

Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 247 W

DATED 31 January 1898

[Despatch Abstract.]

Expenditure on Stores. Land. Financial Dept., communicating  
endorsement of the Govt. of India transmitting copy of  
despatch from the Secretary of State, communicating  
remarks on the — in India during 1895-96, conveyed to  
officers of the P.W. Dept.

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31.1.98

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Communicating to the departments of Secretariat, the Accountant-General, and the Superintendent of Stationery, endorsement of the Government of India transmitting copy of despatch from the Secretary of State communicating remarks on the — in India during 1895-96.

## GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

## FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

Endorsement of the Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department (Accounts and Finance—Stores), dated Calcutta, 26th November 1897, No. 5103 S.R.

Read—the following despatch from the Right Hon'ble Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to the Government of India, dated India Office, London, the 28th October 1897, No. 180 (Financial).

I have considered in Council your letter, dated the 27th January 1897, No. 26, and the returns of stores purchased in India which accompanied it.

2. The local purchases of imported stores continue to show a decrease, while the proportion, as well as the amount, of articles produced in India, has increased.

3. A report by the Director-General of Stores is enclosed, and in future returns the manner in which the sum entered under the heading "Cost, if obtained through the India Office," has been arrived at should be stated in all cases in which it appears that a saving has been effected by purchasing imported articles in India instead of by indent on this office.

## ENCLOSURE.

REPORT by the Director-General of Stores, dated 4th October 1897.

The total expenditure on stores imported through this office and on imported stores purchased locally continues to decrease, while that on stores manufactured in India continues to increase, and now amounts to more than one-third of the total expenditure.

With regard to the abstract, it will be noticed that increased expenditure on imported stores purchased in India, much of which might, it is thought, have been obviated by the exercise of due foresight, is shown under the heads of canvas, chemicals, cotton, linen and silk goods, hardware and cutlery, leather and steel.

The only items in the returns which call for remark are the following :—

No. 5, Burma.—Expenditure on imported stores purchased in India is shown under six classes, and in each instance the cost agrees exactly with that if obtained through the India Office. It would be interesting to know from what source the latter figures were obtained.

No. 12, Central Provinces.—Type-writers and sewing machines: cost in India Rs. 1,032-10-0, cost if obtained through the India Office Rs. 1,548-15-0.

No. 16, Survey of India.—Surveying instruments: cost in India Rs. 21,826, cost if obtained through India Office Rs. 28,256.

No. 28, Commissariat, Punjab Command.—Spring balances: cost in India Rs. 1,292, cost if obtained through India Office Rs. 1,632.

In the above cases the source from which the cost if obtained through this office as at present given, are unintelligible. Some of the other returns mention the source, and it would be satisfactory if this practice were generally adopted in cases where the English price apparently exceeds that at which purchase was made in India.

No. 46, Punjab Public Works.—52 tons of imported joists are shown as having been purchased locally at a cost of Rs. 8,480 as against Rs. 3,295 if obtained through this office.

The reason for the purchase is explained as having been that they were urgently required for works in progress, but as the quantity is so large, it is thought the requirement for at least a portion might have been foreseen in time to admit of supply from this country.

Ordered, that copy of the despatch and enclosure be forwarded to all Local Governments and Administrations, to the departments of the Government of India, to the Superintendent of Government Printing, India, and to the Mint Masters, Bombay and Calcutta.

(Signed) J. E. O'CONOR,  
Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

ORDER—No. 1044, Financial, dated 13th December 1897.

Communicated to the departments of the Secretariat, the Accountant-General, and the Superintendent of Stationery.

(True Extract.)

*McCouchman*  
for Chief Secretary.

To the Departments of Secretariat. *P. W. D.*  
" Superintendent of Stationery.  
" Accountant-General.