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(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 348		Press
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672-73	27	
Dated	28	1 1870.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Jan 27

12

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
27th January 1870.*

No. 672. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department:—

Passing orders on the subject of the theft committed in the Grand Arsenal, and approving of the works proposed for the additional security of the building. (Here enter 12th January 1870, No. 81.)

No. 673. ORDER THEREON, 27th January 1870, No. 348.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 19.

COMMUNICATED to the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division, who will submit an estimate for the work referred to.

(True Extract.)

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

Read the following letters:—

No. 115. From the Acting Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, to the Officiating Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort Saint George, 24th November 1869, No. ^G250.

I have the honor to report, that on the 4th October 1869, two pistol locks and two old match locks, which were kept in the model room of the Grand Arsenal, were found missing, on the Armoury being opened,—and that again between 4 P. M., on Saturday, the 16th, and 8 A. M., on Monday, the 18th of October 1869, the Armoury of the Grand Arsenal was entered, and the articles specified in the margin* abstracted.

* 4 Muskets.
5 Pistols.
4 Musket locks.
1 Pistol lock.
2 Match locks.

2. Articles like match locks and muskets, it was considered, could not be conveyed out side the Arsenal or the gates of the fortress without detection, and the matter was communicated to the different guards, and every search was made for the deficient articles under European supervision but without success.

3. In the case of the second robbery reported above,—on the Armoury being opened on Monday morning the 18th ultimo, a chickledar (named Nursimloo employed in the Armoury whose duty it was, under the superintendence of the Conductor in charge, to close the shutters of the Armoury windows,) reported that he had found one of these open. This chickledar stated that he had closed the shutters on the previous Saturday,—but as the shutters could not easily have been opened from without, if they had been properly fastened, and there were no marks on the shutter to show that it had been tampered with,—and further, as this window is one of the only windows conveniently situated for access without any climbing or assistance from a ladder from its being close to a flight of steps leading up to the Armoury, the Commissary of Ordnance, then in charge of the Arsenal, was strongly of opinion that chickledar Nursimloo must have intentionally left the shutter open, and I coincide with him in this opinion.

4. A native's cloth was found in the Armoury when it was opened on the Monday morning, which belongs to chickledar Srenavassoo, and he states that he left it in the work-shop,—a portion of the Arsenal on the lower story,—and at a great distance from where it was found, which raises a strong suspicion against him.

5. It is difficult to understand how a man could have gained access to the east Arsenal-yard by day without being seen from the outside, and at night, there is an European guard in this yard, and the probability is, that the men remained in the Arsenal from Saturday evening by secreting themselves when the Arsenal was closed, and that they took the opportunity to effect the robbery between Sunday morning and Sunday evening, during which time, the European Artillery guard is withdrawn from the east-yard of the Arsenal.

6. It has been discovered that if any man or men had thus concealed themselves in the Arsenal, although they could not get out themselves, they could manage to pass out arms to accomplices outside in the road between the Arsenal and the Ramparts to the south.

7. A report of the robbery was immediately made to the Police, and every enquiry has been made to discover the thieves and the stolen property, but without success.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Military Department,
12th January 1870.*

8. Suspicion at one time fell on two peons of this Department, who sleep in the office at night, but the Police could make no case out against them, and after a careful inspection of these premises, I do not agree with the Commissary of Ordnance as to the complicity of any of the men in this office with the thieves, and am clearly of opinion that the peons had nothing to do with the robbery, and that the thieves were confined to men employed in the Arsenal only.

9. I have communicated with the Commissary of Ordnance in charge of the Grand Arsenal, and also with the Executive Engineer in the Fort, and approve of the measures suggested by the latter Officer, in his extract of orders appended marked B, and with the view to make the Arsenal and these premises secure, I request that the sanction of Government may be granted for the recommendations of the Executive Engineer being carried into effect.

10. I herewith beg to submit the report on this matter, which I have received from the Commissary of Ordnance, Grand Arsenal,* and with reference to paragraph 5 of the report, I have

* No. 2377, dated 20th November 1869.
Marked A.

informed the Commissary of Ordnance, Grand Arsenal, that he is not to take any steps as to the discharge of any of the chikledars, without first communicating with me on their cases.

11. Under the explanation afforded, I would solicit the permission of Government to be allowed to write off the deficient articles from the Grand Arsenal returns.

No. 116. From the Acting Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, to the Officiating Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort Saint George, 4th December 1869, No. ^G/₂₇₃.

In reply to your memorandum dated 25th November 1869, I have the honor to inform you, that I have ascertained from the Executive Engineer, Presidency, that the approximate cost for providing for the additional security of the Grand Arsenal, as proposed in my report No. ^G/₂₅₃, dated 24th idem, is Rupees 800.

No. 117. ORDER THEREON, 12th January 1870, No. 81.

The Governor in Council regrets to learn that the thefts reported in the earlier of the foregoing letters have been committed, and that the Ordnance Department and Police have failed to trace the thieves, although it seems clear that the employes of the Arsenal and perhaps those of the Inspector General's Office must have been implicated.

2. The Government direct that a more rigid surveillance be exercised in future over those whose duty it is to close doors and windows of the Arsenal.

3. The works proposed for the additional security of the building are approved and will be undertaken by the Department Public Works when funds are available.

Recd 28 Jan 70

1870 Dept
Govt. of 1870 Madras

1870
MILITARY.

To

THE INSPR. GENL. OF ORDNANCE AND
MAGAZINES.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated January, 12th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 12th January 1870, No. 81.

S.

JANUARY.

Nos. 115-117.

Passing orders on the subject of the theft
committed in the Grand Arsenal, and approving of
the works proposed for the additional security of
the building.

No 348-27 January 1870

with an order

348
No 248

713

Communicated to
the Superintendent
of the 4th Division, who
will submit an estimate
for the work required

Fort George }
27 January 1870

The Supd by 4th Division

Recd 28th Jan 70

Inc 186
Govt. of 1870 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Superintending Engineer
4th Division

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 27th January 1870. No. 348

Nos. 672-673

From General at Madras Per July
Sept relative to certain works
proposed for the additional
city of the Grand Canal at
Madras. And also the
work instructions