

(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.	281	Press
576, 577		Mis.
Dated	28.1.18	73

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23th January 1873.*

No. 576. Read the following letter from the District Engineer, Presidency :—
(Here enter No. 2,793, dated 9th January 1873.)

No. 577. ORDER THEREON, 28th January 1873, No. 281.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 39.

Mr. GRAINGER's memorandum sets forth that the entries of issues of petty stores, such as oil, nails, and tallow, made in the Stock Account book of the Government Workshop from April 1870 to December 1872, were fictitious.

That three gallons of lamp-oil per night would much more than suffice for the four lights used at the Public Works Stores, at which rate of allowance a deficiency of 55 gallons has accrued since April 1870.

That during four months a gallon of coco-nut oil in addition has been used, and five pollums of lamp-cotton charged for.

That a deficiency of 34 viss of 3-inch nails and 48 viss of 1½-inch nails was found in taking stock.

That from April 1870 to August 1871, 11 cwt. of rope lashing is entered as received and issued. Since which latter date no further receipts and issues have been recorded.

That five gallons of oil having been entered as the monthly issue up to March 1872, four gallons monthly has been the subsequent issue except in one month when eight gallons were issued.

That the issues of neat's-foot oil for the fire engine hose have been very irregular.

The responsibility for such deficiencies and irregular issues being imputed to Mr. Gray, the Storekeeper; the Deputy Storekeeper being also asked if he wished to offer any explanation regarding them.

2. Mr. Gray has entirely repudiated responsibility for any but the more valuable stores under the charge of the General Superintendent, and referred him to the Deputy Storekeeper for any explanation that might be required regarding minor stores; the indents and bills for which he states himself to have signed *pro forma* as submitted by another responsible Government servant. Mr. Gray does however in his 3rd and 4th paragraphs enter into a short general explanation of the deficiencies alleged, leaving full explanation to be given by his Deputy.

3. Solayappen Moodelliar, the Deputy Storekeeper, virtually admits that the entries of issues of oil were fictitious, by stating that although the size of the tins was, as he alleges, diminished by his instructions in April 1872, so as to permit of four gallons sufficing instead of five gallons, yet, being ignorant of such diminution having been effected till seven months afterwards, he continued to enter five gallons as being the usual monthly consumption. In November 1872 he confesses to having altered all the entries of issues of oil since April, and entered four gallons as a monthly average issue made up as follows, namely:—

For three lights at the Stores ...	2½ Gallons.
„ one light at Abercromby Battery...	1 „
Contingent allowance... ..	½ „
Total...	4 „

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
28th January 1873.*

4. But it is clear from Mr. Grainger's comparison of the tins said to have been altered with the unaltered tins of other lanterns that no alteration was ever made; from which it follows, by the admission of the sufficiency of four gallons now, that a monthly waste of one gallon has occurred for some years previous to April 1872.

5. The Deputy Storekeeper's explanation as regards the use of coco-nut oil from April to July 1870 is not controverted by Mr. Grainger. He has treated the charge of using an excessive quantity of lamp-cotton in an objectionable manner.

6. The entries of issues of nails are evidently arbitrary; the faint attempt at accounting for deficiency by issue of handfuls without weighing, being eminently unsatisfactory, although apparently concurred in by Mr. Gray. Both are accountable for the deficiency in stock, the one directly the other indirectly.

7. The explanation given as to the decreased use of rope lashings since August 1871, concurred in generally by Mr. Gray, is not sufficiently rebutted by Mr. Grainger, who refers only to cart ropes.

8. The explanation as to neat's-foot oil is not satisfactory as remarked by Mr. Grainger; as showing not only arbitrary entries of issues, but probable neglect of his orders that the fire engine ropes should be greased monthly.

9. The Deputy Storekeeper's general statement that want of time prevented his making entries in order of their dates might have been accepted had the issues been very frequent and numerous; but their number and recurrence are not such as to admit of this plea being considered valid.

10. His Excellency the Governor in Council is not prepared to re-open the question referred to in paragraph 3 of Mr. Grainger's letter, whether a charge of stealing timber preferred against the Deputy Storekeeper in February 1870 has been sufficiently inquired into. He has already intimated his opinion that Mr. Grainger's treatment of that case at the time was not judicious; as now appears to have been realized by that officer himself.

11. On the whole, it is evident that there has been much laxity in the management of the petty stores, for which Mr. Grainger, as Head of the department, cannot but be held to a certain extent responsible, more especially as in the case of the nails he set a bad example by allowing their issue for his own and others private use, without seeing that they were paid for.

12. Mr. Gray is still more directly responsible, and does not appear to have exercised any energetic control over his Deputy Storekeeper.

13. This last has kept his books irregularly. He was apparently taken in about the lamp tins being altered, the fact being that the night watchers reduced the quantity of oil without altering the tins as ordered; but there was a real saving of oil.

14. The Storekeeper and his Deputy will be relieved from suspension; and will make good the cost of the 24 gallons of oil acknowledged to have been wasted in the period under review; and of the nails deficient, less such as can be proved chargeable against Mr. Grainger and other private parties, their payments being in the proportion of their salaries, *i. e.*, Mr. Gray's three-fourths, and his Deputy's one-fourth.

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28th January 1873.*

15. The General Superintendent will report to the District Engineer the exact sums to be recovered, which will be duly accounted for, and he will satisfy himself in due course of time that the Storekeeper has instituted proper means of checking all issues for which he may be admitted not to be directly responsible. The Governor in Council trusts that this is the last occasion on which Mr. Gray will give occasion to his superior officer to complain of his disrespectful behaviour and language.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Presidency.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

3rd
Chepault 4th January 1873.

To

The General Superintendent
Public Works Stores &c

Sir

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your
memo under date the 17th instant, and in reply to
state that, for some years past, Solangeux Modellier
the Deputy Store-keeper has been entrusted with the
receipt, issue and custody of minor description of
stores, such as lamp oil, Coconut oil, nails &c
and I have accordingly intimated to him that it will
rest with him satisfactorily to explain the several
points which you desire to have cleared up. You
have now been at the head of the Store Dept.
for more than four years, and you are aware
that my time is more than fully occupied with
1st The care of the large quantities of expensives
and valuable stores which are at Chepault and
the Abercrombie Battery

2^d The out-door duties of the Store Department.

3^d The conduct and direction of the correspondence
& appertaining to both stores and workshops

4th The supervision &c of the Store Department
books and accounts. With their varied and onerous
duties to perform, it is simply impracticable for
me to exercise a minute check over the petty
stores, enumerated above, and this would really
seem to be superfluous, when it is borne in
mind, that a Deputy Storekeeper is attached
to the Department, whose duty (admitted by

him)

him) it is, and has been, to look after such stores. I hold myself as the principal Storekeeper personally responsible for the more valuable description of stores under your general charge, and although no stock has been taken of these stores since inspection by Mr Harrington Under Secretary to Govt. P & D in the year 1813. I am convinced that the results of another stock taking at the present time would not be otherwise than satisfactory. Having this in view, and looking to my public service extending over a period of 17 years, to the high opinions recorded of me by yourself and your predecessors, and to the numerous and heavy demands which are daily made upon my time, &c. during the exercise of a chief's own such petty stores as lamp oil, Coconut oil, lamp kien &c. impossible. I feel very deeply humiliated that, in the disposal of the subject connected with the discrepancies which have come under your notice, my name should have been linked with others my subordinates and expressions, such as "false" and "untruthful" employed with reference to all concerned, however remotely, without distinction or difference.

2. It is necessary for me to explain that the Indents and Bills for petty stores of the nature now under notice are signed by me pro forma, simply because they are submitted by another responsible Government servant.

when

when Bills for these stores are presented, they are always accompanied by the passed Indents, and as the receipt of the stores is invariably acknowledged by the Dy. Storekeeper, and I have never had any moral doubt as to the correctness of the charges made, my initials are attached to the bills before they are submitted to you.

3. With reference to rails I may just observe that the deficiency to which you allude may possibly be the result of issues being occasionally made to the Carpenter by handfull at a time rather than by strict weight. The lamp oil is issued for more than lighting the premises at night. First for greasing carts, sealing boxes, lighting the small stores rooms during storages &c. I beg to observe moreover that no allowance for wastage has been made for any of the articles alluded to in your memo.

4. As regards Rope lashing not being issued after August 1817, I beg to explain that the non-receipt and issue of this article, especially as for the Store Department is owing to some condemned and unserviceable Manila rope having been made up and used. Upon this and other points however the responsible man, the Dy. Storekeeper will no doubt give you full explanation.

I am

Sr

Your most Obedt Servt

Las. Gray

Storekeeper P & D

4th January/18

No 9942
Memorandum by the General Superintendent
P. W. Stores.

On Saturday morning the 13th instant, the night watch at the P. W. Stores reported to me that the lamp oil issued to them, the night previous would not burn, being bad, in consequence of which I examined the oil in the store and found some oil in half gallon measured of the same quality as that given to the night watch. I also examined and measured 1/5th five gallons of lamp oil, that were in a tin and three gallons of coconut oil in another tin both oils being of an inferior description and on Monday 16th instant I further examined the 3rd and 1 1/2th nails, Tallow and Linseed oil, both of which were bad and found that the balance of all these articles in the Stores to be

Lamp oil	Coconut oil	Nails 3 rd	Nails 1 1/2 th	Tallow	Linseed oil
Gallons	Gallons	Tins	Tins	Tins	Gallons
5	3	16 3/4	6	37	3 1/2

2 A Stock account book was shown me in which the receipts and issues of petty stores were entered from April 1870 to December 1872 and from the appearance of the writing of the entries in this book I am of opinion that they were not made day by day as the issues were far between the issues entries dated 12th and 15th November 1872 an issue dated the 9th is made and 1st January same year an

From

Wm. J. Long
Nautical Officer

Dated 4th 3 January 1873
Recd 6th 3 January 1873

Explanation regarding
the deficiency of
Stock in petty Stores

1973

3. The number of lamps burned each night has hitherto been 4. Each lamp tin holding exactly one dram when filled to the brim and as one light does not consume the whole of the dram of oil in one night we may safely allow one dram per light per night, as the average consumption and therefore for 4 lights for a month of 30 days 120 drams or 3 gallons of oil should be the maximum consumption. By the watchmen at the Mint premises, 1 gallon of oil per month for 2 lights of the same size, is consumed this would give 2 gallons as the consumption for the 4 lights belonging to the P & T Stores. However we will allow the 3 gallons as calculated above to be the correct consumption whilst for years back the average quantity of oil indented for on S. Minto sawing the supplies and

4. There are other objectionable items entered as
incres to the "Night batch" which appear to me to be
false for in addition to the 5 Gallons of oil said to
be issued I find that during the months of April
May June and July 1870, 1 Gallon of Coconut oil
has been issued each month as also the 5 pottions
of Lamp Cotton charged to that head.

6. Under the head Rope lashing from April 1870 to August 1871, being 17 months no less than 11 Act of Rope lashing is entered as being received and issued after which date no further receipts and issues are recorded. If these recorded receipts and issues are bona-fide and as the recorded receipts of the same rope lashing extends to some years previous to April 1870.

Wing

why did the necessity for its use cease after August 1871?

7. If a necessity for the issue of 8 gallons of Lamp oil per mensem issued up to March 1872 why did 4 gallons per mensem (except September last during which month 8 gallons are recorded as being issued) suffice from that date?

8. Under the heading Kents foot oil recorded as issued for the fire engine hose why are no issues recorded for some months consecutively whilst for others entries for 2 and 3 gallons are recorded?

9. As the Store-keeper is responsible for the correctness of the bills presented for payment and has admitted such by signing the bills and Indents relative to the above articles. Mr Gray the Store-keeper P & S Stores is requested to give early explanation on the above paras of the memo.

10. C. Solayappa Broodellian the Dy Store-keeper P & S Stores is also requested to give early such explanation as he may wish to make on the above.

P & S Stores
Chepauk
19th Dec 1872

Signed J. H. Granger
Genl Supt P & S Stores

Copy to Mr J. Gray Storekeeper P & S Stores
Do to C. Solayappa Broodellian Dy Storekeeper P & S Stores

[True Copy] J. H. Granger
Genl Supt P & S Stores

Depart
May 1873

Independent
Stores 8.

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of Mr Gray, the Storekeeper,
and C. Solayappa Broodellian
Deputy Storekeeper, to
that memorandum.

Mr Gray in his reply
puts the responsibility on
the Deputy Storekeeper
whose explanations give
but half the truth in some
cases, and in others, I have
reason to believe, are untrue.

Para

No 994 1/2

17/7/73

July did
August 1873

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P. H. Storey

Chepauk 2

19th Dec 1872

Copy to Mr. J. Gray Storekeeper P. H. Stores
Do to C. Solayappa Deputy Storekeeper P. H. Stores

True Copy
J. H. Granger
Genl Sup^r P. H. Stores &c

Public Works Store Department

Chepauk 7th January 1873

To
From

The General Superintendent
Public Works Stores &c

The District Engineer
Presidency

Sir

I have the honor
to forward for disposal, a
copy of Memorandum No.
994 1/2 of 19th December 1872,
by order, relative to deficiencies
in the Petty Stores of Public
Works Store Department,
and inconspicuous of the
recorded receipts and issues
of same, and also the copies
of Mr. Gray, the Storekeeper,
and C. Solayappa Deputy
Deputy Storekeeper, to
that Memorandum.

Mr. Gray in his reply
puts the responsibility on
the Deputy Storekeeper
whose explanations give
but half the truth in some
cases, and in others, I have
reason to believe, are untrue.

Para

Enclosures Three

2. Para 2 of his letter shows how the bad oil came to be issued on the evening of the 12th ultimo, but from inquiries I have made of the Night-watchmen I believe that oil of inferior description has generally been received into the stores.

3. Had such complaints been made I have reason to believe they would have been suppressed and that the Lascars and Peonies entertained Malice against Solayappa is a report I have heard only from himself and Mr Gray, however, such Malice is not sufficient cause has been given by oppression and injustice rendered to the two peons and Lascars, who preferred a charge of stealing timber planks / the property of the Workshop / against Solayappa Mood? on 19th February 1870. When this charge was preferred I made what I thought full enquiry into the

* No 2725 dated
14th Nov. 1870

matter, Mr Gray being interpreter, and from the information thus obtained I came to the conclusion that it was a false charge. I then dismissed the two peons and Lascars who preferred the charge, but had to reinstate them by Order of Govt. a copy of which is enclosed. I still held the opinion that the charge was false, and as reports were continually made to me verbally and otherwise by Mr Gray and Solayappa I regarded the men as idle and mischievous, and when Mr Gray reported their absence during Pongul Feast 1872. an allowable, though irregular proceeding, the Daffadar was ordered; Peon Perugali fined, and Lascar Moosiamony was dismissed shortly afterwards. Since then, I have from information received been obliged to alter my opinion and come to the conclusion that the charge is true, and

and that these men have been oppressed in the above manner; and I therefore request that if possible a full enquiry should be again made into the charge of stealing preferred against Solayappa Mood: and against Mr Gray, for making untruthful statements relative to that charge, by which Solayappa was acquitted.

4. The alteration of the Lamp time as recorded in para 4 is as not known to Solayappa until 7 months after he says it was done by his order whilst the Pears and Lascaris that have been engaged in the night watch, state, that to their knowledge, the Lamp time have never been altered. I have compared the time of the lanterns alleged to have been altered, with a new lantern received in October last, and with the lantern time at the

Battery and with the two lanterns in use at the Mint and I find they all agree, i.e. 40 to one gallon, viz para 8 of my Memo. of 19th ultimo; and further, during the 14 nights from 20th of December last to the morning of 4th instant but 6 bottles, or 1 gallon of oil has been used by the night watch at the Public Works Store, for three nights and therefore the consumption for 14 nights, at this rate, for 30 days would be 2 gallons and 8 bottles, i.e. one bottle less than three gallons which agrees with para 8 of the Memo. The night watch have I believe made away with oil saved by not keeping the lights in all night, not the Deputy Storekeeper. Does not trouble himself to enquire into the matter or make any report on it, but as he says, simply ordered the time to be cut down which resulted in only 4 gallons of oil per

Memorandum

My father is the
not at all but I
got about 2 1/2
pounds

measures being expended,
however, as I think that
sufficient evidence had
been given above to the
effect that the true have
not been altered the follow-
ing is sufficient in my
mind to account for
reduced expenditure
since April last. Of the
allocations made to the
Store Department for the
year ending March 1872,
some Rs 480 remained
unexpended, and would
have elapsed as unexpended
balance, but Mr Gray
with his consulting me
on the subject, made
indent on Supplier to
draw on account for petty
stores for nearly the
amount of the above
balance. When the bill
was presented for payment
Mr Gray wished to meet
it from above balance,
I objected and ordered
it to be met from current
year's allotment, at the
same time observing

that the quantity of stores
thus purchased should last
for some time, and that
Indents would not be made
on the Supplier until they
were expended.

5. If the lanterns, re-
cited in para 8 of Deputy
Storekeeper's letter is being
used, were ever employed,
it shows great wastefulness
on the part of the Deputy
Storekeeper to have used
such lights, and as I have
made enquiries of the
Pions and Lassarons to
whether their Government Bill
had ever been issued to
them and they deny that
it ever was given them, I
consider the Deputy Store-
keeper's explanation on this
item as unsatisfactory.

6. The remark in para 9,
"that without cotton lamps
cannot be burnt," is inso-
lent, — 8 pollums of lamp
cottons sent only have been
used, not 8 pollums as recorded.
7. If the stails deficient
paras 10 and 11 were issued

on any order either written
or verbal it was clearly the
duty of the Deputy Storekeeper
to make an entry
of such in the issue book
especially when such de-
ficiency on account of nails
issued to me and other
gentlemen, as stated in para
11, amounted to 82 lbs. or
26 lbs., and from the time of
that para, I take it, that
it is meant that I wished
to defraud the Government
in that account. I deny
such an accusation. Workshop
Bill No 9 of 1871 for Rupees 8/- on
Colonel Orr for 2 packing cases
and 1 tin box and Bill No 471
for Rupees 1/3/- for altering
several packing boxes, on
Colonel Farquhar's account
must show the statement
as far as it relates to these
Officers is untrue, and as
regards myself, the packing
cases made for me are or
should be now in the store
and an examination of
them will show the quan-
tity of nails used on them.

12
The quantity used on the cases
above recorded could not
amount to more than
about 10 lbs. leaving about
246 lbs. unaccounted for.
Even if it is for information
I have arrived to the effect
that nails were taken from
the Public Works stores by
Solayappa in order to his house
on several occasions during
the time he was building
his house in Triplicane.
This information was given
me by two of the Petitioners
concerned in the case. On one
occasion the person asked
where nails they were Solayappa
replied that they were given
him by Mootoojee of the
Supplier. a similar reply
was given on another occasion
when another Petitioner observed
Dungaree cloths at Solayappa's
house. The same kind of cloths
is in use for troops in the store
8. Since August 1871 (para 12)
52 Ropes have been made
by the Strand some of which
are now in the store but pre-
vious to that time the
average

average quantity of rope
recorded as issued each
month was about 1 Cwt.
and as each rope weighed
about 5 lbs this gave 22 ropes
issued per month which
would be an average of 3
ropes per man each to each
cart, but the Lascaris and
the Derang say that one
rope would last from 3 to
6 months for each cart,
a more consistent state-
ment than that recorded
in the Petty Store Account.

9. The explanation of the
issues of Keatsfoot Oil are
not satisfactory. an order
was given by me, verbally,
that the horse belonging to
the Fire Engine should be
greased every month, but
since April 1870 up to present
time being 33 months but
7 issues are recorded, at one
time 1 1/2 gallon sufficed, at
another 2 gallons are
required and at another
3 gallons are recorded,
as being issued for the
same work each time.

10. The irregular manner
in which the entries are
made (para 14) to have been
made in the Petty Store
account is attributed (in
para 14 and 15) to over-
work on the part of
Solayappa, the Deputy
Storekeeper. That he is
overworked is incorrect,
on an average about two
or three incidents daily are
made on the Public Works
Stores. These incidents are
priced by the Assistant
Deputy Storekeeper (brother
to Solayappa). the record
of such is kept by another
writer. An Accountant attends
to the adjustment of same
either by transfer of in-
crease of payment or Book
adjustment, leaving but
the record of receipts and
issues to be kept by the Deputy
Storekeeper. There are of
course other petty records
that are necessary for him
to keep but the whole put
together are not so onerous
as represented and I am
therefore

therefore of opinion that
the careless manner in
which the Petty Stores
Account has been kept
was intentional, and
not the result of overwork.

11. The remainder of
the Deputy Storekeeper's
letter and nearly the
whole of Mr Gray's letter
are upon the bitterest
high opinions entertained
of them by my predecessors
and myself of which I
am fully aware and
regret having been obliged
to change that opinion
although Mr Gray has
stated he had no respon-
sibility in the keeping
of the Petty Stores, and the
assumption of the respon-
sibility as stated by the
Deputy Storekeeper. Had
this been the case, how-
ever Mr Gray on the morning
of the 26th ultimo (my
memo having been sent
to him the previous evening)
when I went to the Store
(to take account of the

135
Dungaree cloth then in
store) make to me the
remarks insolent in tone
and manner that he did
say that I "had been listening
to Bazaar reports about this
petty business, which did
not amount to fifty or sixty
pieces, however I am quite
prepared to go to the wall
in this petty business." he
then left the store room
although I had taken him
with me to measure the
Dungaree, I sent for him
to come and see it measured
he came, and whilst I was
measuring it he told
me in an insolent tone
to "measure it fairly."

I have the honor to be
Sir

Yours obedient servant.

J. H. Mair
Grocer & Provision Merchant

151
See
of me
My dear Mr. Johnson

I would thank
you to let us have
the original letter
from the Genl. Sup^t
of Stores N^o 1009
dated 7 Jan^y 1873
forwarded with
the Off^r N^o 2793
dated 9 Jan^y 1873.

Mr. Johnson
1220 1/2 St. N.W.

To enable the District
Eng. to dispose of
certain petitions
received from Govt.
I shall return the
letter when no longer
useful
Yrs. & smil
James
26

N^o 2793.

From.

Lieut Colonel J. Goddard R.E.
District Engineer
Presidency.

To. Colonel G. W. Walker R.E.
Chief Engineer &
Secretary to Govt
P.W.D.

Sir,

I have the honor herewith
to submit an original letter dated
the 7th Instant from the General
Superintendent of the Public
Works Stores, enclosing a Memo
random relative to deficiencies
in the petty stores of the P.W.D.
and in correctness of the recorded
receipts and issues of the same,
and also the replies of the
Storekeepers.

Encl. 4.

1. Letter

1 Memo.

2. Replies from

Storekeepers

Storekeeper and Deputy Storekeeper to that memorandum.

2. I personally inspected the recorded receipts and issues, and consider that they do not exhibit a correct statement of facts or in other words they are false.

3. Mr Gray the Storekeeper has hardly attempted any direct defence, and Sohappah Modelly the Deputy Storekeeper has failed to satisfy me of the truthfulness of his Accounts. - I consider both replies most unsatisfactory, and Mr Gray was personally insolent and the Deputy Storekeeper offers an impertinent remark in para 9 of his letter toward Mr Grainger his immediate superior officer. -

The

4. The latter part of para
4 of Mr Fraingers' letter tends
to impress the mind unfavorably
in Mr. Gray's case. -

5. I am also of opinion that full enquiry should be made into the case referred to in para 3 of Mr Grainger's letter viz, the charge of stealing preferred against Sohappah Modelly, and against Mr Gray for making untruthful statements relative to that charge by which Sohappah Modelly was acquitted.

5. Both men have been suspended by me pending further orders from you. - I have the honor to

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedient servant
Joseph St. John

Fort St George

A. J. Davis

President

Public Works Department
No 281

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Read the following

From The District Engineer
Presidency.

W.E. No 2793 of 9th Jan 1873

Mr. Grangers
Memorandum sets forth
that the entries of issues
of petty stores such as
oil, nails, and Tallow
made in the Stock Account
Book of the Government
workshop from April
1870 to December 1872
were fictitious.
That 3 Gallons
of Lamp Oil per night
would much more than
suffice for the 4 lights

I have carefully read all the
papers and the impression
I have received is that there
is much laxity in the manage-
ment of the petty store Dept.
In the existence of this state of
things Mr. Granger as head of
the Dept. cannot be entirely
acquitted. However he has
in the case of the Nails at
least exculpated himself. So
far as I can judge Nails have
been issued for his own private
use which have not

42576

From
The District Engineer
Presidency
To The Chief Engineer
Public Works
Dated 9 January
1873
C No 2793 of 9th Jan 1873
Subject a report
from the General
Agent of the Public
Works Department
concerning the
issue of petty stores
from the Government
workshop from April
1870 to December 1872

used at the Public Works

Stores; at which rate of

allowance a deficiency of 35 Gallons has accrued since April 1870.

That during 4

months a Gallon of Coccol

Oil in addition

has been used, and 5

gallons of Lamp Oil

charged for. That a

deficiency of 34 Vls of

3 inch nails, and 128

Vls of 1 1/2 inch nails was

found in taking stock.

That from April 1870 to August 1871, -

11 Cwt of Rope casting

is entered as received and

issued. Since which latter

date

M. Gray is more directly responsible & does not appear to have exercised any oversight. Entered was his deputy Storekeeper.

This last Storekeeper Moody

has kept his books irregularly

and has taken in, apparently about

the lamp tins being altered

& made a reduction in entries

as the tins had been altered

the fact being that the night

watchmen altered the quantity

they used without altering

the tins as entered - but there was

a great saving in oil consumed.

There is no evidence of actual

theft as entered - but there was

a Storekeeper - the latter

it puts to visit Storekeeper with a heavy punishment as demerit. I would make Gray & Storekeeper bear the loss of stock due to their carelessness. -

I have carefully examined the amount of the wood theft.

I think the charge of theft was malicious though not held to be

such, technically, by the Magistrate. I do not believe

that there was any intention

in the part of Storekeeper to steal wood in the open

day. - & any further enquiry into the matter

would be absurd - the matter is sufficiently

settled for the moment. All

date no further receipts and issues have been recorded.

That 5 Gallons

of oil having been entered

as the monthly issue up

to March 1872, 4 Gallons

monthly has been the

subsequent issue except in

one month when 8 Gallons

were issued.

That the issues

of meat oil for the

Fire Engine Horse have

been very irregular.

The responsibility

for such deficiencies

and irregular issues

being imputed to Mr.

Gray the Storekeeper,

The Deputy Storekeeper
being also asked if he
wished to offer any explana-
tion regarding them.

Mr. Gray has
entirely repudiated res-
ponsibility for any but

the more valuable stores
under the charge of the

General Superintendent,
and referred him to the

Deputy Storekeeper for any
explanation that might
be required regarding

minor stores; the receipt
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Servant. Mr. Gray

does however in his 3^d
and 4th paras enter

into a short general
explanation of the de-
ficiencies alleged, leav-

ing full explanation
to be given by his Deputy

Sole Agent Mr. Woodell
the Deputy Storekeeper

virtually admits that
the entries of issues of

oil were fictitious, by
stating that although

the size of the Tank was
as he alleges diminished

by his instructions in
April 1872, so as to

permit of 4 Gallons
sufficing instead of 5

...

The Gallons used, being ignorant
but of such diminution has
not been effected till after
two months afterwards we
continued to enter 5 Gallons
as being the usual monthly
consumption. In November
the ~~entry~~ was altered all the entries of
~~Gallons~~ oil since April
are entered 4 Gallons.
As a monthly average
expense made follows vizt
be For lights at the Store 2½ Gallons.
Merchandise }
Battery } 1 — —
Contingent allowance — ½ — —
Total 4 Gallons.

For 3 lights at the Stores $2\frac{1}{2}$ Gallons.
 ———— Abercromby } 1 — —
 ———— Battery }
 Contingent allowance — $\frac{1}{2}$ — —
 Total 4 Gallons.

But it is clear from
Mr. Grainger's comparison
of the two

21
unattended of other con-
teries that no altera-
tion was ever made; from
which it follows, by
the admission
of the sufficiency of 4
Gallons now, that he
~~consumed at, or profited~~
by a monthly waste
of one ^{has happened} gallon for some
years previous to
April 1872.

The ~~of~~ ^{the} ~~Stocks~~ ^{of} explanation
as regards the use of
Cocunut Oil from April
to July 1870 is not con-
troverted by Mr. Grainger.
He has treated the
charge of using an

1. Large Cotton in un-
accountable manner.

2. The entries of
issues of Nails are evi-
dently arbitrary; the
a faint attempt at account-
ing for deficiency by
issues of handful without
weighing, being eminently
unsatisfactory, although
a apparently concurred in
by Mr Gray. Both are
accountable for the deficien-
cy in stock, the one
directly the other indirectly.

3. The explanation
is given as to the decreased
use of Rope lashings since
August 1871, concurred
in generally by Mr Gray.

is not sufficiently rebutted
by Mr Grainger; who
refers only to East
ropes.

The explanation
as to meat foot oil
is not satisfactory as
remarked by Mr
Grainger; as showing
not only arbitrary
entries of issues; but
probable neglect of
his orders that the Fire
Engine Ropes should
be greased monthly.

The Deputy Store-
keeper's general state-
ment that want of
prevented his
keeping entries in
order

order of their dates might
have been accepted had
the issues been very fre-
quent and numerous;
but their number and
recurrence are not such
as to admit of this
plea being considered
valid.

His Excellency
the Governor in Council
is not prepared to re-
open the question referred
to in para 3 of Mr
Grainger's letter, whether
a charge of stealing
timber preferred against
the Deputy Storekeeper
in February 1870 has been
sufficiently enquired into. He
has

W
has already intimated
his opinion that Mr
Grainger's treatment of
that case at the time
was not judicious; as
now appears to have
been realized by that
Officer himself.

On the whole,
it is evident that there
has been much laxity
in the management
of the Petty Stores, for
which Mr. Grainger,
as head of the Depart-
ment, cannot but be
held to a certain extent
responsible, more espe-
cially as in the case
of the Waile he set a

bad example by allowing
their issue for his own
and others' private use,
without seeing that they
were paid for.

Mr. Gray is still
more directly responsible,
and does not appear to
have exercised any ener-
getic control over his
Deputy Storekeeper.

This last has
kept his books irregularly.
He was apparently taken
in about the lamp tins
being altered, the fact
being that the night watch-
men reduced the quantity
of oil without altering the
tins as ordered; but there
was

was a real saving of
oil.

The Storekeeper
and his Deputy will
be relieved from respon-
sion; and will make
good the cost of the 24
Gallons of Oil acknow-
ledged to have been
wasted in the periods
under review; and
of the Nails deficient,
left such as can be
proved chargeable
against Mr. Grainger
and other private par-
ties. Their payments
being the proportion of
their Salaries i.e. Mr
Gray's three fourths, and

his Deputy's one fourth.

The General

Superintendent will

report to the District En-

gineer the exact sum

to be recovered, which

will be duly accounted

for - and he will satisfy

himself in due course

of time, that the Stockkeeper

has instituted proper

means of checking all

issues for which he may

be admitted not to be

directly responsible. The

Governor in Council

trusts that this is the

last occasion on which

Mr. Gray will give occa-

sion to his Superior

Officers

Officers

25
Officer to complain of
his disrespectful
behaviour and language.
G.M.W.

24
To
Dr. Lagimodiere
" Controller

Decr 29/1/73

Handwritten text in the top left corner, possibly a title or header, written in a cursive script.

23/1/72

Handwritten text at the bottom center, possibly a signature or date.

C. 82 172



Govt. of 1873 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To the District Engineer
Presidency

Dated

Recd.

Encl. 4

G. O. 29th Aug 1873. No. 287.

No. 576 & 577

Accepted by: Storekeeper

Passing orders on the
subject of the charges
brought against the
Storekeeper & Deputy
Storekeeper, P. W. Store
Department.