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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1167 Press / Mis.

559-560

Dated 23-4- 1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 23rd April 1864.

No. 559. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department:—

Communicating letter from the Government of India, forwarding papers on the subject of the working of the Commissariat system of rationing the European Troops in the Bengal Presidency. } (Here enter 16th April 1864, No. 1,294.)

No. 560. ORDER THEREON, 23rd April 1864, No. 1,167.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineers.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineers.

Exd, S. T. Augustin.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers :—

From the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, Fort William, 23rd February 1864, No. 746; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

I am directed to transmit, for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, three copies of the Report of the Commission convened at Calcutta in May 1862, to inquire into the working of the Commissariat system of rationing the European Troops in the Bengal Presidency, with a copy* of letter, No. 741, of this date to the Adjutant General, communicating to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief the views of the Government of India on the recommendations, &c., contained in the Report. The Right Honorable the Governor General in Council considers that they may be found useful by the Madras Government; and I am to request that one of the copies may be transmitted for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army.

* *Attached to the Report.*

From the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, Fort William, 23rd February 1864, No. 741; to the Adjutant General.

The Report of the Commissariat Commission having now been very carefully considered, I am directed to transmit copies of it, and to communicate, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, the views of the Government of India on the questions therein reported on, and the decisions arrived at on the various recommendations submitted by the Commission.

2. The Right Honorable the Governor General in Council is confident that His Excellency will appreciate the care and pains with which the Commission have discharged their arduous and difficult duty,—a duty which entailed much personal labor in sifting evidence, reconciling differences of opinion, and balancing the arguments brought forward,—and that Sir Hugh Rose will fully concur with the Government of India in thinking that they have accomplished the work in a thoroughly efficient manner, and embodied the data so laboriously obtained, together with the result of their own experience and the conclusions at which they have arrived, in a very complete and exhaustive Report.

3. His Excellency in Council cannot doubt that it will be a source of real satisfaction to the Commander-in-Chief, who has himself been so unremitting in his endeavors to improve the Soldiers' ration, to observe that, although it is not denied that improvements may be made and in some respects are urgently needed, yet, on the whole, the Report bears a high testimony, after the fullest investigation, to the efficiency, zeal and integrity of the Commissariat Department; and that it proves by undeniable testimony not only that the ration of the British Soldier in this Presidency is quite sufficient, and indeed more ample than that provided for him in any other part of the British dominions, but also that the assertions which have been sometimes made, that the health of the men has suffered from defect in the quantity and quality of the food supplied to them, are wholly without foundation. The Cholera Commission, it may be remarked, had previously arrived at the very same conclusion in the course of their investigations.

4. The Governor General in Council approves of the measures recommended by the Commission, with the exceptions and modifications hereafter noted; and copies of the Report, with the decisions of Government appended, will be furnished to the Commissariat and other Departments concerned in the provision of any of the supplies, &c., therein referred to, with an intimation that the two together may be used as a text book for their information and guidance, and that the views of the Commission may be acted on when they are not at variance with the letter or spirit of these instructions. By this course much unnecessary discussion and references to Government may probably be avoided. Copies will also be supplied for distribution under the orders of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to Officers Commanding Divisions and Stations in which European Troops are located, with an intimation to the same effect: and re-prints of the Report with the orders of Government attached, but without the appendix, will be sent to the Adjutant General's Office at the Presidency for distribution to Officers Commanding European Regiments, &c., on receipt of a statement shewing the number of copies which will be required for this purpose. The complete Report would have been furnished to all; but the number of copies struck off is too limited to admit of it. A few copies will, moreover, be sent for the information of the Governments and Commanders-in-Chief of Fort Saint George and Bombay.

6. The recommendations of the Commission, modified as above indicated, are as follows:—

Contracts.

I. That, as a rule, the Contract system (under certain provisos) should obtain for all articles of supply except bread.

Extent and periods of Contracts.

II. That Contracts, though open to all whether residents or not, be for Stations only, and for one year for all articles except meat; the Contract for which should be for three years.

III. That, the time of year for entering on new Contracts be fixed by the Commissary General, with due consideration to the periods of prospective harvests.

Various rates of supply in and out of Cantonments.

IV. That two intermediate rates, between "Cantonment" and "Command" rates, be established to meet the contingency of short moves of Troops. (Paragraph 47 of the Report.)

Contract deeds and Abstracts of them.

V. That though the Contract deeds must be drawn out in such a form as to be legally binding, a brief Abstract be made of each Contract shewing clearly the terms of the supply; and that printed copies of these Abstracts be made available for the Commissariat Officers, as well as for Officers Commanding Stations, Regiments and Detachments.

The Executive Commissariat Officer responsible for the quality of the rations.

VI. That Executive Commissariat Officers be held strictly responsible for the quality of the rations issued to the Troops supplied under their supervision, (see paragraph 50 of the Report) and that they be required to inspect the Rations as often as possible before tender at the Ration Stands.

Fair rates to be paid for meat:

VII. That fair and remunerative rates be paid for meat, and that competition in rates be not pushed too far. This will be effected, directly in some measure by the more stringent conditions which may be imposed on Contractors,* and indirectly by the judicious exercise by the Commissariat Department of its discretion in accepting tenders† and by Ration Committees of their power of rejecting what is tendered.

* *See below paras.* 13 *and* 14.

† *See para.* 51 *of the Report.*

Mutton.

VIII. That higher rates be paid for Mutton, and that the Contractors be encouraged to improve its quality. The remarks made on the last recommendation apply equally to this one: and certain measures for improving the quality of meat, which are under consideration, will be noticed below.†

† *See paras.* 13—15.

Brood Stock to be protected.

IX. That in order to avoid undue pressure on the supply of mutton, the latter be issued once a week only, until the supply increases sufficiently to enable the Commissary General to recommend more frequent issues; and that, to prevent the destruction of the Brood stock, not more than (⅓) one-third of the sheep killed for Rations be ewes.

Exchange of meat not allowed. Circumstances under which condemned meat may be issued.

X. That the option of exchanging meat be no longer allowed. But, in order to prevent the inconvenience to which the Soldier is subjected by the condemnation of the meat ration, in places where no good substitute can be procured, the Officer Commanding the Station may use his discretion in allowing the condemned ration to be issued, should the Officer Commanding the Corps or Detachment with the concurrence of the Medical Officer desire it. In that case, if the Executive Commissariat Officer considers that there are no grounds for appealing to a Special Committee, or if the latter on being appealed to upholds the award of the Regimental Committee, the full amount of the fine will be levied from the Contractor, and credited to Government to aid in meeting the expense which will be incurred for Compensation paid under Rule XXX below.

Bread.

XI. That bread be prepared by direct Commissariat agency as soon as arrangements can be made for that purpose; and that hop and potato yeast be substituted for toddy juice and artificial barm as soon as possible.

Dough-making Machines.

XII. That Stevens' patent dough-making Machines, driven by bullock gear motive power be used in all Government bakeries.

XIII. That, on occasions of condemnations of bread, the flour or soojee ordered as a substitute be issued in a kneaded state, unless the Commanding Officer intimates that this is not desired.

Size of loaves.

XIV. That quartern or half quartern loaves be issued in lieu of the present pound loaf.

Bread to be made not of soojee but of flour.

XV. That as soon as measures can be taken to have country flour properly prepared, it be used, instead of soojee, for making bread.

Mills for preparing the flour.

XVI. That two of Bovill's Patent Blast Mills, of the size and description given in paragraph 159 of the Report, be established, one at Lahore the other at Cawnpore, for the preparation of flour for making bread. These, the Governor General in Council thinks, will be sufficient for commencing the experiment.

Bakeries and slaughter-houses.

XVII. That Government bakeries and slaughter-houses be built in all stations where European Troops are permanently located.

Substitution of flour for rice.

XVIII. That an equal quantity of flour be substituted for the present ration of rice at the option of the Soldier, whose choice must be made for fixed periods of not less than 15 days.

Tea.

XIX. That the ration of green tea be done away with, and a full ration of black tea substituted. This decision, however, will not of course interfere with the progress of the experiments now being made to ascertain whether teas of Indian growth,—mixed with China tea when necessary,—which in many instances have been highly approved of by the men, can be advantageously issued to the Soldier or not.

Salt.

XX. That the present ration (1 oz.) of salt be reduced to two-thirds of an ounce; but that the existing scale of rations be in other respects unaltered.

Coffee and Tea in the early morning, &c.

XXI. That arrangements be made, in connection with regimental canteens, for the preparation and issue of a morning cup of coffee or tea.

XXII. That good iron coffee roasters, and large-sized grinding machines under Nye's patent, be supplied by Government.

XXIII. That tea and coffee pots be supplied by Government for the men's messes,

XXIV. That precautions against the pilfering of tea, coffee, &c., by Native Coolies be at once adopted.

Groceries.

XXV. That, as recommended in paragraphs 222-3 of the Report, a supply of groceries for 15 days be stored in advance, for the *quality* of which after survey and acceptance the Contractors' responsibility will cease: and that these stores be kept under double lock.

Vegetables.

XXVI. That the cultivation of vegetables, of the potato especially, be encouraged in every way, by the issue of seeds gratis, the establishment of fairs, prizes, &c., as suggested in paragraphs 206, 207 and 219 of the Report.

† *See paragraphs* 16—18.

This recommendation will be further noticed below,†

Potatoes.

XXVII. That contracts for potatoes be separate from those for other vegetables.

Extra messing. XXVIII. That an uniform system of "extra messing" be encouraged amongst the Troops, and that facilities be afforded to all for purchasing such extra articles of rations as they may require from the Commissariat Department, as recommended in paragraphs 243—54 of the Report. The establishment and proper regulation of "extra messing,"—as also of the temporary bazars recommended in paragraphs 255-6, which should, in the opinion of Government, be encouraged, must of course rest mainly with Commanding Officers of Regiments acting under the orders of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. But the Commissariat Department will be required to afford every assistance in its power.

Temporary bazars.

Samples of rations to be selected. XXIX. That,—in order to establish as a standard a *wholesome*, rather than an unnecessarily superior, quality of rations,—samples of such articles as can be so preserved be chosen by Select Committees of experienced Officers, and enclosed by them in stoppered bottles, which should be kept both in Commissariat Offices and at Ration Stands.

Committees on rations. XXX. That, as at present, the decision of Regimental Committees on rations be final and absolute as regards the Soldier; but the Executive Commissariat Officer will retain the right now possessed by him of appealing to a Special Committee, to be convened by the Officer Commanding the Station, of selected Officers, who shall record their opinion whether the fine shall be enforced or remitted, and whether compensation for the cost of the rejected rations (if these should not be issued) should be allowed to the Contractor or not.

Scales and Weights. XXXI. That English scales and weights be universally adopted, and steel-yards be never used at the Ration Stands.

Bakeries and slaughter-houses to be visited. XXXII. That bakeries and slaughter-houses be visited periodically,—at least once a fortnight,—by the Sanitary Officer, and that they be open at all times for the inspection of Officers Commanding Stations or Corps. Whilst sanctioning this recommendation the Governor General in Council observes that, if the Commissariat Officer does his duty, the interference of the Sanitary Officer will not be needed.

Station Butchers. XXXIII. That the appointment of a Station Butcher, in every Station at which one European Regiment or more is located, as originally sanctioned by Government General Order dated 25th October 1822, but abolished by Government General Order, No. 714, dated 9th September 1853, be revived, wherever a thoroughly qualified Non-Commissioned Officer or Soldier is on the spot and available for the work. His duties will be those laid down in the General Order of 1822 above referred to, and in paragraph 287 of the Commission's Report.

Government Farms not desirable. XXXIV. That Government should not connect itself directly with farms of any kind, large or small.

The Governor General in Council concurs in the opinion of the Commission on this point, and does not consider that the principle involved should be departed from by the establishment by Government of piggeries, as recommended in paragraphs 124-26 of the Report. If piggeries are desired they should, His Excellency in Council observes, be managed under Regimental arrangements. But the Commissariat Department will be instructed to give every encouragement in its power to Pensioners and others who may be willing to start farms on their own account, by the purchase of their farm produce when required for the sick. (See paragraph 284.)

Variety in the Soldiers' food and cooking. XXXV. That steps be taken to secure variety in the food of the Soldiers and greater attention to the mode in which their meals are served up; and that the men's messes be placed on a more becoming footing. (Report paragraphs 300-305.)

It may be noticed that the substitution, for a portion of the Soldiers' meat ration, of an equivalent (in value) of bread, when the Commanding Officer and Medical Officer may deem such alteration in diet advisable, and the Commissariat Officer may be able to arrange for the exchange

without extra expense to the State, was authorized in letter, No. 334, dated 11th July 1863: and the same course may be adopted with other articles of rations in similar circumstances, when it can be arranged without extra expense.

Hours of meals. XXXVI. That such modifications be made in the hours of the Soldiers' meals as His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief may deem advisable. (Report paragraphs 306-7.)

Cooking and Cook-houses. XXXVII. That the Soldiers' food be cooked under European Superintendence; that cook-houses of a standard pattern be erected, and fitted with all requisite appliances; that a cook Serjeant be appointed; and that the Native cooks be borne on the Rolls of Regimental Establishments as Government servants,—a better class of men than are now employed being obtained by holding out to them the prospect of small Pensions when invalided or after lengthened service. This recommendation will be presently adverted to.*

* *See paragraphs* 9—12.

Some recommendations of the Commission not adopted.

7. It will be observed that Government has not thought it expedient to adopt some few of the recommendations of the Commission. It is, for instance, considered better to allow tea and coffee to be issued as at present, instead of tea† on two days and coffee on the third; the Establishment of a Government Garden at Peshawur‡ for the purpose of *raising acclimatized seeds* seems of doubtful expediency, and their importation either from Europe or the Cape annually, or every second or third year as may be found necessary, would appear preferable; a trial of Major Macbean's|| plan to establish a permanent Station Committee to inspect rations seems unnecessary, as the scheme offers no peculiar advantages; and the recommendation that§ payments should be made to original Contractors only and not to their Agents, in order to prevent sub-letting, would not, in the opinion of Government, effect that purpose, whilst it would lead to a great deal of inconvenience and trouble,—probably to oppression also,—and would certainly deter many from tendering.

† *Report para.* 194, *recommendation* 19.

‡ *Ditto para.* 218, *recommendation* 29.

|| *Ditto paras.* 71-2, *recommendation* 35.

§ *Ditto para.* 79, *recommendation* 38.

Improvement already effected by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

8. The Governor General in Council observes that the orders issued by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, in the Adjutant General's Circular, dated 13th June 1863, struck at the root of many of the more serious evils which some of the recommendations* of the Commission were designed to prevent; and they have doubtless already effected much improvements in economizing the rations and turning them to the best account by proper cooking, in ensuring more regularity, cleanliness and order in messing arrangements, &c.: still more may, however, be effected when the increased appliances and improved cook-rooms now authorized can be provided.

* *Nos. XXI, XXIV, XXVIII, XXXV and XXXVII, above.*

Style of cook-house and apparatus really required.

9. The elaborate apparatus and style of building suggested, though not distinctly recommended, in the body of the Report (paragraph 294) appear to Government to be too extravagant and not to be required; and there can be no doubt that a sufficiently large, well ventilated and well lighted building, with a good fire-place, boiler, oven, ordinary dressers and tables, arrangements for a plentiful supply of water and for drainage, and proper receptacles for receiving refuse matter, would be not only sufficient but *best suited* for Soldiers, who can carry into the field the simplest utensils only.

A Pantry to be added.

In such a cook-room the present cooking utensils, supplemented by a few additional ones, could be used: and if to the cook-room be added a pantry, with wire gauze screens to the windows, in which to lock up the rations during the intervals between meals, every real requisite will, it is believed, have been then supplied; and the rest will depend on those good regimental arrangements for supervision and management, without which the most costly apparatus is useless, whilst with it even very inferior appliances are found sufficient.

Grant's and Duff's Cooking Stoves.

10. The introduction of any of the cooking stoves and ranges, ("Grant's," "Duff's" and others) which have been proposed, as noticed in the Report, does not appear to Government

to be advisable, for the present at all events, both for the reasons adverted to in the last paragraph, and because actual experience has not yet satisfactorily established the practical suitability of the contrivances for the purpose they are intended to answer.

Plans of improved cook-houses will be prepared.

11. Designs for such a cook-house and pantry as have been above described will be prepared in the Public Works Department, in direct communication with the Quarter Master General's Department; and the Governor General in Council will be glad of an expression of Sir Hugh Rose's views as to the additional cooking utensils and furniture which His Excellency may deem necessary in accordance with the foregoing intimation of the intentions of Government. An Estimate of the probable cost, and the periods for which the articles should be required respectively to last, with a statement shewing what articles have been already authorized, should be submitted at the same time.

Cook Serjeants.

12. His Excellency's opinion is also solicited with respect to the expediency of making applicable to this country the General Order No. 823, dated Horse Guards 13th July 1863, publishing certain Regulations for establishing an efficient system of Military cooking in the Army: and also as to the advisability of recommending to Her Majesty's Government the suggestion of the Commission that the Native cooks

Status of the Native Cooks.

should be Government servants, and that deductions should be made from the Soldiers' pay, as for rations, to meet the expense of their salaries. Should Sir Hugh Rose prefer the course suggested to that of leaving the men to be engaged and managed, as they are at present, altogether as private servants, I am to request that His Excellency may be moved to state what establishment of cooks should be maintained, what pay, &c., should be given, and what deductions should be made from the men's pay.

Measures for improving the quality of the meat.

13. Referring now to Clause VIII of paragraph 6 above, I am to acquint you, for His Excellency's information, that Contractors will be required by all future contracts to supply the cattle and sheep with abundance of water, to increase the

Fodder, water, and salt.

Report, paragraph 286.

quantity of bhoosa, from 5 and 1½ seers respectively, to 7 seers a day to each head of cattle and 2 seers a day to each sheep (other fodder being increased in the same proportion when given instead of bhoosa) whenever the grazing is scanty, or the grass watery and deficient in nutriment, and to keep large lumps of rock salt in every cattle-yard and pasture. This will be in addition to the quantity of salt which is now given to the animals in their food; the mixture of the powdered salt with the bhoosa, though very necessary, being no sufficient guarantee that each receives it regularly and in sufficient quantity.

Contractor's grazing grounds.

14. I am further to state that inquiries are now in progress as to the possibility of requiring Contractors to secure proper grazing grounds in the neighbourhood of the stations which they have to supply, and of affording them facilities of renting such grounds on moderate terms.

Cattle Fairs.

15. The fairs, cattle shows, and prizes for cattle, recommended in paragraph 277 of the Report have already been commenced by the various local Governments with marked success; and it does not appear necessary to do any thing more than encourage the endeavors of the Commissary General, whose attention has been already drawn to the subject,

Improvement of the breed of Cattle.

to improve the breed of sheep by the gradual importation of English rams; two of which have recently been purchased here for crossing with ewes to be selected for the purpose by the Superintendent of the Hissar Cattle Farm. Lieutenant Colonel Scott's views on this subject are already before the Commander-in-Chief in the letter copy of which was transmitted for His Excellency's information with one from this Office, No. 724, dated 25th January 1864. The proposals in that letter will be further considerd by Government hereafter.

Supply of vegetables.

Report paragraphs 199—220.

16. With respect to the supply of vegetables, the Governor General in Council considers that convict labor in the Jails may be usefully and unobjectionably applied, and it has the advantage of the supervision of European Officers who can bring their special knowledge to bear on the subject as regards mode of culture, the time of planting and sowing, the best kind of seed, &c. &c. The Commissary General will therefore be instructed to arrange, if possible, for

the purchase of such supplies of vegetables as the Jails can guarantee to furnish, in so far as it can be done without injustice to Contractors or risk of failure in the supply.

Descriptions to be cultivated.

17. His Excellency in Council considers the suggestion in paragraph 219 of the Report, that encouragement should be given to cultivate vegetables of those descriptions only of which the Soldiers approve, a judicious one; and the Commissary General will be desired to cause a list of such vegetables to be drawn out in communication with the Adjutant General's Department.

Best means of encouraging the cultivation.

18. He will also be instructed to submit, with as little delay as possible, distinct proposals for the encouragement to be given to cultivators in accordance with the general recommendations of the Commission in paragraph 206 of the Report, which are fully approved by Government. It may, however, not be out of place to remark that the increased demand for vegetables has already produced, and may be expected to continue to produce, a steadily increasing supply; and some Statements recently forwarded for His Excellency's information will have shewn the Commander-in-Chief that, in spite of many difficulties, considerable progress has been made in extending the periods during which potatoes can be issued to the Troops. The Commissary General is well aware of the importance which Government attaches to the efforts of the Department in this direction, and its endeavours will not be allowed to slacken.

Increase of the Commissariat Department not necessary at present.

19. The question of increasing the Commissioned Staff of the Commissariat Department, which the Commission evidently considers in itself desirable, will, the Governor General in Council remarks, require very serious consideration, and Government is not prepared to entertain the suggestion immediately; especially as the proved abuses appeared to be few, and the working of the Department, already satisfactory, may be expected to become much more so through the operation of the measures now sanctioned. But the question of improving the condition of the Subordinate Grades of the Department, and rendering them more thoroughly efficient is under the consideration of Government; and the Commissary General will be requested to cause particular attention to be paid to the recommendations of the Commission* respecting the selection of subordinates for the executive charge of out-posts.

* *Report paragraph 332.*

Necessity of cordial co-operation on the part of Commissariat and Regimental Officers.

20. In conclusion the Governor General in Council desires to impress on both Commissariat and Regimental Officers the paramount importance of mutual hearty co-operation in their endeavours to secure proper Rations for the Soldier, and of repressing to the utmost the tendency to antagonism which there is always more or less reason to apprehend when individuals or classes are associated for the attainment of an object which they contemplate from opposite points of view. Such antagonism must invariably be prejudicial to the interests alike of the Soldier and of the State, and cannot be too strongly deprecated; whilst the experience of a long course of years shews that it can be with no great difficulty avoided. A readiness heartily to co-operate in the discharge of public duty, irrespective of personal or private considerations, Government confidently expects from all its Officers.

Nos. 611, 612 and 613.

From the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Dept., Fort William, 16th March 1864,

to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, *Punjaub.* / *Bengal.* / *North Western Provinces.*

I am directed to transmit to you, for the information of the Honorable the Lieutenant Governor, a copy of the Report of the Commissariat Commission, and of a letter to the Adjutant General No. 741, dated 23rd February 1864, containing the decisions of Government on the recommendations of the Commission, and also copies of the correspondence marginally noted, which contain the views and suggestions of the

From the Officiating Commissary General, No. $\frac{3136}{249}$, *dated 27th November 1863, with annexures.*

To ditto No. 745, dated 23rd February 1864, paragraphs 5 to 7.

From ditto No. $\frac{4585}{317}$, *dated 4th March 1864, with annexure.*

Officiating Commissary General relative to the questions referred to in paragraphs 15 to 18 of that letter, and in paragraphs 206, 207 and 277 of the Report.

2. From these papers His Honor will see that it appears to the Government of India in the Military Department that the local Governments can best judge what measures should be taken to improve the breed of Cattle in the different Provinces,—excepting the few which can be carried out in connection with the Hissar Cattle Farm; and the Governor General in Council concurs in the opinion of the Officiating Commissary General that the Civil Officers of Districts can best advise the local Governments as to the nature and extent of the encouragements which should be offered to the cultivators in the neighbourhood of the Cantonments in which European Troops are located, to induce them to grow such vegetables as the Troops prefer; although their Reports should be framed after free communication with the Executive Commissariat Officers.

3. I am to request that Government may be favored with His Honor's opinion as to the expediency of obtaining Bulls from the Hissar Farm, as suggested by Colonel Scott, and as to the numbers which would be required and the localities in which they should be placed. *[; also as to the proposal for importing and locating near Rawul Pindee, in the Murree Hills, ten Cheviot Rams and as many Ewes, to aid in improving the breed of sheep.]

4. His Honor's opinion is further solicited as to the necessity for any encouragement being given, or any stimulus being applied, to the breeding of Cattle and the cultivation of vegetables, in addition to those offered by the cattle and vegetable fairs and shews which have already been so successfully commenced. The Governor General in Council observes that any extensive direct encouragement must be attended with very considerable expense; and His Honor may possibly consider that the prizes offered at the fairs, and still more the interest periodically excited by the latter, render unnecessary any additional encouragement, excepting perhaps some of the special rewards recommended by the Commissariat Commission in paragraph 206 of their Report.

5. The Governor General in Council will be glad of an early expression of the Lieutenant-Governor's views on these points after careful consideration; and should His Honor consider that additional encouragement may with real advantage be given, I am to request that its nature, the localities in which it should be offered, and the estimated annual cost may be stated for the consideration of the Government of India.

6. In the meantime an application will be made to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the ten improved Leicester Rams and ten Ewes for the Hissar Farm; and the Commissary General will be informed that Government will favorably consider any recommendations he may make for the renewal or special acceptance of the Contracts of men who may have supplied the Troops unusually well.

No. 617.

Copy of the above forwarded to the Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, Military Department, in continuation of letter, No. 716, dated 23rd February 1864, for the information of the Madras Government.

By order,

(Signed) B. E. BACON, Major,
Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

ORDER, No. 1294, *16th April* 1864.

Communicated to the Commander-in-Chief and Commissary General.

(True Extract.)

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Adjutant General.
„ Commissary General.
„ Controller of Military Finance.

Exd. W. Regd. With Separate Ltr to spare copies.

Pol. 1864 Despatch
from Govt of India
No 1/354

Rec'd with Cover
the Lily 26 March

Dated 15 April/64
Read 25 April/64
No 129

P&OSN 3052/64

Communicating letters
from the Govt of India forwarding
papers on the subject of the
working of the Commissariat
System of rationing the European
Troops in the Bengal Presidency.

No 1167 — 23rd April/64

With an Order.

Pp. 559. 560

Sent to the Secretaries
Govt of India
Public Dept

No. 1167

Communicated to the
Supg Engineers.

Chepaulk
23rd April/64

To the Supg Engineers
No 87.

Dft 25 April