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# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

DEPARTMENT

P-w-D.

|          |            |                  |
|----------|------------|------------------|
| G.O. No. | 591        | Press.           |
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| Dated    | 21-3-1883. | <del>198</del> . |

K.m.k.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

5. The receipt of stores during the year 1880-81 was as follows:—

|                                      |        |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| From London, Secretary of State      | 11,175 |
| .. Civil Departments                 | 6,317  |
| .. Military                          | 780    |
| .. Public Works Division             | 7,500  |
| .. Presidency Public Works Workshops | 8,956  |
| .. Railways                          | 621    |
| .. Indian market                     | 5,108  |

6. From the above figures it will be seen that about one-eighth of the total expenditure on stores was incurred in the Indian market, and only when Government depôts and railways had failed to meet the demand.

7. These purchases were not forced by delays in the supply of English indents, but were necessary to meet urgent demands for articles not in stock.

8. In the purchase locally of articles of European manufacture there is a decided loss in price; but, on the other hand, the loss entailed by keeping large stocks is avoided, as purchases are never made locally except for actual present requirements.

9. From the statement of balances it will be found that there has been a gradual decrease from 1876—1879, but that in the latter year there was an increase of Rs. 2,21,145 owing to the transfer of all Imperial stores to Provincial.

10. Under existing orders of Government the balance of stock is to be kept as low as possible, and consequently no indents are made on England, and no stores are purchased locally except to meet actual requirements.

From N. St. B. BEARDMORE, Esq., C.E., Acting Superintendent, Madras Harbour Works, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 20th September 1882, No. 40 W.

G.O. No. 990 W, dated 22nd April 1882.  
 " " 438 W, " 16th Feb  
 " " 2087 W, " 22nd Aug 1881

#### Enclosures.

1. Statement required in paragraph 6 of Government of India's No. 3574, dated 3rd November 1880
2. Statement A
3. " B
- 4 & 5. " C & C (2)
6. " D

Statement B showing Receipts and Issues for 1880-81.

- Do. C Do. do. for each year of the five ending 1880-81.  
 Do. C (2) showing Balances for each year of the five ending 1880-81  
 Do. D showing Classification of Stores.

2. Wherever practicable the exact English prices of imported articles have been entered in Statement A. In many cases only approximate figures have been supplied, as some invoices include more than one article of a different kind, whilst the freight is put down in a lump sum for the whole of the stores brought out, with nothing to indicate the proper proportion to be assigned to the different items. Results had therefore to be worked out as nearly as the existing records supplied the information. It is this, especially in the case of the statements of five years' "Receipts" and "Issues" and "Balances," that has occupied so great a length of time in preparing the report.

3. The largest item of imported articles in 1880-81 is 6,550 tons of Portland cement, which is the principal imported article used in the construction of these works. The value of that quantity was Rs. 2,59,732, at the average rate of Rs. 39-10-0 per ton taken on the whole of twenty invoices; the highest average rate at commencement of these works was Rs. 46 per ton. In the commencement of 1880-81, 603 tons of

cement of local manufacture were purchased at Rs. 39 per ton; this cement had been purchased previously at Rs. 43 per ton, but the quality at that time was not satisfactory and as it did not come up to the required test the contract was terminated.

4. Iron chains, canvas and deal planks, come next on the list of stores imported. The first article is not always procurable of size or quality required, and when one is pressed to purchase in the local market the cost is often as high as Rs. 32 per cwt.; the rate, when imported, ranges from 15 to 18 rupees per cwt. Canvas occasionally when out of stock in previous years was purchased from the leading local tradesman, and although at a cost of 10 to 12 annas per yard the quality was not equal to the price, whilst the imported article cost on an average about one-third less. Deal planks are, as a rule, always imported, being difficult to obtain locally, and when procurable the price, demanded is sometimes as high as 50 per cent. over the imported rate. Diver's gear is never procurable in the local market. On two or three occasions when the stock of underclothing, such as drawers and jerseys was exhausted, flannel was purchased in the market at Rs. 1-8-0 and Rs. 1-10-0 per yard, the material being then made up by the divers themselves into jerseys.

5. Nails and screws have always been purchased in the local market whenever required. Screws might probably be imported at a cost of 25 per cent. less than local prices.

6. Iron and steel of various sizes were imported when the works were commenced. Many of the sizes still remain in stock. In works of this class the requirements are so various and sometimes so sudden, and there is so much difficulty to obtain things in the local market, that it has been found advisable to keep different articles in stock.

7. Coal and coke were always purchased locally, the former from some one of the agency firms at Rs. 23 to Rs. 25 per ton. In 1877, 700 tons of coal were bought at the Public Works Stores for Rs. 27½ per ton. Coke has been bought from the Madras Railway Company at Rs. 43 per ton. Casuarina firewood grown in the country is largely used to supplement coal, and costs from Rs. 9½ to 11½ per ton.

8. Paints, varnish, and paint oils being always obtainable in the market are purchased only when needed. No stock has been kept or imported since the consignment received when these works were commenced, but which was supplemented in 1878 by a supply from the Public Works Stores.

9. Cordage—Manilla rope and spun yarn—are always in request, and for some works Manilla cordage is indispensable. When not procurable in the Government Arsenal or Madras Railway Company's stores the local market has to be resorted to and as high a rate as Rs. 38 to Rs. 42 per cwt. is demanded. Coir rope of local manufacture is however largely used, and wherever practicable substituted for Manilla; the highest price paid for coir rope has been Rs. 14 per cwt. Spun yarn was on one occasion obtained from Bombay at 8 annas per lb. or 2 annas above the price of the imported article, but the quality of the former did not equal that of the latter. The article was for a second time in 1880-81 obtained in the local market when as high a price as Rs. 1-2-0 per lb. was paid.

10. A quantity of castings of gear for machinery is executed at the Government Public Works Department Workshops, but there are certain wheels, sparo parts of machinery and plant which it is found necessary to import from England, these are indicated \* in detail Statement A.

\* See invoices by S.S. Duke of Argyll, Monaca, and Hanton.

11. I much regret the delay, explained in paragraph 2, that there has been in presenting this report.

No. 186.

ORDER—dated 23rd September 1882, No. 2172 W., Public Works.

Ordered to be forwarded to the Government of India, with reference to their letter No. 79-A. G., dated 2nd February 1882.