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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 958 Press / ~~Mis.~~

134-135

Dated 5-5- 1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1B

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 5th May 1862.

No 134. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department, dated 1st May 1862, No. 1,584.

Communicating letter from the Controller of Military Finance regarding certain Timber now lying on the Beach and procured by the Commissariat Department for the use of the Gun Carriage Manufactory, with a desire to turn to account so much of it as may be found of use to the Department.

(Vide Military Proceedings, 1st May 1862, Nos. 7 @ 10.)

No. 135. ORDER THEREON, 5th May 1862, No. 958.

Communicated to the Acting Deputy Chief Engineer, Central Circle, who will be good enough to expedite his reply to the Proceedings of Government No. 739, dated 11th April 1862.

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

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letters :—

From the Controller of Military Finance, Fort Saint George, 3rd April 1862, A; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

I have the honor to forward herewith a letter to my address from the Commissary General, in which he requests me to solicit the sanction of Government for the transfer to the Public Works Department of a quantity of Timber recently received from Moulmein for the use of the Gun Carriage Manufactory.

2. Deeming it necessary that Government should be in possession of all the circumstances connected with the Timber, which it is proposed should be transferred to the Public Works Department, I called upon the Commissary General for full particulars; my letter and his reply thereto are herewith forwarded—I have not yet received the promised information: but as the Timber is lying exposed on the North Beach, it is undesirable to delay any longer doing something in the matter; and pending the explanations called for, I would therefore suggest for consideration, as a preliminary measure, whether it is not desirable to ascertain if the Public Works Department will take the Timber.

3. It will be remembered that the Commissariat Department entered into Contracts at Moulmein for a three years' supply of Timber: Colonel Simpson took objection to the Contracts: the Commissariat supported them; the question came under the consideration of Government in August last year, and in Order of Government No. 2906, 17th August 1861, the Proceedings were forwarded to me for remark, in communication with the Inspector General of Ordnance, if necessary. I applied to the late Commissary General and Commissariat Auditor for information, but could obtain none; there was nothing to be done under these circumstances but to watch the supply and report the result, and with this object in view, I have refrained from offering any remarks on the subject.

4. The Timber in question is part of the supply made under these Contracts, and as soon as I receive the information called for, from the Commissary General, I will be able to report fully on the subject.

5. Meanwhile, I trust the preliminary step which I have suggested, will meet with the approval of Government.

Referred to the Public Works Department.

5th April 1862.

From the Controller of Military Finance, Fort Saint George, 11th April 1862, A; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

In continuation of my letter of the 3rd April A, I have the honor to forward herewith a letter to my address, No. 3434, of the 4th April 1862, from the Commissary General, with copy of a communication from the Superintendent Gun Carriage Manufactory.

No. 252, of the 28th March 1862.

2. It will be observed that Colonel Hill urges the transfer of the Timber now lying on the Beach, to the Engineer's Department, on the grounds that the Authorities are urging its removal, and that if sold, "it would realize almost nothing."

3. If the Engineer's Department is willing to take it, it is the best arrangement that could be made: but if the offer is declined, I see no alternative but to authorise Colonel Hill to dispose of it to the best advantage, debiting the loss to his Department, and Government hereafter fixing the responsibility for the loss on the Officers who received Timber of such an inferior description from the Contractors.

4. It will be observed that the Commissary General has called upon the Commissariat Officer at Moulmein, to report by whom the selection was made, and it would therefore be premature to take the question of responsibility into consideration, until a reply has been received.

5. I am in communication with the Inspector General of Ordnance on the subject, and as soon as I am in possession of the necessary information to enable me to do so, I shall bring the whole circumstances connected with these Contracts, under the consideration of Government; the application now made sufficiently attests the necessity for inquiry.

From the Commissary General, Madras, 4th April 1862, *No.* 3434; *to the Controller of Military Finance, Fort Saint George.*

In continuation of my letter No. 3303,* and in reply to yours as per margin,† I have the honor to inform you, that I called upon the Superintendent Gun Carriage Manufactory, for information as to the cause of his having rejected so large a proportion of the Timber recently received from Moulmein—copy of his reply‡ is annexed for your information.

2. The Timber as above stated, is that received from the Contractors, names as per margin,• from Moulmein and forms part of the existing Contract.

* *Dated 25th March* 1862.

† *No. 2324, 20th do.*

‡ *No. 252, dated 28th March* 1862.

• *Kho-tha-zan, Shaybay and Mr. St. Clair Tisbury.*

3. The Timber has been imported for the use of the Gun Carriage Manufactory. The Pedowk and Saul not being marketable, Timber can only be made use of by the Department for which it has been imported, and it rests with you to move Government, should you concur with me in this opinion, to direct its being received by the Department in which alone it can be expended. I need scarcely point out to you, that if sold by public auction, Pedowk and Saul or Engeyn would realize almost nothing.

4. I have called upon the Commissariat Officer at Moulmein to report by whom the selection of this Invoice was made, and whose reply as soon as received, shall be duly forwarded, but as the Authorities are finding fault with the Timber being allowed to remain so long on the Beach, I would again urge the advisability of your recommending Government to direct the transfer of the remaining Timber, namely, 110 full, and 17 half logs of Teak to the Engineer's Department, if found suitable. The cost of this Timber is Rupees 19,820 or about 2 Rupees per Cubic feet, but when it is taken into consideration that it is already the property of Government, I trust you will aid me in the matter, and I much doubt if the Engineer's Department can make as favorable purchases elsewhere.

From the Superintendent Gun Carriage Manufactory, Madras, 28th March 1862, *No.* 252; *to the Commissary General, Madras.*

With reference to your letter No. 3304, dated 25th March 1862, requesting that the Timber brought by the *Alexander Baring* may be again inspected that you may assign a reason for the information of the Controller of Military Finance why so many logs were rejected, as the Timber is expressly freighted for the Gun Carriage Manufactory.

2. In reply, I have the honor to state, that myself and my Subordinates inspected the Timber, and after careful examination, I have been enabled to select in addition to those already selected by Sub-Conducter Duffy of this Department, twenty-one logs of Teak, and six logs of Pedowk, making a total in all, as enumerated in the margin.

Timber Teak,	..... *full*	*logs*	30
Do. do.	..... *half*	*do.*	3
Do. Pedowk.	..... *full*	*do.*	21
Do. do.	.... *half*	*do.*	14
Do. Saul.	.....	*do.*	6

3. The reason for the rejection of the others, is that this batch is the most inferior supply that has been despatched from Moulmein since 1858, the quality of the Timber being very inferior and the logs small and irregular, and what would cut to great waste.

ORDER, No. 1584, 1*st May* 1862.

Communicated to the Department Public Works, in view to such portion of the Timber in question as can be turned to account in the Engineer's Department being taken over at market price—to be paid for as used, if necessary, the remainder to be disposed of by the Commissary General to the best advantage.

2. The Governor in Council awaits the further Reports promised by the Controller of Military Finance.

(True Extract.)

W Marshall Q

Secretary to Government.

To the Department Public Works. *With 20 Spare Copies*
„ Controller of Military Finance.
„ Commissary General.
„ Inspector General of Ordnance.
„ Military Accountant.
„ Examiner of Commissariat Accounts.

Exd. A. A. DeMonte.

Public Works 1862 Dep.
Pro: of Govt. for May
No. 1310
Pro: of the Madras Govt.
in the Military Dep.
Dated 1st May 62
Received 5th May 62
No. 1584.

With 5 Orders

Communicating letter from the Controller of Military Finances regarding certain Timber now lying on the Beach and procured by the Commissariat Dep.t for the use of the Gun carriage Manufactory with a desire to turn to account so much of it as may be found fit for use to the Dep.t

No. 958 5th May.

P. W. Sec.

No. 958

Communicated to the Acting Deputy Chief Engineer Central Circle who will be good enough to expedite this reply to the Proceedings of Government No. 739 dated 11th April 1862.

Chepauk
5th May 1862

W. P. A.

M. S.
13 Copies.

To the Actg Deputy Chief Engr C.C.
with Military Pro: Dep.t

From the Dy. Cle. Engrs 8/9th May 1862 Cl. No. 1383

194 — 196.

Extd. A. A. DeMonte.