

(1) Number of pages _____
 (2) Date of repair _____
 (3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 325	Press Mis.
S2. S3	
Dated 2 2	1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd February 1869.*

No. 52. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department :—

Postponing, for future consideration, the letter
from the Inspector General of Ordnance and
Magazines, suggesting certain measures for the
organization of a department for the manufac-
ture of ammunition for the Snider rifle. (Here enter 19th January 1869, No. 241.)

No. 53. ORDER THEREON, 2nd February 1869, No. 325.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 6.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

32

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Military Department,
19th January 1869.*

Read the following letter:—

No. 467. From the Acting Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort Saint George, 21st November 1868, No. 258.

I have the honor, with reference to Order of Government* and my letter,† to state that, for the following reasons, it appears to be unnecessary and undesirable to wait longer for the receipt of plans from Calcutta.

*No. 3776, dated 28th September 1868.

†No. 255, dated 1st October 1868.

2. Reports of stores under preparation and dispatch from England, give lists of the whole of the machinery for Snider ammunition; and although no time has yet been fixed for its leaving England, I am informed by Colonel R. Cadell, (who has, since his return to India, been in constant communication with Supervisor Lee, who was left in England to see the arrangements completed,) that the machinery is now nearly ready for test at Woolwich. It may therefore perhaps be expected to arrive in India within the next six months, and it is very desirable that it should, as early as possible after arrival, be set up and brought into operation; and, with this view, it is necessary that, in the first place, the site for the requisite buildings should be selected as early as possible.

3. I therefore beg, with reference to paragraph 7 of Order of Government,‡ to submit the following for consideration; and, in doing so, to assure Government that I have not overlooked letter§ from the Secretary to the Government of India, in which it is stated that “no separate Department has been proposed for the preparation of this ammunition, any more than for that of the Enfield rifle; nor is it apprehended that a separate department will be found necessary.”

‡No. 3786, of 28th September 1868.

§Order of Government, No. 4147, dated 22nd October 1868.

4. Government will observe that, in my proposed arrangements, I seek for an amalgamation of establishments at the Mount, for the manufacture of Snider and Enfield rifle ammunition, percussion caps, friction tubes, &c; and that these should be combined (I do not mean in adjoining buildings) and form the charge of one Officer; and if Government approve of the proposal, I submit it is necessary that distinct authority be obtained for the same.

5. The arguments against enlarging the present Bullet Factory in Black Town have been so forcibly pointed out both by Colonels Simpson and R. Cadell, fully endorsed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in letters published in Proceedings of Government,|| that I need not now do more than advert to them.

||No. 1002, dated 9th March 1868.

6. The information received by Colonel Cadell from Home, though insufficient for specifying the details of the buildings, would yet enable me if authorized by Government, in communication with other selected Officers, to determine on a site for the buildings.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Military Department,
19th January 1869.*

7. There is one point, however, connected with this subject, which I think it my duty to bring to the notice of Government, especially as the works alluded to have, in a manner, been predetermined for execution; and if I saw any probability of the measures alluded to in the Order of Government* being carried into effect at an early date, I would address myself to the question in its broadest light, and submit to Government a plan for joining the Snider Ammunition Factory on one site, with certain other large manufacturing establishments of the Ordnance Department.

8. I would now submit briefly, for the consideration of Government, the following proposal as the most economical I can suggest, believing, at the same time, that the result will be attended with considerable efficiency.

9. The Depôt at the Mount where the manufacture of percussion caps and the filling of fuzes and friction tubes are at present carried on, the Bullet Factory at Madras, where in addition to bullets for smooth bore and rifled arms, fuzes and friction tubes are manufactured prior to their being sent to the Mount to be filled (an important portion of the machinery belonging to which establishment would be required for the Snider ammunition manufacture), and lastly the Snider Ammunition Factory itself, should all form one establishment. For the present, and until the whole of the British troops in the Presidency are provided with Snider arms, it will be necessary to retain the existing laboratory establishment for the manufacture of Enfield cartridges; but in anticipation of a gradually diminishing demand for that description of ammunition, some re-organization in that establishment will, I think, be at once feasible.

10. I assume that Government would consider Colonel R. Cadell, the Officer who has been specially instructed in England, to be the proper Officer to preside over such an establishment as that proposed in paragraph 7.

11. The question of the other ranks of proposed establishment can best be considered, when I am informed that Government approves of my proposal to amalgamate the Ordnance Depôt at the Mount; Bullet and Snider Arm, &c., Factories, as detailed in paragraph 9. But it appears that the reduction of a 3rd Class Commissary will be feasible, and the discontinuance of the Bullet Factory, as a distinct establishment at Madras, will, I feel certain, prove economical.

12. On the other hand, as I do not suggest that the Snider Arm Factory should be altogether a separate establishment, I hope that, if the above suggestions meet the approval of Government, it may also favorably entertain my proposition that, in consideration of the very considerable and various manufacturing establishments which will thus be entrusted to his control, the supervising Officer may be brought on the Ordnance list as a Superintendent, with allowances on a par with those of a similar grade at Madras, viz. Superintendents Gun Carriage Manufactory Gun Powder Manufactory.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Military Department,
19th January 1869.*

Ordnance Depôt and Laboratory, Mount.

Old or present establishment	Proposed new establishment.
1. Field train, all (reserves)	1. Field train, all (reserves.)
2. Filling friction tubes.	2. Filling friction tubes.
3. Driving Fuzes	3. Driving fuzes.
4. Percussion Cap Factory, (old pattern caps)	4. Percussion Cap Factory, old pattern caps still in use for muzzle loading, rifled and smooth-bore arms.
5. Small arm ammunition, rifle and smooth-bore, present pattern.	5. Small arm ammunition, rifle and smooth-bore, present pattern.
6. Miscellaneous Ordnance stores, such as rockets, port-fires, long and signal lights, carcass and fuze compositions, quick and slow match, &c.	6. Miscellaneous Ordnance stores, such as rockets, port-fires, long and signal lights, carcass and fuze compositions, quick and slow match, &c.
	7. Making friction tubes. } Now done at the Bullet Factory
	8. Making fuzes. }
	9. Making percussion caps for Snider ammunition.
	10. Making Snider ammunition with extensive machinery, each cartridge involving in its manufacture 141 different operations
	11. Bullet Factory and lead squirting apparatus, with hydraulic press, and Nasmyth's bullet making machine for Enfield rifles

13. The small increase in his emoluments would not be more than commensurate with the very important duties which would be confided to him. In illustration of the above, I beg to append a tabulated statement, showing the work now carried on at the Ordnance Depôt, St. Thomas' Mount, as compared with what it will be under the proposed arrangement.

No. 468. *With report from the Controller of Military Accounts, 9th December 1868, D.*

No. 469. Read the following telegram from the Secretary of State, London, to the Government of Madras, dated 10th November 1868:—

By next Mail plans of buildings for new Cartridge Factory will be sent out. Shall the necessary iron columns, mangers, roofing, shafting, &c., be at once prepared in this country? Reply by telegraph.

ORDER THEREON, 5th December 1868, No. 3,804.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 11. Ordered that the following telegram be sent:—

"To the Secretary of State for India.

"Your telegram of tenth instant. Everything for Cartridge Manufactory

"should be prepared in England at once."

(True Extract.)

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

No. 470.

ORDER THEREON, 19th January 1869, No. 241.

The Government are of opinion that the time has not yet arrived for the organization of a department for the manufacture of ammunition for the Snider rifle.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Military Department,
19th January 1869.*

2. The foregoing letter from the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines will accordingly lie over.

(True Extract.)

W. Marshall Major General,

Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector General of Ordnance.

„ Controller of Military Accounts.

„ Public Works Department.

„ Adjutant General.

With 20 spare Copies.

Exd. A. W. Cooke.

MM 1869 Dept.
Govt. of 1869 *MM 1869*
MILITARY.

To
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF ORDNANCE
&c. &c. &c.

Dated January, 19th.

Recd. *22* *1*
G. O., 19th January 1869, No. 241.

S.

JANUARY.
Nos. 467-470.

Postponing, for future consideration, the letter
from the Inspector General of Ordnance and Maga-
zines, suggesting certain measures for the organi-
zation of a department for the manufacture of
ammunition for the Snider rifle.

No. 325- 2nd, Feb'y 1869
With an order

MM 1869 90
325
No. 325

Ordered to be recorded

Grant St George
2nd, Feb'y 1869

Cir 260
Govt. of 1869, June

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

Re. 1869, No.

Recd.

For

G. O. 2nd July 1869, No 325

Nos. 52 & 53

Ammunition for the Snider
rifle

Pos. only representing
that the time has not yet
arrived for the organization
of a department for the
manufacture of ammuni-
-tion for the Snider rifle-
reserves.