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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W.D. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. B.P. No.	360 W	Press. Mis.
Dated	9. 2. 1884.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

221

180

9th February 1884, No. 360 W., Public Works.

360
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Account.

Read—the following papers :—

- G.O., No. 3081 W., dated 12th December 1881.
- Memorandum No. 220, dated 26th January 1882.
- G.O., No. 2064 W., dated 12th August 1882.
- Memorandum No. 628 E., dated 24th August 1882.
- G.O., No. 2434 W., dated 19th September 1882.
- B ,, ,, 2488 W., ,, 25th ,, ,,
- ,, ,, 2489 W., ,, 25th ,, ,,
- ,, ,, 3183 W., ,, 4th December ,,
- ,, ,, 250-51 C., ,, 23rd January 1883.
- Memorandum No. 567, dated 9th March 1883.
- G.O., No. 922 W., dated 21st March 1883.
- From Superintending Engineer, I Circle, No. 3107 G.D., dated 21st March 1883.
- From ,, ,, II ,, ,, 3 G.L., ,, 4th April ,,
- From ,, ,, III ,, ,, 154, dated 13th April 1883.
- From ,, ,, IV ,, ,, 139 ,, 5th ,, ,,
- From ,, ,, V ,, ,, 54 ,, 4th ,, ,,
- From ,, ,, VI ,, ,, 172 T.J., dated 24th April 1883.
- From the Consulting Architect to Government, No. 29, dated 9th April 1883.
- Memorandum No. 1041 C., dated 31st May 1883.
- From the General Superintendent, Public Works Workshops, No. 320 W., dated 8th June 1883.
- Memorandum No. 1538 C., dated 15th August 1883.
- From the General Superintendent, Public Works Workshops, No. 632 W., dated 20th August 1883.
- From Messrs. Massey and Co., dated 31st August 1883.
- From the Consulting Architect to Government, No. 679, dated 13th September 1883.
- Office note from the General Superintendent, Public Works Workshops, No. 804 W., dated 9th October 1883.
- Office note from the General Superintendent, Public Works Workshops, No. 867 W., dated 31st October 1883.
- From Messrs. P. Orr and Sons, Madras, dated 29th March 1883.
- Memorandum No. 716 C., dated 30th March 1883.
- From the General Superintendent, Public Works Workshops, No. 16 W., dated 4th April 1883.
- Memorandum No. 805 C., dated 14th April 1883.
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- Memorandum No. 167 E., dated 18th June 1883.
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- Memorandum No. 297 E., dated 21st August 1883.
- From Messrs. P. Orr and Sons, dated 12th September 1883.
- Memorandum No. 2310 C., dated 23rd November 1883.
- From the General Superintendent, Public Works Workshops, No. 1016 W., dated 1st December 1883.
- Memorandum by Lieutenant Baddeley, dated 23rd January 1884.

ORDER—dated 9th February 1884, No. 360 W., Public Works.

The foregoing papers relate to the question of restricting the operations of the Presidency Public Works Workshops in view to their eventual abolition.

2. The subject came prominently under the notice of Government in September 1881, when the Examiner of Public Works Accounts, submitted his annual review of the financial operations of the workshops for the year 1880-81. That report showed that the outturn during the few preceding years had been steadily decreasing, and that from a commercial point of view, the result to be looked for was the entailment of an annual loss on Government. In G.O., No. 3081 W., dated 12th December 1881, Colonel Prendergast, R.E., Superintending Engineer, V Circle, who, as President of the Public Works Stores Committee, had acquired much information in regard to the working of the shops, was requested to report his conclusions on the general question raised as to the future of the workshops, and the best arrangements for execution of work should their closure be decided on.

3. The results of the inquiry which followed are summarised in the printed précis attached to Proceedings of Government, No. 2064 W., dated 12th August 1882, and the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, in a note printed therewith summed up in favor of abolishing the workshops for the following reasons:—

First.—As being in a condition of chronic deficit;

Second.—As directly interfering with private enterprise; and

Third.—As presenting insuperable difficulties in the way of providing for their proper and continuous supervision by a thoroughly trained mechanical engineer.

The Chief Engineer was further of opinion that one of the following three courses seemed open to Government:—

(1). To maintain the shops on much the same footing as at present, though relieved as much as possible of certain items standing against the capital account, so as to admit of their having a better chance in future of working to show a profit,

(2). To get rid of all buildings and plant, and retain only those portions which may be required for the execution of such repairs and trifling matters of manufacture as Executive Engineers cannot have locally executed,

(3). To dispose of the whole concern, and trust to the open market for all manufactures and repairs;

and, as it was feared that much inconvenience might result from such a drastic measure as the immediate closure of the shops, the Government, on the recommendation of the Chief Engineer, resolved to adopt the second of the alternatives thus placed before them, and called for proposals for carrying it into effect.

4. Those proposals which were submitted in the papers printed with Proceedings of Government, No. 2488 W., dated 25th September 1882, and generally approved by Government for gradual adoption, may be briefly summarised as follows:—

(*a*) All work to be refused except that required by the Public Works Department, and in the instrument shops.

(*b*) Officers of the Public Works Department to abstain as far as practicable from giving orders for work at the shops.

(*c*) The nucleus of a small workshop for departmental purposes to be organized within the present shops.

(*d*) Tenders to be invited for the purchase of the existing buildings and available plant; and if any such be accepted, the reduced establishment to be removed elsewhere,

(*e*) Inquiries to be made as to whether the mathematical instrument work of the department could be executed at Calcutta.

(*f*) The gradual reduction of the existing establishment.

5. The steps which have since been taken to carry out these measures may thus be briefly stated. Immediate effect was given to (*a*), and, at present, except in special cases, no work is undertaken outside the Public Works Department.

With regard to (*b*), Superintending Engineers were called upon in the Chief Engineer's Circular No. 567 C., dated 9th March 1883, or nearly six months subsequent to the issue of the restrictive orders, to report how far the intentions of Government had been carried out and the result which had thereby accrued, with special reference to the following points:—

1st.—To what extent work previously done by the Public Works Workshops had been carried out by other agency.

2nd.—Whether any difficulty, either in the shape of increased prices, of delay, or of difficulty in getting work done, had been experienced in carrying out the change.

3rd.—If any such difficulty had been experienced, whether it could be removed, and by what means.

4th.—If no steps had been taken towards the reduction of demands upon the workshops, what had prevented such steps from being taken.

The majority of the replies to that circular were meagre, but they showed generally that little work had been given to the presidency workshops during the period in question; that officers of the department anticipated no difficulty or delay in getting work done by private agency; and that sufficient time had not elapsed for any reliable opinion to be formed as to the full effect of the restrictive orders.

As regards (*c*), nothing definite has apparently yet been done beyond reducing the number of workmen and restricting work.

With respect to (*d*), the contemplated sale of the buildings, &c., completely fell through, not one reasonable offer having been received in reply to advertisements for tenders published throughout India.

With reference to (*e*), an inquiry addressed to the Surveyor General, Calcutta, elicited the reply that the mathematical instrument department there was not in a position to undertake the repair of the mathematical instruments of the Madras Public Works Department, and it was consequently decided, in Proceedings of Government, No. 3183 W., dated 4th December 1882, that the closing of the Madras instrument shop would be premature. It was therefore ordered to be maintained for the present, for the execution of Government work; the establishment to be regulated solely with reference to the amount of such work likely to be required, and the execution of private work to be discouraged. Subsequently, Messrs. Orr and Sons undertook to repair Government mathematical instruments, and a certain number were sent to them for treatment; but the result, as reported by Captain Baddeley, was not altogether satisfactory with respect both to quality of work and to price. Messrs. Orr and Sons however maintain that, if a continuity of work were supplied to them, they are confident of overcoming defects due to inexperience, and of ultimately giving entire satisfaction.

With regard to (*f*), some reduction of establishment has taken place; the apprentices under training to be foremen mechanics have been transferred to the Madras Railway workshops; and the General Superintendent has submitted statements showing the existing permanent establishment, the number of workmen employed, the duties performed by each man, and the scale of establishment he would recommend for the maintenance of a small workshop for purposes purely departmental.

6. The Government consider that the time has now come when some definite settlement should be arrived at as to the future of the workshops, and they accordingly resolve to appoint a Committee composed of—

Colonel H. L. PRENDERGAST, R.E., Superintending Engineer, V Circle, as President, and
Major C. BOWEN, R.E., Deputy Chief Engineer and Under Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.
D. C. GORDON, Esq., Examiner, Public Works Accounts,
Major R. R. E. DRAKE-BROCKMAN, R.E., Executive Engineer, and
W. HUGHES, Esq., B.A., Executive Engineer,

as members, to investigate and report on the questions now pending respecting the Public Works Workshops and Stores. The attention of the Committee will be specially directed to the following points:—

I.—The effects of the restrictive order No. 2488 W., dated 25th September 1882, on the financial position of the workshops.

II.—The extent to which the department has, since the issue of the above quoted order, availed itself of outside agency to meet requirements, and the manner in which work has been executed by such agency.

III.—The extent to which the conditions under which that order was issued have been modified by the commencement of the lines of railway recently sanctioned.

IV.—The inferences to be drawn from the results of the above inquiries, as to the policy to be now pursued, *i.e.*, whether the establishment should be still further reduced, or the shops be closed altogether or re-established, and if so, on what footing.

V.—The circumstances of the mathematical instrument department, and the possibility of limiting its operations.

VI.—The staff to be in future entertained in connection with the Public Works Workshops, and its kindred branches, the Public Works Stores, State Railway Stores, Government Machinery Department, &c.

7. The papers recorded at the head of these Proceedings will be forwarded in original to the Committee, who will be requested to submit the results of their deliberations to Government as early as practicable. Any information required by the Committee will be furnished to them by the officers concerned.

(True Extract.)

Major, R.E.,
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To Colonel H. L. Prendergast, R.E.
„ Major C. Bowen, R.E.
„ D. C. Gordon, Esq.
„ Major R. R. E. Drake-Brockman, R.E.
„ W. Hughes, Esq., B.A.
To the General Superintendent, Public Works Stores and Workshops.
To Superintending Engineers.

Exd. A. Aubert.
Spare Copies

360/3

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

Govt. of {1884} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated February, 9th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 9th Feb. 1884, No. 360 W.

FEBRUARY.

Public Works Workshops and Stores

Appointing a Committee to investigate and report on the questions now pending respecting the —.

360/4

of August & Sept. 82, and how completely the contemplated sale of the buildings &c. fell through, — not one reasonable offer having been received in reply to advertisements published throughout India.

The Circular of March 83 may also be quoted, & the replies received to it, — also any other papers bearing closely on the question.

Ending with the appt. of a Committee composed of

Col: H. L. Prendergast. R.E.
Major C. Bowen R.E.
D. C. Gordon Esq.
Major Drake-Brockman R.E.
W. Hughes Esq. B.A.

to investigate & report on the questions now pending respecting the P.W. Workshops & Stores, — their attention being specially directed to the points noted overleaf by D.W.

W.
28-1-84

To W. Rough draft submitted for approval. Ch.
1.2.84

AS.} 188 . {P.W. DEPT.

SECRETARY.

360/7 188 .

OFFICE NOTE.

Closure of the P.W. Workshops.

August last orders were
restrict the operations of
workshops as far as possible.
ch last reports were
from S.Es. as to the extent
those instructions had been
t & results of the restrictions.
eral conclusion to be drawn
arious reports sent in is that
ds made on the workshops
have been very limited, &
general consensus of opinion
difficulties will arise from
lated closure.
t that no tender worth
has been received for the
plant admits of the charge —
form may now be determined
carried out slowly, and I
mmend tentatively.
owever a suggestion of E.D.'s
buildings for a limited
eems to me doubtful whether
ely to offer reasonable terms,
the are miserable solitary
ula for the purchase.

To W.

The points to which the attention of the suggested Committee on P.W. workshops might be directed are:—

1. Effects of the restrictive orders, No 2488 W. of 25th September, 82, on the financial position of the workshops.

2. Extent to which the Department has since the issue of the above order availed itself of outside agency to meet requirements, and the manner in which work has been executed by such agency.

3. Inferences to be drawn from the above as to the policy to be now pursued — i.e. whether the establishment can now be still further reduced, or the shops be closed altogether, or re-established on the old footing.

4 – The circumstances of the Mathematical Instrument Dept., and possibility of limiting its operations.

5 – The staff to be in future entertained in connection with the P.W. workshops and its kindred branches, the P.W. Stores, State Railway stores, machinery Dept., &c.—

C.S.

25-1-84

S.A.W.

An order may be drafted, based on all that has been done in the matter of the workshops since 1881, — setting forth briefly what Govt. had in view in their orders

---

To W.

Public Works Workshops.

In view to giving effect to the order for the gradual closure of the P.W. workshops, the Supdt. was directed to submit a list of the Establishment that would suffice for a small workshop to meet existing requirements.—

The accompanying comparative statement shows the present & proposed Establishment. Further reduction is apparently not feasible at present.

The question of the future of these shops is a difficult one to deal with. As matters now stand no work is done for the outside public now for other Departments except under special circumstances, and S.E.'s limit as far as possible their demands on the Supdt. There are still, however, requisitions that must be complied with, and in the Stores and State Railway branches work is likely to increase rather than diminish.

Perhaps formal sanction to the "proposed Establishment" now shown will meet the case for the present, and Supdt. might be ordered to report at end of the financial year what further reductions can be made. The future status & pay of the Officer who will hold charge is involved in the question & will

1

360/5

soon call for definite settlement.

CJ.
23-1-84

S.A.W.

Can you have prepared from these lists a comparative tabular statement showing the existing Establishments (on 1st April) under Capt. Huddleby & those he now proposes. — To be shown under the different heads of P.W. Stores, Govt. machinery stores, State Railway stores, P.W. Workshops, Mathematical Instt., &c. Names need not be given, but the numbers placed under each head & subhead, & the total pay of each class — so as to enable W. to see at a glance the existing state of affairs & what is now proposed.

As regards the pay &c, of course Capt. Huddeley's revised list, submitted with his No. 612 W of 20-8-83 should be followed — not the original list. Under List C the men "to be taken on as required" as per remark against "Smiths" & others need not be entered in the statement.

CJ.
7/12

Dw. Statement submitted.

CJ
17.12.83

are miserable solitary
for the purchase.

GOVT. OF MADRAS. 188 . P.W. DEPT.

SECRETARY.

CHEPAUK, 36/0 188

OFFICE NOTE. 7

To W.

Proposed Closure of the P.W. Workshops

On 12th August last orders were issued to restrict the operations of the P.W. Workshops as far as possible.

In March last reports were called for from S.Es. as to the extent to which these instructions had been carried out & results of the restrictions.

The general conclusion to be drawn from the various reports sent in is that the demands made on the workshops in 81/82 have been very limited & there is a general consensus of opinion that no difficulties will arise from the contemplated closure.

The fact that no tender worth considering has been received for the buildings & plant admits of the change — in whatever form may now be determined on — being carried out slowly, and I would recommend tentatively.

There is however a suggestion of E.O.s to lease the buildings for a limited period. It seems to me doubtful whether anyone is likely to offer reasonable terms, considering the miserable arbitrary tender made for the purchase.

0

2.

At any rate it is evident there is now no pressing necessity to deal with the question of the future location of the Public Works stores & Instrument Dept & of the provision of new buildings for them.

I would suggest, in view to carrying the matter a step further towards final solution, that the Superintendent be now called on to submit a definite scheme for the organization & maintenance of a small workshop for purposes purely departmental. He should send up a list showing the names, pay, ages, & occupation of the workmen he would retain, with a similar ones of those to be dismissed or drafted elsewhere. The establishment of the Instrument Dept, reduced as far as our present known requirements admit, should also be shown, as well as that required for the custody of the Public Works & State Railway stores, and for the maintaining in proper order of the Government Machinery stores. When this statement has been framed the important question of Superintendence can be gone into.

(a)

In para 7 of order No 2488 W of 25th Septr/82, it was stated that the Surveyor-General would be communicated with regarding our mathematical instrument work, but there is nothing on the file to show that this was done.

This is a mistake. I find since that the S.G. was addressed & stated he was not in a position to undertake the work.

I observe that Major Pennycuick expressed a strong opinion against the policy of closing the workshops.

GOVT. OF MADRAS. } 188 . { P.W. DEPT.

SECRETARY.

CHEPAUK, 360/8 188 .

OFFICE NOTE.

3

I am not sufficiently conversant with the Presidency & its requirements to offer an opinion on the matter, but when I recently paid a very brief visit to the shops I was favourably impressed with what ought to be a useful & safe institution for our Department, if not exactly a paying one, & might be made a valuable sort of training school.

Chief Engineer will remember the failure of a private firm, Wallace & Co, to supply satisfactorily our comparatively limited wants in Mysore, even when liberally encouraged. Doubtless Madras is infinitely better off in this way, & there are Bombay & Calcutta to fall back on — but if the workshops is permanently closed will not private firms very soon crack up their prices?

The small workshops now to be organised should I think be arranged so as to be susceptible of rapid expansion, should necessity arise — that would be a great point.

17/5

D.W.

I quite approve of your Suggestions (a) and shall

S.a.W.

Draft order to Captn Haddely to prepare & submit after careful consideration & inquiry the lists referred to by W & marked (a).

CJ
23/5.

be stuck if we were called for a definite scheme

It is useless I fear to think of leasing the buildings but when we know the ultimate spaces required by our workshops on the reduced scale a further step may be made towards disposal of the remaining buildings tools & plant

It is needless for me now to go over the often trodden grounds on which it has been decided by Government to alter the position hitherto held by the workshops; but there are two leading facts
(1) There is no possibility with the constitution of our depot of maintaining any continuity of Superintendents with adequate workshop knowledge & experience
(2) Superd. Engineers do not anticipate difficulties arising from the closure of the shops on the old footing

As a training Establt. the Railway workshops &c are much better

The one serious difficulty is that connected with the repairs of instruments; but here Messrs Orr & Son profess to be able to meet our requirements and all seriously injured but repairable instruments can as heretofore be sent to England

— 2/5/83

Memo. Jany 23rd /84. 360/69

P.W. Workshops & Stores.

I do not think it has ever been suggested, that a Committee of P.W. officers, should take up the whole of the questions connected with the P.W. Stores & Workshops, & lay before Govt definite proposals for their settlement.

— About 3 years ago a Committee took up the general question of Stores, & some remarks were made about the P.W. Stores & Workshops, but the information at the disposal of the Committee was very limited, and no good resulted —

— The matter was taken up strongly by General Sankey, but so far, the only result has been to limit the operations of the shops (except in the Mathl Inst Dept) leaving the system of accounts unchanged, an obviously unsatisfactory arrangement; for the accounts were framed to show the working of a factory on commercial principles & were not intended for an institution that is only allowed to take up a limited quantity of work.

— Without a continuity of work, it is impossible to retain the best workmen, the percentage charges cannot be reduced & the shops cannot be worked economically

— Last year 1882-83 the accounts were satisfactory because there was a fair amount of work up to the date of the restrictive orders, this year —

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21/5/83

Memo. Jany 23rd/84.

PW Workshops & Stores.

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— Last year 1882-83 the accounts were satisfactory because there was a fair amount of work up to the date of the restrictive orders, this year

Sir

the accounts will shew a large loss owing to the want of continuity in orders for work.

— Until recently a large order for truck wheels for Singapore was carried out & for a time the Foundry & Machine shops were full of work; at the present time the Foundry is idle, and the few orders booked will have to wait until there are sufficient for one running of the Cupola.

— Very shortly a large order for Shutters & Screens for [illegible] will be put in hand, in the meantime many lathes are idle & the carpenters shop is not working to half its strength.

— I believe I know the whole history of the Stores & Workshops from their commencement up to the present time; & if a Committee were formed I could lay before each member a memo giving the fullest detail of every question connected with the institution.

— I am certain that it is impossible for any one man to deal satisfactorily with the subject, & if it is not taken up until I have vacated the appointment by furlough or otherwise, the difficulties of the Committee will be materially increased.

A C Beddeley [illegible]

23/1/84.

Genl. Secty

P.W. Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government:

under date the

Read the following:—

360/8 11

G.O. 3081 W d/ 12th December/81.
Memo. 220 d/ 26th January/82.
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G.O. 922 W d/ 21 — Do —
From. Suptg: Engr: I Circle No. 3107 G.D d/ 21st March/83
—— Do —— II Circle " 3. G.L d/ 4th April/83
—— Do —— III Circle " 154 d/ 13th — Do —
—— Do —— IV Circle " 139 d/ 5 — Do —
—— Do —— V Circle " 54 d/ 4 — Do —
—— Do —— VI Circle " 172. T.J d/ 24th — Do —
From the Consg: Archt: to Govt: " 29 d/ 9th — Do —
Memo: 1041. C d/ 31st May/83
From the Genl: Supt: P.W. Workshops No. 320 W d/ 8 June/83

Memo: 1538. C of 15th August /83.
From the Genl: Supt: P.W. Workshops No 632 W of 20th Augt/83
From Messrs Massey & Co of 31st august /83
From the Cons: Archt: to Govt: No 679 of 13th Septr/83
Office note from the Genl: Supt: P.W. Workshops No 834 W of 9th Octr/83
—— do —— do —— No 867 W of 31 do
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Memo: 2310 C of 23rd November/83
From the Genl: Supt: P.W. Workshops No 1016 W of 1st Decr/83
Memo: by Lt Baddeley of 23rd Jany/84.

A/[illegible]

No 360 W. P.W. Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government
under date the 9th Feby/84

Read the following:—

360/12

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C No 2700 of 1883
" 3058 —— " ——
" 3184 —— " ——
" 2947 —— " ——
" 2905 —— " ——
" 3497 —— " ——
" 3041 —— " ——
Memo: 1041. C of 31st May /83
C No 4851 of 1883
Memo: 1538. C of 15th Augt /83

C No. 7158 of 1883
" 7507 — " —
" 7877 — " —
" 8789 — " —
" 9582 — " —
" 2684 — " —
Memo: 716 C of 30th March /83
C No. 2927 of 1883
Memo: 805 C of 14th April /83
C No. 5201 of 1883
Memo: 167 E of 18th June /83
C No. 5520 of 1883
Memo: No. 203 E of 6th July /83
C No. 7245 of 1883
Memo: 297 E of 21st Augt. /83
C No. 8296 of 1883.
Memo: 2310 C of 23rd Novr. /83
C No. 10729 of 1883
Memo: by Lt. Baddeley of 23rd Jany /84.

The Committee appointed [to] Report should I think be reminded that the construction of State railways recently sanctioned in this Presidency has somewhat altered the position of affairs since the orders referred to were issued & the fact should receive consideration D.L.S. 8/2

p2

The foregoing papers relate to the question of restricting the operations of the Presidency P.W. Workshops in view to their eventual abolition.

p3

360/13

2. The Subject came prominently under the notice of Government in September /81, when the Examiner P.W. Accounts submitted his annual review of the financial operations of the Workshops for the year 1880-81. That report showed that the out-turn during the few preceding years had been steadily decreasing, and that from a commercial point of view, the result to be looked for was the entailment of an annual loss on Government. In G.O.

No. 3081 W of 12th Decr. /81, Col. Prendergast R.E. Supdg. Engr. II Circle, who, as President of the P.W. Stores Committee, had acquired much information in regard to the working of the Shops, was requested ~~in communication with Col. Shaw Stewart R.E., Consulting Engr. for Rys;~~ to report his conclusions on the general question raised as to the future of the workshops, and the ~~last~~ best arrangements for execution of work should their closure be decided on.

3. The results of the inquiry which followed are summarised in the printed précis

attached to P.G. No. 2064 W of 12th August /82; and the Chief Engineer P.W. Department, in a note printed therewith, ~~these~~ ~~[illegible]~~, summed up in favor of abolishing the workshops, for the following reasons:—

First as being in a condition of chronic deficit;

Secondly as directly interfering with private enterprise; and

Thirdly as presenting insuperable difficulties in the way of providing for [illegible] proper and continuous supervision by a thoroughly trained mechanical Engineer.

The Chief Engineer was further of opinion that one of the following three courses seemed open to Government:—

(1). To maintain the shops on much the same footing as at present, though relieved as much as possible of certain items standing against the Capital Account, so as to admit of their having a better chance in future of working to show a profit,

(2). To get rid of all buildings and plant, and [illegible]tain only those portions which may be required for the execution of such repairs and trifling matters of manufacture as

Executive Engineers cannot have locally executed,

(3). To dispose of the whole concern, and trust to the open market for all manufactures and repairs;

and, as it was feared that much inconvenience ~~would~~ might result from such a drastic measure as the immediate closure of the Shops, the Govt., on the recommendation of the Chief Engineer, resolved to adopt the second of the alternatives thus placed before them, and called for proposals for carrying it into effect.

4. These proposals, which were submitted

one of the following three courses seemed open to Government:—

(1). To maintain the shops on much the same footing as at present, though relieved as much as possible of certain items standing against the Capital account, so as to admit of their having a better chance in future of working to show a profit,

(2). To get rid of all buildings and plant, and retain only those portions which may be required for the execution of such repairs and trifling matters of manufacture as

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Executive Engineers cannot have locally executed,

(3). To dispose of the whole concern, and trust to the open market for all manufactures and repairs;

and, as it was feared that much inconvenience might ~~would~~ result from such a drastic measure as the immediate closure of the Shops, the Govt. on the recommendation of the Chief Engineer, resolved to adopt the second of the alternatives thus placed before them, and called for proposals for carrying it into effect.

4. Those proposals, which were submitted

one as the

in the papers printed with P.G. No. 2488 W of 25th September /82, and generally approved by Government for gradual adoption, may be briefly summarised as follows:—

(a). All work to be refused except that required by the P.W. Department, and in the instrument shops.

(b). Officers of the P.W. department to ~~obtain~~ abstain as far as practicable from giving orders for work at the shops.

(c). The nucleus of a small workshop for departmental purposes to be organised within the present shops.

(d) Tenders to be invited for the purchase of the existing buildings and available plant; and if any such be accepted, the reduced establishment to be removed elsewhere.

(e). Inquiries to be made as to whether the mathematical instrument work of the department could be executed at — Calcutta

(f). The gradual reduction of the existing establishment.

5. The steps which have since been taken to carry out ~~the~~ these measures ~~above stated~~ may thus be briefly stated.

Immediate

effect was given to (a), and at present, except in very special cases, no work is undertaken ~~except~~ outside for the P.W. Dept.

With regard to (b) Suptg: Engineers were called upon in the Chief Engineer's Circular No 567-C d/9th March/83, or nearly six months subsequent to the issue of the restrictive orders, to report how far the intentions of Govt: had been carried out and the result which had thereby accrued, with special reference to the following points

1st To what extent work previously done by the P.W. Workshops had been carried out by other agency.

2nd Whether any difficulty, either in the shape of increased prices, of delay, or of difficulty in getting work done, had been experienced in carrying out the change

3rd If any such difficulty had been experienced, whether it could be removed, and by what means.

4th If no steps had been taken towards the reduction of demands upon the workshops, what had prevented such steps from being taken.

The majority of the

replies to that circular were ~~very~~ meagre, but they showed generally that ~~very~~ little work had been given to the Presidency workshops during the period in question; that officers of the department anticipated no difficulty or delay in getting work done by private agency; and that sufficient time had not elapsed for any reliable opinion to be formed as to the full effect of the restrictive orders.

As regards (c), nothing definite has apparently yet been done, beyond reducing the number of workmen and

restricting work.

With respect to (d), the contemplated sale of the buildings, &c, completely fell through, not one reasonable ~~tender~~ offer having been received in reply to advertisements for tenders published throughout India.

With reference to (e), an inquiry addressed to the Surveyor General Calcutta, elicited the reply that the Mathematical Instrument Department there was not in a position to undertake the repair of the mathematical instruments of the Madras P. W. Department, and it was consequently decided, in P.G. No. 3183W of 4 December/82, that the closing of the Madras instrument shop would be premature. It was therefore ordered to be maintained for the present, for the execution of Government work; the establishment to be regulated solely with reference to the amount of such work likely to be required, and the execution of private work to be discouraged. Subse[illegible]tly, Messrs. Orr & Sons undertook to repair Government mathematical instruments, and a certain number were sent to them for treatment; but the

result, as reported by ~~Lieut.~~ Captain Baddeley, was not altogether satisfactory with respect both to quality of work ~~both as regards quality~~ and to price. Messrs. Orr & Co Sons however maintain that, if a continuity of work ~~be~~ were supplied to them, they are confident of overcoming defects due to inexperience, and of ultimately giving entire satisfaction.

But we can't shut up our shop whilst they are perfecting their workmen at the expense of our instruments

With regard to (f) some reduction of establishment has taken place, the apprentices under training to be foremen mechanics have been transferred to the Madras Railway workshops; and the General

Supt. has submitted
statements showing the
existing permanent
establishment, the
number of workmen
employed, the duties
performed by each man,
and the scale of es=
=tablishment he would
recommend for the
maintenance of a small
workshop for purposes
purely departmental.

6. The Government
consider that the time
has now come when
some definite settlement
should be arrived at
as to the future of
the workshops, ~~and the~~
~~status and pay of~~
~~the officer who will~~
~~hold charge, and will~~

and they accordingly
~~this view they~~ resolve
to appoint a Committee
composed of
Col. H. L. Prendergast R.E.,
Suptg. Engr. I Circle
as President, and
Major C. Bowen R.E.
Dy: Chief Engr. &
Under Secy: to Govt:
P.W.D.,
D. C. Gordon Esqre, Exr.
P.W. Accounts,
Major R.R.E. Drake Brockman
R.E., Ex: Engr., and
W. Hughes Esqre B.A., Ex:
Engr.;
as members, to investi=
=gate and report on the
questions now pending
respecting the P.W. Work=
=shops and Stores. The
attention of the Com=
=mittee will be specially
directed to the following

points.

I. The effects of the restrictive order No. 2488 W of 25 Septr. /82 on the financial position of the workshops.

II. The extent to which the Department has, since the issue of the above quoted order, availed itself of outside agency to meet requirements, and the manner in which work has been executed by such agency.

III. The extent to which the conditions under which that ~~previous~~ order was issued have been modified by the commencement of the lines of railway recently sanctioned.

~~III.~~ IV. The inferences to be drawn from the results of the above inquiries, as to the policy to be now pursued, i.e. whether the establishment should ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ be still further reduced; or the shops be closed altogether; or reestablished, on different ~~[illegible]~~ footing.

~~IV~~ V. The circumstances of the Mathematical Instrument Dept, & the possibility of limiting its operations.

~~V.~~ VI. The staff to be in future entertained in connection with the P.W. Workshops, and its kindred branches, the P.W. Stores, State Railway Stores, Government Machinery Dept, &c.

7. The papers recorded at the head of these Proceedings will be

Forwarded in original to the Committee, who will be requested to submit the results of their deliberations to Government as early as practicable. Any information required by the Committee will be furnished to them by the Offices concerned.

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No 915 W d/ 4.4.81
" 3058 W d/ 12.12.82
" 220 d/ 26.1.82
" 2064 W d/ 12.8.82
" 628 E d/ 24.8.82
" 2434 W d/ 14.9.82
" 2456-9 W d/ 23.9.82
" 3163 W d/ 4.12.82
" 2995/2996 W d/ 12.8.82
" 3329 W d/ 6.12.82
" 250-1 C d/ 23.1.83
" 232 B d/ 1.2.83
" 567 C d/ 9.3.83
" 922 W d/ 21.3.83
" 1041 C d/ 31.5.83
" 1538 C d/ 15.8.83
" 716 C d/ 30.3.83
" 805 C d/ 14.4.83
" 167 E d/ 18.6.83
" 203 E d/ 6.7.83
" 297 E d/ 21.8.83
" 2810 C d/ 23.11.83
" 2154 B d/ 13.10.83
" 1924 B d/ 12.10.83

Circ: 2/2/84

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9.2.84

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To
Col. A. L. Prendergast R.E. with file
Major C. Bowen R.E.
D. C. Gordon Esqr.
Major M.R.E. Drake Brockman R.E.
W. Hughes Esqr. B.A.
Genl. Supt. P.W. Stores & Workshops
Superintending Engineers.

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Govt. of (1884) Madras.

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Dated

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G.O. 9 Feby 1884 No. 360W.

Ack 1494 W/15/6/84

Pr workshops & Stores

Appointing a Com-mittee to investigate & report on the questions now pending respecting the —.

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