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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

Press
Mis.

Dated

18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th April 1865.*

No. 45. Read the following letter from Captain J. MULLINS, R. E., Consulting Engineer for Irrigation and Canal Company, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Bellary, 10th March 1865, No. 222:—

SIR,

1 Letter from Agent, General No. 1,141.
1 Do. to do. „ 434.
6 Store Indents,

• No. 434, 21st ultimo.

† Indents Nos. 63, 70, 71, 76, 78, and 79.

1. I have the honor to submit, for the consideration of Government, a letter No. 120, of the 2nd instant, from the Agent and Manager Irrigation and Canal Company, together with a copy of that* to which it is a reply. The indents for stores, as per margin,† which

are referred to in the correspondence, are also enclosed.

2. It will be noticed that Mr. Henslowe would appear to consider that the countersignature of the Chief Engineer to an indent makes it incumbent upon him to procure the articles, and relieves him of responsibility should their supply be not absolutely necessary. I think that this is altogether a mistake, and that, without in the least undervaluing the Chief Engineer's opinion, it is necessary that the Agent should exercise an independent judgment; that he should make use of the information which his Store Returns afford him, and which it can hardly be expected the Chief Engineer will be able equally readily to consult, and that upon the Agent should devolve the duty of arranging the manner in which Indents are to be sent to him, so as to admit of his obtaining all needful supplies upon advantageous terms, and from the markets where they can be obtained at reasonable prices.

3. It has appeared to me that, except very rarely and in cases of emergency, it is not to the interest of the Company to purchase valuable instruments at Madras, and that all such should be obtained from England. To enable the Agent to be prepared to meet the demand upon him for such instruments however, it is absolutely necessary that he should receive due notice of the probable wants of the several Divisions, and there need be no great difficulty in affording timely intimation, for it may be estimated with tolerable accuracy a year beforehand what the establishments will be, and to enable such establishments to make the best use of their time the Chief Engineer can state what instruments will be required, and if, to the supply thus indicated, a moderate addition be made to provide for unexpected demands, it should very rarely happen that any purchases of this description should require to be made in India.

4. It is very necessary that full use should be made of stores of all kinds already purchased, and that when in one Division stores are lying, which are not likely to be wanted there, they should be sent elsewhere where they are needed. Now under present arrangements all stores which are transferred from the Stock Ledgers to General Plant cease to be exhibited as stores available for issue, and I think the Agent requires, in dealing with Indents, to ascertain not only what stores have not been issued, but what have left the Stock Ledgers and yet are not being used, and which might therefore be transferred to meet Indents from other Divisions.

5. Another point which would seem to require attention, is the necessity for making the Indenting Officer show clearly that the stores are required, and for what purpose present or future they are wanted. This should be the rule, and without full and sufficient explanation the Agent should decline to procure stores. In addition to this, supplies required on emergency should be accompanied by the reasons which prevented their being duly foreseen. There are numerous instances, of which the large quantity of iron referred to in the Agent's letter, paragraph

My letter paragraph 3.

6, is one, in which purchases made at a moment's notice lead to loss, and each and every Indenting Officer should be required to give such information as will enable the Agent to supply his wants, and to give it in time to admit of the stores being obtained in the most desirable manner.

6. With respect to the remarks of the Agent on the prices entered in the Indents, and which he says in some cases are those previously paid, and in others approximations, I would point

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4th April 1865.**

out that in most of the cases in which the prices appeared to me open to objection, the differences between the amounts entered and those shown in the Department of Public Works lists—the only guide I had—were very great, and I could not, therefore, do otherwise than object, for it would be useless to send Indents to this Office for examination were not the description, quantities, and prices alike subjected to the best check that can be afforded, and even that can be but of small avail unless the system of the Agent's Office be a good one, and all necessary care be taken by him in ascertaining that real wants, not only of the individual officer, but of the Company as a whole, have been found to exist, before determining that a fresh purchase rather than a transfer should be made.

7. I have submitted this correspondence to Government, not because Mr. Henslowe has shown any inclination to consider the suggestions made from this Office unnecessary, but because I think that his hands would be strengthened in carrying out reforms in the system of procuring Stores on Indent, were the Government to express an opinion that it is his duty to exercise a real control over all expenditure proposed to be made on the account of the Company, and that while leaving to the Chief Engineer, and to the officers under him, their proper responsibility in all cases in which he has to provide funds, or to incur or recommend expenditure on their behalf, he is bound to require that they shall place before him such full and complete information as to satisfy him that it is right and necessary that the money should be spent or the funds provided.

No. 46.

ORDER THEREON, 4th April 1865, No. 910.

ACCOUNT.

1. The Government fully concur in the views of the Consulting Engineer for the Irrigation and Canal Company, as to the control which should be exercised by the Manager over expenditure proposed to be incurred on account of the Company. As their representative in this country it is undoubtedly the duty of the Manager to satisfy himself that all demands are absolutely necessary, and to defer compliance therewith whenever there may appear to be sufficient grounds to justify such a course being followed.

2. Paragraphs 2 to 6 of the letter above recorded will be communicated to the Manager, with an intimation that the suggestions therein made are, in the opinion of Government, well calculated to secure the interests of the Company, and will, if adopted, prevent in future such an unnecessary accumulation of Stores as that noticed in G. O. No. 2,309, dated 11th August 1864.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Consulting Engineer for Irrigation and Canal Company.
" Manager for do. do.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Enclosures.

1 Letter from Agent No. 1141

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Consulting Engineer, R. E.

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1. I have the honor to submit for the consideration of Government a letter No. 150, of the 2nd Inst from the Agent and Manager, Irrigation and Canal Company, together with a copy of that to which it is a reply. The Indents for stores, as per margin, which are referred to in the correspondence, are also enclosed.

2. It will be noticed that Mr. Henslowe would appear to consider that the countersignature of the Chief Engineer to an Indent makes it incumbent upon him to procure the articles and relieve him of responsibility should their supply be not absolutely necessary. I think that this is altogether a mistake, and that, without in the least undervaluing the Chief Engineer's opinion, it is necessary that the Agent should exercise an independent judgment, that he should make use of the information which his Store returns afford him, and which it can hardly be expected the Chief Engineer will be able equally readily to consult, and that upon the Agent should devolve the duty of arranging the manner in which Indents are to be sent to him, so as to admit of his obtaining all needful supplies upon advantageous terms, and from the markets where they can be obtained at reasonable prices.

3. It has appeared to me that, except very rarely and in cases of emergency, it is not to the interest of Company to purchase valuable instruments at Madras, and that all

each should be obtained from England. To enable the agent to be prepared to meet the demand upon him for such instruments however, it is absolutely necessary that he should receive due notice of the probable wants of the several Divisions, and there need be no great difficulty in affording timely information, for it may be estimated with tolerable accuracy a year before hand, what the establishment will be, and to enable such establishments to make the best use of their time the Chief Engineer can state what instruments will be required, and if, to the supply thus indicated, a moderate addition be made to provide for unexpected demands, it should very rarely happen that any purchases of this description should require to be made in India.

4. It is very necessary that full use should be made of Stores of all kinds already purchased, and that when in one Division Stores are lying, which are not likely to be wanted there, they should be sent elsewhere where they are needed. Now under present arrangements all Stores which are transferred from the Stock ledgers to General Plant cease to be exhibited as Stores available for use, and I think the agent requires, in dealing with Indians, to ascertain not only what Stores have not been issued, but what have left the Stock ledgers and yet are not being used, and which might therefore be transferred to meet Indents from other Divisions.

5. Another point which would seem to require attention is the necessity for making the Agent's office show clearly that the Stores are required, and for what purpose present or future. They are wanted, which should be the rule, and without full and sufficient explanation the Agent should decline to procure Stores. In addition to this supplies required on emergency should be accompanied by the reasons which prevented their being duly fore seen. There are numerous instances of which the large quantity of iron submitted

my letter para 3 in the agent's letter, para 1 is one, in which purchases made at a moment's notice lead to loss, and each and every indenting officer should be required to give such information as will enable the Agent to supply his wants, and to give it in time to admit of the Stores being obtained in the most desirable manner.

6. With respect to the remarks of the agent on the prices entered in the Indents, and which he says in some cases are those previously paid and in others approximations, I would point out that in most of the cases in which the prices appeared to me open to objection, the difference between the amounts entered and those shown in the Department of Public Works lists - the only guide I had - was very great, and I could not therefore do otherwise than object for it would be useless to send Indents to this Office for examination were ^{not} the description, quantities and prices alike subjected to the best check that can be afforded, and even that can be but of small avail unless the system of the Agents Office be a good one, and all necessary care be taken by him in ascertaining that real wants, not only of the individual officer, but of the Company as a whole, have been found to exist, before determining that a fresh purchase, rather than a transfer, should be made.

7. I have submitted this correspondence to Government not because Mr. Howland has shown any inclination to consider the suggestions made from the office unnecessary, but because I think that his hands will be strengthened in carrying out reforms in the system of procuring Stores in India, were the Government to express an opinion that it is his duty to exercise a real control over all expenditure proposed to be made on the account of the Company, and that while coming to the Chief Engineer and to the Officers under him, their proper responsibility

I have the honor to be,
 Sir,
 Your most Obedient Servant,
 Wm. Lusk
 Consulting Engineer, N.Y.C.

Read the following letter

From the foregoing 17000

Encloses correspondence re:
-garding certain Indents for stores
and recommends that the opinion
of Government as to the propo-
-sibility resting with the Agent
in this respect be expressed.

N. G. 10th March 1865
No. 222.

The Government fully
concur in the views of
the Consulting Engineer
for the Irrigation and
Canal Company as to the
control which should be

control which should be exercised by the Manager of the Company - As their representative in this country it is more or less admitted by

the duty of the Manager
to satisfy himself that
all demands ~~for~~ ~~of~~
are absolutely necessary
and to defer compliance
therewith whenever there may
appear to be sufficient
grounds to justify the
such a course being
followed -

Paras 2 & 6 of the
Letter above recorded
will be communicated
to the Manager with an
intimation that the
suggestions therein made
are - in the opinion of
Government well calcu-
lated to secure the
interests of the Company
with a view of adopting
pilot in future such
an unnecessary dis-
-tinction of Stores as

that noticed in S. O.
No 2300 dated 11th August 1861

C.B.

For the Managing Director Sd/- W. H. & Co. & Co. Secy.
- Manager - Sd/- ✓

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Sd/- 5th April

Copy in a letter to Sir
of the 31st Dec 1865

13th Dec 1865
of the 31st Dec 1865

Copy

13th Dec 1865
of the 31st Dec 1865

Copy

13th Dec 1865
of the 31st Dec 1865

13th Dec 1865

13th Dec 1865