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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	967	(W)	Press
B.P. No.			Mis.
Dated	11-4-		18 76.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th April 1876.*

No. 223. Read the following letter from Captain L. CONWAY-GORDON, R.E., Examiner of Public Works Accounts, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Fort St. George, 3rd April 1876, No. 2 W. :—

I HAVE the honor to call the attention of the Madras Government to the accompanying extract from one of the local newspapers with regard to a newly invented 'type-writing' machine, and with reference thereto, to inquire whether the Government has any idea of trying one or two of these machines with the object of introducing them into the Government Offices.

2. The newspaper, from which I cut the enclosed extract, does not at present appear to be an agency for the sale of these machines. I have moreover seen statements to much the same effect in some of the most respectable English newspapers. I think therefore I may assume that the account given in the extract is, in the main, a faithful description of the machine.

3. It can print about twice as fast as a man can write. Its price is £21. Taking the ordinary salary of a fair writer to be about Rupees 20 to Rupees 30 per mensem, or Rupees 240 to Rupees 360 per annum, it is evident that the cost of each machine would be about repaid in a year's working, without taking into consideration the time that would be saved by Government were all correspondence with Government to be conducted in type.

4. Should Government have any idea of trying these machines, it would indeed be a work in which I should take more than ordinary interest were Government to permit me to place myself in communication with the makers; to get out two or three machines adapted for quarter and half margin foolscap; to train myself and a few intelligent hands to work these machines; to keep accurate accounts of the time and labor spent upon them, and, after six or eight months' trial, to place before Government the economic results of the experiment.

5. If it pays Messrs. H. King and Co. to use these machines in their commercial correspondence, it certainly ought to pay Government if used for official communications, which are, as a rule, longer than those which leave a Merchant's office.

No. 224. ORDER THEREON, 11th April 1876, No. 967.

ACCOUNT, No. 14.

THE Government approve of the suggestion made by Captain Conway-Gordon who will communicate direct with the English makers.

(True Extract.)

Colonel,

Offg. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Examiner of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. J. Wright.
Spare Copies

Public Works Dept. ³⁰

Letter from the Examiner of Public Works
Accounts No. 2 W of 5th April 1876.

Submitted for
orders.

I think we might
be in the agreement - *Walker Major Genl R.E.*
The thing is expected
& turned out
after coming from
to come & direct with
the machine instead
of going the long
way - *W*

Secretary to Govt. P.W.D.

THE "TYPE WRITER" MACHINE.

This recently invented machine threatens when better known, and more largely utilised, to create in the world of writers a somewhat similar revolution to that created in the world of sempstresses by the invention of the sewing machine. The instrument is mounted on stand like a sewing-machine, which it also resembles in size, as it occupies about a cubic foot of space. In front at its base is a small key-board, with one key for each letter of the alphabet, the numerals, and stops, &c. the depression of which causes a corresponding sign to be registered; and immediately the key is released the paper with its printed sign is automatically shifted the required distance to receive the impress of the next letter. At the end of a word a key designed for the purpose spaces the requisite distance. In this manner a line is printed off. When its end is reached the machine strikes a bell as a warning to the operator, who immediately presses a treadle with the foot whereby the paper is sharply brought back to its original position: the paper is likewise moved upward a certain distance, by the same action, to prepare for a new line. The manner in which the type works may be thus briefly detailed. Each key is attached to an arm running upwards through the middle of the instrument, and all the arms are arranged in a circle. To the upper portion of each arm a smaller one is levered bearing at the end a letter corresponding to its particular key. When the keys are not depressed these smaller arms hang down: and the depression of the keys causes the letters to strike the centre of the circle; hence care is necessary, not to depress two keys at once for the corresponding letters, unable to occupy the same position at the same time, would then become locked. A ribbon saturated with a special kind of copying ink is immediately in front of the letter paper which is strained round an India rubber roller, and the sharp blow of the type against the ribbon and paper causes an impression capable of being copied into letter books. The operator when accustomed to the

4 Annas each.
GILLOTTS STEEL PENS,
Fine and medium.
Rupees 1-4, 1-8 and 1-12 box.
GILLOTTS MAGNUM BONUS PENS,
Rupees 1-0 box.
MITCHELL'S J. STEEL PENS,
Rupees 1-12 box.
PICKWICK OWL AND WAVELEY PENS,
12 Annas box.
TRAVELLING SPRING INKSTANDS,
Rupees 1-4, 1-12, 3-8 each.
PERPETUAL INKSTANDS,
Requiring water only.
8 Annas and Rupees 1-12 each.
FEWTER, GLASS, PORCELAIN, AND
BRONZE INKSTANDS,
8, Annas Rupees 1, 1-8, 3-4, 4-8, 6-8, 8-8, 10-8 to
16 each.
WRITING INKS,
Violet, 8 Annas bottle.
Blue, Annas 6, 12 and Rupee 1.
Red, 6 and 12 Annas.
Copying, Rupees 2-4.
Blue black, 6 and 12 Annas.
DICTIONARY BLOTTING PORTFOLIOS,
Rupees 1 and 2-4.
LEATHER BLOTTING PORTFOLIOS,
Rupees 3 and 4 each.
OAKES & COMPANY.

[Or. Wks. Form No. 2]

No. 2 W.

FROM
THE CONTROLLER,
PUBLIC WORKS ACCOUNTS,

To
The Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department,
FORT SAINT GEORGE, 3rd April 1874

Sir,

I have the honor to call the attention of the Madras Government to the accompanying Extract from one of the Local Newspapers with regard to a newly invented "Type-writing" machine, and with reference thereto, to inquire whether the Government has any idea of trying one or two of these machines with the object of introducing them into the Government Offices..

2. The newspaper, from which I sent the enclosed extract, does not at present appear to be an Agency for the sale of these machines. I have moreover seen statements to much the same effect in some of the most

respectable English Newspapers. I think there-
fore I may assume that the account given in
the extract is, in the main, a faithful descrip-
-tion of the machine.

3. It can print about twice as fast as
a man can write. Its price is £21. Taking the
ordinary salary of a fair writer to be about
Rs 20 to Rs 30 per mensem or Rs 240 to Rs
360 per annum, it is evident that the cost
of each machine would be about repaid in
a year's working without taking into con-
-sideration the time that would be saved
by Government over all correspondence
with Government to be conducted in type.

4. Should Government have any idea
of trying these Machines, it would indeed be
a work in which I should take more than
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-mit me to place myself in communica-
-tion with the makers; to get out two or
three machines adapted for quarter and
half margin foolscap; to train myself and
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Must get them
from the
makers of the
machine
according
to the
Rules.

machines; to keep accurate accounts of the time
and labor spent upon them, and after six
or eight months trial, to place before
Government the economic results of the
experiment.

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use these machines in their commercial
correspondence, it certainly ought to pay
Government if used for official com-
-munications, which are, as a rule, longer
than those which leave a Merchant's Office with

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Yours most Obedt Servt
Lowrey-Jordon.
Examines, P.W. Accounts.

At
3/4.

G.W. 1876. Dept
From No: 244
The Examiner

P.W. Accounts
of
The Secretary to Government
P.W. Department

No 244
Dated 3 April 1876
Recd 4 April 1876

E.1.

Inquires whether
Govt has any idea of
trying out or two of the
newly invented Type
Writing Machine with
the object of introducing
them into Government
offices

No 223

Ans 4-4-76

18967
Public Works Department.
PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 11th April 1876.
Read the following:—

From
The Examiner of P.W. Accounts (H.R. No. 244 of 3 April 1876)

The Government ap-
proves of the suggestion
made by Captain
Conway Gordon who will
communicate direct with
the English makers.

Examiner, P.W. Dept
Dated 28/4/76
PCH

2441

Govt. of 1870 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
The Engineer of P. W. & C.

Dated
Issued
Recd. Encl.

G. O. No. 967
11th April 1870

No. 223-224

29-1-76

Type Writing Machine

Approving of the
suggestion made by
Capt Conroy Gordon
for obtaining communications
with the English makers
for obtaining ———
with the object of introducing
them into the P. W. & C.