GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

13th September 1883, No. 4983.

Ordnance Department—Stores.

Read the following papers:—

No. 124. *From Colonel S. CHAMIER, Inspector-General of Ordnance, to Colonel E. L. HANKIN, Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort St. George, 11th August* 1883, *No.* 107-*G.*

Adverting to para. 2 of Order of Government, No. 4035, dated 23rd July 1883, I have the honor to state, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, that, although endeavours have been made for several years past to find purchasers for the large quantities of obsolete and unserviceable shot and shell and cast-iron ordnance and iron cast scrap old in the Fort, borne on the books of the Arsenal, Madras, purchasers for any large quantities have not been found.

2. Some few months ago I addressed the Inspector-General of Ordnance, Bengal, especially on this subject and asked him whether some of this old iron could not be utilized in Bengal. That officer has expressed his ability to use in the Cossipore Foundry a considerable quantity as "Kentledge," to mix with pig iron received from England, and authority * has been given for its transmission hence by India Government Steamers to Calcutta.

* Order of Government, No. 3518, dated 22nd June 1883.

3. The majority by far of the old cast-iron ordnance and shot and shell in the Fort will thus be disposed of, but there will still remain the quantities as per enclosed list. The unexpected offers received from Bombay for the purchase of the old shot and shell at the Ordnance Depôt, Nagpore, have led me to make inquiries as to the demand for old iron in Bombay, and I have learnt that, although but a few years since it was impossible to find purchasers for old cast-iron of this description, the market in Bombay is at this moment very low and that there is no difficulty now in selling such iron. At my request a gentleman connected with the iron trade at Madras has inquired what price would be offered in Bombay for the old shot and shell lying in Fort St. George, should Government be willing to dispose of it, and as a result of this communication, I have this day received a telegram from Messrs. Donald Henesy and Couper, Bombay, expressing their willingness to purchase all the old shot and shell disposable for sale here, at Rs. 7 per ton, delivered on the spot, furnishing a guarantee at the same time that it shall be broken up and not disposed of in its present condition to any other parties. As this old iron is of no use in this presidency and cannot be utilized in either Bengal or Bombay, I would recommend that the offer of Messrs. Donald Henesy and Couper be accepted. The price offered is low, but the metal has to be carried, at considerable expense, hence to Bombay, and the cost of embarking and disembarking it will be considerable. There will be much difficulty, I fear, in finding purchasers for the ordnance and mortar beds in the list, and I would suggest, with reference to these, that if, after advertising them for a month in the Bombay papers, no offers for them as old iron be received, they be buried within the precincts of the Fort and struck off the books of this department. Should any firm be willing to purchase them, they would be required to break them up before removal from Madras, so as to prevent the possibility of their being improperly disposed of.

4. From a perusal of the second part of para. 4 of Brigadier-General Stewart's letter, No. 125½-G., dated 16th April 1883, published in Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 4035, dated 23rd July 1883, it might be inferred that these redundant guns and carriages are lying scattered all about the Fort. Such is not the case. They are arranged, with scrupulous care and neatness, in front of the different faces of the Arsenal and around Ordnance buildings in the Fort, and I know of no place where heaps of the so-called "Ordnance rubbish" are stored which obstruct the healthful passage of the sea breeze. Broken-up ordnance and other

pieces of cast-iron cannot of course be neatly arranged, but these are kept in a small enclosure near the Caldwell Magazine, which is used by this department as a waste yard. The old shot, which are stated to have "collected the dirt and dust of ages," are arranged with much care, in quadrangular piles, near the St. Thomé Gate and are periodically kept clean as well as the precincts within which they stand.

5. Besides the articles enumerated in the enclosed list and those authorized to be sent to Calcutta for the use of the Cossipore Foundry, there are a few obsolete wood carriages which I would not recommend to be destroyed, as many parts of them can be utilized gradually in the Gun Carriage Factory. There is, however, no storage room there for them, and I trust they may be allowed to remain undisturbed on the Wallajah Berm, which is utilized by no other than this department, and where they are in nobody's way, until they can, from time to time, be removed to the Gun Carriage Factory to be cut up and utilized.

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10- ,, 18 ,,	16
8- ,, 9 ,,	44
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5½-inch	3
4⅘- ,,	8
Ordnance without sights—	
Cast-iron, S.B.—	
Howitzer, 10″ 42 cwt.	9
Mortar, 13″ L.S., 36 cwt.	20
10″ ,, 18 ,,	44
8″ ,, 9 ,,	7
Wrought-iron, R.B.L., with screw complete—	
7″ 82 cwt., L.S.	2
6-pdr., 3 cwt., S.S.	3
Cast-iron, S.B. Mortar—	
10″ 2′ 9″ 10 to 12 cwt., English	4
8″ 2′ 2″ 6 cwt., Bengal	11
Shot, S.B., Ordnance—	
Solid, Spherical—	
Loose—	
68-pdr.	20,214
56- ,,	5,010
42- ,,	14,787
32- ,,	11,229
24- ,,	8,864
18- ,,	12,836
12- ,,	1,665
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Loose, prepared for wood bottoms—	
18-pdr.	3,344
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9- ,,	3,058
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Rivetted to wood bottoms—	
Teak, 9-pdr.	3,235
6- ,,	1,152
3- ,,	100
Shot, Solid, Spherical, Common—	
Rivetted to bottoms, 24-pdr.	1,220
Fixed to Grummets, 3- ,,	38

FORT ST. GEORGE,
11*th August* 1883.

(Signed) S. CHAMIER, Colonel,
Inspector-General of Ordnance.

No. 125. *With report from Controller of Military Accounts; 24th August* 1883, *F.*

No. 126. ORDER THEREON, 13th September 1883, No. 4983.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council authorizes the acceptance of the offer of Messrs. Donald Henesy and Couper of Bombay, for the old shot and shell referred to, at Rs. 7 per ton, delivered on the spot, and on the usual guarantee being given.

2. The Inspector-General's suggestions in regard to the ordnance and mortar beds are accepted, and the necessary action will accordingly be taken.

3. The position of the obsolete wood carriages referred to in para. 5 will not be disturbed. The carriages will be removed gradually as they are required for use in the Gun Carriage Factory.

No. 127. *To the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department; dated 13th September* 1883, *No.* 4984.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. L. HANKIN, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

To the Quartermaster-General.
,, Inspector-General of Ordnance.
,, Controller of Military Accounts.
,, Public Works Department.
,, Adjutant-General, for information.

Exd. P. L. Pereira.

No. 2671 dated 22nd Septr/83

Communicated

to the S.E. Fifth Circle.

Sd/ C.B.

No. 2671 dated 22nd Septr/83

Govt. of {1883} Madras.

MILITARY.

To

THE QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated September, 13th.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 13th September 1883, No. 4983.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 124—127.

Ordnance Department—Stores.

Offer of Messrs. Donald Henesy and Couper of Bombay for the old shot and shell, at Rs. 7 per ton, and the suggestions of the Inspector-General of Ordnance as regards the disposal of the unserviceable ordnance, mortar beds and carriages lying in Fort St. George, accepted.

Withorder

S.E. 5th Circle

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

13th September 1883, No. 4983.

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2. Some few months ago I addressed the Inspector-General of Ordnance, Bengal, especially on this subject and asked him whether some of this old iron could not be utilized in Bengal. That officer has expressed his ability to use in the Cossipore Foundry a considerable quantity as "Kentledge," to mix with pig iron received from England, and authority * has been given for its transmission hence by India Government Steamers to Calcutta.

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3. The majority by far of the old cast-iron ordnance and shot and shell in the Fort will thus be disposed of, but there will still remain the quantities as per enclosed list. The unexpected offers received from Bombay for the purchase of the old shot and shell at the Ordnance Depôt, Nagpore, have led me to make inquiries as to the demand for old iron in Bombay, and I have learnt that, although but a few years since it was impossible to find purchasers for old cast-iron of this description, the market in Bombay is at this moment very low and that there is no difficulty now in selling such iron. At my request a gentleman connected with the iron trade at Madras has inquired what price would be offered in Bombay for the old shot and shell lying in Fort St. George, should Government be willing to dispose of it, and as a result of this communication, I have this day received a telegram from Messrs. Donald Henesy and Couper, Bombay, expressing their willingness to purchase all the old shot and shell disposable for sale here, at Rs. 7 per ton, delivered on the spot, furnishing a guarantee at the same time that it shall be broken up and not disposed of in its present condition to any other parties. As this old iron is of no use in this presidency and cannot be utilized in either Bengal or Bombay, I would recommend that the offer of Messrs. Donald Henesy and Couper be accepted. The price offered is low, but the metal has to be carried, at considerable expense, hence to Bombay, and the cost of embarking and disembarking it will be considerable. There will be much difficulty, I fear, in finding purchasers for the ordnance and mortar beds in the list, and I would suggest, with reference to these, that if, after advertising them for a month in the Bombay papers, no offers for them as old iron be received, they be buried within the precincts of the Fort and struck off the books of this department. Should any firm be willing to purchase them, they would be required to break them up before removal from Madras, so as to prevent the possibility of their being improperly disposed of.

4. From a perusal of the second part of para. 4 of Brigadier-General Stewart's letter, No. 125½-G., dated 16th April 1883, published in Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 4035, dated 23rd July 1883, it might be inferred that these redundant guns and carriages are lying scattered all about the Fort. Such is not the case. They are arranged, with scrupulous care and neatness, in front of the different faces of the Arsenal and around Ordnance buildings in the Fort, and I know of no place where heaps of the so-called "Ordnance rubbish" are stored which obstruct the healthful passage of the sea breeze. Broken-up ordnance and other

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Ed. P. L. Pereira.

Govt. of {1883} Madras.

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(True Extract.)

C. Chamier. Majr R.E.

for *Secretary to Government.*
Military Dep.

To the Quartermaster-General.
„ Inspector-General of Ordnance.
„ Controller of Military Accounts.
„ Public Works Department.
„ Adjutant-General, for information.

Exd. P. L. Pereira.

No 2671 Way 22nd Sept/83

B

Communicated
to the S. E. Fifth
Circle

C/
10/9

No 2671 Way 22-9-83

Govt. of {1883} Madras.

MILITARY.

To

THE QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL,
&c., &c., &c.

10 S.C

Dated September, 13th.

Issued

Recd. 17/9/83 *Encl.*

G.O., 13th September 1883, No. 4983.

S. S. C.

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2 Copies Sent to Coly 3-10-83

Withorder
Entd. in Receipt Register

S. E. Fifth Circle 22/9
S. S. Fifth Circle

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