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ENBA

Attention is invited to paragraph 1, G.O., Public Department, dated 5th October 1882, No. 1114.

"References from the Secretary of State and the Government of India should invariably be considered *special* in all Departments of the Secretariat, as well as in the offices to which they may be sent for report, and should take precedence of every thing but *really urgent* business of other kinds."

21ST NOVEMBER 1882, No. 1753, FINANCIAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

Proceedings of the Government of India, Department of Finance and Commerce (Accounts and Finance—Stores), dated Simla, 25th October 1882, No. 4312.

Read—the following despatch from the Most Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to the Government of India, dated 3rd August 1882, No. 39 (Financial—Stores).

I forward, for your Excellency's consideration, copy of a memorandum by the Auditor of the Indian Home Accounts, in which he suggests that, when the value of short-deliveries of, or of damage to, Government stores is recoverable from freight or from the owners of the ship carrying the stores, the returned packing accounts be stamped or certified by the Pay Departments, so as to indicate that the recovery in question has been dealt with; and I request that I may be informed whether you see any objection to the adoption of the Auditor's suggestion.

Audit Query dated 20th May 1882. Returned Packing Accounts.

The Auditor would take this opportunity of adverting to a question which he raised in 1877 relative to the Returned Packing Accounts.

The Returned Packing Accounts contain the reports of the Committees of Survey and their remarks on damage to the stores or short-deliveries by the ships, but mention is seldom made of

* *Vide* queries on the Returned Packing Accounts for 1875-76, dated 30th November 1877 (rejoinder).

the action taken thereon by the Pay Department, with reference to which the Auditor was informed, in reply to a query on the subject in the year 1877, that "there is no reason to suppose that such recoveries as can be legally made in India are not deducted from the freight payable there as prescribed by the printed regulations."

With this reply the Auditor was content, but since that date the subject has acquired additional importance, inasmuch as the proportion of freight payable in England has been increased, whilst that payable in India has been proportionately decreased; and as, moreover, it now frequently happens that the freight is all paid in England, it seems hardly desirable to assume that the value of short-deliveries or of damage done to the stores is necessarily deducted from the freight payable in India. It would be more satisfactory to the Auditor if the Returned Packing Accounts could be stamped or certified by the Pay Departments in India, so as to indicate that they have been dealt with.

Order—

Copy of the despatch and of its enclosure forwarded to the Governments of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay; to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah; and to

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the Public Works and Marine Departments for favor of report as to the best means of carrying out the suggestion contained therein.

(Signed) R. E. HAMILTON,
Offg. Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

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Referred for report to the Departments of the Secretariat, the Master Attendant, and the Accountant General.

(True Extract.)

Quater
Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.
" Military Department.
" Public Works Department.
" Master Attendant, Madras.
" Accountant-General.