(1) Number of pages 52

(2) Date of repair NOV.82.

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W.D DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. ~~B.P. No.~~	63 — W	~~Press.~~ Mis.
Dated	7.1.1886	~~198~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Archives I--10,006 1 -80.

63/1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Establishment.

Read—the following papers:—

From Colonel W. H. BURTON, R.E., Officiating Superintending Engineer, V Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chepâk, 13th November 1885, No. 3457.

Statement of value of work executed at the Public Works Workshops from 1876-77 to 1881-82.
List of departments for which work was done at the Workshops previous to the restrictive orders.
List of cost of repairing instruments by Messrs. P. Orr and Sons.
List of cost of similar repairs done at the Workshops.

With reference to paragraph 4 of G.O., No. 2123 W., dated 11th September 1885, I have the honor to report that the Workshops have suffered greatly owing to the order restricting its operations to the works required by the Public Works Department. More than half the machinery in the mechanical department is often idle; at times it has been found more economical to stop the engine and work the few machines in use by hand.

2. Several applications from private individuals and firms have been made requesting the Workshops to undertake works which the Workshops had to refuse owing to the order * restricting the operations to work required for the Public Works Department.

3. Although this restriction has been imposed the charges for interest on capital, pension, and leave allowances and depreciation in block machinery and plant are still borne by the Workshops, as was the case when the Workshop was open to all departments of Government and private parties.

4. A list showing the departments and firms for whom work was done before the restrictive order came into force is enclosed, and I learn that a great deal was also done by the Workshops for vessels, &c., calling at this port requiring repairs. Vessels now have to wait till they get to Calcutta to get any repairs carried out.

5. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Government order, I enclose a list from Messrs. P. Orr and Sons showing the cost of repair to instruments sent to them and also a list showing the cost of nearly similar repairs carried out in the Workshops. It will be seen from the lists that the Workshop charges compare favorably with those of Messrs. P. Orr and Sons. Messrs. P. Orr and Sons' work, however, does not compare favorably with that done in the Workshops. All the bright parts of instruments repaired by that firm get covered with verdigris a short time after they are returned

* G.O., No. 2488 W., dated 25th Sept. 1882.

and their work is not finished off so well as work done in the Public Works instrument department.

Note by the Acting Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated 23rd November 1885, No. 301.

ORDER—dated 7th January 1886, No. 63 W., Public Works.

In these papers the question of the future status of the Public Works Workshops at Madras is again brought forward for consideration.

2. The circumstances which led to the restriction of the operations of the Workshops in September 1882 are fully stated in proceedings of Government, No. 360 W., dated 9th February 1884. The Committee then appointed submitted their report in May 1884. The conclusion at which they arrived, after careful consideration of all papers and available evidence, was that the Workshops should be re-established on their former footing, inasmuch as work was likely to be executed better in the shops and at prices not higher than if undertaken by private agency. The Government, however, were not satisfied that the experiment had then lasted sufficiently long to allow the establishment of healthy private competition, and therefore ordered * it to be continued. It was resolved also that inquiry should be made whether the Gun Carriage Factory was in a position to undertake such work as could not be properly and economically executed in the local market.

* *Vide* G.O., No. 1494 W., dated 16th June 1884.

3. Since those orders were issued, eighteen months have passed and private enterprise in Madras is still represented, as then, by one firm for the execution of iron work, and by one firm for the execution of repairs to mathematical instruments; while the Gun Carriage Factory has declared itself unable to undertake any work for the Public Works Department.

4. The question of the future status of the Workshops has now been revived, in connection with the annual accounts of the institution for 1884-85.

5. In G.O., No. 2123 W., dated 11th September 1885, the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, was directed to report on the question of maintaining the orders now in force restricting the operations of the Workshops, and on the character and cost of the work executed for Government by Messrs. P. Orr and Sons in the repair of mathematical instruments.

6. In reply to those orders, the Superintending Engineer now reports that the Workshops have suffered considerably from the effects of the restrictive orders; that, while more than half the machinery is often idle, applications for work to be undertaken in the shops have been received and refused; and that the Workshop charges for repairing mathematical instruments, &c., compare favorably with those of Messrs P. Orr and Sons, while the work turned out by that firm does not compare favorably with that executed at the Public Works Workshops.

7. Colonel Prendergast, who was President of the Committee appointed in G.O., No. 360 W., dated 9th February 1884, states his opinion that the re-establishment of the Workshops on their former footing would be of general benefit, and that "we cannot do better than throw the Workshops open again to the public and to the other departments of Government."

8. In June 1884, the Government practically came to the conclusion that, in the interests of the public service, it would be necessary to restore the Workshops to their old position. The experiment, the continuation of which was then tentatively ordered, has had a fair trial since September 1882; and, although all possible publicity was given to the intentions of the Government, the result has been disappointing in the extreme. The contemplated sale of the buildings and plant completely fell through, not one reasonable offer having been received in reply to advertisements published throughout India. The expectation that a healthy competition in the open market would be stimulated has not been realised. Private enterprise is represented by two firms, whose rates are high; and the Government are not prepared to hand over their Workshop business to what would virtually become a monopoly.

9. After careful reconsideration of the question, His Excellency the Governor in Council now resolves that the Presidency Public Works Workshops shall be reconstituted on their former basis. Any proposals necessary to that end should be submitted by the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, without delay.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, with two enclosures.
To other Superintending Engineers.
To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Consulting Engineer for Railways.
" Consulting Architect to Government.
" Superintendent, Madras Harbour Works.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
" Public, &c., Departments.
" Revenue Department.
" Military do.

Exd. E. Fernandez.
[illegible] Copies

GENERAL.
ESTABLISHMENT.

Govt. of [1886] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated January, 7th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 7th January 1886, No. 63 W.

JANUARY.

Public Works Workshops at Madras

Orders issued for reconstituting the — on their former basis.

(A)

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

63/3

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.
„ „ 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 188[illegible]
From Messrs. P. Orr and Sons, Madras, dated 15th June 1883.
Memorandum No. 167 E., dated 18th June 1883.
From the General Superintendent, Public Works Workshops, No. 414 W., dated 29th June 1883.
Memorandum No. 203 E., dated 6th July 1883.
From Messrs. P. Orr and Sons, dated 17th August 1883.
Memorandum No. 297 E., dated 21st August 1883.
From Messrs. P. Orr and Sons, dated 12th September [illegible]
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 2[illegible] January 1884.

quent 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 orders 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.)

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

To Colonel H. L. Prendergast, R.E.
,, Major C. Bowen, R.E.
,, D. C. Gordon, Esq.
,, Major E. 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

2

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 —.

P. W. Dept.

For Orders.

Letter from the Supdg. Engineer V Circle No. 3457 dated 13th November 1885.
Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation No. 301 dated 23rd November 1885.

These papers relate to the question of the future status of the Public Works Workshops at Madras.

The circumstances which led to the restriction of the operations of the Workshops in September 1882, are summarised at length in G.O. No. 360 W dated 9th February 1884, a copy of which, marked ( ) is attached to this

There is nothing more to be written. We practically came to the conclusion a year ago that in the interests of the Public Service it would be necessary to restore the Workshops to their former position but we postponed taking action until we had ascertained whether the Gun Carriage Factory would undertake the work.

[illegible] written by keeping the matter for a year for some time longer pointing [illegible] alluded to in May 1884 was already [illegible] waiting might

The Committee appointed
in [illegible] submitted
their report in May 1884.
The conclusion at which
they arrived, after care-
-ful consideration of
all papers and available
evidence, was that
the workshops should
be re-established on
their former footing,
so far as regarded the
P. W. Department mean-
-ing [illegible] work
[illegible] to be executed
[illegible] the [illegible]
of [illegible] not higher
than [illegible] then by
private agency.

The Government [illegible]
dated 29th May 1884
the workshops [illegible]
the principle [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

not be tempted to
forward on a
scale which would justify
the Govt in depending
entirely on it for the
execution of its work.

The Gun Carriage factory
cannot undertake
the work and

Private enterprise
is represented by two
firms whose rates are
even now exceedingly
high for work not first-
-class and also [illegible] the
[illegible] are
closed [illegible]

The experiment has
had a fair trial since
[illegible] 1883 & the result
has been a failure,
[illegible] therefore [illegible]
recommending the
workshops [illegible]
[illegible]

* Vide Govt No 1494 W
dated 16th June 1884

I think it was right
to make the experi-
ment which was
made & the Govern-
ment, but I fear there
is no chance of its
leading to any good
result. We must [illegible]
[illegible] step
Dec 14/85

The undersigned, after
careful consideration of
the question, supports the
Committee's recommenda-
tion that the previous order
should be rescinded,
but the Government were
not satisfied that the
experiment had lasted
sufficiently long to allow
of healthy private com-
-petition to [illegible]
[illegible] to be anticipated.
It was resolved also
that inquiry should be
made whether the Gun
Carriage Factory was in
a position to undertake
the more important work
of the Department, such
as could not be properly
and economically exe-
-cuted in the local
market.

Since then [illegible]

a remedy, eighteen months have passed, & ivate enterprise is ittle improved on, as [illegible] by [illegible] & and essrs P. Orr & Sons.

The Gun Carriage Factory was destined by [illegible] enable to undertake work for the P. W. Department, vide G. O. No. 1872 W dated st August 1884.

The question of the status of the shops has now come up again in connection with the Annual accounts of the nstitutions for 1884-85. In G. O. No. 2123 W dated September 1885, para on the Annual Accounts the Supdg. Engineer, [illegible] was directed to report on the question of the continuance in the future of existing rules relating the question of the workshops in respect to work from other departments and for the general public.

In para 5 of G. O. No. 860 dated 9th February 1884 it was remarked that that the repairs of Govt. Mathematical instruments, as carried out by Messrs P. Orr & Sons, was not altogether satisfactory, so also the quality of work as in the papers recorded in G. O. No. 1484 W dated 16th June 1884.

the Committee [illegible] pra[illegible]
recommended the substitution
of the Govt. Mathematical
instrument shops. On
a further representation
from Messrs. [illegible]
the Bombay Presidency
dated 10th March 1858
No 879 M. [illegible] that
that from [illegible] be
[illegible] as [illegible] the
repairs of Mathematical
instruments so far as
practicable; and in pur[illegible]
of that order, the
Superintendent was directed
to report on the [illegible]
of the [illegible]
in comparison with that
[illegible] in the [illegible]
Workshops.
In [illegible]

11th September 1867, the
Superintendent was ap-
[illegible] his
views with respect to
the work executed
by Messrs. [illegible] and
Colonel [illegible] now
reports that the work-
shops have suffered
considerably from the
effects of the restrictive
orders; that more than
half the machinery
is often idle; that many
applications from
private individuals
& firms requesting the
workshops to undertake
work have been received
refused; that the work-
shops are [illegible] for repairing
mathematical instruments

[illegible] compare favourably
with those of Messrs
P. Orr & Sons, while the
work turned out by
Messrs Orr & Sons does
not compare favourably
with that executed at the
P. W. Workshops.

Colonel Prendergast,
who was President of the
Committee appointed in
G.O. No. 360-W dated 9th
January 1884, and so
intimately acquainted
[illegible] the questions affecting
[illegible] workshops, was
[illegible] the opinion that
their re-establishment
would be of general
benefit, as well as ad-
vantageous to the working
of the shops, & that "we
"cannot

"cannot do better than
"throw the workshops
"open again to the public,
"and to the other de-
"partments of Govt."

In now submitting
the papers for orders,
the undersigned begs
to draw attention to
his note of 29th May
1885. It seems scarcely
possible to say more
now than was said
then, & the undersigned
can only reiterate
his recommendation
that the workshops
be re-established on
their former footing

Mead Stewart

d. 12-85

(B)

Note by the Chief Engineer

In G.O. No. 300 W. of 9th February 1884, the recent papers bearing on the position and operations of the Public Works Workshops and Stores at Madras were reviewed at length, and a Committee was appointed to consider the effect of the restrictive order dated 25th September 1882 No. 2488 W. and to report upon the status to be assigned in future to the shops, as well as to the stores, with which the shops are intimately connected. After careful consideration of the papers and of all available evidence, the Committee have arrived at the conclusion that, so far as the M.W. Deptt is concerned, the shops should be re-established on their former footing, inasmuch as work is likely to be done better and at prices not higher than if undertaken by private agency.

As regards the question of work for State Railways and for Government departments generally, the evidence goes to show that the P.W. Workshops are not effectual.

The retention of the the Stores and instruments

[illegible]

6/12

Government work is recommended, and it is finally recommended that the Workshops and Stores should in future be constituted an ordinary Public Works Division, the staff being regulated accordingly.

The experiment determined on two years ago, in view to the ultimate abolition of the P.W. shops at Madras, has now had a fair trial, and I regret to say has resulted in complete failure.

The expectations with which the experiment was made were that private enterprise would at once come forward and be ready to undertake the work hitherto performed by the P.W. [illegible] and that there would be no difficulty in disposing of the existing buildings and plant.

Nothing was left undone to promote these [illegible]. All possible publicity was given to the intentions of Govt in the matter; and P.W. officers were ordered to abstain from giving orders to the workshops, and to make use of private enterprise instead.

The result has been disappointing in the extreme. The contemplated sale of the buildings and plant completely fell through, not one reasonable offer having [illegible] not come forward. On the other [illegible] enterprise has [illegible] to fulfil the

gap in the manner expected. Messrs Massey & Co. and Messrs J. Orr & Sons are the only firms at all anxious to undertake any work, the first for the work of a general nature, and the second that connected with repair of scientific instruments. In the first case, the rates are prohibitively high; and in the second case, the work undertaken on trial was executed in a manner far from satisfactory.

In these circumstances, I am forced to the same conclusion as which the Committee have formed, namely, that the workshops [illegible] re-established on [illegible]

former footing, with a [illegible]
-material instrument [illegible] as
before, and that they should
be formed into an ordinary
P.W. Division, under the direct
supervision and control of
the Supdg Engr V Circle.

It will be observed that
the Chief Engr for Irrigation,
while admitting the failure of
the experiment, is of opinion
that it should be continued,
and that the shops should
be retained on the reduced
footing, in the hope that the
local market may still
supply the want.

I do not however think that
there is any [illegible] prospect
of such result; and if even this
expectation were realized so
far that one firm should come
forward and offer to
undertake work for Govt
on reasonable terms, I should
hesitate before recommending
the abolition of the de-
partmental shops, in
absolute reliance on the
strength of such offer.
As responsible for the efficient
and economical working of
the Dept, I should be most
unwilling to recommend the
abolition of our existing shops,
until I was satisfied that
the Govt could rely on a
healthy competition for their
work in the open market.

I still hold the opinion
which I expressed two years
ago, "that the sole raison
"d'etre of the shops is that
"they should provide for the
"execution of work which cannot
"be done elsewhere, [illegible]

"as cheaply, as well, or as
"quickly" of the required work
"can be provided elsewhere, on
"satisfactory conditions as to
"~~these~~ three points, the shops
"should cease to exist."

It is because the experience of the last two years, and the investigations of this Committee, prove that these three conditions cannot be secured in the open market, that I am reluctantly compelled to acquiesce in their conclusions, and to advise the re-establishment of the shops.

M. [illegible]
Col. R.E.
Chief Engineer, P.W. Dept.

Ootacamund
May 29, 1884

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

16/3

READ the following :—

From the President of the Committee appointed to report on the P.W. Workshops & Stores No. 14 d/ May 5, 1884.

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation d/ May 16, 1884.

Note by the Chief Engineer P.W. Dept. d/ May 29.

FOR ORDERS.

I do not find in the Committee's Report any reference to the Gun Carriage Factory as a source of supply of [illegible] quick to [illegible] the need [illegible].

Is it not a fact that most of the work ordinarily carried out at the P.W. Workshops as described in Lieut. Baddeley's list d/ 25 Oct 82 could be executed at the G. C. Factory since there is a trained corps of artificers and where work is turned out in a reliable & workmanlike manner?

Why keep up then in the same city two Government Establishments for identical purposes?

There may be valid reasons for retaining the Mathematical Instrument Department but as to the rest I see none for reconstituting the P.W. Workshops.

The [illegible]

M.
30/5/84

In the absence of any healthy competition outside I do not think it would be prudent to close our workshops. Massey & Co. are the only firm who have come forward to take the work and are indeed the only persons at all capable of doing it and so if the Govt. shops are closed they will practically have the monopoly of all work required for the Department South of Kistna & will be able to charge their own prices.

Compensation paid it [illegible]
[illegible] to executing [illegible]
works in this country
thing to extend it to
private agency and there
would seem the good
reasons adduced for
first adopting the same
course. Another strong
reason for maintaining
the shops and restoring
them to their former
footing is the fact that
we have the valuable
plant & buildings ~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~ and no one is
prepared to take them off
our hands. Clearly then
we should continue to
utilize them —

There is one point which
I would like these dispo-
sitions to be dealt with
the improved means of
communication we now
have it might be possible
to get rid of one or both of
the shops up North. I
do not see the necessity
of the two establishments
at Dagroadin & Dowlaishweram
The whole subject had better
be discussed in Council
[illegible]

R.S. 26/5 Rec d [illegible]

11 JUN 84

FOR ORDERS.

The Hon. H. E. Sullivan
The Hon. [illegible]
The [illegible]

doubtless be utilized by the G. Contractors or by the workshops in the North Division ~~[illegible]~~ which should be retained for the special benefit of the irrigation works to which they are attached.

The impossibility of utilizing the buildings is another reason given for re-establishing the workshops. Are we required to debit a whole Department to [illegible] in default of account [illegible] the Accountant General [illegible] which [illegible] the cost [illegible]
[illegible]

You take it forward. I am inclined to agree with my hon. colleague [illegible] Col. Hunter that we have [illegible] yet carried our proposals [illegible] far enough. Very likely it would [illegible] but it [illegible]
[illegible]

Mr Hon. A. G. Sullivan

~~The Hon. C. G. [illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~

For orders

63 W

18.12.85 R. 21/12/85

---

10 W.

No. 301

63/7

fo 2064 W
12 Augt
fo 2488 W
25 Sept

Note

Orders were issued in 1882, for restricting the operations of the Workshops to such repairs and manufacture as are required by the P.W. Dept. and thus refusing to accept orders from elsewhere. Exec. Engineers were recommended to obtain their petty work done at the P.W. Workshops, and to have recourse to private establishments in their districts, or to firms at Calcutta, Bombay &c.

A Committee was appointed in 1884, to report on the result [illegible] [illegible] collection) Opinions were obtained from all the Supg Engineers, and there was a general feeling expressed, that

working to time cost
and quality of work
conformity, there was
an advantage in
maintaining the P.W.
Workshops

From the review of the
Operations of the year
1884.85 in G.O. 2123 W
dated 11 Sept 1885, the
out turn of the Workshops
exceeded that of the
previous year by 22,022 R
This means about
19 per cent. certainly
does not show that the
Workshops were out of
favor, but leads rather
to the supposition that
the officers of the P.W. Dept
had fallen back on the
said Workshops

R 42,322
1,15,500

Applications have from
time to time been made
for private work, but not
from the general public,
and in [illegible] special
cases [illegible] not generally,

there have been complied
with.

I believe the opening of the
Workshops again to
take such orders, would
be of general benefit, as
well as advantageous
to the working of the Shops.
Not long ago, the owner
of a partially small private
foundry asked to be
supplied with fuel
whenever he might want
it, from the P.W. Workshops,
because, as he said the
Government had united
to assist local trade.
The experiment of having
Messrs Orr and [illegible]
repair work, shows that
they have not attained
any superiority
I see no
alteration [illegible] in the
reason [illegible] things
[illegible] that we cannot
[illegible] than throw
the Workshops open
again to the public

and to the above
Department
Government

23 Nov 85

Reqr. W d/ 4.4.81
1350 W d/ 2.6.81
3087 W d/ 12.11.81
2064 W d/ 5.5.82
2481 W d/ 25.9.82
2489 W d/ 25.9.82
3103 W d/ 4.11.82
2503 W d/ 6.9.83
360 W d/ 9.2.84
1494 W d/ 16.6.84 (Orig)
1092 W d/ 5.5.84
966 W d/ 12.5.84
2994 W d/ 6.11.84
[illegible] 84
59 W d/ 10.85
123 W d/ 11.9.85
[illegible] 12.85

No. 3457

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER'S OFFICE,
V CIRCLE, MADRAS,
13th November 1885.

From
THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
V CIRCLE.

To
THE Chief Engineer
P.W.D.

SIR,

Enclosures. 4
1 Statement of value of work executed at the P.W. Workshops from 1876-77 to 1884-85.
1 List of Departments for which work was done at the Workshops previous to the restrictive order.
1 List of cost of repairs [illegible] by Messrs. [illegible] & Sons.
1 List of cost of similar repairs done at the Workshops.

With reference to para 4 of G.O. No. 2123 W dated 11 Septem 1885, I have the honor to report that the Workshops have suffered greatly owing to the orders restricting its operations to the works required by the P.W. Dept. More than half the Machinery in the Mechanical Department is often idle at times, it has been found more economical to stop the Engine [illegible] work the few Machines [illegible] by hand.

Several applications from private individuals and firms have been made requesting of Work

Steps

Workshops to undertake works which the Workshops has to refuse, owing to the order restricting the operations to work required for the P.W. Depts.

G.O. No. 2488 W
25 Septr. 1882.

Although this restriction has been imposed the charges for interest on Capital, Pension and Leave allowances and depreciation in Block Machinery and Plant are still borne by the Workshops, as was the case when the Workshop was open to all Departments of Government and private parties.

A List showing the Departments and Firms for whom work was done, before the Restrictive order came into force is enclosed and I learn that a great deal was also done by the Workshops for

vessels

Vessels putting into this Port requiring repairs should now have to wait till they get to Calcutta to get any repairs carried out.

With reference to para 5 of the G. O. I enclose a list from Messrs. P. Orr and Sons, showing the cost of repair to Instruments sent to them and also a list showing the cost of nearly similar repairs carried out in the Workshops. It will be seen from the List that the Workshop charges compare favorably with those of Messrs. P. Orr and Sons. Messrs. P. Orr & Sons work however does not compare favorably with that done in the Workshops. All the bright parts of Instruments

repaired

Repaired by that Firm get
covered with verdigris a
short time after they are re-
turned and their work
is not finished off so well as
work done in the P.W. In-
strument Department.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your obedient Servant

W Atherton
Colonel R.E.
Offg Supdg Engr 4 Circle

No 2658 D
Chepauk
21st Novr/85

To C E I

With a copy of
G.O. No 2123 W dated 11/9/85
For favor of opinion

2/11/85
Dec

11556

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

No [illegible]

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT

Under date the [illegible]

Read the following

Letter from the S.E. 4 Circle (No 2658 D) dated Novr 21 1885)
Note by the Ag Chief Engr I (No [illegible] dated [illegible])

In these papers the question of the future status of the Public Works Workshops at Madras is again brought forward for consideration.

2. The circumstances which led to the reduction of the operations of the Workshops in September 1882, are fully stated in Proceedings of Govt

No. 360 W d/ 9th February 1884. The Committee then appointed submitted their report in May 1884. The conclusion at which they arrived, after careful consideration of all papers and available evidence, was that the Workshops should be re-established on their former footing, inasmuch as work was likely to be executed better in the shops and at prices not higher than if undertaken by private agency. The Govt however were not

× vide G.O. No. 1494 W d/ 16 June 1884

satisfied that the experiment had lasted sufficiently long to allow the establishment × of healthy private competition, and therefore ordered it to be continued. It was ordered also that enquiry should be made whether the Gun Carriage Factory was in a position to undertake such work as could not be properly and economically executed in the local market.

3. Since these orders were issued, eighteen months have passed,

and private enterprise
in Madras is still
represented, as then,
by one firm for the
execution of iron work,
and by one firm for
the execution of repairs
to mathematical instruments
while the Gun Carriage
Factory has declared
itself unable to
undertake any work for
the P. W. Department.

4. The question of the
future status of the
Workshops has now been
reviewed, in connection
with the annual accounts
of the institution for

1884-85.

5. In G.O. No. 1123 W. of
11th September 1885, the
Supply Engineer & Circle
was directed to report
on the question of
maintaining the orders
now in force restricting
the operations of the
Workshops, and on the
character and cost of
the work executed for
Government by Messrs
P. Orr & Sons in the
repair of mathematical
instruments ———

6. In reply to these
orders, the Supply Engineer
now reports that the

Workshops have suffered
considerably from the
effects of the restrictive
orders, that, while
more than half the
machinery is often
idle, applications for
work to be undertaken
in the shops have been
received and refused,
and that the workshop
charges for repairing
mathematical instruments,
&c., compare favourably
with those of Messrs
P. Orr & Sons, while the
work turned out by
that firm does not

compare favourably
with that provided at
the P. W. Workshops.

7 Colonel Prendergast,
who was President of
the Committee appointed
in G.O. N° 360 W. dt 9th
February 1884, states his
opinion that the re-estab-
lishment of the workshops
on their former footing
would be of general
benefit, and that
"we cannot do better
"than throw the workshops
"open again to the public,
"and to the other
departments of Govt."

8th June 1884, the Government practically came to the conclusion that, in the interests of the public service, it would be necessary to restore the workshops to their old position. The experiment, the continuation of which was then tentatively ordered, has had a fair trial since September 1887, and, although all possible publicity was given to the intentions of the Government, the result has been disappointing

in the extreme. The contemplated sale of the buildings and plant completely fell through, not one reasonable offer having been received in reply to advertisements published throughout India. The expectation that a healthy competition in the open market would be stimulated has not been realised. Private enterprise is represented by two firms, whose rates are high, and the Government are not prepared to hand over their —

workshop business to what would virtually become a monopoly.

9 After careful reconsideration of the question, H.E. the Governor in Council now resolves that the Presidency Public Works Workshops shall be re-established on their former basis. Any proposals necessary to that end should be submitted by the Supdg. Engr. & Archt. without delay.

To

The Supdg. Engr. & Archt. with a copy
Other Supdg. Engineers
C.E. for Irrigation
C.E. for Railways
Consg. Architect to Govt.
Supdt. M. H. Works
Examiner Pub. Works
Public Works Dept.
Revenue Dept.
Military Dept.

Issued 15/1/15

10180

Govt. of 1886 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS

9 June [illegible] 13

230