses, Carriages, Stores disadvantages

disadvantages so important as to necessitate a permanent increase to the Establishment of the Arsenal, and recommends the entertainment, in room of the Coolies, of Two Tindals and 19 Lascars, thus exceeding the Coolies in number, but as they may also be expected to surpass them in individual efficiency, the necessity for so large an increase is hardly apparent.

6 The permanent extra expense of the proposed measure, opposed to that caused by the temporary employment of Coolies is marginally shewn.

It is opinned that, the

7 Establishment solicited is to be entertained

ed for a distinct duty, the expenses of which will be chargeable to the Public Department.

5 Should Government consider the measure recommended by the Inspector General of Ordnance indispensable, the application should be prepared in the established form for submission to the Government of India.

Fort Monroe
1st July 1857

(Signed) J. J. Sibbs Major
Military Auditor General

Referred to Public Works Department

By Order
(Signed) W. A. Warner Lieut
Secretary Military Board

To
The Public Works Department

(Signed) Jas Smith

2d Com. 28 October/50 No. 1011

Public Works 1857 Ltr
Dto Com. 28th July.

No. 1399

Extract from the
Minute of Court in the
Military Department

Dated 6th July 1857
Recd 9th

Referring certain
correspondence relative
to the increase of the
Establishment of the
Arsenal.

No 142.

With an order
No. 1404. 22nd July

No. 1404.

The Government re-
-mark that the Establishment to be
kept up in the Arsenal is a
Military question, and that
these papers require no order
in the Department of Public
Works.

Fort W. Geo.
22nd July 1857.

2 Copies to the Civil Secy. Calcutta 23d