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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 900 Press / Mis.

21-22

Dated 1-5- 1862

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 1st May 1862.

No. 21. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Financial Department, dated 23rd April 1862, No. 304:—

Communicating a Despatch from the Home Government, relative to a representation made by the Government of India, that Stores of the value of 13 lacs had been consigned to Madras Presidency, which had neither been expected nor required. (Vide Financial Proceedings, 23rd April 1862, Nos. 76-77.)

No. 22. ORDER THEREON, 1st May 1862, No. 900.

Communicated to the Chief Engineer for information.

(Signed) W. H. HORSLEY, Lieut.-Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart., Secretary of State for India; to His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated London, 17th March 1862, No. 16.

1. I have considered in Council your Military letter, dated the 26th August last, No. 253, and your Public Works letter, dated the 3rd December following, No. 79, relative to a representation made to me by the Government of India, that Stores of the value of 13 lacs had been consigned to your Presidency, which had neither been expected nor required.

2. It is obvious from your letter, that the representation in question was founded on error, and I now forward for your information an Extract* of a Financial Despatch which I have sent to the Government of India on the subject.

* Paragraphs 3 to 8.

Extract (Paragraphs 3 to 8) of a Financial letter to the Government of India, dated 17th March 1862, No. 40.

Paragraph 3. The Military Finance Department allude to an assertion which was contained in the 30th paragraph of your Financial Despatch, dated the 5th February 1861, No. 16, to the effect that Stores of the value of 13 lacs had been sent from England to Madras, which "were not either expected or required," and they infer from my reply of the 8th April 1861, that no exact record is kept here of Stores demanded from, and supplied to India. I cannot understand how the Military Finance Department could have arrived at this conclusion, from the circumstance that a statement, made without due consideration, and supported by no details, was, as it necessarily must have been, altogether unintelligible at Home.

4. You will have learnt from the explanations of the Government of Madras, which were communicated to you by their Secretary's letters of the 14th August and the 3rd December last, that no Clothing, Commissariat, Medical, or (as far as they then knew) Public Works Stores, other than those indented for, had been supplied from Home to Madras; and I have recently received a Despatch from the Government of Madras in the Public Works Department, dated the 3rd December 1861, No. 79, confirming the above statement as regards Public Works Stores.

5. The circumstances which occurred with respect to the supply of Ordnance Stores, and which were not completely explained by the Government of Madras, are as follow: In January 1859, certain supplies were demanded by the Government of Madras. In May 1860, it appears to have been discovered at Madras that the demands made in January 1859 were excessive, and an amended Indent was sent Home, in a Military Despatch, dated 23rd May 1860, No. 123, with a request that all balances due on former demands should be cancelled. The amended Indent was received in this country on the 2nd of July 1860, and all former demands which had not then been acted upon were at once cancelled; but the greater part of the Stores demanded in the Indent of January 1859, had already either been bought or contracted for, and, as they could not be disposed of here without great loss, it was considered advisable to send them to Madras.

6. It is stated, however, by the Government of Madras that "Arms amounting in value to Rupees 1,25,000, were sent out for the Madras "Native Army which were not indented for." This statement is incorrect. Thirty-two thousand of this description of weapon were demanded in the Madras Military Indent, No. 61 of the 29th of January 1859. In the autumn of that year I was of opinion that more Arms had been demanded from India than were really required, and I therefore, in a Circular Despatch, dated the 20th of October 1859, called upon the several Governments in India to revise their demands for Arms. After the receipt of that Despatch the Government of Madras in their Military Indent, No. 68 of the 24th of December 1859, stated that 20,000 smooth bore Muskets were still due. I had therefore every reason to believe that these Arms were required by the Government of Madras, until I received their Despatches of the 23rd and 31st of May 1860, requesting that no further supplies of smooth bore Muskets should be sent to Madras.

4,100 Percussion Muskets. B. 650 Pattern 1858.

7. The 4,100 Muskets which are said by the Madras Government not to have been demanded formed a portion of the 20,000 to which I have before referred, and had been shipped from England per "Clyde" and "Agincourt" in March and April 1860, that is to say not only before I could have received the Despatches which superseded the requisitions upon which they were sent, but before those Despatches were even written at Madras.

8. It is clear from these explanations that the statement contained in your Despatch of the 5th of February 1861 was not correct in so far as it implied any blame upon the conduct of business at Home. So far from it being the case that Stores in excess of demands have been sent to Madras, the fact is that in many cases the demand from that Presidency have been greatly reduced at Home. That any Stores have been received at Madras which were "not required" can only have happened in consequence of excessive demands having been made by the Government of Madras; that Stores have been received there which were "not expected" must simply have arisen from this circumstance which does not appear to have occurred to the Military Finance Department when they revised the Madras estimate for the year 1860-61, viz., that although an Indent which has been sent to this country may afterwards be cancelled in India, this act on the part of the authorities in India, does not and cannot, cancel the measures which have been taken at Home upon the receipt of the Indent.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd April 1862, No. 304.

Ordered that the foregoing Despatch and its enclosure be communicated to the Military and Public Works Departments.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Military Department.
" Public Works Department.

Exd. F Cartledge.

3d Dept. 1861 No. 3-4.

Public Works 1862 Dept.
Rec'd from Govt. of Madras May

No. 1203

Rec'd from the Madras Govt.
in the Financial Dept.

Dated 23 April 62
Rec'd 2 May

No. 804

No. 906 - 1st May -

Communicating a Despatch from the Home Government, relative to a representation made by the Govt of India, that Stores of the value of 13 lacs had been consigned to the Madras Presidency, which had neither been expected nor required.

William Taylor

No. 906.

Communicated to the Chief Engineer for information.

12th May 1862
Chs Pearce R.S.

13 Copies
To
The Chief Engineer with Fin. Cir.
Disp. 2 May

No. 84

C. No. 21 - 22