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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.**Government of Madras.***Public works* **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2509	Press
297-98	~~Mis.~~
Dated 16. 8	1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th August 1867.*

No. 397. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department:—

Communicating correspondence on the subject }
of the checks adopted in certain Depart- }
ments to prevent the abstraction of stores } (Here enter 9th August 1867, No. 2,944.)
received from England during the examina- }
tion of the cases. }

No. 398. ORDER THEREON, 16th August 1867, No. 2,509.

ACCOUNT, No. 48.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, Major, R. E.,
Under Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

<i>From the Superintendent Army Clothing...</i>	Here enter 17th April 1867, No. 3.
<i>Memo. from the Inspector Genl. Medl. Dept.</i>	" 26th " " " 152.
<i>Proceedings of Govt. Public Works Dept.</i>	" 27th " " " 1255.
<i>From the Commissary General.....</i>	" 6th May " " 855.
<i>From the Insp. Genl. of Ordce. and Mags....</i>	" 22nd May " " 31.

From the Superintendent of Army Clothing, Madras, 17th April 1867, No. 3; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

With reference to the Order of Government, No. 1305, dated 8th April 1867, I have the honor to state that all stores for this department are taken charge of by the Assistant Master Attendant, who sees to their being landed in good order. Any chafed or otherwise injured packages are submitted to a Survey Committee previous to being taken over by this department.

2. Losses by injuries, &c., on the voyage are rare, as also in landing; and, as supplies sent out from England, hitherto, have almost always been found to correspond with represented contents when the occasion for opening them arrived, it is undesirable to disturb existing procedure, particularly as opening of packages on receipt would involve much risk of contents, and occasion avoidable expense in opening and re-packing, and for further store-room.

No. 152.

MEMORANDUM.

The accompanying copy of a letter from the Medical Storekeeper, No. 42 of the 16th instant, respecting the mode of procedure when Medical Stores are received from England, is forwarded to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, in reference to Order of Government, Military Department, No. 1305 of 8th April 1867.

OFFICE OF INSPE. GENL., MEDL. DEPT.,
FORT SAINT GEORGE, 26th April 1867.

(Signed) W. MACKENZIE, M. D.,
Insp. Genl. Medl. Dept.

From the Medical Storekeeper, Fort Saint George, 16th April 1867, No. 42; to the Secretary to the Inspector General, Medical Department.

With reference to your memorandum No. 1376, enclosing G. O.* No. 1040 of April 3rd, 1867, calling for information upon "what measures are now adopted for preventing the abstraction of stores received from England during the examination of the cases, and what additional precautions are proposed," I have the honor to state that the cases on being received into the Medical Stores are at once weighed, which weight ought to correspond with that marked upon the package, if such is not the case, evaporation or breakage most probably has taken place.

* *Herewith returned.*

The cases are, as soon as possible, opened in the presence of the Medical Storekeeper, the Manager, and the Assistant, into whose charge the articles are to be delivered. Any abstraction would be most difficult, if not impossible; and since I have been in charge of the Medical Stores, I have not had occasion to suspect any such to have taken place.

All packages of Meteorological and Surgical instruments, and of the more important articles, are taken up-stairs, where the tin cases are unsoldered, and no one but the workmen actually employed are admitted. No loss has been observed to accrue.

Medicines could hardly be re-weighed after having been unpacked, for some of the packing materials must be lost, also the placing of bottles into the scales is likely to be attended with breakage. I do not think more precautions are requisite than those already in force.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 27th April 1867.

From the Officer in charge of the Public Works' Store Department, Chepauk, 10th April 1867, No. 41; to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

With reference to G. O., dated 3rd April 1867, No. 1040, requesting me to report what measures are now adopted for preventing the abstraction of stores received from England during the examination of the cases, and what additional precautions I would propose to ensure that object being attained more effectually, I have the honor to state that on the stores being received from the Shipping and Landing Agent, if the cases are in good condition, they are at once removed to the Public Works Store-rooms, and there opened, and their contents compared with the packing account in presence of the Storekeeper and his Assistant. When scientific instruments are received, the Mathematical Instrument Maker is also present. Any deficiency or damage is immediately brought to the notice of the General Superintendent of Stores, who satisfies himself of the fact by personal examination.

2. In the event of the cases or other articles being landed in a broken or damaged state, they are not removed until after inspection by a Committee of Survey, and the cost of making good the deficiency or damage is recovered from the responsible parties.

3. I would recommend, however, as an additional precaution, that where appliances are at hand, the cases, with their contents, should be weighed both before and after they are unpacked.

From the Superintendent of Marine, Madras, 24th April 1867, No. 1571; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Marine Department.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Proceedings of Government, Department Public Works, of the 3rd instant, No. 1040, on the subject of the abstraction of small parcels of stores from cases sent out from England, and to observe that the suggestion contained in the concluding part of the third paragraph of the despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, therein recorded, appears well calculated to lead to the detection of any loss that may take place after the case has been opened.

2. The Marine authorities have no concern with such bales, cases, &c., as are received in good order after they have been delivered over to the department to which they belong. Damaged packages are landed separately, and are at once surveyed in accordance with Rule 9 for landing consignments. No difficulty occurs in fixing the responsibility for losses, if any, in such cases. The question is rather, how to ascertain whether articles are lost while being packed in the Store Department in England, or while being unpacked in this country.

3. The best way is to have the stores checked by careful and trustworthy servants, as they are taken out of the cases; but I think the third paragraph of the Regulations, on the first page of the Packing Account, may induce a haste in examining the stores, which is undesirable, as likely to lead to confusion and error; the more particularly when stores from different ships are in course of delivery at the same time. This rule enjoins all possible exertion in opening the packages, in order that the contents of the whole may be scrutinized before the ship leaves. The reason given is that the amount of damage or loss, for which the ship is liable, may be recovered from the freight due; but in real fact, the delivery in good order is sufficient to absolve the vessel from all further responsibility. There is, therefore, no occasion for any undue haste in the operation of opening and examining the contents of such cases, and I would recommend the omission of the rule in future.

ORDER THEREON, 27th April 1867, No. 1,255.

The Government consider that the measures which are now adopted for preventing the abstraction of stores received from England, with the additional precaution of weighing the cases, with their contents, before and after they are unpacked, will effect the object desired by the Secretary of State.

Account No. 43.

(True Extract.)

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

From the Commissary General, Madras, 6th May 1867, No. 855; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Madras.

With reference to your endorsement on the Order of Government, Public Works Department, No. 1040, dated 3rd April 1867, I have the honor to report that all packages received from England are carefully examined by a Committee before being opened, and, except blankets and flannel, the contents, in all other cases, are verified by the Committee in strict accordance with the printed instructions on the face of the packing list.

From the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, Fort Saint George, 22nd May 1867, No. 31; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

With reference to Proceedings of Government, Public Works Department, No. 1040, dated 3rd April 1867, received under your docket, No. 1305, dated 8th idem, I have the honor to state that the instances of short delivery of stores from

	RS.	AS.	PS.
* 1863-64...	36	15	5
1864-65...	113	0	4
1865-66....	91	10	6
	241	10	3

England are very rare in this Department. During the past three years,* the value of such short deliveries aggregates Rupees 241-10-3, as entered in the margin.

2. The rule which obtains in this Department is that when cases are landed in a damaged state, they are examined and reported on by a Committee appointed for the purpose; but if not damaged, they are delivered at once to the Departments for which they are intended.

3. All packages are weighed previous to being unpacked for the purpose of verifying the tare and net weights marked on the packages, and the gross weights entered in the packing accounts; but those only are re-weighed, after being unpacked, which have to be accounted for by weight; those packages, the contents of which have to be accounted for by tale, are not weighed a second time after being unpacked, but are then counted.

4. Under these regulations, there does not appear to be anything more necessary to ensure the security of the contents of packages while being unpacked

Extract from letter from the Commissary of Ordnance, Fort Saint George, No. 447, dated 9th May 1867.

"I cannot see the practical utility of weighing the cases with their contents before and after they are unpacked."

and examined, and in this view, I am supported by the Commissary of Ordnance, Grand Arsenal, extract from whose

letter on the subject is entered in the margin.

ORDER, No. 2944, 9th August 1867.

Ordered that the foregoing reports be communicated to the Department Public Works.

(True Extract.)

Macmillan

Colonel,

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Clothing Department.

- .. Inspector General Indian Medical Department.
- .. Public Works Department. *with 20 spare copies*
- .. Commissary General.
- .. Inspector General of Ordnance.
- .. Controller of Military Accounts, for information.

End

*Spent at House
16th August/67*

Recorded -

25th Dec 1867

M.

Ed. A. W. Cooke.

88

P. W. 1867 kept
Pro: of Govt. for August
No 3055

Pro: of the Madras Govt
July kept

Dated 9th August
Recd 14th August

No 2944

Coming correspondence
on the subject of the checks
adopted in certain Depts
to prevent the abstraction
of stores received from England
during the examination
of the cases—

No. 2509. 16th August/67

With an order

No 397-398