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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 500 Press / Mis.

107108

Dated 8-3 — 1860

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 107. Read the following letter from Colonel J. H. BELL, Chief Engineer, to the Secretary to Government, dated 16th February 1860, No. 10352.

With reference to the Proceedings of Government, dated 5th May 1859, No. 1061, paragraph 8, I have the honor to forward herewith the correspondence noted in the margin relative to the Roman Cement sent out by the late Court of Directors for Works in Fort Saint George.

From Inspector General of Ordnance, dated 19th November 1857, No. 6394.
„ Garrison Engineer..... „ 23rd do. „ „ 493.
„ Civil Architect ..... „ 25th do. „ „ 622.
To Inspector General of Ordnance.... „ 28th do „ „ 5573.
From do. do..... „ 8th December „ „ 7135.
„ do. do..... „ 21st January 1858, „ 8702.
„ Garrison Engineer..... „ 3rd February „ „ 639.
„ Civil Architect..... „ 19th do. „ „ 68.
„ Inspector General of Ordnance.. „ 3rd June „ „ 1194.
„ Garrison Engineer..... „ 30th do. „ „ 145.
„ Inspector General of Ordnance... „ 3rd July „ „ 2369.
To do. do..... „ 6th do. „ „ 1703.
From Garrison Engineer..... „ 17th June 1859, „ 181.
To Inspector General of Ordnance.... „ 21st January 1860, „ 9464.
From do. do..... „ 11th February 1860, „ 9864.

2. It will be observed that in November 1857, the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines brought to notice that a large quantity of Roman Cement, intended for this Department had been in store in the Arsenal for 2 or 3 years without any application having been made for it, and as it occupied a valuable godown which, in the then crowded state of the Arsenal, could not well be spared, that Officer requested the removal of the article. In reply, Colonel Balfour was informed that both the Garrison Engineer and Civil Architect had reported that they had no accommodation whatever available for the storage of the Cement; but that the expected early sanction of the estimates for the repair of the outworks of Fort Saint George, might possibly enable the Garrison Engineer to apply the material to the purpose for which it was sent out from England.

25th November 1857, No. 5573.

3. In December 1857, in consequence of a representation made by the Principal Commissary of Ordnance of the supposed inferior quality of the Cement, the Inspector General of Ordnance requested that a competent person might be sent to examine and report upon it. With this view Colonel Balfour was requested to have a small quantity of the article sent to the Civil Architect and Garrison Engineer. The trial made by those Officers proved that it could in no manner be utilized. It was about this time that the orders of Government, dated 17th March 1858, No. 481, were received, for the disposal of the Cement, which was accordingly advertised for sale; but it having been reported by the Garrison Engineer to be quite unsaleable, Captain Rawlins was instructed to remove it from the Arsenal and lodge it in such part of the Fort as the Commandant of Engineers might point out.

8th December 1857, No. 7135.

11th December 1857, No. 5900.

From Garrison Engineer, 3rd February 1858 No. 639
„ Civil Architect, 19th February 1858, No. 68.

30th June 1858, No. 145.

4. It will be observed from the accompanying letter* from the Acting Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, that the first application for the Cement was made by the late Military Board on the late Court of Directors in a special Indent, dated 8th February 1854, for the use of the Public Works Department, and from Colonel Balfour's letter to Government, dated 10th March 1858, No. 700, it seems that the Cement was received from England in the course of 1855; but the records of this Office do not furnish information as to any intimation having been given that the material had been received and was in store at the Arsenal. Its properties were tested in the beginning of 1858, but with the result above reported.

* Dated 11th February 1860, No. 9864.

Extract Minutes Consultation, 17th March 1858, No. 481, Public Works Department.

5. The answer to the Order of Government has been delayed through negligence in the Office.

applied for on a special inden

any application having been made for it, and as it occupied a valuable Godown which in the then crowded state of the Arsenal could not well be spared, that officer requested the removal of the article. In reply Colonel Balfour was informed that both the Garrison Engineer and Civil Architect had reported that they had no accommodation whatever available for the Storage of the Cement; but that the expected early sanction of the Estimates for the repair of the outworks of Fort Saint George might possibly enable the Garrison Engineer to apply the material to the purpose for which it was sent out from England.

28th Nov. /57 No. 557.

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8th Dec. /57 No. 7135.

11th Dec. /57 No. 5900.

From Garrison Engineer 3d Feby 1858 No. 639.
" Civil Architect 19th Feby 1858 No. 68.

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30th June 1858 Pa 145

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dated 11th February 1860 No. 9864.

E. M. 6. 17th March 1858 No. 481. P. # 2.

5. The answer to the Order of Government

applied for on a special indent

Government has been delayed through negligence in the Office.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant

Central Office of P.P.
Sepatkam
16th February 1860.

Lt Col
Chief Engineer.

Ld 1818 Major
Dy Chief Engr Mr Circle

E Gray

applied for on a special indent

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 8th March 1860.

Read the following letter from
the Chief Engineer.

Reference on the Roman
Cement sent out by the late
Court of Directors.

} Dated 16th February 1860.
No. 1035.

24 Sept. 1858.
No 25.
P. W. Dept.

Dec. 8th 1858.
No 3.

1857. No 3.

Jany 1859 -
No 1061 -
Para 8.

The Government have in 1858
brought to the notice of the Madras
Government the high quality of
Portland Cement manufactured for
the Roman Cement Company,
the reference to which will be seen
in the Public Works Department
Proceedings noted in the margin.
Samples of this Cement were
subsequently sent out in 1858
and experiments made under
the orders of the Chief Engineer
to ascertain the relative value of
this Cement and the Portland
Cement manufactured by Messrs Aspdin
& Co. which had been used in the
Public Works Department.

2. The Chief Engineer has
therefore requested to explain
how long after exposure, the Cement
was found to set, and why
more trouble was caused
by the Roman Cement
Delay has been
caused by
one in the letter becoming
absent.

3. The amount of expenses, if
any, incurred on a special visit

(Para: 10th May /57 - No 25
" 19th March /58 - 54 - 54 -
Public - 16th February /60 - 67 - 68.

P. W. - 1860 Department
Pro. of Govt. 10th March.
No 1133.

From
The Chief Engineer
To The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department

Dated 16th February 1860.
Rec'd 16th
No 10352

15 Memo:

Returned

Reporting on the
Roman Cement sent out
by the late Court of
Directors.

No 107.

c27 Feby Rd March

No 500. 8th March

made by the late Military Board, dated 8 Feby 1854; was received from England in 1855; but its arrival was apparently unknown to the Public Works Department until Dec. 1857, when they were called upon to remove it from the arsenal, and upon testing it in 1858 it was found to be utterly useless.

4. The Government cannot but remark on the ~~[illegible]~~ in which the matter has been conducted. It does not appear what has become of the Cannon; if not already disposed of, the Chief Engineer will take means to get rid of it, as it appears useless

x Cannon lost & consequently manager.

J. H. 25/2/60

10 Copies to the Chief Engineer

Public Works 1860 Deptt.
Pro: of Govt. 10th March.

No 500.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dy 8th March 60.

From the Chief Engr. Dy. 8th May
18/3. Cha 1113 - in Pro: 16th May & No. 1015.

Chief Engineer to get
rid of the Roman Cement
sent out for the repairs
of Fort St. George; if it
were not already disposed
of of -

No 507 & 508.