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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 795 Press / Mis.

Dated 11-3- 18 66.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 16th March 1864.

No. 378. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. ANDERSON, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E, Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Camp Bezwadah, 3rd March 1864, No. 70 :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report, for the information of Government, that a loss of Rupees 277-2-2 has been incurred on Saltpetre at the Bezoarah Stores in consequence of the mismanagement of the late Store-keeper Mr. Snugg.

2. In May last 8,800 lbs. of Saltpetre were purchased by my orders. It was supplied by three individuals at the rate of Rupees 2-8-0 per Maund of 25 lbs., being the ordinary bazaar rate at the time for once boiled Saltpetre.

3. Mr. Snugg paid in full for the amount delivered, and on subsequent enquiry I learnt that instead of examining the whole of the Saltpetre contained in each bag he had only examined the portion on the surface of each, and had paid for it, on the assumption that the whole of the contents was of the same quality.

4. Mr. Snugg died on the 4th June 1863, and nothing had been discovered to show that the quality of the Saltpetre was inferior, until two days before his death, when it was reported to him, that on trial it was found to be unfit for the manufacture of powder.

5. This was brought to my notice by Colonel Pollard, but at the time it was not known to what extent the merchants had imposed on Mr. Snugg, and it was only lately that Mr. Sage ascertained the actual amount of the loss by re-boiling the Saltpetre. The result was that of the 8,800 lbs. delivered, 925 lbs. were totally unfit for the manufacture of gunpowder, and only 3,421 lbs. of good Saltpetre were obtained from the remainder.

6. The account would stand thus :—

				RS.	A.	P.
Amount paid				880	0	0
At the current rate of Rupees 4 per Maund for twice boiled Saltpetre of 3,421 lbs.	547	5	10			
Probable value of 925 lbs. of bad quality	55	8	0			
				602	13	10
Loss...				277	2	2

7. It is for Government to decide whether the amount lodged by the late Mr. Snugg as security, Rupees 235-15-10, is to be appropriated to cover in part this loss. He would doubtless have discovered the gross fraud that was committed by the merchants, had he taken, as he ought to have done, the precaution of examining the contents of each bag thoroughly before paying for the Saltpetre. I have not the slightest ground for supposing that there was any dishonesty on Mr. Snugg's part, and as he had on all other occasions conducted his duties in the most satisfactory manner, I would beg respectfully to recommend that the Government may be pleased to remit their claim on his heirs for the security money.

No. 379. ORDER THEREON, 16th March 1864, No. 795.

Under the recommendation of the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, the Governor in Council grants authority for the sum of Rupees 277-2-2, referred to in paragraphs 1 and 6 of this letter, being written off to "profit and loss."

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division.
„ Controller and Auditor of Public Works Accounts.
„ Accountant General.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Lieut Col R.E.

Supt Engineer 2nd Div.

No 795.

Under the recommendation of the Superintending Engineer 2nd Div. the Governor in Council grants authority for the sum of Rs. 277. 2. 2. referred to in para 6 of this Letter being written off to profit and loss.

To The Supt Engr 2nd Div.
" " Controller & Auditor's recommd
" " Accountt General's do 1287

Chief Secrett Govt
18th March 1845
Dept 17th March

Lieut Col R.E.
Supt Engineer
2nd Division

No 795 - 16th March 1845.

From Lieut Col R.E.
Supt Engineer
2nd Division

To Chief Secretary to Govt
Bombay

Sir,

Referring to Letter from this Office No 1042 dated 30th December last, I have the honor to request that you will be pleased to move the Right Honble the Governor in Council to grant authority for the sum of Rs 277. 2. 2 to be written off to Profit and Loss, in manner as detailed in the Statement accompanying the Letter from this Office No 1042 above quoted.

2. The Amount in question is made up of the Balance of Rs 277. 2. 2 due by Hurjee Kalla Kolee of Kharee, which he is unable to pay, having absconded from his Village, and left no property from which the Amount can be realized.

3. The Collector of Kaira has been requested to report whether any Claim can be preferred against the Estate of the Deceased Defaulter, and his Report is awaited.

I have &c.
(Signed) Lieut Col R.E.
Supt Engineer
2nd Division

Under Secretary's Office
17th March 1845.

Recd 3 Letters from Supt Engr 2nd Div. dated 16th Inst. with Enclosures.

Recd 1 Letter