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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W. D.P.W. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1198-W
B.P. No.

Press.
Mts.

Dated

21-5-1885

~~198~~

Not to be folded or roughly handled.

21st MAY 1885, No. 1198 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

1158

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Account.

READ—the following papers :—

From Colonel W. H. BURTON, R.E., Officiating Superintending Engineer, V Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chepák, 8th May 1885, No. 534.

With reference to paragraph 3 of G.O., No. 2514 W., dated 13th October 1884, I have the honor to report that the General Superintendent of Public Works Stores explains that the demands of the Engineers-in-Chief and Storekeepers of the State Railways have always been met fully or partially according to the stock in hand in the Public Works Stores.

2. The Bellary-Kistna Railway obtained a reasonable supply of tools and plant at the commencement of the work, the Cuddapah-Nellore Railway hardly anything. The Storekeeper of the last mentioned line merely enquires number and price of tools, &c., he may require but never follows up such enquiries by an order on the Superintendent.

3. As these railways are *bona fide* Public Works, it seems to be an open question whether their requirements in tools and plant and timber should be met *in toto* or not at all by the General Superintendent, Public Works Stores.

4. With reference to paragraph 2 of the G.O., I have to report that the Master Attendant has arranged in his department that bills for landing and pier charges, &c., on account of State Railway materials should have the precedence, and the General Superintendent, Public Works Stores, has been instructed to send his indent for the bills to the Deputy Master Attendant without delay.

Office note from the Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated 15th May 1885.

ORDER—dated 21st May 1885, No. 1198 W., Public Works.

Recorded.

2. The General Superintendent, Public Works Stores, should, by forwarding price lists, &c., to Engineers-in-Chief and Storekeepers of State Railways, endeavour to induce them to utilise surplus serviceable materials in the Public Works Stores, as largely as possible, instead of purchasing similar articles elsewhere.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, V Circle.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
" Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Ed. E. Fernandez.
Spare Copies

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

Govt. of (1885) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated May, 21st.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 21st May 1885, No. 1198 W.

MAY.

Surplus Serviceable Stores

Instructions to the General Superintendent, Public Works Stores, to endeavour to utilise — for State Railways.

13TH OCTOBER 1884, No. 2514 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Account.

READ—the following letter from D. C. GORDON, Esq., Examiner of Public Works Accounts, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 10th September 1884, No. 64 W. :—

I have the honor to submit, for information and orders of Government, notes by Mr. Rainier, Deputy Examiner, of his inspection of the office of the General Superintendent, Public Works Stores.

2. Considering the large quantity of stores which the State Railways under construction in this Presidency must obtain, it is unsatisfactory that so little has been availed of from the Presidency stores.

ENCLOSURE.

Notes of Inspection by H. RAINIER, Esq., Deputy Examiner, Public Works Accounts, of the office of the General Superintendent, Public Works Stores, Madras, on the 3rd and 4th September 1884.

Captain Baddeley, R.E., the General Superintendent, and P. Singaravulu Moodelliar, the Accountant, were present. The office was last inspected on the 8th August 1883—*vide* papers printed with G.O., No. 2361 W., of 22nd August 1883.

2. The balance of stores at the end of 1882-83 amounted to Rs. 3,63,960. During 1883-84 there have been receipts aggregating Rs. 94,255 and issues Rs. 1,48,763; the balance at the end of 1883-84 is consequently Rs. 3,09,452.

3. The receipts are of seven kinds—(1) Stores from London on indent, for purposes of reserve stock; (2) from Civil department, as from Forest department, &c.; (3) from Military department, as from arsenals, &c.; (4) from Public Works divisions, in the case of stores returned second-hand, of surplus; (5) from the workshop branch, as when tools or jobs are delivered into store after completion; (6) from Railways, in case of stores being bought of such source; and (7) from the local market, when stores for the reserve stock are bought locally.

4. Receipts have varied of late years under all the above heads, but principally as regards 1, 4, 5, and 7. The following table shows the figures for the last three financial years side by side:—

Stores Receipts 1881-82, 1882-83 and 1883-84 compared.

	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
1. From London	14,437	25,921	71,576
2. From Civil department	1,851	401	628
3. From Military department	2,714	...	1,712
4. From Public Works divisions	37,630	5,238	7,010
5. From Presidency workshop	90,212	13,027	10,506
6. From Railways	378	295	...
7. From Local market	21,802	5,238	2,823

The General Superintendent explained the variation as regards (1), as caused merely by the growing requirements of the department. The indents on England for stores in 1883-84 included several items of workshop plant too. The fourth source of receipt was, of course, quite abnormal in 1881-82, when the divisions were returning so much surplus stock to stores under G.O., No. 914 W., dated 4th April 1881, and in the same year, the transfer to stores of the workshop stock, Rs. 90,000, explains the large amount against item 5.

With regard to the much less value of stores bought now in the local market, this is said to be owing to the fact that for reserve stock, that stock being so abundant, very few local purchases are now necessary. Also probably to the habit Executive Engineers now have of indenting for things only as they find they actually want them, when if not in stock they are bought and supplied, and in which case they do not appear among the receipts now under notice.

5. The issues to Public Works Department divisions from the reserve stock have been in 1883-84	Rs.
In 1882-83 they were	61,405
And in 1881-82	24,454
The issues to State Railways were in 1883-84	44,681
Against in 1882-83	18,090
The reason of which increase is obvious. Stores issued to private parties in 1883-84 were	6,842
Against in 1882-83	4,558
Issues to the Workshops were in 1883-84	8,305
In 1882-83	15,287
And in 1881-82	24,454
	44,681

6. Among the issues in 1883-84 sales by auction have to be included. These comprised Rs. 27,864 worth of stores, as valued in the books, which only realised Rs. 5,689 when sold.

7. Besides the stock in hand at close of 1883-84, valued at Rs. 3,09,452, there were certain articles, chiefly mathematical instruments in an unpriced state, being either unserviceable or awaiting repair. Of the value shown above, there were—

	Rs.
Small stores	16,820
Building materials	40,598
Timber	137
Metals	1,05,488
Fuel	202
Painters' stores	109
Miscellaneous stores	5,312
Tools and Plant	1,40,786
Total	3,09,452

These are all described by the General Superintendent as of good value, and it was said that all have undergone count during the last year.

8. The balance of stores in previous years has been in round numbers thus:—

	Rs.
1879-80	4,05,000
1880-81	3,93,000
1881-82	4,72,000
1882-83	3,64,000
1883-84	3,10,000

9. With reference to G.O., No. 2743 W., of 21st October 1882, the unserviceable part of the surplus stock there treated is said to have now been sold. As regards the serviceable stock which was regarded as surplus, and which was advertised for sale, the sales have been very small, and the General Superintendent considers that so long as he has nothing perishable or subject to quick deterioration, it is much better to hold, than to sell in a market where there is not the slightest competition; for he finds that although some things, certain sizes of iron for instance, may not be immediately saleable, or useable in the department, they ultimately get sold, or come in use.

10. The stores ledgers were examined, especially with reference to the report of the Auditor who had just been engaged in checking them. The accounts in which the transactions of the year resulted in loss have been set against those which show gain, and balances thus transferred adjust one another. The total of loss requiring such adjustment is Rs. 336-5-0, of which coal (in respect of wastage) amounts to Rs. 278, and iron nearly all the rest. Of the loss by sale at auction of certain tools and plant, in February 1884, Rs. 27,864 having been the book value and Rs. 5,689 the proceeds, the orders given in G.O., No. 1137, of 7th May 1884, are to be carried out, the loss Rs. 22,175 being placed at debit of tools and plant.

11. Certain adjustments regarding blocks received from Ferozepore arsenal have been corrected in the current year's accounts as pointed out in the Auditor's report. The ledgers are well kept, and sanctions are now regularly filed. The procedure of receipt and issue of stores is satisfactory.

12. The cash accounts are in thorough order. The accuracy of the General Superintendent's drawing account balance on the 31st August 1884 was proved.

13. The suspense accounts contained nothing noticeable.

14. The State Railway materials landed during the year 1883-84 have amounted to about 2,000 tons. The inconvenience arising from the delay pointed out in paragraph 17 of the last report still continues, no improvement having taken place.

ORDER—dated 13th October 1884, No. 2514 W., Public Works.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, for the information of the General Superintendent, Public Works Stores.

2. The Superintending Engineer will address the Master Attendant on the subject of the last paragraph of the inspection notes and report the result.

3. The Superintending Engineer will also inquire into and report on the circumstances which have led to serviceable stores in the Public Works Stores not being availed of for State Railways.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., F.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, with copy of
G.O., No. 2361 W., dated 22nd August 1883.

Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

Consulting Engineer for Railways

Encl. A. Grubert.
Spare Copies

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(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., F.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, with copy of
G.O., No. 2361 W., dated 22nd August 1883.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

Consulting Engineer for Railways

Encl. A. Grubert
Spare Copies

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

Gobt. of (1884) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated October, 13th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 13th Oct. 1884, No. 2514 W.

OCTOBER.

Notes of Inspection

Orders on —, submitted by the Examiner, Public Works Accounts, of the office of the General Superintendent, Public Works Stores.

22ND AUGUST 1883, No. 2361 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Account.

READ—the following letter from D. C. GORDON, Esq., Examiner of Public Works Accounts, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 16th August 1883, No. 86 W. :—

I have the honor to submit, for information and orders of Government, notes by the Deputy Examiner, Mr. Rainier, of his inspection of the office of the General Superintendent, Public Works Stores.

2. The orders contained in paragraph 3 of G.O., No. 2331 W., of 21st September 1881, and paragraph 4 of G.O., No. 3 W., of 5th January 1882, should be borne in mind, and continuous stock-taking arranged for, so that each class of stores may be counted once in twelve months.

3. The balances at debit of stores of late years have been as follows :—

	RS.
1879-80	4,05,000
1880-81	3,93,000
1881-82	4,72,000
1882-83	3,64,000

The increase in 1881-82 was in consequence of the transfer of a large quantity (Rs. 90,000) of stores which had previously been held by the workshops. The apparent reduction in the balance at the end of the past year has been to the extent of some Rs. 60,000, only a book transaction, and not the result of issues reducing quantities. Under orders of Government the stock on hand was revalued and statements furnished by the General Superintendent showing the results of the action. The loss subsequently adjusted amounted to about Rs. 60,000 in round figures as above stated, and the stock ledgers were opened on 1st November 1882 with the correct quantities and revised rates of stores considered serviceable, obsolete articles being excluded. Some of these obsolete articles have been disposed of.

4. Orders were issued (G.O., No. 2743 W., dated 21st October 1882) that surplus stores should be advertised as widely as possible. Revised lists corrected to 1st January 1883 were published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* Supplement, 28th March 1883. The estimated value of the surplus stock was given at Rs. 2,25,000, and of stock which it was intended to retain at Rs. 1,62,000. The obsolete stores were put down at a value of Rs. 38,700.

5. In his letter printed with G.O., No. 3 W., of 5th January 1882, the General Superintendent states that "the large amount of stock in the Public Works Stores will be steadily reduced, owing to the recent orders permitting the Superintendent to lower the book rates." As stated in paragraph 3 above, the revised rates were adopted as from 1st November 1882, and probably there had not been sufficient time before the close of the financial year 1882-83 to judge how far the reduced rates had attained their object.

6. The value of issues during the year (1882-83) as affecting the balance at the commencement of the year amounted to only Rs. 50,000, at which rate the reduction of the supply on hand will be a matter of years. Should the construction of State Railways or Tramways be pressed, it is probable that there would be an opening for the disposal of a much larger quantity of stores than our normal demand requires.

ENCLOSURE.

Memorandum of Inspection by H. RAINIER, Esq., Deputy Examiner, Public Works Accounts, Madras, of the Office of the General Superintendent, Public Works Stores, on the 8th August 1883.

Lieutenant Baddeley, R.E., the General Superintendent, and P. Singaravelu Moodelliar, the Accountant, were present.

2. The division was last inspected on the 7th August 1882.

3. When, as in the case of this office, a ledger account is kept for each article of stores, it is of much importance that there should be a strict record of all receipts, and that every bill as it comes to hand (sometimes long after the stores themselves) should be verified by the storekeeper, and should bear upon its face when filed away—

- (1) The Storekeeper's verification.
- (2) The sanction under which the purchase was made.
- (3) The item and folio number of the daily receipts book in which the first receipt of the stores is to be found recorded.

If this were done, it would be easy to refer back regarding any stores purchase; moreover, the responsibility of the storekeeper would be definitely fixed.

When the stores are not billed for (i.e., in some transfer transactions), the invoice or, in the absence of any other document, the advice note of transfer debit should be enlaced as above. There is no such enfacement at present, but the General Superintendent was understood to cordially agree to the proposal.

4. The sanctions were produced in every case during an examination of the purchase transactions and primary books with the ledgers here and there, but such sanctions should be filed in a guard book, and consecutively numbered; they are now loose and separate, and are liable to be mislaid.

5. As regards the stores ledgers themselves, they are well kept; Accountant T. Soondrum Pillay, who was been for some days carefully auditing them, finds them correctly posted, and balanced, and reports as follows:—

"The new ledgers open with the balances at the reduced or revised rates ordered in G.O., No. 2743 W., of 21st October 1882, excluding the value of obsolete stores.

"The actual book loss by the revaluation of serviceable stores, and by exclusion of obsolete stores from the new ledgers, amounts to Rs. 71,105-3-4,* of which a sum of Rs. 9,831-11-0 has been realized by sales of obsolete stores, Rs. 779-8-9 by sale of serviceable stores at higher than the standard or book rates, and the difference, Rs. 60,493-15-7, charged off to profit and loss; so that the ledger balances at the half-year ending 31st March 1883 close with the standard rates. It is observed in some cases the information required to be given in column 'From whom received' and 'To whom issued' is not clearly noted. The manner in which this should be done has been explained."

6. The issues were found to be methodically and correctly treated.

7. The cash book, cash abstract book, and adjustments book were in order, except that in the latter the proper column should clearly show to what voucher each transaction refers for support.

8. The accuracy of the General Superintendent's treasury balance on the 31st July 1883 was proved. Cheque books are properly treated.

9. Stock has been verified by actual count as regards instruments, tools, and the like this financial year by the General Superintendent himself; verification of other stock is said to be in progress gradually as time is found. It was suggested to the General Superintendent that there might perhaps be more satisfaction to be had from a system of constant continuous stock-taking by a clerk told off for that sole purpose, as intended by the remark in paragraph 3 of G.O., No. 2331 W., of 21st September 1881.

* Balance at end of October 1882	Rs.	A.	P.
Balance brought forward on 1st November 1882 in new books	4,52,447	0	0
	3,81,341	12	8
	71,105	3	4

10. The miscellaneous receipts counterfoil books should perhaps bear a printed as well as a written number on each page. There are frequent receipts, and at present one could extract a page easily without the page number losing sequence, and therefore without much chance of detection.

11. There is a great deal of State Railway work; 50 out of 64 consignments of stores received by sea during the last year (1882-83) were for State Railways, and such business may now increase steadily, in which case the 5 per cent. commission on it (G.O., No. 2054 W., of 20th August 1880), which is being credited to Establishment, will more and more cover the outlay under that head, and improve the prospects of the concern generally.

12. Many of the stores purchases are for the fulfilment of some particular indent, and transactions of this sort do not pass through the storekeeper's ledger, but, when paid for from the stores office, are debited (in transfer) to the indenter division or department.

Particulars of such stores receipts are recorded quite separately in a rough book for the purpose.

13. Of other store transactions, viz., those purchases for the reserve, and issues thence, which are recorded in the storekeeper's ledgers, there were in 1882-83 receipts amounting to Rs. 49,881 and issues Rs. 87,436.

The receipts include, however, articles returned to stores as unserviceable, repaired in the shops, and then brought on to the books at a valuation.

14. The balance at debit of stores on the 31st March 1883 was Rs. 3,63,960.

15. The records of the office appeared to be well kept.

16. There was nothing in the suspense accounts worthy of notice here.

17. It would be well for the punctuality of the office work if bills for landing charges, pier dues, &c., could be rendered by the Master Attendant's office promptly after the landing of each ship's consignment, instead of after two or three months' delay as at present.

MADRAS,

11th August 1883.

ORDER—dated 22nd August 1883, No. 2361 W., Public Works.

Communicated to the General Superintendent, Public Works Stores, for information and guidance. The report is satisfactory.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the General Superintendent, Public Works Stores.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

Kd. A. F. Goodall.
Spare Copies

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

Govt. of 1883 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated August, 22nd.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 22nd Aug. 1883, No. 2361 W.

AUGUST.

Inspection Notes

The — on the office of the General
Superintendent, Public Works Stores, by the
Deputy Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

No. 534

1195
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER'S OFFICE,

5TH CIRCLE, MADRAS,

Chepauk, 8th May 1885.

From

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

5TH CIRCLE,

To

THE

Chief Engineer,
P. W. D.

SIR,

Enclosures.

With reference to para 3 of
G. O. No. 2514 d. dated 13th
October 1884. I have the honor
to report that the General
Superintendent P. W. D. Stores
explains that the demands of
the Engineers-in-Chief and
Storekeepers of the State Railways
have always been met fully
or partially according to the
Stock in hand in the P. W.
Stores.

2. The Bellary-Bellary
Railway obtained a reasonable
supply of Tools & Plant at the com-
mencement of the work; the Buddapah

1198
C

Nelore Railway hardly pay thing -
the Storekeeper of the last men-
tioned line merely requires a list
of price of tools. he may require but
never follows up such enquiries
by an order on the Superintendent.

3. As these Railways are bound
to provide Public Works it seems to be an
open question whether their requirements
in Tools and Plant and Timber should
be met in toto or not at all by the Gen-
eral Superintendent P.W. Stores.

4. With reference to para 2 of the
G.O. I have to report that the Master
Attendant has arranged in his De-
partment that the Bills for Landing and
Pier charges &c on account of State Rail-
way materials, should have the pre-
cedence and the Genl. Superintendent,
P.W. Stores has been instructed to send
his Students for the bills to the Dy. Master
Attendant without delay.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedt. Servt

W. H. Winston
Offg. Superintg. Engr. & Secy.

L.C. No 2514 W. 13-10-84
2361 W. 22. 8. 83.

Calcutta, May 13th 1885.

No 110 E.

To, E.R.

For favour of remarks

W.
13-5-85

W

From

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
5TH CIRCLE,

To

(4)
The Chief Engineer
P.W.D.

Dated

8th

Recd.

May

1885.

ENCLOSURES.

No. 534

State Railways -
Report regarding the
supply of stores to the -

To

1153/3

P. W. D., RAILWAY BRANCH.

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

15th May 1885

Office Note.

I do not understand
the meaning of para 3.

The Engineer-in-Chief
of a State Railway is free
to purchase his stores, I believe,
where he wishes, and I conclude
the storekeeper would justify
the purchase of stores elsewhere
than at the Public Works
Stores by showing that he has
procured them at lower rates.

If Government desire
that the Engineer-in-Chief
should purchase stores on
hand, a representation to the

Director

20.5.85

20.5.85

Director General of State
Railways is advisable.

When the lines were started
lists of surplus stores were
supplied to Engineers in Chief
by the Guaranteed Railways
and I think by the Public
Works Stores.

C.S.
18.5.85
H.R.

Cms 4127
G.R. note of 15.5.85

98. W
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 21st May/85.

Read the following

G.O. No 534 of May 8th 1885
of 15.5.85

The question referred
to the S.E. Circle, in G.O.
of 13.10.84, viz 2514 W. Para 3
was, why surplus service-
able stores in the P.W.
Stores at Madras were
not availed of to a larger
extent by State Railways.

The S.E. explains in
his letter of 8.5.85, that
requisitions from State
Railways have always
been met fully or par-
tially according to the
stock in hand.

There is apparently
no necessity to enter
into the question whether
the P.W. Stores shall or
shall not be the sole
suppliers for State
Railways -

Recorded.

The General Supt^t P.W.
Stores should, by forwarding price
lists, to Engineers in Chief
& Storekeepers of State
Railways, endeavour to induce
them to utilise surplus
serviceable materials in the
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18.5.85

C.S.
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C.S.S.
15.5.85

E.R.

approval

Recorded

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them to utilise surplus
serviceable materials
in the P.W. Stores, as
largely as possible,
instead of purchasing
similar articles elsewhere.

done approval
15.5.85

S. S. I. Encl
G. S. P. W. S.
C. S. S. S. S.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 21st May/85

Read the following

Letter from the S.E. V Encl (A.C. No 534 of May 8th 1885)
Office note from G. R. 15.5.85

Recorded

2. The General Supt P.W.
Stores should, by forwarding price
lists, &c., to Engineers in Chief
and Storekeepers of State
Railways, endeavour to induce
them to utilise surplus
serviceable materials in the
P.W. Stores, as largely as
possible, instead of purchasing
similar articles elsewhere.

S.E. V Encl
G. S. P. W. S.
C. S. S. S. S.