

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1490	Press
B.P. No. 66-62	Mis.
Dated 4-6-18	43

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 61. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Fort St. George, 13th May 1873, No. 13 :—

From C. A. BADHAM, Esq., Acting Manager of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R. E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation and Joint Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 5th May 1873, No. 100.

With reference to the Order of Government No. 877 of 20th March 1873, I have the honour to inform you that after considerable delay I have received from the General Superintendent of the Public Works Stores a list of the stores he proposes to purchase from our stock for his department. They consist of two drilling machines of the book value of Rupees 586-14-0 each, for which that officer offers Rupees 200 each; one planing machine of the book value of Rupees 768-14-0, for which he offers Rupees 100; and sundry small articles standing at Rupees 386-1-5, for which Rupees 284-9-3 is offered, the total book value of the articles set down for purchase being Rupees 2,328-1-8, and the amount offered Rupees 784-9-3. All the articles in question are in good condition.

2. I may mention incidentally that I do not feel myself at liberty to incur the responsibility of accepting or rejecting these prices, and that I have referred the offer to the Company's Manager and Chief Engineer.

3. Mr. Grainger's very meagre selection from our stock has disconcerted all my calculations and has sadly disappointed me.

4. In making my proposition to the Chief Engineer for the removal of the Office to Kurnool, I had calculated upon the Government taking a very large proportion—if not the whole—of the really useful articles, and if my expectations in this respect had been realized, it would have been a comparatively easy matter to deal with the balance of the stores.

5. But as the case stands, I find myself encumbered with a stock of stores which, after deducting those selected for Public Works Stores, amount in value to upwards of Rupees 63,000, the bulk, if not the whole, of which must be got rid of before the measure of removal can be attempted.

6. Now that the Public Works Stores have so nearly failed us, a sale by auction seems to be the only course open to us; but if adequate reserve rates are fixed, *i. e.*, with a due regard to the cost and value of the articles, very few, perhaps none, of them would be sold at an auction sale, and this chiefly because they are not suited for the general market. If, on the other hand, such rates are fixed (and I hesitate to incur the responsibility) as would be an inducement to the public to bid, and would afford a reasonable prospect of disposing of the articles, the loss would be very great, and many articles probably would remain unsold.

7. If again the sale were an unreserved one, the loss would be enormous. I doubt if the entire stock under this arrangement would realize the odd Rs. 3,000 of its value.

8. I am thus placed in a peculiarly awkward position. Some arrangement must be made about the stores before the removal to Kurnool can be accomplished, but if there be a sale, and it be carried out in the only way that seems to be available, there is almost a certainty of the property being sacrificed. I have stated

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th June 1873.*

the facts fully to the Company's Chief Engineer and Manager, and have asked him to relieve me from responsibility (which does not properly belong to me) in this difficulty by giving me definite instructions for my guidance, but whether the responsibility rest with that officer or with me, it is most undesirable that the property should be sacrificed.

9. It strikes me that the Government, seeing they are paying interest at 5 per cent. upon the capital invested in these stores, have almost as strong an interest as the Company in preventing a sacrifice of the property.

10. The Government, or one of the Guaranteed Railway Companies, only could properly utilize the stores we have to dispose of, the nature of them being such as to render them quite unsuitable for general requirements.

11. Is there any possibility of the Government being induced by very favourable terms of purchase to take over the entire stock?

SUBMITTED for the consideration of Government.

2. No report from the General Superintendent, Public Works Stores, has as yet been communicated, and I have therefore no information on the subject.

G.O., No. 877, 20th March 1873.

3. I have suggested to the Acting Manager that it might be well for him to communicate, directly with the Railway Companies, with respect to the stores suited to their workshops.

4. The District Engineers, Godavery and Kistna, will be asked whether they need any artificers' tools and small stores, etc.

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 62.

ORDER THEREON, 4th June 1873, No. 1,490.

IRRIGATION, No. 4.

THE Manager of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company will be informed that the Government have no intention

of taking over the stores of that Company apart from their entire property.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

„ Agent and Manager of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Madras, Irrigation and Canal Co.
Ch 100
Madras 5 May 1873.

From

The Secy Manager

M. J. C. C.

To

The Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

and Joint Secretary to Govt.

Madras.

Sir,

With reference to the Order of Government No. 877 of 20 March 1873. I have the honor to inform you that after considerable delay I have received from the General Superintendent of the Public Works Stores a list of the stores he proposes to purchase from our stock for his department. They consist of two Drilling Machines of the Book value of Rs 586-14 each, for which that Officer offers Rs 200 each, one Planing Machine of the Book value of Rs 768-14 for which he offers Rs 100 and sundry small articles amounting at Rs 386-11-5 for which Rs 224-9-3 is offered, the total Book value of the articles set down for purchase being Rs 2328-1-8 and the amount offered Rs 784-19-3. All the articles in question are in good condition.

I may mention incidentally that I must feel myself at liberty to incur the responsibility of accepting or rejecting these prices and that I have referred the offer to the Company's Manager and Chief Engineer. Mr. Gradiger's very meagre selection from our stock has disconcerted all my calculations and has sadly disappointed me.

In making my proposition to the Chief Engineer for the renewal of the Office to Kurnool I had calculated upon the Government taking a very large

proportion - if not the whole - of the really useful articles, and if my expectations in this respect had been realized it would have been a comparatively easy matter to deal with the Balance of the Stores.

But as the case stands I find myself encountered with a Stock of Stores, which, after deducting those selected for Public Works Stores, amount in value to upwards of £100,000, the bulk of not the whole of which must be got rid of before the measure of remoral can be attempted.

Now that the Public Works Stores have so nearly failed as a sale by auction seems to be the only course open to us, but if adequate reservations are fixed - i.e. with regard to the cost and value of the articles - very few, perhaps none, of them would be sold at an auction sale and this chiefly because they are not suited for the general market. If on the other hand such rates are fixed (and I hesitate to incur the responsibility) as would be an inducement to the public to bid and would afford a reasonable prospect of disposing of the articles the loss would be very great and many articles probably would remain unsold.

If again the sale were an unserved one the loss would be enormous. I doubt if the entire Stock under this arrangement would realise the odd £100,000 of its value.

I am thus placed in a peculiarly awkward position. Some arrangement must be made about the Stores before the remoral to Kermor can be accomplished but if there be a sale and it be carried out in the only way that seems to be available there is almost a certainty of the property being sacrificed. I have stated the facts fully to the Comptroller Chief Engineer and Manager and

and have asked him to relieve me from responsibility (which does not properly belong to me) in this difficulty by giving me definite instructions for my guidance, but whether the responsibility rest with that Officer or with me it is most undesirable that the property should be sacrificed.

It strikes me that the Government - seeing they are paying interest at 5 per cent upon the Capital invested in these Stores - have almost as strong an interest as the Company in preventing a sacrifice of the property.

The Government, or one of the Guaranteed Railway Companies, only could properly utilise the Stores we have to dispose of, the nature of them being such as to render them quite unsuitable for general requirements.

Is there any possibility of the Government being induced by very favorable terms of purchase to take over the entire stock?

I have the honor to be

Yours Most Obedt. Servant.

Edmund Selous

Sq. Manager

75

No. 13.

Enclosures
One letter N. 100
5 May 1873.

Submitted for the consideration of Government-

2 No report from the General

G.O. N. 877
20 March
1873.

Superintendent Public Works Stores has as yet been communicated, and I have therefore no information on the subject.

3 I have suggested to the Acting Manager that it might be well for him to communicate directly with the Railway Companies, with respect to the stores suited to their workshops-

4 The District Engineers Goddard and Hixson will be asked whether they need any Artificers' tools and small stores &c.

Fort Saint George
13th May 1873.

Wm. Mullins

Lieut. Col. R. B.

Chief Engineer for Artillery

To the Secretary to Government
P. W. D.

N. 100
76

The Chief Engineer
M. J. McC

The Chief Engineer for Artillery

Madras

Dated 5 May 1873
Dec 10th

States that immediately after the receipt of the N. 100

Stock of stores & requisites contain instructions on the subject for persons states within

P. N. 2058/1/2

P. O. 1873 Department

Office No 2958

The Chief Engineer
for Engineering

To the Secretary & General
must. P. W. B.

Date 13th May

Received 16th 1873

Enclosure one
No 13.

Submits for the con-
sideration of your
letter from the Acting
Manager Mr. S. W. C.

regarding the difficulty
experienced in the dis-
posal of the Machine

Stop of Store.

Yours faithfully
J. W. B.

No 1190 The Manager of the Machine & Navigation
Coastal Company will be informed that
the Govt have no intention of taking
over the stores of that Company apart
from their entire property - J. W. B.
A. L. B. & Co. 11/6/73
Agent & Manager in India
A. L. B. & Co. 11/6/73

A. L. B. & Co. 11/6/73

CP 2958
Govt. of Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To the Chief Eng. for
Irrigation

Dated

Recd.

14 June 1879, No. 1490.

Nos. 61162

Stores. The managers of
the M. S. Co. informed
that the Govt. have no
intention of taking
over the stores of that
Co. apart from their
entire property.