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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No. 1256 - W   Press. / Mis.

Dated 17. 5. 1881 ~~197~~.

or in

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1256/1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

17th May 1881, No. 1,256 W.

General.
Account.

Read the following papers :—

No. 27. Endorsement of the Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 15th April 1881, No. 1,048.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th March 1881, Mis. No. 3,213.

From H. W. BLISS, Esq., Commissioner of Salt Revenue, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 8th March 1881, No. 2,127.

I HAVE the honor to report the following circumstances for the consideration and orders of the Board.

2. In 1878, after ascertaining the prices of the articles from the General Superintendent of Public Works Workshops, I applied for and obtained the permission of the Board to order the construction there of the following weighing machines :—

Board's Proceedings, No. 2,676, dated 30th September 1878.
Board's Proceedings, No. 3,332, dated 12th December 1878.

60 Grainger's pan machines at Rs. 155 each.
50 Two-maund cup scales at ,, 75 ,,
64 One-maund cup scale at ,, 50 ,,

3. Shortly afterwards I was at the Public Works Workshops and then found that Mr. Faulkner, the then General Superintendent, had commenced the construction of wrought iron frames or stands to the machines in lieu of the usual wooden ones. The alteration was manifestly a very great improvement and should ultimately lead to considerable economy, as wooden stands soon become rickety and deteriorate very rapidly from exposure to sun and rain. The only doubt I had was what the additional cost would be; but when Mr. Faulkner informed me that this would only be from Rs. 10 to 12 per machine, I felt sure that the Board would have no objection to my paying this small increase of price for a much better article, and therefore told Mr. Faulkner that he might go on with the work.

4. When, however, the final bills for the machines came in February 1880, the prices charged were found to be as follows in comparison with those originally agreed upon :—

—	Price originally fixed.	Charged.	Increase.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Grainger's pan machines, each	155	195	40
Two-maund cup scales, ,, ...	75	138	63
One-maund cup scale, ,, ...	50	102	52

5. The increases ran therefore from about 25 to over 100 per cent.

6. When called on for explanation of this, the General Superintendent of Public Works Workshops wrote to Mr. Crole that " Mr. Faulkner appears to have made no regular estimate of the cost of the scales. The prices given by him were only approximate and prove to be totally incorrect, as it would be impossible for the workshops to manufacture the scales at the prices stated by Mr. Faulkner without incurring a loss. The prices entered in the bills are based on regular estimates and I enclose

copies of them." Mr. Crole replied that a distinct contract was made by Mr. Faulkner for the supply of the articles at specified rates, and returned the bills for amendment accordingly. The General Superintendent's answer was that it was not in his power to make any alteration in the prices of the scales as entered in the bills, as they were only sufficient to give the workshops their legitimate profit after paying working expenses; that Mr. Faulkner in his public capacity had not the power to make a contract with any other Government department; and that if it was admitted that he had the power in the particular case it was obviously a question for Government to decide whether one department should from any cause whatever suffer a loss to effect an apparent saving in another department. Mr. Crole's reply was as under :—

> "You merely reiterate the opinion expressed in your letter of the 10th instant, No. 4,523, that Mr. Faulkner's letter of the 27th August 1878 was not based on a proper estimate of the cost of these machines, and add that he was not competent to enter into any contract. This appears to me to be altogether a novel position and one that should have been brought forward when the *error* in the prices was discovered by you. Considering that the prices now charged are from 25·81 to 104 per cent. in excess of those originally agreed to, it is quite inexplicable why no intimation was given to this office until fully eighteen months had been allowed to slip by and the machines had all been nearly completed, and it was too late for this department to make arrangements for getting them made elsewhere. As, however, the official year is about to close, I shall pass the bills under protest and suggest to Mr. Bliss that he refer the matter to Government."

7. The over-charge on these machines amounts to Rs. 6,790, after allowing for the increased cost of the iron stands at Rs. 12 per machine, as estimated by Mr. Faulkner. In addition to this at least a further sum of Rs. 102 was similarly over-charged on two two-maund cup scales, one of which was separately ordered in September 1878 on the supposition that spare* machines belonging to the department were in hand in the workshops, while the other was supplied by the General Superintendent through an oversight, in lieu of a cup which was ordered by me to replace one which was lost at the Negapatam factory.

8. Besides this the General Superintendent has charged Rs. 20 each for 100 galvanized iron weights, which he agreed to make for Rs. 10 each. He originally estimated that these weights would cost Rs. 15 each; but subsequently, on my intimating to him that Messrs. Massey and Co. offered to make them at Rs. 10 each and giving him the refusal of the work, he agreed to supply them at the latter rate; this was in May 1879. In September following I wrote to the Superintendent to ascertain what progress had been made with the weights. In reply he stated that twenty weights would be ready by the 15th October, and that the remainder would be supplied at the rate of six per week after that date; and incidentally added "that it has been found impossible to do the work at the rate given owing to the large amount of turners' work on each weight, and the price of each weight will be Rs. 20." To this no reply appears to have been sent. In March 1880 when the bills were received by Mr. Crole he objected to pass them at the higher rate and wrote as follows to the General Superintendent :—

> "In your letter No. 2,862 W., dated 30th September 1879, you stated that, owing to the large amount of turners' work involved, you found it necessary to increase the rate to Rs. 20 each weight, but I cannot accept this as a reason for giving you twice the amount to which you have agreed. You will also see from my letter No. 1,155, dated 23rd February 1880, that the extra amount of turners' work referred to was unnecessary and cannot be charged to this department."

The Superintendent stated that no reply having been received to his letter No. 2,682 W., dated 30th September 1879, he assumed that the rate of Rs. 20 would not be objected to; and that if objection had been taken he should have stopped the further manufacture of the weights as, owing to the amount of labor required for them, it was impossible to reduce the price. Mr. Crole thereupon passed the bill. The final bill for these weights

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* When I took charge of the department there were a good many such machines on hand in the workshops which had already been paid for. My impression is that this machine has therefore been charged twice over. I am in correspondence with the General Superintendent on the subject.

has yet to come in. When it does the over-charge will amount to Rs. 1,000. The position taken up by the Superintendent appears to amount to this, that, having made a bad bargain with this department to supply articles at such a price, he is at liberty to recede therefrom on discovering his mistake. It is hardly necessary to point out that business cannot be conducted on such terms. These weights were, I may add, very badly made. The handles were loose when they were received and they had to be returned to be fitted in properly. Even then the work was badly done. I saw one of them the other day from which the handle had come out. It had been used only in an ordinary way and only for a few months. I have little doubt that in time I shall hear of many other breakages of the kind in the up-country factories. The rate charged for this work was over Rs. 540 per ton !!

9. In May 1879 I requested the Superintendent to give me an estimate of the cost of making some platform weighing machines of Pooley's pattern. For this purpose he told me that a pattern would be required, to which I naturally rejoined that in that case a pattern must be made. For this wooden pattern he sent a bill on account for Rs. 336-2-0, which after some correspondence Mr. Crole passed, apparently on the understanding that I had undertaken to pay for the pattern. I need hardly say that I did not so undertake, nor that I never heard of a manufacturer charging a would-be customer for whatever preliminary operations were necessary to enable him to furnish an estimate which had been asked for. The price charged for the wooden pattern, the Board will remark, is about three times the value of a machine itself made of iron and steel.

10. The total over-charge made by the General Superintendent amounts to Rs. 8,126. I request that the Board will move Government to order its withdrawal under the circumstances above explained.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government, with the remark that, unless the Government workshops are a little more business-like, other departments will be reluctant to deal with them.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with three original
enclosures to be returned and copies of Board's Proceedings,
30th September and 12th December 1878, Nos. 2,676 and 3,332.

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Secy to Govt.

C.E. No. 1,002.

REFERRED to the General Superintendent of Public Works Workshops for explanation.

(By order.)

20th April 1881. (Signed) C. C. RAWSON, Captain, R.E.,
Ag. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

No. 27-A. From Lieutenant W. L. C. BADDELEY, R.E., General Superintendent, Presidency Public Works Workshops, to the Under Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 27th April 1881, No. 208 W.

WITH reference to your No. 1,002 of 20th April 1881, I have the honor to return the papers and to submit the following explanation.

2. Mr. Faulkner's letter, in which he stated that the prices of the salt weighing machines would be Rs. 155, 75, and 50, is dated 27th August 1878, and the statement that the additional cost for iron stands would be from 10 to 12 rupees must have been made verbally to Mr. Bliss somewhere about that date.

3. The estimate given by Mr. Faulkner was evidently a rough calculation of the cost of manufacture without "percentage" for workshop profit, and if it is considered that the workshops should be bound by Mr. Faulkner's statement of cost it follows that the Salt Department will have obtained their machines at the expense of the workshops.

4. Mr. Bliss is well aware of the high "percentage" which is always charged on all work executed in this workshop, and knowing also that "percentage" is merely a book transfer from the Salt Department to the workshops, I think in a case of this kind the question of contract might have been waived.

I may add that the improved design and construction of the machines were mainly due to Mr. Faulkner and the staff of the workshops.

5. With regard to the galvanized iron weights, I would observe that they were of a pattern never before made in the workshops, and I admit that I was entirely deceived as to the amount of work required for each, so that being unwilling to lose the work of the Salt Department I undertook to make the weights at 10 rupees each. It would be tedious to enter into a detailed description of the weights, but I would mention that they were to be *standard* ones, and from my experience of the work I now know that Messrs. Massey and Co. could never have turned out accurate weights of this pattern at the rate of 10 rupees each.

6. In my letter of 30th September 1879 I told Mr. Bliss that the weights would cost 20 rupees each, and no reply being sent objecting to this I continued the work.

7. With regard to the bad quality of the weights, I beg to state that no complaint of this kind was made to me, but the first batch of weights sent were returned with a request that the handles which were screwed into the weights might be fixed, so that they could not be unscrewed; this, I submit, is not sufficient ground upon which to assert that the quality of the weights was bad.

8. The objection taken to the pattern charges for the platform weighing machines is, I think, unreasonable, for in every case a person ordering a casting has to pay for the pattern, unless he supplies it, and also it is not at all uncommon for the wooden pattern to be much more expensive than the first few castings made from it.

In the case in point the work was stopped owing to my receiving no reply to a letter written by me to Mr. Bliss informing him that Messrs. Pooley and Son's patent would be infringed by the manufacture of the machines; on the receipt of information from Mr. Bliss that he was willing to accept the responsibility of the manufacture I would have proceeded with the work, and if a number of machines had been made the cost of the pattern would have proportionately decreased. In any case the pattern is at the disposal of the Salt Department should they require it.

9. In conclusion I would point out that the sole cause of the misunderstanding between the Salt Department and the Public Works Workshops is due to the fact that Mr. Bliss refuses to recognize the principle of book transfer between the two departments, and in every case while anxious to obtain the best quality of work he endeavors to make the workshop execute it at such a price that the full legitimate profit cannot be obtained. This doubtless is advantageous to the Salt Department in every case when the work is carried out by the workshops, for the quality of the work is the same whether the workshop gains or loses, but when in order to show a saving in the book cost of a work private agency is employed instead of the workshops, I know that in the majority of cases there must be a loss to Government.

As a further example of the position taken by Mr. Bliss with reference to the workshop, I may mention that in order to supply the Salt Department with some badges required a large press was set up and a steel die made at considerable cost; in due course a number of badges were supplied at rates agreed upon, and I concluded that the work would be continued from time to time to the mutual benefit of the two departments; but, as before, being unwilling to allow the workshop their legitimate profit, Mr. Bliss requested me to reduce the price which I complied with to a slight extent; this not meeting with his approval he requested me to send him the die as he would get the badges made elsewhere; with this also I complied, and after a short time I wrote to inquire where the badges were being made, the quality and the price, to which he replied that they were being made at the Gun Carriage Factory, that the quality was not equal to those which were made at the workshops, and as regards price he could not give me a definite answer; but as the Gun Carriage Factory was an *Imperial* institution, the question of the amount of percentage was of no importance.

1256/3

From this explanation it will be seen that, because the workshop is a Provincial establishment, Mr. Bliss refuses to deal with it in the same manner as he would with the Gun Carriage Factory or any other Imperial establishment, and consequently, though I am most anxious to execute work for the Salt Department and assist to the best of my ability in the design and improvement of the different machines, it is obvious that unless Mr. Bliss is willing to allow the workshop "percentages," it will be impossible for work to be carried out without repeated misunderstandings.

No. 27-B. ORDER THEREON, 17th May 1881, No. 1,256 W.

WITH reference to the over-charges complained of by the Salt Commissioner, the Government consider that the explanations afforded by the General Superintendent of the Public Works Workshops, though in many respects far from satisfactory, must, with reference to the footing on which the business of the shops is carried on, be accepted and the bills paid.

2. The heavy charges for the Grainger's pan machines and cup scales, though possibly not higher than necessary considering the footing of the workshops, should unquestionably have been brought to the notice of the Salt Commissioner the moment the excess over the estimate became inevitable, and a clear agreement should have been arrived at before the work was allowed to proceed further.

3. Similarly with the standard weights the earliest intimation of the probable excess should have been given, and the Superintendent of the Workshop is to blame for omitting to do this and for leaving the excess charge to be brought first to the Salt Commissioner's notice on presenting the bill.

4. As regards the charge for the pattern of the platform weighing machine, it is clear that the charge *per se* was perfectly legitimate and necessary under the circumstances, but here again the Superintendent was remiss in not at the very first explaining the matter to the Salt Commissioner and obtaining his assent to the charge before proceeding with the work.

5. It must in future be distinctly understood that the first duty of the Superintendent in regard to all work undertaken for his own or any other department will be to supply the indenting officer with an estimate of the probable cost including all charges, and his next to give him the earliest intimation of any probable excesses before proceeding with the work.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the General Superintendent, Public Works Workshops.
,, Revenue Department, with three enclosures.
,, Military Department.
,, Financial, &c., Departments.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

Govt. of (1881) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT,
PUBLIC WORKS WORKSHOPS,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated May, 17th.

Issued

Recd. *Exd.*

G. O., 17th May 1881, No. 1,256 W.

MAY.

Nos. 27—27-B.

Weighing Machines, Standard Weights, &c., made up by the Public Works Workshops.—The over-charges complained of by the Salt Commissioner on account of certain —, ordered to be accepted and the bills paid.

1256
H

No. 2,676.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 30th September 1878.

Read the following letter from H. W. BLISS, Esq., Commissioner of Salt Revenue, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 11th September 1878, No. 1,240 :—

I HAVE the honor to request that the Board will allow me to order from the Public Works Workshops 100 steel yards of the kind in use in the Bombay Salt Department—*Vide* my letter recorded in the Board's Proceedings, No. 1,355, dated 18th May 1878. The price will be Rupees 13 each. I think that each salt division should have one at least, and the bigger divisions two or three. They are the most generally useful and accurate machines I know of for the weighment of such articles as bags which do not come to even numbers of maunds, and which yet must be weighed as their average weight when full is required to be known in order to the establishment of any decent system of check. They will also be most useful for weighing out odd quantities of salt, such as half or three-quarter maunds, for the convenience of Brinjarries and others who use small bags. There will be some further expenditure for stands and buckets for these machines, the amount of which I am at present unable to state. I will report again shortly.

2. I also require more two-maund cup scales to take the place of the old platform scales (Colonel Orr's pattern), the use of which I am most desirous to stop at once. I request permission to order fifty.

3. These demands with others which have occurred and will occur will exhaust the budget provision for weighing-machines, but I shall be able to find sufficient funds when sending in the revised budget.

SANCTIONED on the supposition that funds are available. The amount involved and the source from which the charge is to be met should have been stated

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

To the Commissioner of Salt Revenue.
Copy to the Accountant-General.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

RECD 22 APL 81

F.S. 28/5 [illegible]

[illegible]

1878.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

To

THE COMMISSIONER OF

SALT REVENUE.

Dated September 30th.

Printed 3rd.

Received

PROCEEDINGS, 30TH SEPTEMBER 1878, No. 2,676

SEPTEMBER

No. 2,676.

Steel Yards.—of the kind in use in the Bombay Salt Department.—Sanctioning proposal of Commissioner of Salt Revenue to order 100 — and fifty two-maund cup scales, on the supposition that funds required are available.

1256/5

No. 3,332.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 12th December 1878.

Read the following letter from H. W. BLISS, Esq., Commissioner of Salt Revenue, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 28th November 1878, No. 1,838:—

I HAVE the honor to state that after going as carefully as possible through the returns of the salt weighing machines in store in the districts, I find that the following additional machines are required in order that each division may be sufficiently supplied for weighments to be made with rapidity, and that a fair reserve may be maintained in each district to supply the place of machines temporarily under repair:—

60 Grainger's Pan Machines.
50 Two-maund Cup Scales.
50 One-maund do.

2. The fifty two-maund cup scales have already been ordered with reference to the correspondence marginally noted. I now request permission to order sixty Grainger's pan machines and fifty one-maund cup scales. Their cost will be as follows:—

Board's Proceedings, No. 2,676, dated 30th September 1878.
My letter, No. 1,416, dated 19th October 1878.
Board's Proceedings, Miscellaneous No. 11,178, dated 1st November 1878.

	RS.
60 Grainger's Pan Machines, at Rupees 155	9,300
50 One-maund Cup Scales at " 50	2,500
Total ...	11,800

3. Funds are available from General Savings—*vide* paragraph 22 of my letter, No. 1,509, dated 26th ultimo.

4. There are now in stock—

166 Grainger's Pan Machines.
70 Two-maund Cup Scales.
78 One-maund do.

only a few of which have been fitted with the means of adjustment recently devised by me (*vide* my letter, No. 1,591, dated 7th November 1878). I request permission to have the remainder fitted similarly. The cost will be Rupees 3,087, but I am sure that no one acquainted with the subject will think the money wasted.

5. As I shall be glad to be able to make arrangements for the manufacture of these machines, &c., before leaving Madras early in January on a lengthened tour, I request the favor of early orders.

THE proposals in paragraphs 2 and 4 are sanctioned.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

To the Commissioner of Salt Revenue.
Copy to the Accountant-General.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

RECD 22 APL 81

1878.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

To

THE COMMR. OF SALT REVENUE.

Dated December 12th.

Printed 19th.

Received

PROCEEDINGS, 12TH DECEMBER 1878, No. 3,332.

DECEMBER.

No. 3,332.

Grainger's Pan Machines and One-maund Cup Scales — for use in the Salt Department.— Sanctioning proposals of Commissioner of Salt Revenue to order certain number of —, and to have the machines now in stock fitted with the means of adjustment recently devised by him.

Pr/1745 of 81

W — C. No 2575 1256/6

With regard to the remarks of the H. M. it will probably be found that the Workshop charges are somewhat higher than those charged by private Firms — although not "extravagant" — except perhaps in certain special cases, where extraordinary expense has to be incurred for special appliances. But in these cases it is doubtful whether private firms in Madras would be in a position to take up the work at all.

Even supposing the Workshop rates to be higher than those of private firms — the Govt are still gainers by having their work done in the Shops — the profit going to the

State instead of into private hands;

As regards the rates charged by the Shops generally – the matter seems to be one beyond the control of the management. Govt. insists upon a high rate of interest &c for a very large capital invested in Block & Plant – and the Workshops charges must be regulated with a view to meeting these liabilities –

R. F.
13.5

CAW

As the whole question connected with the value & position of the Workshops is engaging attention I do not think it necessary to deal specifically with the points raised by the H.Ry – and meanwhile the ~~[illegible]~~ order as drafted may issue

13/5/81 RHH

Makes it the case that our P.W. Shops charges are so extravagant as compared with private firms, interest [illegible] included. If so, there must be something rotten in this system.

Mr Bradley talks of "Workcharges" as

a. 16-5-81
Cir 5/5 O.F.S. 28/5 [illegible]

The accompanying correspondence relates to a discussion between the Salt Department and P.W. Workshops as to the heavy charges proposed by the latter for certain weighing machines, stamp weights &c made up by the latter on the requisition of the former

As regards the weighing machines cups scales &c the excess of the bill over the sum originally named is unquestionably very high and it is clear that the then Superintendent Mr Faulkner should never have gone on with the order after finding the cost would be so great te

ed

of an [illegible] sanction of the Commissioner of Salt Revenue

So far as the weights sanctioned are concerned Mr Buckley admits that he did not calculate on these costing so much as they actually did

As regards the Platform weighing machines on Pooley's pattern Mr Bliss's contention that the pattern should not be paid for separately is untenable to the best of my judgment as no manufacturer ever goes out of his strict line of business to make any new machine or one he

which he has no patterns in stock without charging for the same specially; but here again the PW workshops has been not clearly brought down at the outset and obtaining the Salt Commissioners assent to the charge before commencing the work

Mr Bliss is evidently not aware that the PW workshops are merely what are called "Jobbing shops" and their constitution is in no wise calculated for manufacture in the received sense

They are obliged to do all sorts of odd jobs and show a percentage in favour of the shops at the end of the year, and all they can possibly guarantee is (1) to give as good an estimate as they can and (2) to endeavour to adhere to this as closely as possible giving sound work, and seeing that no labour is really wasted

They cannot undertake a "Contract" for work in the ordinary sense as all losses on such "contracts" would fall on the Provincial P.W. Budget instead of the Department ordering the machine &c.

Were such the position taken up I should have to request Government to stop all work for other Depts. at the Shops as we could not certainly accept losses of this kind to be met by our P.W. Budgets.

So far as I can see by the correspondence there is nothing to shew that the Shops have

if they mean by nothing - but I imagine they actually resulting in credit being given to the Shops at the cost of some other Dept.

+ if the charge in excess the other Dept suffers a loss corresponding to that which would result from employing a private firm -

JW

I have passed the draft.

1256/9

not done their best to fulfil their engagements at the lowest price compatible with financial rules, but that probably through over-eagerness to secure work for the establishment to allow of their charging a book percentage at the end of the year they have not so fully as at a sufficiently early date explained to the Salt Commissioner, and obtain his assent to the extra charges when they found these to be inevitable.

To pronounce as the Salt Commissioner appears to imply that the work turned out has been too costly, as has in any way been as dear as that which would have been charged by private firms in the open market is I may think unwarranted

No one but an expert and especially the professional Officer who knows all the details of such work could possibly pronounce an opinion entitled to the slightest weight, and certainly the Police's protest in regard to the charge £336-2-0 for the new pattern which will entirely to be made up before his order could possibly have been complied with evinces certainly his ignorance and exposes him to the charge of being a prejudiced judge in his own case

I am myself averse to the Depd. workshops extending their operations beyond the absolute ity required y our own Department

---

unless they can be so to fulfil the duty of a technical training Establt. for native workmen in which case much of the present cost should be debited to "Educational"

1256/10

So long however as other Departments deal with the Shops they must be permitted to accept the bonâ fide bills submitted by the Superintendent

— The only alternative to this would be to make the Superintendent bear all excesses — an impossible one I venture to think

3/5/81

1256/11

[illegible] P1

Endorsement of the Revenue
Deptt No 1048 d/ 15 April
1881 on Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue ~~No 2127~~
~~of 8th Mar~~ No 3213 of 25/3/81.

Mis. No 3213

Rev. Dept

1256/12

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 25th March 1881

Read the following.

No 2127.

From

H. W. Bliss Esq.

Commissioner of Salt Revenue

To C. A. Galton Esquire

Secretary to the

Board of Revenue, Madras

Sir,

I have the honour to report the following circumstances for the consideration and orders of the Board.

2. In 1878, after ascertaining the prices of the articles from the General Superintendent, Public Works Workshops,

Board's Proceedings,
No 2676 d/ September 30, 1878
Board's Pro: No 3332
dated December 12, 1878

I applied for and obtained the permission of the Board to order the construction there of the following weighing machines:—

60	Grainger's Pan Machines	at Rupees	155 each	9,300
50	Two-maund Cup scales	"	" 75 -	3,750
64	one " " "	"	" 50 -	3,200
				16,250

3. Shortly afterwards, I was at the Public Works Workshops and there found that Mr Faulkner, the then General Superintendent, had commenced the construction of wrought iron frames or stands to the Machines in lieu of the usual wooden ones. The alteration was manifestly a very great improvement and should ultimately lead to considerable economy, as

wooden

wooden stands soon become rickety and deteriorate very rapidly from exposure to sun and rain. The only doubt I had was what the additional cost would be; & then Mr Faulkner informed me that this could only be from Rupees 10 to 12 per machine, I felt sure that the Board would have no objection to my paying this small increase of price for a much better article and therefore told Mr Faulkner that he might go on with the work.

4. When, however, the final Bills for the machines came in in February, 1880, the prices charged were found to be as follows, in comparison with those

originally agreed upon:—

	Price originally fixed Rupees	Charged Rupees	[illegible]
Grainger's Pan Machines each	155	195	40
Two-manned Cup Scales "	75	138	63
One " " " "	50	102	52

[illegible] increase. Therefore from about 20 to over 100 per cent.

6. When called on for explanation of this, the General Superintendent, Public Works Workshops, wrote [illegible] that Mr. Faulkner "appears to have made no regular "estimate of the cost of the Scales. "The prices given by him were "merely approximate and prove "to be totally incorrect, as it would be "impossible for the Workshops "to manufacture the Scales at "the prices stated by Mr. Faulkner, "without incurring a loss. The prices "prices entered in the Bills — 1756/14 — "are based on regular Estimates "and I enclose* copies of them". Mr. Crole replied that a distinct contract was made by Mr. Faulkner for the supply of the articles at specified rates, and returned the Bills for amendment accordingly. The General Superintendent's answer was that it was not in his power to make any alteration in the prices of the Scales as entered in the Bills, as they were only sufficient to give the Workshops their legitimate profit, after paying working expenses; that Mr. Faulkner in his public capacity had not the power to make a contract with

*Copies enclosed

"with any other Government
"Department; and that if it
was admitted that he had the
power in the particular case,
it was obviously a question
for Government to decide whether
one Department should from
any cause whatever suffer
a loss to effect an apparent
Saving in another Department.

Mr Crole's reply was as under:—

"You merely reiterate
the opinion expressed in your letter
"of the 10th instant, No 4623,
"that Mr Faulkner's letter of
"the 27th August, 1878, was not
"based on a proper estimate
"of the cost of these machines
"and add that he was not competent
to

"to enter into any co[illegible]
"This appears to me to be altog
"a novel position and worth
"should have been brought [illegible]
"when the "error" in the prices we
"discovered by you. Considering
"that the pr[illegible]es now charged are
"from 25.81 [illegible] 104 per cent in exce
"of those orig[illegible]inally agreed to, it is
"quite inexpl[illegible]cable why no int[illegible]mation
"was given [illegible] this office until full
"eighteen m[illegible]ths had been allow
"to slip by an[illegible] the machines had
"all been ne[illegible]rly completed and
"it was too late for this Department
"to make arrangements for getting
"them made elsewhere. As however
"the official year is about to clo
"I shall pa[illegible] the bills under

-ject to Mr. this has no the matter to Government.

Th, overcharge on these machines amounts to Rupees 6790 after allowing for the increased Cost of the iron stands at Rupees 12 per machine as estimated by Mr. ulkner. In addition to this, at least a further sum of Rupees 102 was similarly over-charged on two-maund cup scales, one which was separately ordered September, 1878, on the supposition that spare machines belonging to the depart- at were in the Workshops, while the other was supplied by the General Superintendent

When I took charge of the depart[me]nt there were a good many such ma on hand in the Workshops, which h already been paid for. My impres sion that this machine has therefore charged twice over. I am in ondence with the Gen[era]l dent on the subject.

through an oversight, in lieu of a cup which was ordered by me to replace one which was lost at the Negapatam Factory.

8. Besides this, the General Superintendent has charged Rupees 20 each for galvanized iron weights, which he agreed to make for Rupees 10 each. He originally estimated that these weights would cost Rupees 15 each but subsequently, on my intimating to him that Messrs. Massey and Co. offered to make them at Rupees 10 each and giving him the refusal of the d to supply them at the latter rate. This was in May 1879. In September following I wrote to the Superintendent to ascertain

what progress had been made with the weights. In reply he stated that 20 weights would be ready by the 15th October and that the remainder would be supplied at the rate of 6 per week after that date; and incidentally added "that it has been found impossible to do this work at the rate given owing to the [illegible] amount of "turner's work on each weight and "the price of each weight will be Rupees "20." To this no reply appears to have been sent. In March 1880, when the Bills were received by Mr Crole he objected to pass [illegible] the higher rate and wro[illegible]ows to the General Superintendent:— "In your letter No 28[illegible]2 W dated "September 30, 1879, you stated that

"That owing to the large amount "of turner's work involved you found "it necessary to increase the rate to "Rupees 20 each weight, but I cannot "accept this as a reason for giving "you twice the amount to which "you have agreed. You will also "see from my letter No 1155 dated "February 23 1880, that the extra "amount of turner's work referred "to was unnecessary and cannot "be charged to this department".

The Superintendent stated that no reply having been received to his letter No 2682 W dated September 30, 1879, he assumed that the rate of Rupees 20 would not be objected to, and that if objection had been taken he should have stopped the further manufacture of the weights as owing to the amount of labour required for them it was impossible to reduce the price. Mr Crole thereupon passed the bill. The final bill for these weights has not yet to come in. When it does, the overcharge will amount to Rupees 1,000. The position taken up by the Superintendent appears to amount to this, that, having made a bad bargain with this Department to supply articles at such a price, he is at liberty to recede therefrom on discovering this mistake. It is hardly necessary to point out that business cannot be conducted on such terms. These weights were,

What will that bill come in?

? [illegible] charged

I may add, very badly made. The handles were loose when they were received and they had to be returned to be fitted in properly. Even then the work was badly done. I saw one of these the other day from which the handle had come out. It had been used only in an ordinary way and only for a few months. I have little doubt that in time I shall hear of many other breakages of the kind in the up-country factories. The rate charged for this work was over Rupees 540 per ton!!

9. In May 1879 I requested the Superintendent to give me an Estimate of the cost of making

some Platform weighing Machines of Pooley's Pattern. For this purpose, he told me that a pattern would be required, to which I naturally rejoined that in that case a pattern must be made. For this wooden pattern he sent a bill on account for Rupees 336-2-0, which after some correspondence Mr. Crole passed apparently on the understanding that I had undertaken to pay for the pattern. I need hardly say that I did not so undertake, nor that I never heard of a manufacturer charging a would-be customer for whatever preliminary operations were necessary to enable him to furnish an estimate which had been asked for. The price charged for the wooden pattern, the Board will remark, is about three times the value of a machine itself, made of iron and steel.

1256/18

10. The total overcharge made by the General Superintendent amounts to Rupees 812¼ I request that the Board will move Government to order its withdrawal under the circumstances above explained.

Para 7 R 6/40
8 100
9 336/2

I have &c
(sd) H. W. Bliss
Commissioner of Salt Revenue

Office of the Commissioner of Salt Revenue, Madras,
8th March 1881.

Submitted for the orders of Government with the remark that unless the Government Workshops are a little more business like
other

other departments will be reluctant to deal with them.

(True Copy & Extract)

Secretary

To

The Secretary to Govt. R. D.

with 3 original Enclosures to be returned and copies of Board's Pro 30th September and ~~20th November~~ 12th December 1878, Nos. 2676 & 3332.

G. O. No. 886. W d/ 31-3-81.

~~No 221~~

No 1048

Transferred to the
P. W. Department

Secy to Govt.

Rd.
15th April
1881

C. E. No 1002 d/ 20 April /81.

Referred to the
General Superintendent
Public works workshops
for explanation

(By order)

C. G. Lawton Capt. R.E.
Ag. Under Secy to Govt.
P. W. D.

~~P. W. C. No 2450~~

Revenue 1881. Dept.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

No 1745.

~~Mis 75/81~~

Dated 25 }
Despatched 28 } March 1881
Received 29 }

Recd 20 April Encs 5
Enclosures 6

Mis. No. 3213

SUBJECT.

Submitting to Govt., with remarks, letter from Commissioner of Salt Revenue reporting the circumstances in which the General Superintendent P. W. Workshops has made an overcharge of Rs 8126 on account of certain salt weighing machines &c

~~Transferred~~
Referred.

PRESIDENCY PUBLIC WORKS WORKSH
Madras, 27th April 1881.

No. 208 W.

[256/21]

From
Lieutenant F. L. C. Baddeley R.E.
THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT,
PUBLIC WORKS WORKSHOPS,

To
THE Under Secretary to Government
P. W. D.
Madras

Enclosures.

SIR,

1) With reference to your No 1002 of 20th April 1881, I have the honor to return the papers and to submit the following explanation.

2) Mr Faulkner's letter, in which he stated that the prices of the Salt Weighing Machines would be Rs 155, 75, & 50, is dated 27th August 1878, and the statement that the additional cost for iron stands would be from 10 to 12 Rs must have been made verbally to Mr Bliss somewhere about that date.

3) The Estimate given by Mr Faulkner was evidently a rough calculation of the cost of manufacture without "percentage" for workshop profit and if it is considered that the Workshops should be bound by Mr Faulkner's statement of cost it follows that the Salt Department will have obtained their machines

at
ma

the expense of the Workshops.

Mr Bliss is well aware of the high "percentage" which is always charged on all work executed in this Workshop and knowing also that "percentage" is merely a book transfer from the Salt Department to the Workshops, I think in a case of this kind the question of contract might have been waived.

I may add that the improved design and construction of the machines were mainly due to Mr Faulkner and the staff of the Workshops.

(5) With regard to the galvanized iron weights I would observe that they were of a pattern never before made in the Workshops, and I admit that I was entirely deceived as to the amount of work required for each, so that being unwilling to lose the work of the Salt Department I undertook to make the weights at 10 Rs each. It would be tedious to enter into a detailed description of the weights but I would mention that they were to be standard ones and from my experience of the work I now know that Messrs Massey & Co could never have turned out accurate weights of this pattern at the rate

of

of 10 Rs each.

6) In my letter of 30th September 1879 I told Mr Bliss that the weights would cost 20 Rs each and no reply being sent objecting to this I continued the work.

7) With regard to the bad quality of the weights I beg to state that no complaint of this kind was made to me but the first batch of weights sent were returned with a request that the handles which were screwed into the weights might be fixed, so that they could not be unscrewed; this, I submit, is not sufficient ground upon which to assert that the quality of the weights was bad.

8) The objection taken to the pattern charges for the Platform Weighing Machines is, I think, unreasonable, for, in every case, a person ordering a casting has to pay for the pattern, unless he supplies it, and also it is not at all uncommon for the wooden pattern to be much more expensive than the first few castings made from it.

In the case in point, the work was stopped owing to my receiving no reply to a letter written by me to Mr Bliss informing him that Messrs Pooley & Son's Patent would be infringed by the manufacture of the Machines, on the receipt of information from Mr Bliss that he was willing to accept the responsibility of the manufacture I would have proceeded with the work and if a number of machines had been made the cost of the pattern would have proportionately decreased. In any case the pattern is at the disposal of the Salt Department should they require it.

9) In conclusion I would point out that the sole cause of the misunderstanding between the Salt Department and the P. W. Workshops is due to the fact that Mr Bliss refuses to recognize the principle of book transfer between the two Departments, and in every case while anxious to obtain the best quality of work he endeavours to make the workshop execute it at such a price that the full legitimate profit cannot be obtained. This doubtless is advantageous to the Salt Department in every case when the work is carried out by the Workshops for

for the quality of the work is the same whether the Workshops gains or loses; but when in order to effect a saving in the book cost of a work, private agency is employed instead of the Workshops, I know that in the majority of cases there must be a loss to Government.

As a further example of the position taken by Mr Bliss with reference to the Workshop I may mention that in order to supply the Salt Department with some badges required, a large press was set up and a steel die made at considerable cost; in due course a number of badges were supplied at rates agreed upon, and I concluded that the work would be continued from time to time to the mutual benefit of the two Departments, but as before being unwilling to allow the Workshop their legitimate profit, Mr Bliss requested me to reduce the price which I complied with to a slight extent, this not meeting with his approval he requested me to send him the die as he would get the badges made elsewhere; with this also I complied, and after a short time I wrote to enquire where the badges were being made, the quality and the price, to which he replied that they were being made at the Gun Carriage Factory, that the quality was not equal to those which were made at the Workshops and as regards price he could not give me a definite answer, but as the Gun Carriage Factory was an Imperial Institution, the question of the amount of percentage was of no importance.

From this explanation it will be seen that because the Workshop is a Provincial Establishment, Mr Bliss refuses to deal with it in the same manner as he would with the Gun Carriage Factory or any other Imperial Establishment, and consequently though I am most anxious to execute work for the Salt Department and assist to the best of my ability in the design and improvement of the different machines, it is obvious that unless Mr Bliss is willing to allow the Workshop "percentages", it will be impossible for work to be carried out without repeated misunderstandings

misunderstandings.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obed.t Servant
W C Biddulph Lieut R.E.
Genl Supdt Resy. P. W. Workshop

P. W. C. No. 2575

Presidency P. W. Workshops.

From
THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT,
P. W. WORKSHOPS,
Madras.

To The Under Secretary
to Govt P. W. D.
Madras

No. 208 W.

Dated 27th
Despd. 27th } April 1881.
Recd. 28.

NO. OF ENCLOSURES. 7

Subject.

Forwards explanation regarding an overcharge on certain Salt Weighing Machines &c. ordered by the Commissioner of Salt Revenue Madras & made by the P. W. Workshops

Sub. for [illegible]

D. 29-4-187 [illegible]

Cw/K

Genl. Sectt

No. 1256 W. P. W. Department.

1206/28

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 17. May 1881

READ the following

Procgs. Board of Rev. on letter from the Commr. of Salt Revenue No. 2127 d/ 8th March, 81 with Govt. Rev. Deptt. No. 1048 d/ 15th April, 81. } H. C. No. 3213 d/ 25th March 81.

Letter from the Genl. Supdt. P. W. Workshops Madras. } H. E. No. 208 W. d/ 27th April, 81.

Genl.

817

With reference to the overcharges complained of by the Salt Commissioner the Govt. consider that the explanations afforded by the General Supdt.

of the Govt workshops though in many respects far from satisfactory must with reference to the footing on which the business of the shops is carried on be accepted and the bills paid.

2. The heavy charges for the Grainger's Pan Machines and Cup Scales though possibly not higher than necessary considering the footing of the workshops should unquestionably have been brought to the notice of the Salt

Commissioner the moment the excess over the Estimate became inevitable, and a clear agreement should have been arrived at before the work was allowed to proceed further.

3. Similarly with the standard weights the earliest intimation of the probable excess should have been given and the Supdt. of the workshop is to blame for omitting to do this, and for leaving the excess charge to be brought first to the Salt Commissioner's notice on presenting

the bill

4. As regards the charge for the pattern of the Platform Weighing machine it is clear that the charge "per se" was perfectly legitimate and necessary under the circumstances, but here again ~~the Govt. have to~~ remark ~~that~~ the Supdt. was remiss in not at the very first explaining the matter to the Salt Commissioner and obtaining his assent to the charge before proceeding with the work.

5. It must in future be distinctly understood that

that the first duty of the Supdt. in regard to all work undertaken for his own or any other Deptt. will be to supply the indenting officer with an estimate of the probable cost including all charges, and his next to give him the earliest intimation of any probable excesses before proceeding with the work.

Genl. Supdt. Rly. Workshops ✓
Rev. Deptt. with 3 Enclosures ✓
Mily. Deptt. ✓
Finl. Ser. Deptts. ✓ Despd 2-6-81 4/5/81

[illegible] 16-5-91

2575

27

Govt. of (1881) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated 17/5/81

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 17 May 1881, No. 1256 W

Nos. 27-27B

Weighing machines, standard weights &c made up by the P. W. Workshops. The over-charges complained of by the Salt Commissioners on acct of certain — ordered to be accepted and the bills paid.

9/7