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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1448	Press / Mis.
63-44 Dated 3—8—1861.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 2nd August 1861.

No. 43. Read the following letter from R. P. HARRISON, Esq., Accountant General, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated Fort Saint George, 19th July 1861, No. 77 :—

SIR,

1. With reference to the Proceedings of Government of the 9th March last, No. 473, I have the honor to report on the inquiry made by the Auditor of Public Works Accounts, whether proposals for the sale of unserviceable stores, should be submitted for the sanction of Government in every instance.

Commissary General.
Principal Inspector General, Medical Department.
Inspector General, Ordnance and Magazines.
Superintendent and Agent for Army Clothing.

2. On addressing the Officers noted in the margin, as to the practice hitherto prevailing in their Departments, I find that except in the Army Clothing Department it is not usual to apply for the sanction of Government for the sale of useless stores, which after being surveyed, are authorized to be sold by the Chief of the Department. I subsequently placed myself in communication with the Chief Engineer, and a copy of his reply, No. 2,165, dated the 1st instant, on the subject is herewith forwarded.

3. I would recommend, with reference to the practice which obtains in the Ordnance, Medical, and Commissariat Departments, that the Chief Engineer, as Head of the Public Works Department, be permitted to authorize the sale of all stores, including machinery and instruments belonging to the Department, which are shown to his satisfaction to have become worn out and useless from ordinary wear and tear; and, as suggested by Colonel Birdwood, that articles of machinery or other stores, which have become unserviceable from accident or ill usage, should be specially brought to the notice of Government before they are disposed of.

4. The Chief Engineer, in the second paragraph of his letter, suggests that he may be authorized to sanction the difference between the sale proceeds of unserviceable stores and their value on the books of the Department being written off without sanction of Government, in like manner as the amount of annual depreciation in the value of stores of the Department is to be dealt with. I would observe, however, that in the latter case the stores are simply reduced in valuation according to a fixed percentage, while in the former they are altogether taken off the Store Books of the Department, and it appears to me therefore that a statement of all losses incurred by sale of unserviceable stores, &c., should be submitted to Government by the Chief Engineer, and sanction obtained for writing off the amount,—a course which I am informed is followed in the Medical Department.

From Lieutenant-Colonel W. I. BIRDWOOD, Deputy Chief Engineer, in charge of Central Office of Public Works, to R. P. HARRISON, Esq., Accountant General, dated Chepauk, 1st July 1861, No. 2,165.

SIR,

1. In reply to your letter of the 30th May 1861, No. 280, I have the honor to acquaint you that it appears to me that the Chief Engineer should have permission to authorize the sale of all unserviceable stores of the Department of Public Works, including machinery and instruments actually worn out and useless, but with the reservation, that all instances of machinery or other stores, becoming unserviceable from accident or ill usage, be specially brought to the notice of Government.

2. I consider that the Chief Engineer may at the same time be authorized to sanction the writing off of the difference between the proceeds of stores sold as unserviceable and the original stock value thereof. By the orders of Government, noted in the margin, the amount of annual depreciation in the value of stores of the Department of Public Works, is to be written off apparently without any prior reference to Government, and I see no reason for a different course of adjustment in respect of the difference in the value of stores which have become unserviceable.

Proceedings of Government, 2nd May 1860, No. 911, and 19th February 1861, No. 343.

3. In respect to the survey proposed to be held prior to authority being issued for the sale of stores, I beg to state that stores proposed to be sold in the Districts could only be reported upon by the District Engineer, who is the most competent Officer to determine on their fitness for further service; but at the Presidency whenever such a proposal may be made, I believe that the Chief Engineer can depute an Officer of the Department to report specially upon the stores.

No. 44. ORDER THEREON, 2nd August 1861, No. 1,448.

The suggestions contained in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Accountant General's letter in regard to the disposal of unserviceable stores, are approved.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

Despatch

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No. 2165.

Central Office P. W.
Chepauk
1st July 1861.

From
Lieut.t Col.o W. J. Birdwood
Deputy Chief Engineer
in charge of the Central
Office P. W.

To R. P. Harrison Esquire
Accountant General
Fort Saint George

Sir

In reply to your letter of the 30th May 1861 No. 280, I have the honor to acquaint you that it appears to me that the Chief Engineer should have permission, to authorize the sale of all unserviceable Stores of the Department of Public Works, including Machinery, and Instruments actually worn out and useless, but with the reservation, that all instances of Machinery or other Stores, becoming unserviceable from accident or ill usage, be specially brought to the notice of Government.

2. I consider that the Chief Engineer may at the same time be authorized to sanction, the writing off, of the difference between the proceeds of Stores sold as unserviceable

and

and the original Stock value thereof. By the Orders of Government, noted in the margin, the amount of annual depreciation in the value of Stores of the Department of Public Works, is to be written off apparently without any prior reference to Government, and I see no reason for a different course of adjustment in respect of the difference in the value of Stores which have become unserviceable.

Proceedings of Govt. 2d. May 1860 No. 911 and 19th. Feb.y 1861 No. 343

3. In respect to the Survey proposed to be held, prior to authority being issued, for the sale of Stores, I beg to state that Stores proposed to be sold in the Districts could only be reported upon by the District Engineer, who is the most competent Officer to determine on their fitness for further service, but at the Presidency whenever such a proposal may be made, I believe that the Chief Engineer can depute an Officer of the Department to report specially upon the Stores.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your obedient servant &c.
(Signed) W. J. Bridwood Lieut Colo
Dy. Chief Engr. in charge
of the Central Office P.W.

/ True Copy /
W. Spurrier
Offg. Dy. Asst. Accomt. Genl.

Copd. Chas. Hy. Stevenson Capty.
Asst. Engr.

Public Works Departt.

12

No. 77

Fort Saint George
Accountt. Genl's. Office
19 July 1861.

From

The Accountant General

To The Secretary to Government
Public Works Departtment

Sir,

With reference to the Proceedings of Government of the 9th March last, No. 473, I have the honor to report on the enquiry made by the Auditor of Public Works Accounts, whether proposals for the sale of unserviceable Stores, should be submitted for the sanction of Government in every instance.

2 On addressing the Officers noted in the margin, as to the practice hitherto prevailing in their Departments, I find that except in the Army Clothing Department, it is not usual to apply for the sanction of Government for the sale of useless stores, which after being surveyed and authorized to be sold by the Chief of the Department. I subsequently placed myself in communication with the Chief Engineer and a copy of his reply No. 2165 dated the 1st Instant

Commissary General
Provincial Inspector
General Medl. Deptt.
Inspector General
Ordnance & Magazine
Deptt. and Agent for
Army Clothing.

Instant on the subject is herewith forwarded.

3. I would recommend, with reference to the practice which obtains in the Ordnance, Medical and Commissarial Departments, that the Chief Engineer as Head of the Public Works Department, be permitted to authorize the sale of all stores, including Machinery and Instruments belonging to the Department, which are shewn to his satisfaction to have become worn out and useless from ordinary wear and tear; and, as suggested by Colonel Bridwood, that Articles of Machinery or other stores, which have become unserviceable from accident, or ill usage, should be specially brought to the notice of Government before they are disposed of.

4 The Chief Engineer in the 2d paragraph of his letter suggests that he may be authorized to sanction the difference between the sale proceeds of unserviceable stores, and their value on the Books of the Department, being written off without sanction of Government in like manner as the amount of annual depreciation in the value of stores of the Department is to be dealt with. I would observe, however, that in the latter case the stores are simply reduced in

in valuation according to a fixed percentage while in the former, they are altogether taken off the Store Books of the Department, and it appears to me therefore that a Statement of all losses incurred by sale of unserviceable Stores &c. should be submitted to Government by the Chief Engineer, and sanction obtained for writing off the amount, a course which I am informed is followed in the Medical Department.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your obedient servant
A Bruce
Accountt General

C. Hall
Gd Arthur Hammd

Pro. 9 March 61 Nos 138-139.

5.

Shown the Ch: Engr
2/27 Augt 1861
Cert: 1945-

Nos 43 & 44-

C 27th July P 31st

1861 Department
Proof Copy 1663
From
The Accountt General
To The Secretary to
Government
Public Works Departt

Dated 19th July 1861.
Recd 20th " No 77-
No
Refered to

Reports on the enquiry of the Auditor of Public Works whether proposals for sale of unserviceable stores should receive the sanction of Government and recommends that the Chief Engineer be permitted to authorize the sale of stores which from usage have become worn out and that articles which have become useless by accident or ill usage be brought to the notice of Government before they are disposed of-

No 1448. 3 Augt

William Taylor

No 1448.

The suggestions contained in yours and of this letter in regard to the disposal of unserviceable Stores are approved.

W.M.

Lt Col Geo.

3 Augt 1861

3 Copies. Accountant General. Dispatch
13 " Chief Engineer.