

(1) Number of pages 120

(2) Date of repair 25-11-43

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2152	Press Mis.
49-50	
Dated 3 7	18/9.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

171

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
3rd July 1869.*

No. 40. Read the following Proceedings of the Government of India in the Public Works Department, (Account,) dated Simla, 21st May 1869, No 357 A —

Regarding the packing and examination of Government Stores, their stowage on board-ship, and landing in India

READ AGAIN. —

RESOLUTION, — By the Government of India, Public Works Department, dated 6th January 1869, Nos 9—15A

Read again the following papers —

From the Secretary of State for India, to the Government of India, dated 15th February 1867, No 20

My attention has been called to the frequent notices in the returned packing accounts of stores shipped to India, of small parcels being short delivered, of the quantities packed in England. In some cases the value of the missing stores is recovered in India from the balance of freight payable there, but in many instances it is stated that the cases being received in good condition, it is assumed that the stores stated to be missing were omitted to be packed in England.

2 On a recent occasion, some brass screws were reported to be missing from a case on arrival in India, and the case being received in good condition, it was assumed that the screws were not put in the case when packed in England, but on reference to the Officers of the Store Department in this country, it is distinctly stated that the screws were certainly packed in the case. It is thus difficult to fix the responsibility, and such a state of things is very unsatisfactory

3 The Officers of the Store Department have been directed to adopt every possible precaution for preventing and detecting peculation when attempted during the process of packing in England, and in drawing your attention to the subject, I request that you will cause stringent rules to be laid down for the examination of stores on arrival in India, so that any attempt to abstract stores during the examination of cases may, if possible, be prevented. It might be useful, among other things, to have the cases, with their contents, weighed both before and after they are unpacked

4. Whatever rules may be established, should evidently be made applicable to the Military and all other Departments of Government, as well as to that of Public Works

RESOLUTION, — By the Government of India, Public Works Department, dated 24th August 1867, Nos 84S—50 A

READ AGAIN —

Despatch from Her Majesty's Secretary of State, in the Public Works Department, No 20, dated 15th February 1867

Read also the following papers —

Public Works Department Memorandum No 380 A, dated 8th April 1867, to the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Military Department

Memorandum No 671, dated 25th July 1867, from the Secretary to the Government of India in the Military Department

OBSERVATIONS — The Secretary of State, in his Despatch No 20 of the 15th of February last, observed that, from the frequent notices of short delivery in the returned packing accounts, there

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was reason to suppose that small parcels were occasionally abstracted from the cases during examination, and he requested that, in order to prevent such losses in future stringent rules might be laid down for the examination of stores on arrival in India. These rules, he further observed, should be so framed as to be applicable to all departments.

2 Consequently, draft Rules were prepared in this department, and forwarded to the Military Department for opinion. But in that department, while the rules were considered appropriate for the Medical, Commissariat and Ordnance departments, they were not considered suitable to the description of stores received either by the Military Store-keeper, or by the Clothing Department.

3 The Governor-General in Council, therefore, observes that, in order to overcome the difficulties which appear likely to attend the framing of rules on this subject, which shall satisfy the wants of all departments, it is desirable to appoint a Committee to consist of representatives of each department. This Committee would most conveniently meet in Calcutta.

4 It appears desirable that the several establishments under the Military, Home, Financial, and Public Works Departments, should be represented. And there appears to be no reason why the Committee should not be assembled as soon as the members can be named.

ORDER—Ordered, that the foregoing observations be communicated to the Military, Home, and Financial Departments, with the request that, if concurred in, the names of the Officers proposed may be communicated to this department, when arrangements will be made for nominating a President, and assembling the Committee.

General Order by His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India in Council, in the Military Department,—No 170 of 1868

His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is pleased to appoint the under-mentioned Officers who are employed in the various departments under the Government chiefly interested in the question, to form a Committee for the purpose of framing rules for the examination of stores on arrival from England—

PRESIDENT.

COLONEL H LEWIS, Deputy Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines.

MEMBERS

COLONEL J E. GASTRELL, Deputy Surveyor-General.

„ M J TURNBULL, Superintendent and Agent for Army Clothing

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL T H SIBLEY, Officiating Deputy Commissary-General, Lower Circle

„ B WALTON, Military Store-keeper.

„ H HYDE, Mint Master, Calcutta

SURGEON-MAJOR H B BUCKLE, C B, Principal Medical Store-keeper to Government

LIEUTENANT W. SHEPHERD, Superintendent of Stores, Telegraph Department

MR. F. R. BOYCE, Controller of Public Works Accounts, Bengal

From Colonel H LEWIS, President of the Committee for framing Rules for the examination of stores received from England, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, dated 5th May 1868, No 1,627.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for submission to Government, Proceedings of the Committee Memorandum of documents accompanying, annexed convened agreeably to General Order by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council (No 170, dated Fort William, 19th February 1868,) for the purpose of framing Rules for the examination of stores on arrival from England, of which I was appointed President.

Memorandum of Documents

Order by the Lieutenant-Governor, No. 1,629B, dated 12th July 1861, (not printed)

Memorandum by Lieutenant-Colonel Hyde.

Do by Major Mylne

Do of the value of stores received from England during 1866-67.

Report of Committee convened in 1858, (not printed)

Form of packing accounts.

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Report of a Committee convened under General Order by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, in the Military Department, No 170, dated Fort William, the 19th February 1868, for the purpose of framing rules for the examination of stores on arrival from England

The Committee having made themselves acquainted with the existing system of landing and receiving stores in each department, and having considered the proposals laid before them by each individual member, have the honour to recommend as follows.—

REMARKS

An Agent for Government consignments was appointed on the recommendation of a Committee convened in 1858 to report on the system under which stores are supplied from England, and his duties are defined in orders by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, No 169 B, dated 12th July 1861 (copy annexed)

It was intended by the Committee of 1858, that this Officer should assist departmental Officers in landing and receiving their stores, but this has not been hitherto considered a part of his duty

A memorandum by Lieutenant-Colonel Hyde, Master of the Mint, and a member of the Committee is appended, recommending that this Agent should be appointed by, and directly under the orders of, the Director-General of Stores in England

The following members of the Committee concur in Colonel Hyde's suggestion—

(Signed) H B BUCKLE,
Surgeon Major.
(„) H MALLOCK

1st—All the arrangements for landing stores received from England for the departments noted in the margin, and for their conveyance to departmental store, should be entrusted to the Agent for Government consignments, who should be provided with an adequate establishment for the purpose.

2nd—On the arrival of a ship in which there is a consignment of stores for either of the above departments, one or more European subordinates belonging to the establishment of the Agent should proceed on board to receive charge.

3rd—Every package and every loose article should be carefully examined and compared with invoice as it is brought up from the hold, and those which have any appearance of having been tampered with, or damaged, should be marked, and their state noted in the presence of the ship's Officer

4th—Stores for the Telegraph Department should, in like manner, be received and examined on board-ship under the orders of the Agent for Government consignments, in accordance with Rules 2 and 3, but they should be then made over to an establishment of the Telegraph Department, who will land them

5th—Stores for the Mint should be received and examined on board-ship, and landed under the orders of the Agent, whenever the Mint Master may find it convenient to employ him

6th—Stores for the Ordnance and Commissariat, and for the Department of Public Works, should be received and examined on board-ship in accordance with Rule 3, by a Warrant or Non-Commissioned Officer or Store-keeper of the department to which they belong, and they should be landed and conveyed to Store under departmental arrangements

7th—Boats for landing stores for all the departments of the public service should be provided solely by the Agent for Government consignments on the application of departmental Officers requiring them.

Under the existing system, there is a tendency to raise rates from several landing Agents and boat contractors employed by different departments bidding against each other

There would probably be advantage and economy in the Agent having an establishment of Government boats. Those now in possession of the Telegraph Department, except such as are required for working sub-marine cables, might be made over to him

A memorandum by Major Mylne, member of the Committee, is appended

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A departure from this rule may be necessary when packages that have been wetted by salt water required to be opened out at once. It might then be inexpedient to wait for the arrival of the ship's Captain

Instructions to this effect were given in paragraph G, Notification by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, No 1,629 B, dated 12th July 1861, but the order has been practically inoperative.

8th—On the arrival at departmental store of packages marked as having been delivered in a defective state (see Rule 3,) they should be immediately opened in the presence of a Commissioned Officer of the department and the ship's Captain, or some person deputed to attend on his behalf.

9th—When loose articles are marked as having been damaged (see Rule 3,) or when the contents of packages that have not been marked as being in a defective state are found, after being opened out on arrival at departmental store, to have been injured by salt-water, the Captain of the ship, or some person attending on his behalf, should, in like manner, be required to inspect such articles

10th—In the event of there being a difference of opinion between the ship's Captain, or person attending on his behalf, and the departmental Officer, whether the owners of the ship should be held responsible for short delivery or damage in either of the cases noted in Rules 8 and 9, the Agent of Government consignments should be called in to decide the question in dispute, and his decision should be final and binding on all the parties concerned

11th.—All packages, with the exception of those hereafter noted (see Rules 15, 16, and 17,) should be opened, and their contents examined and compared with invoice as soon as possible after their arrival at departmental store in the presence of not less than two Warrant or Non-Commissioned Officers, or other trustworthy persons (to be specially appointed by the Officer in charge of the department to which they belong,) one of whom should be held responsible that the duty is efficiently performed.

The authorities at Home should be requested to have this done

[N B—Each package or case should have inside at a list of its contents, specifying the indent on which the stores have been sent out]

12th—During the process of unpacking and examining, only such persons (coolies, &c., as are absolutely necessary, should be permitted to be present

13th—In case of the contents of any package being found deficient of invoice, the circumstance should be immediately reported to the Officer in charge of the department, who should take whatever steps may appear necessary. The stores should be counted again. The Natives employed in unpacking them should be immediately searched, and, if considered expedient, the stores and their packing should be separately weighed

14th—Should any articles appear to the departmental Officer receiving them to have original defects, or to be inferior to, or different from, the established pattern, or should any articles have suffered injury during transport from defective packing, the state of such stores should be fully reported in the prescribed form by the departmental Officer, and whenever there is damage or short delivery, the causes which appear to have led to the injury or deficiency should be explicitly stated, and the report signed by the Agent of Government consignments, as well as by the departmental Officer

15th—Bales of cloth and clothing, and stores packed in tin, which in the opinion of the Officer

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receiving them would be liable to injury if opened before required to be brought into use, need not (provided the packages are in a perfect state) be opened and examined on arrival in Calcutta, but Rules XI, XII, XIII, and XIV, should be followed at the time they are opened

16th—A per-centage only (about 5 per cent) should be weighed or counted of articles accounted for in bulk or by weight, and of those in large numbers (such as insulators and brackets for the Telegraph Department) which it would be a waste of time to count.

17th—Packages for the Upper Provinces, provided they are received in perfect order, need not be opened and examined in Calcutta. Those consigned to Regiments should be opened, as at present, in the presence of a Committee of Officers, and be reported on by them. Those consigned to departments should be dealt with in accordance with Rules XI, XII, XIII, and XIV, a Committee (in the place of the Agent for Government consignments) being appointed to report upon them when necessary

2 The Committee having had before them a "Report on the system under which public stores are supplied from England and landed in Calcutta," dated 31st March 1859, which received the entire approval of Government, beg leave to recommend that the following proposals in that report, which do not appear to have been acted upon, should receive attention—

3. Page 16, para V—That the stores intended for different departments should never be mixed up in one packing account.

4 Page 19, para XIII—That when machinery, iron framing or vessels are sent out in parts, care should be taken that they are put together and made to fit properly before shipment. If the occasion requires it, some person should be sent out in charge, who should superintend the packing of the stores, and be responsible for their being shipped complete and properly fitted. In all cases there should be accurate drawings sent with the packing accounts, and the packing accounts should contain references to the drawings by numbers or letters so that the receiving Officer may know, by comparing the stores, packing accounts and drawings, whether all the parts have come to hand

5 Page 27, para XII—That a set of rules for the guidance of all concerned in landing Government stores, explaining the law and practice as to damages, and all other particulars, should be drawn up by the Marine Department, assisted by Government lawyers

6 Page 23, para VI—That there should be jetties and commodious wharfs and cranes and sheds (as may be required by departments along the shore for landing Government stores at Cooly Bazaar, and that these jetties should be connected with the several store-yards by tramways

7 A boat-jetty has been provided for the Ordnance Department only, but there should be jetties run out into sufficiently deep water for ships to come alongside and discharge their cargo, by which means the whole expense and inconvenience of landing stores in boats would be saved.

See memorandum appended of the value of stores received from England during the official year 1866-67

Clothing Department
Medical "
Military Store keeper's Department
Survey and Mathematical Instrument Department

8 Sheds for the protection of stores when first landed are particularly required by the departments noted in the margin.

9 A tramway should be constructed from the Mint to its jetty

10 Until jetties are provided, vessels having

Government consignments should be required to moor near the ghauts where the stores have to be landed

11. A few cases have been brought to the Committee's notice in which packages have not been properly marked in England, so that it has been impossible to determine to what department they belonged. All packages should be marked as proposed at pages 12 and 13—Proceedings of Committee, dated 31st March 1859.

12 It would be a convenience if "Bi-monthly Statements" of stores under provision in England were corrected up to date of despatch of the statements, or nearly so, in order that they may afford the latest possible information of what stores have been shipped, and of the probable dates of intended shipments. There should be a separate Bi-monthly Statement for each department.

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13 "The regulations to be observed relative to the receipt and examination of stores," printed on the back of packing accounts (one of which accompanies) require to be amended to accord with these rules, should they be adopted.

(Signed) H LEWIS, Colonel,
President of the Committee.

I HAVE given my opinion in a separate memorandum

(Signed) H HYDE, Member
" H B BUCKLE
" F R BOYCE
" J C GASTRELL, Col
" B WALTON, Lieut-Col. } Members
" W C R MYLNE, Major
" H MALLOCK, Captain }

Colonel Turnbull, Superintendent of Army Clothing, has gone to England, but a draft of these proceedings has been seen and approved of by him.

No 761.

Memorandum by Lieutenant-Colonel H HYDE on the arrangements proposed by him for receiving and landing Government stores in India

THE practice in the Calcutta trade is to consign cargoes not to the Agents of the vessel but direct to the parties to whom the goods belong, so that vessels may arrive having cargoes to deliver to some fifty different consignees

2 The labour, delay and loss that this arrangement entails is well known, and the only remedy seems to be to consign the whole cargo to one Agent, who shall deliver it in detail to owners

3 The practice in the shipment of Government stores from England to Calcutta is identical with port practice Government stores are consigned to, and separately landed by, the several departments for whose use they are intended

4 These departments on being informed by the Agent, Government consignments, that a ship with stores is ready to discharge cargo, send to claim each his own property

5 From many departments the men sent must of necessity be unused to and unfitted for this work, and hence, as there is a general scramble by departments for cargoes, it is surprising that mistakes and losses are so few

6 I have talked this question over with the Director-General of stores in England, and with shipping Agents and Merchants in Calcutta, and they all agree with me that the real remedy is to be found in the appointment of a Government Store Agent in this country

7 This Store Agent should be the Agent in India appointed by, and directly under the orders of, the Director-General of stores in England

8 All indents should be sent Home through him, and all stores sent out in compliance with those indents should be consigned to him

9 He should land in the manner that seemed best to him, and deliver over to departments the stores on arrival

10 By this arrangement, all freights, shipping arrangements, disputes regarding short delivery injury from bad stowage, losses, &c, would be entirely from first to last in the hands of the Store Departments in England, and departments in India would simply have to receive stores when ready for delivery, and to examine them under whatever inspection the Calcutta Store Agent might require.

11 The Calcutta Store Agent would correspond with the head of his department in England on all matters, including those of packing, stowage, &c, and the Director-General would thus have a much stronger and more satisfactory control over contractors and ships than he has at present, when both he and the ship are hampered by the opinion and action of a third party—the consignee

12 It is very probable that the facilities that this arrangement will give to ships, will render Government freights more popular, and induce a corresponding decrease in rates, which will go far to compensate for cost of establishment

13 I think that Indian departments will find it a great advantage to have an Agent of the Director-General, Store Department in Calcutta, who they can go to and consult regarding the supply of the stores they indent for

14 This Store Agent being subordinate to the Director-General in England, and being in constant communication with him, will be able to give great and valuable assistance and explanation, &c, to both Director-General and to indenting department, and, inasmuch as he will necessarily report fully in detail on all shipments as to stowage, packing, &c., not as a department

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finding fault, but as an Officer of the Store Department to his superior, all errors in packing and stowage will be rectified, and it is probable that stores will arrive in this country in a much better condition, and much property be saved to the State

CALCUTTA MINT.
The 12th March 1868 }

(Signed) H HYDE, Lieut-Col, R E.
Master of the Mint.

To

COLONEL H LEWIS,
President of Committee on examination of Stores
received from England

I AGREE with Colonel Hyde

(Signed) H. MALLOCK, Captain, R A,
Supt, Telegraph Store Dept.

I AGREE with Colonel Hyde.

(Signed) B WALTON, Lieut-Colonel
Military Store-keeper.

Minute by MAJOR MYLNE, Assistant Commissary-General, on paragraph 7 of Proceedings of Committee for examination and landing of stores from England

THE Commissariat Department should arrange for supply of boats for its own requirements for the following reasons —

2 The importations consist largely of malt-liquor in hogsheads, for the landing of which cargo boats cannot be used without a jetty, consequently bhuis or native boats have to be employed, and contracts must be entered into for supply of these, not only for landing, but for conveying them to Howrah for despatch by rail to the Upper Provinces It would not unfrequently happen that the same ship would bring stores for other departments, and the demand on the Landing Agent would be simultaneous from several departments, and would probably lead to delay.

3 Contract or other arrangement would be necessary for the supply of boats to convey stores to places out of the port of Calcutta, and to carry them to Howrah, and confusion would be liable to arise as to the source of supply when such was divided

4 The Commissariat is a department of supply, and delays would inevitably occur, and charges for demurrage be unavoidable, as we should not be able to exercise control over the boatmen in causing them to make several trips in the course of the day, if it were found that the unloading proceeded so quickly as to admit of this being done

FORT WILLIAM,
The 5th May 1868 }

(Signed) W C R MYLNE, Major,
Assistant Commissary-General.

Memorandum showing the Invoice value of the following stores received from England during the year 1866-67

	RS	A.	P.
Mint stores	8,91,921	6	8
Ordnance stores	12,09,759	14	0
Surveyor-General's stores	47,109	12	0
Clothing stores	17,81,438	2	8
Medical stores	1,08,279	8	8
Public Works stores for Bengal	5,17,785	8	0
Telegraph stores for Bengal	8,14,154	8	8
Commissariat stores for Calcutta	3,81,192	10	0

Total Government Rupees .. 57,51,641 6 8

(Signed) H. LEWIS, Colonel,
Depty Insp'r-Genl of Ordnance.

Extract from the Proceedings of His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India in Council, in the Military Department,—No 196, under date the 7th July 1868

READ the under-mentioned correspondence, &c, regarding the adoption of suitable rules for the examination of stores on arrival from England —

Printed Proceedings for July 1867, Nos 664 to 672
for October " 75 and 76
for February 1868, " 637 to 641

Letter from the President of the Committee for framing the rules in question, No 1,627, of the 5th May 1868, with Committee Report, &c., annexed thereto.

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Resolution—After careful consideration, the Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council is decidedly of opinion that one set of rules cannot conveniently be made applicable to all departments, and that the Military Department should, therefore, settle what is suitable to its own requirements, and communicate its rules to the other departments concerned. The latter might then do the same, conforming as far as circumstances admit to the system proposed to be adopted in the Military Department, it being considered desirable to leave each department to its own approved method of carrying out the duty in question. It is, however, desirable that the Military Department should be made acquainted with any rules which may be adopted in other departments.

2. The following rules will be strictly observed in the landing and examination of stores received from England in the Military Department. —

I —All the arrangements for landing stores received from England for the departments noted in the margin, and for their conveyance to departmental store, will be entrusted to the Agent for Government consignments who will be provided with an adequate establishment for the purpose.

Clothing Department
Medical
Military Store keeper's Department

II —On the arrival of a ship in which there is a consignment of stores for either of the above departments, one or more European subordinates belonging to the establishment of the Agent will proceed on board to receive charge.

III —Boats for landing stores for these departments will be provided solely by the Agent for Government consignments. The Commissariat and Ordnance Departments will land their own stores as heretofore.

IV.—Every package and every loose article must be carefully examined and compared with invoice as it is brought up from the hold; and those which have any appearance of having been tampered with, or damaged, must be marked, and their state noted in the presence of the ship's Officer.

V —On the arrival at departmental store of packages marked as having been delivered in a defective state, (see foregoing rule,) they must be immediately opened in the presence of a Commissioned Officer of the department, and the ship's Captain, or some person deputed to attend on his behalf.

VI —When loose articles are marked as having been damaged, or when the contents of packages that have not been marked as being in a defective state are found, after being opened out on arrival at departmental store, to have been injured by salt-water, the Captain of the ship, or some person attending on his behalf, must, in like manner, be required to inspect such articles.

VII —All packages, with the exception of those hereafter noted, (see Rules XI, XII, and XIII,) must be opened, and their contents examined and compared with invoice, as soon as possible after their arrival at departmental store, in the presence of not less than two Warrant or Non-Commissioned Officers, or other trustworthy persons (to be specially appointed by the Officer in charge of the department to which they belong,) one of whom should be held responsible that the duty is efficiently performed. The unpacking should take place in a closed godown, and, in the event of any deficiency, every man must be searched before leaving the place.

N. B.—The Home Authorities will be requested to direct that each package or case shall have inside it a list of its contents, specifying the indent on which the stores have been sent out.

VIII —During the process of unpacking and examining, only such persons (coolies, &c,) as are absolutely necessary, shall be permitted to be present.

IX —In case of the contents of any package being found deficient of invoice, the circumstance must be immediately reported to the Officer in charge of the department, who should take whatever steps may appear necessary. The stores must be counted again. The natives employed in unpacking them should be immediately searched, and, if considered expedient, the stores and their packing should be separately weighed.

X —Should any articles appear to the Departmental Officer receiving them to have original defects, or to be inferior to, or different from, the established pattern, or should any articles have suffered injury during transport from defective packing, the state of such stores must be fully reported in the prescribed form by the Departmental Officer and by a Committee of Survey, and whenever there is damage or short delivery, the causes which appear to have led to the injury or deficiency must be explicitly stated, and the report signed by the Departmental Officer and

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the Committee of Survey, as well as by the Agent of Government Consignments, when he has landed the stores.

XI.—Bales of cloth and clothing, and stores packed in tin, which, in the opinion of the Officer receiving them, would be liable to injury if opened before required to be brought into use, need not (provided the packages are in a perfect state) be opened and examined on arrival in Calcutta; but Rules VII, VIII, IX and X must be followed at the time they are opened.

XII —A per-centage only (about 5 per cent.) should be weighed or counted of articles accounted for in bulk or by weight, and of those in large numbers which it would be a waste of time to count.

XIII —Packages for the Upper Provinces need not be opened and examined in Calcutta, provided they are received in perfect order. Those consigned to Regiments should be opened, as at present, in the presence of a Committee of Officers, and be reported on by them. Those consigned to departments should be dealt with in accordance with Rules VII, VIII, IX, and X, a Committee (in the place of the Agent for Government consignments) being appointed to report upon them when necessary.

3 The Right Honourable the Secretary of State will be requested to cause the following suggestions, which were submitted to Government in 1859, to be acted upon. —

1st —That the stores intended for different departments should never be mixed up in one packing account.

2nd.—That when machinery, iron-fitting, or vessels are sent out in parts, care should be taken that they are put together and made to fit properly before shipment. If the occasion requires it, some person should be sent out in charge, who should superintend the packing of the stores, and be responsible for their being shipped complete and properly fitted. In all cases, there should be accurate drawings sent with the packing accounts, and the packing accounts should contain references to the drawings by numbers or letters, so that the receiving Officer may know, by comparing the stores, packing accounts, and drawings, whether all the parts have come to hand.

3rd —That, in order to prevent any doubt as to the department to which stores, &c, may belong, the following measures, proposed at pages 12 and 13—Proceedings of Committee, dated 31st March 1859, be adopted. —

Measures recommended for adoption by the Home Authorities

“There should be a system of marking stores, such that it should always be known, even in the absence of documents, that they are Government stores intended for such and such departments. The Marine Department knowing these marks, would always be able to ascertain the destination of the stores. The general mark for Government stores might be the old East India Company's mark, with a distinguishing letter for the department, thus —

1.	Ordnance Stores	...	...	...	...	O
2.	Army Clothing	...	...	...	...	A
3.	Commissariat	...	...	...	...	C
4.	Stud Horses	(The Government mark to be branded on the fore-hoofs)				
5.	Medical Stores (Doctor's)	...	...	...	...	D
6.	Mint Stores	...	...	...	...	M
	Pice	...	...	...	...	P
7.	Miscellaneous stores for the various departments of Government	...	...	...	...	G
	(Government)	...	...	...	...	S
8.	Stationery	...	...	...	...	N
9.	Marine and Naval Stores	...	...	...	...	W
10.	Public Works Stores	...	...	...	...	T
11.	Electric Telegraph Stores	...	...	...	...	

To these marks should be added the number corresponding to the packing account. Thus the mark—

W 25 would denote Government stores for the Public Works Department, No. 25 package.

This seems to be sufficiently simple and clear. In some cases, such as bundles of rod-iron, it would be necessary to give a sheet-iron binding, on which the mark would be placed.

The marks should be branded or punched, or otherwise made indelible.

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If by any means it could be arranged, without undue expense, to mark indelibly all packages in full, giving the nature of their contents and the designation of the Officer to whom they are consigned, it would supersede the necessity for this system of abbreviated marks

4th —That, for greater convenience, "Bi-monthly Statements" of Stores under provision in England be corrected up to date of despatch of the statements, or as nearly so as possible, in order that they may afford the latest possible information of what stores have been shipped, and of the probable dates of intended shipments, and also that there should be a separate Bi-monthly Statement for each department

4 The Master Attendant will be instructed to draw up, with the assistance of the Law Officers of Government, a set of rules for the guidance of all concerned in landing Government stores, explaining the law and practice as to damages and all other particulars.

5 He will further be directed to arrange that vessels having Government consignments (of which due notice should be given to him) shall moor as near as possible to the landing places where the stores have to be put on shore

6 The Master Attendant will be requested to suggest such alterations in the rules printed on the back of the packing accounts as he may deem necessary to make them conform to the foregoing rules

7 Sheds are not required in the Military Department, and the question of constructing jetties is known to be under the consideration of the Government of Bengal

From the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Public Works Department, dated 28th August 1868, No 642 A.

I AM directed to forward herewith, for any remarks or suggestions which the Government of Bengal may desire to offer, the draft of a set of rules (*deposited*) to be observed in the landing and examination of Public Works stores received from England, together with a copy of Extract (No 196, dated 7th July 1868) from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Military Department, on the same subject, as also copy of the Secretary of State's Despatch, with reference to which the rules have been framed

2 I am to request the Draft Rules, with such modifications as may be considered necessary, be returned to this department as early as possible

READ ALSO —

From the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Public Works Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, dated 7th December 1868, No 7,133

IN returning herewith the draft of a set of rules (*deposited*) relating to the landing and examination of Public Works stores when received from England, which was received with your letter, No 642-A of 28th August last, I am directed to forward, for submission to the Government of India, a copy of a memorandum of recommendations by the Officers named on margin, whom the Lieutenant Governor had appointed to report jointly on the subject

2 The Superintending Engineer has stated that the above recommendations have been made after careful independent consideration of the Draft Rules in question by each of the three Officers, and it will be seen that, excepting the recommendations made by them, the Draft Rules are considered to be "well adapted for the purpose intended."

3 A copy of the memorandum by Captain Tucker, alluded to in the memorandum of recommendations, and the register (*deposited*) submitted by him in original, are also forwarded herewith

Recommendations of the Committee appointed to report on the Draft Rules framed for guidance in landing and examining stores sent out to this country

The Committee consider the present plan of entrusting the landing of stores to a contractor to have worked satisfactorily, and recommend its continuance

2 The accompanying memorandum by Captain Tucker, R E, shows what the arrangements are, and how they have worked

3 The Committee consider that the duty of examining and comparing articles as they are brought up from the hold, may be safely left to the contractor's agent, who is responsible that

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3rd July 1869.*

VI — All packages, with the exception of those hereafter noted (see Rules X, XI, and XII,) must be opened, and their contents examined and compared with invoice or packing account as soon as possible after their arrival at Departmental Store, in the presence of an Assistant Engineer to be specially appointed for the purpose by the Executive Engineer of the Presidency Division, who shall be held responsible that the duty is efficiently performed. The unpacking should take place in a close godown, and, in the event of any deficiency, every man must be searched before leaving the place

VII — During the process of unpacking and examining, only such persons (coolies, &c) as are absolutely necessary, shall be permitted to be present

VIII — In case of the contents of any package being found deficient of invoice or packing account, the circumstance must be immediately reported to the Executive Engineer, Presidency Division, who should take whatever steps may appear necessary. The stores must be counted again. The Natives employed in unpacking them should be immediately searched, and, if considered expedient, the stores and their packing should be separately weighed

IX — Should any articles appear to the Departmental Officer receiving them to have original defects, or to be inferior to or different from, the sanctioned pattern, or should any articles have suffered injury during transport from defective packing the state of such stores must be fully reported on by a Committee of Public Works Officers, to be assembled under the orders of the Chief Engineer, or, if considered, preferable, a Standing Committee may be appointed for this purpose, to be composed of one Superintending Engineer and two Executive Engineers.

X — Stores packed in tin, which, in the opinion of the Officer receiving them, would be liable to injury if opened before required to be brought into use, need not (provided the packages are in a perfect state) be opened and examined on arrival in Calcutta, but Rules VI, VII, VIII, and IX must be followed at the time they are opened

XI — A percentage only (about 5 per cent) should be weighed or counted of articles accounted for in bulk, or by weight, and of those in large numbers which it would be a waste of time to count

XII — Packages for the Upper Provinces need not be opened and examined in Calcutta, provided they are received in perfect order. But Rules VI, VII, VIII and IX must be observed when they are opened, a Committee being appointed to report upon them when necessary

2 His Excellency is of opinion that the above Rules may be made applicable to Madras and Bombay, so far as the Local Governments may consider necessary, but that it seems desirable, in the meantime, that those Governments should be requested to report to the Government of India their present rules and practice in this matter

READ ALSO —

Military Department, Fort William, the 22nd March 1869

From the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India, — (No 42, dated India Office, London, the 11th February 1869)

Paragraph 1 I HAVE received and considered in Council your Despatches noted in the margin, regarding the packing and examination of Government stores, their stowage on board-ship, and landing in India

No 281, dated 28th July 1868

" 360, " 19th September 1868

" 19, (Marine,) dated 1st September 1868

2 I now transmit, for your information, copy of a Report by the Director-General of stores together with extract from a report from the Inspector of stores, stating the course followed

Dated 11th December 1868

in the packing of stores in this country, and the measures which will be adopted to meet the wishes of your Government. For the reasons given in these papers, the proposals to insert clauses in the tenders of freight ships, as to the positions in which they should be moored, and the production of a certificate of careful stowage of stores, the ship-owners being bound in case of dispute by the decision of the Agent for Government consignments, appear inexpedient.

Copy of Report by the Director-General of Stores — (No , dated the 11th December 1868)

I HAVE carefully perused the annexed India Military letters, No 281 of 28th July 1868, and No 360 of 19th September last, together with India Marine letter, No 19 of 1st September last, and referred to this department by the Military Secretary on the 4th September, the 21st October, and the 7th October, respectively, upon the subject of the packing and examination of Government stores, their stowage on board-ship, and the mooring of freight vessels in the port of Calcutta

For convenience I have considered these letters together, and have also consulted the Inspector of stores upon the various proposals of the Government of India.

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nothing injured or differing from the description in the invoice is admitted. If dissatisfied with the appearance of any package, he will refuse to take delivery till it has been examined, and its condition reported on by a properly authorized Officer of the department.

4. The Committee are of opinion that if the stores are to be always examined and compared as they come out of the hold by a European subordinate, it will be necessary to entertain a permanent establishment of not less than three exclusively for the discharge of this duty, as occasionally several vessels are unloading simultaneously, and no subordinate entrusted with the task would be able to leave a ship while any portion of a consignment was still undelivered.

5. The Committee are further of opinion that it would be more convenient to have a Standing Committee, composed of one Superintending Engineer, and two Executive Engineers, to enquire into cases of articles being reported defective or inferior, instead of assembling a Special Committee on every occasion under the orders of the Chief Engineer. With these exceptions, the Committee consider the Draft Rules well adapted for the purpose intended.

Memorandum by Captain W R TUCKER, E., Executive Engineer, 1st Presidency Division, Public Works, on landing stores as at present in force in 1st Presidency Division, Public Works

When any stores are shipped in England for the Government of India, Public Works Department, two packing accounts are received, and the Agent for Government consignments informs us when the vessel arrives at Calcutta. Then an application is made for Custom House Pass, on getting which, Messrs Fraser and Co., the contractors for landing, are written to to land the stores. On taking the stores from off the ship, Messrs. Fraser and Co., give receipt to the Commander of the vessel. This receipt is written according to the number and state of the stores,

* The Stores Examination Standing Committee has only had to meet three times to report on damaged stores in the three years, October 1865 to October 1868.

Messrs Fraser and Co., take receipt from us when the stores are brought to the godown. In case the stores be found damaged* or short, the Standing Committee is called to inspect the

stores, when the Commander of the vessel, or its Agent, is also requested to attend the Committee. The damage, &c., is then written on the packing account, the value of which is afterwards realized from the Agent of the ship.

The packages, if found in good order, are not opened, but if any of them appear† in bad order, the packages are opened and examined. The Bi-monthly Return is obtained from the Government of India, or Bengal, and in some cases from the Superintendent of Roorkee Workshops.

There has been no complaint that any of the stores have been received in bad order after despatch from Calcutta to the indenting Officer.

A register accompanies the (deposited) showing the stores received, and their packing accounts, &c., since February 1868.

RESOLUTION—After a full consideration of this subject, His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is pleased to lay down the following Rules for strict observance in the landing and examination of stores received by the Public Works Department from England—

I—All the arrangements for landing stores received from England for the Public Works Department, and for their conveyance to the Departmental Store, will be made by that department.

II—On the arrival of a ship in which there is a consignment of stores for the Public Works Department, one or more European subordinates, or some other person or persons duly authorized, will, under the orders of the Executive Engineer of the Presidency Division, proceed on board to receive charge.

III—Every package and every loose article must be carefully examined and compared with invoice or packing account as it is brought up from the hold, and those which have any appearance of having been tampered with, or damaged, must be marked, and their state noted, in the presence of the ship's Officer.

IV—On the arrival at Departmental Store of packages marked as having been delivered in a defective state (see Rule III,) they must be immediately opened in the presence of an Officer of the Engineer Establishment and the ship's Captain, or some person deputed to attend on his behalf.

V—When loose articles are marked as having been damaged, or when the contents of packages that have not been marked as being in a defective state, are found, after being opened out on arrival at Departmental Store, to have been injured by saltwater, the Captain of the ship, or some person attending on his behalf, must, in like manner, be required to inspect such articles.

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With reference to the India letter No 281, I beg to state that I agree with the Inspector of stores that the rules which have been laid down by the Government of India for the examination of stores received from England, appear well calculated to obviate the losses which have of late been so frequently reported, and which were referred to in Lord Cranborne's Public Works Despatch No 29 of 15th February 1867.

With regard to the 5th paragraph of the India letter, and the 3rd paragraph of the Resolution of Government, No 196 of 7th July 1868, I have to observe—

I—That a list of contents is invariably placed in every case packed by this department. In future the number and date of the indent should be added to the list.

II—The stores intended for different departments are never shown on one packing account. Separate accounts are always sent for each department.

III—Machinery and iron work is invariably inspected, and put together before it is packed and shipped for India. Drawings are sent in every case in which they are requisite, and are generally despatched from this office by post through the department to which they refer, so as to anticipate the arrival of the stores in India. It is quite unnecessary in the large majority of cases to send out persons in charge of machinery or other iron work. It can only be required in very exceptional cases, and then it is always a matter of special arrangement, and the Government of the Presidency concerned is duly advised.

IV—The suggestions made by the Government of India for making cases, seem to have been made in ignorance of the course which has been pursued by this department for some years. I beg to refer to the Inspector of stores' report annexed on this subject,

and to suggest that the extract marked (in red*) be sent for the information of the Government of India, with the remark that the system in force appears in every respect to meet the requirements of the case, and that no alteration in the mode of marking and consigning Government Stores to India is called for.

V.—The Bi-monthly statements of stores under provision sent from this office are always corrected up to the latest possible date, so far as the actual shipment of stores are concerned, but it must be perfectly apparent that it is impossible to correct up to the date of despatch these voluminous and detailed returns, which are prepared for 33 separate departments in the three Presidencies, and some of which (Ordnance and Public Works for instance) each contain 40 to 80 pages of printed matter. They give general information up to the last day of every alternate month, but it is the practice to insert in the column of remarks any subsequent arrangements for shipping which may have been made up to the last date of going to press. Separate returns have been always sent for each department.

With regard to the Military letter No 360, in which it is suggested that a clause should be inserted in the agreements for the engagement of vessels conveying Government stores, obliging them to take up such position for landing as may be required by the Officers of Government at Calcutta, I am clearly of opinion that the introduction of any such stipulation would be very inexpedient. It would certainly have the effect of raising the rate of freights, if even ship-owners would consent to tender on such conditions. The two cases referred to in the India letter are clearly exceptional, and the Master Attendant in his letter No 606, states that as a rule "all requests of the Departmental Officers to have any vessels bringing out Government stores moored at a particular place to facilitate the landing of stores, are always, if possible, complied with," thus the proposed condition appears entirely unnecessary.

The proposals contained in Marine letter No 19, would also, in my opinion, greatly tend to raise the rates of freight.

It would be impossible for us to undertake the supervision of the stowage of Government stores without relieving the ship-owners of their present responsibilities, and without also interfering in the stowage of the general cargo, of which Government stores form but a part.

The existing freight conditions require the stowage of Government stores in certain positions, but under any circumstances hold the ship-owner responsible for damage. It would be necessary to appoint Officers to this department especially to superintend the stowage of our stores, and long experience has proved that the complaints of damage are very few compared with the immense quantities shipped,—certainly insufficient to justify an alteration in the existing arrangements.

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For the same reason (namely its inevitable tendency to raise freights,) I cannot recommend that the ship-owners should be bound to abide by the decision of the Agent of Government consignments in cases of dispute, moreover, it is perfectly impossible to suppose that one party would ever consent in cases of dispute to be bound by the decision of their opponent, which it would practically amount to

In arranging for the despatch of stores to India, this department has to consider the subject as a whole. It is admitted that there are many points (as in those which have been under review) upon which it would be very desirable if Government could exercise a greater control, but we have to weigh both sides of the question, and whilst seeking to secure, as far as possible, the rights and interest of the Government, to avoid the introduction of such conditions and arrangements in our dealing with contractors and ship-owners, as may tend to discourage free and open competition, or certainly to raise the rates at which we may obtain their services.

I would suggest that a copy of this memorandum and of the extract of the Inspector's report marked () on the subject of marking cases, be forwarded for the information of the Government of India

(Signed) H C BEDFORD,
for Director-General of Stores.

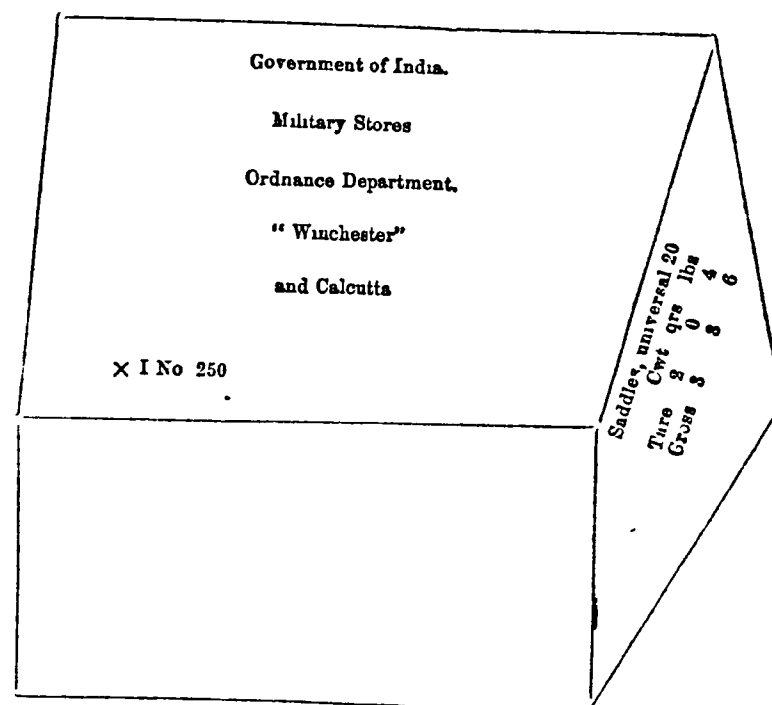
Extract report from the Inspector of Stores

With regard to the distinctive mark for Government stores proposed in paragraph 3 of the Resolution, it can only be supposed that they have been suggested by some one entirely unacquainted with the mode of marking in use by this department, which gives all the information that can possibly be required for guidance in the disposal of packages

The India Government mark I is impressed on each package together with the words "Government of India" in full, the nature of the stores, the department for which they are intended in full, the names of the stores, and in many cases the quantities together with the tare and gross weight of the package

The following is the mode of marking in use.—

These 4 items of address and number are cut into the wood of the case in order to guard against the possibility of miscarriage, should the stencilling become obliterated through ink or otherwise



The marking is printed on the package by stencilling. In addition thereto there is impressed on each package the India Government mark in paint, a distinct colour being adopted for each Presidency.

Red for Bengal
Blue for Madras
Yellow for Bombay.
Black for Ferozepore.

This mark is of such a large size as to be conspicuous at a considerable distance. I do not see how anything could well be clearer or better adapted to prevent mistake or confusion than the foregoing system, or what further marks could possibly be desired.

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There seems to be no good reason for reverting to the Old East India Company's mark, and the distinctive capital letters suggested by the India Government Resolution would evidently be entirely superfluous

ORDER.—Ordered that the foregoing be forwarded to all Local Governments and Administrations for information.

(Signed) G. CHESNEY,
For Secy. to the Govt of India.

No. 50. ORDER THEREON, 3rd July 1869, No 2,152.

ACCOUNT, No. 2.

COMMUNICATED to the General Superintendent of the Public Works Stores and Workshops in continuation of G. O, No 1,925, dated 14th June 1869.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R E,
Secretary to Government

To the General Superintendent of Public Works Stores and Workshops.

Ed E. C. Shunker.

1869

21

No 2152

1869

Communicated to the General Dept. of the Office of the
Chief Clerk in continuation of J. A. No. 1869

2 Mr. Genl. Dept. of the
Postoffice

Recd 6/17/69

13th July 1869

W. J.

Cue 2327

Govt. of 1869 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To
The General Superintendent
of Public Works & Works

Dated

25.11

Recd

G O 3rd July. 1869, No 2152

Nos. 49 - 50

Government Stores Pro. of the Govt
of India relative to the packing
and Examination of Govt. Stores
their storage on board ships and
landing in India. And other offrs
concerned.