

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

26th April 1881, No. 733.

Stationery.

Read the following papers :—

From J. G. FERRAND, Esq., Superintendent of Stationery, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 10th January 1881, No. 1496 [Current No. 37].

I beg to refer, for the orders of Government, copy of a supplementary indent received from the Examiner, Guaranteed Railway Accounts, Madras, for twenty ounces fuchsine in lieu of eight packets of Dr. Bidie's ingredients for making red ink. This indent is forwarded under the Resolution of the Government of India, Public Works Department, 10th December 1880,

* Madras Financial G.O., 6th December 1880, No. 2114-25-G,* and I have the honor to inquire how it and similar indents from No. 2271.

other officers are to be disposed of as regards the substitution of fuchsine for Dr. Bidie's red ink ingredients. As regards the quantity, two ounces of fuchsine indented for by the Examiner, Guaranteed Railway Accounts, is more than double the equivalent of the eight packets of Dr. Bidie's ingredients, and this point will be duly brought to the Examiner's notice.

From A. C. TUPP, Esq., Officiating Accountant-General, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 25th January 1881, No. 232 [Current No. 203].

Correspondence Department.

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 637, dated the 22nd January 1881, I would beg respectfully to ask the attention of Government to the great inconvenience felt in this office from using red ink made up according to Dr. Bidie's formula.

2. The Board and the Collector of Chingleput seem to agree with me in this opinion.

3. The ink is not red, but a dusky brown when first used, and it afterwards turns to a dark brown which is not distinguishable from the ordinary black ink except under a strong light.

4. As in many of my accounts I have to enter the minus items in red ink and the plus items in black, it is of great importance that the two colors should be very distinct and should present a marked contrast.

5. I would, therefore, ask permission, with reference to G.O., No. 1872, of 29th September 1879, on the subject of red ink, to either return to the use of the Fuchsine red ink or to adopt some other kind of red ink which shall not be liable to be mistaken for black ink.

6. The Government of India have already directed the re-adoption of the Fuchsine Aniline ink in their Order, No. 3649, of 12th November 1880; but this order only applies to those offices which are supplied from the Stationery Offices at Calcutta and Bombay.

7. As, however, a copy of the order was sent to the Government of Madras in continuation of the original order prohibiting the use of the aniline ink, I think it is clear that the Government of India are willing that that ink should be used again in all offices.

8. If His Excellency in Council should agree with my opinion in this respect, it would perhaps be advisable to issue a general order on the subject, as the Treasuries and other public offices are no doubt still using Dr. Bidie's ink.

No. 197.

Referred to Dr. Bidie with reference to paragraph 3 of the Accountant-General's letter, with request that he will state whether it is possible to make the redwood ink preserve its color better.

28th January 1881.

(Signed) R. DAVIDSON,
Chief Secretary.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th February 1881, No. 1752 (Miscellaneous)
[Current No. 489].

Read G.O., Revenue Department, dated 25th January 1881, No. 170.

The Board resolve to forward to Government a specimen of writing with the ink prepared by the Moochi of their office under Dr. Bidie's supervision. The ink is a reddish brown, and is not suitable for official use.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

No. 488.

Transferred to the Financial Department for disposal with reference to the orders in that department, dated 29th September 1879 and 9th March 1880, Nos. 1872 and 505, respectively.

2. The experiments made in this department have also proved unsatisfactory, and other ink has had to be purchased.

23rd February 1881.

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

No. 412.

Referred to Dr. Bidie for early remarks in continuation of endorsement, No. 197, dated 28th January 1881.

1st March 1881.

(Signed) R. DAVIDSON,
Chief Secretary.

From Surgeon-Major G. BIDIE, M.B., Superintendent, Government Central Museum, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 11th March 1881, No. 143 [Current No. 633].

In returning the papers referred under your No. 197 of the 28th January 1881, and No. 412 of 1st March 1881, I have the honor to state that it seems quite impossible to get the Moochies to make an ink uniformly of good quality from redwood.

2. Prior to the introduction of fuchsine for the purpose a red ink made from an indigenous dye-wood—Sappan—was in common office use, and no difficulty was ever experienced in its preparation, although the process was more complicated than that employed in my formula. I can only, therefore, account for the difficulty now experienced in getting good ink made from redwood to the circumstance that the

Moochies have become unaccustomed to the duty. Fuchsine is got as a powder, and merely requires to be dissolved in water.

3. That redwood when properly treated will yield an ink of a good red color and of a very permanent character is beyond all doubt, as its active principle, *Santalin*, has a splendid scarlet hue, and is at this moment the ordinary agent used by dyers in Europe to procure mock Turkey-red in cotton yarns.

4. But in spite of these facts, I confess my inability to get the Moochie of the period to extract the color and make proper red ink.

5. At the time I was directed in G.O., No. 1237, of 2nd July 1879, to supply a formula, it had been found that fuchsine ink could be easily washed out by such a common agent as spirit. As referee on indigenous raw products I did my best to give a formula for making a permanent red ink from an Indian wood, and regret that circumstances over which I have no control have apparently rendered its use impracticable.

No. 598.

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM.

The Superintendent of Stationery is requested to report whether he has in stock sufficient fuchsine to issue to Government offices other than the Account Offices where it is not proposed to allow its use.

(Signed) R. DAVIDSON,
Chief Secretary.

25th March 1881.

From J. G. FERRAND, Esq., Superintendent of Stationery, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 29th March 1881, No. 1833 [Current No. 807].

In reply to your official memorandum, Financial No. 598, dated 25th March 1881, I have the honor to report that the stock of fuchsine in hand is sufficient for issue to the Government offices referred to.

ORDER THEREON, 26th April 1881, No. 733.

The Superintendent of Stationery is authorized to issue fuchsine to Government offices at the Presidency other than offices of account.

2. As regards the latter, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council declines to sanction the use of a red ink which can be readily and completely obliterated by sponging the paper with alcohol, and the Superintendent of Stationery will, therefore, indent for small supplies of Blackwood's red ink recommended for use by the Principal of the Inland Revenue Laboratory, Somerset House.

3. Dr. Bidie will consult the Chemical Professor on the subject of improving the locally made red ink.

(True Extract.)

R. DAVIDSON,
Chief Secretary.

To the Superintendent of Stationery.
„ all Heads of Departments.
„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. J. Wright.

B.N. 1294 N 920 May 1881

Communicated to Office
of the P.W. Dept

1966.R

Govt. of (1881) Madras.
FINANCIAL.

To
THE SUPERINTENDENT OF
STATIONERY,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated April, 26th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 26th April 1881, No. 733.

B.N. 1294 N 920 May 1881

APRIL.

Stationery.—The Superintendent of Stationery
authorized to issue fuchsine to Government
offices other than offices of account, and, as regards
the latter, to indent for small supplies of Black-
wood's red ink recommended for use by the
Principal of the Inland Revenue Laboratory,
Somerset House.

J. E.
Lupton J. W.
C. E. J. P.
Comy E. J. P. R.
In. P. W. A. c. h.
— By —
Comy Architect
Lupton J. W. H. W.
Genl Lupton P. W. A. c. h. P. W.

Financial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Endorsement
READ the following from

The Public Works Dept: dated 18th May
C.E.
1881, No 1244.

Order thereon, dated 21st April 1881,
No 912.

Recorded with reference to
G.O. No 733 dated 26th April 1881.

(In extract)

Circulation Letter
Under Secretary P.W.D.
for Chief Secretary

To

The Public Works Dept:

18.5.81 hr 1244 ch.
20.5.81 hr 1294 w

Proc. A. 3247

Rev. 31 May

Go - no
1390

NOS.

Dated Recd.	To	Bolt. of {1880} Mysore.
~		1880, No.

B No 1390 w. d/3/6.81

Communicated to the
Gen P.W.A., with reference
to his letter No 42 W & 14
May 1881, & No. 1294 W
& 20 idem.

Cy

CCN
1.6.81

P. W. 188/ DEPARTMENT.

No. 2943

From

The Examiner

P. h. acct.

No. 4214

Dated 14 May

Recd. 16 —

SUBJECT.

*Solicits sanction to
use of fuchsine aniline
in lieu of Dr. Bidie's
ink.*

Disposal.

C. E. No. 1244 d/18 May/81

*Transferred to the
Financial Department*

(By order)

Sgt C. C. Rawson Capt.

ag. under Secy to Gov.

Depd P. h. D.