Public Works (1899) Department.

G.O., No. 2/1653 W

DATED 23rd June 1899.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Delay in the India Office in Complying with Indents for Stores.

Communicating to Officers of the Pub.d despatch from the Secretary of State in respect of the unsatisfactory manner in which the necessity of making accurate estimates of requirements in regard to European Stores at the earliest possible dates, and issuing instructions in view to indents being despatched to the India Office as speedily as possible after preparation.

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Intimating that the necessary directions have been issued for early and accurate forecasts being made of requirements in regard to European Stores and that every endeavour will be made to avoid delays in the preparation and submission of indents in this country.

[P. W. 26, 250—27-4-99.]

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

LETTER to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India.

No. 2/1153 W., dated 23rd June 1899.

INTIMATING that the necessary directions have been issued for early and accurate forecasts being made of requirements in regard to European stores and that every endeavour will be made to avoid delays in the preparation and submission of indents in this country.

—12-11-98.

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

Government {1899} of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

1153W

Recd. } 1899. Enclosures
Regd. } Spare copies

G.O., No. 1153W., 23 June 1899.

JUNE.

Indents for Stores

Communicating to officers of the Public Works Department despatch from the Secretary of State in respect of the delay in the India Office in complying with — emphatically impressing upon them the necessity of making accurate estimates at the earliest possible dates of requirements in regard to European stores, and issuing instructions in view to indents being despatched to the India Office as speedily as possible after preparation.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Account.

Read—the following paper:—

Despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Governor in Council, Fort St. George, dated India Office, London, 2nd March 1899, No. 1, Public Works (Stores).

Delay in the supply of stores for Madras Public Works Department.

I have considered in Council your Excellency's Public Works letter, No. 3/2843 W./A., dated 8th November 1898, with which you forward a statement showing the period taken in complying with certain demands for stores.

2. You also refer to paragraph 3 of my Despatch No. 1, of 26th November 1896, in which it was stated that it is as a rule impossible in the case of annual indents, not designated as urgent, to secure the despatch of the bulk of the stores in less than about five months after the date of the *receipt* of the demand.

3. This paragraph appears to have been misunderstood, as the statement on which the complaint is based shows the period between the date of the *despatch* of the indent from India and the *receipt* of the stores in that country—a shorter period by at least two months being thus allowed for supply.

4. I enclose a report by the Director-General of Stores showing that the delays were mainly due to the general disorganization of the trade of this country during and for some time after the Engineers' strike of 1897–98.

5. Every effort will be made to obviate delay in future; but it is desirable that indents should state the date or dates by which the stores are absolutely required for issue in India, and should allow as much time as possible for purchase and shipment. The indents should in all cases be sent home as soon as possible after their preparation.

6. I take this opportunity of observing that the prevailing habit of making urgent demands for stores, and the consequent necessity for hurried action in this country, are injurious to the interests of the public service, inasmuch as they tend to lower the quality of the articles supplied and to enhance their cost. I therefore request that your Excellency will give such directions as will lead indenting officers in India to make estimates of their requirements at the earliest possible dates, so that the necessity for acting under pressure in this country may arise as seldom as possible. At the same time I recognise the fact that occasional urgent demands are unavoidable; and these, when they are received, will in all cases be complied with as speedily as may be practicable.

Enclosures.

Report by the Director-General of Stores.

In this complaint of delay the Government of Madras refers to paragraph 3 of Public Works (Stores) Despatch to Madras No. 1 of 26th November 1896, in which it was stated that, in the case of annual indents for replenishment of stock and not designated as urgent, it is, as a rule, impossible to secure that the *despatch* of the bulk of the stores shall have been completed in less than about five months after the date of the *receipt of the indent*.

The complaint, however, is based on the periods between the *despatch of the indents* from India and the *receipt of the stores* in that country, and the statement accompanying it includes many articles stated to have been actually *received* in India within five months and some odd days from the date of *despatch* of the indent. It also refers to the same indent over and over again, and in the same way one item shipped in instalments by several vessels appears as so many separate items which have been delayed.

Omitting the items admitted to have been received within five months and odd days from the date of despatch of the indent, and grouping together the items referring to each of the indents specified, as well as those shipped by instalments, the result is shown in the accompanying statement.

It will be seen from this statement that seven indents are involved. The first of these indents (1 of 11th January 1897), to which most of the complaints refer, is an annual indent for replenishment of stock and contains no mention that any of the articles are urgently required. The letter from Madras asking that it might be complied with is dated 13th February 1897, but the indent itself was sent home in a freight packet and did not arrive until 27th April 1897, 3½ months after its date. It contains 971 items.

The next indent (3 of 29th May 1897) was received on 4th August 1897. It is for one item only and makes no mention of urgency.

The next (22 of 24th November 1896) was received on 22nd March 1897, four months after its date. It is for one item only, and contains no mention of urgency.

The next (4 of 19th July 1897), although forwarded for very early compliance, was not received until 14*th October* 1897. It contained 134 items.

The next (8 of 19th July 1897) was also not received until 14th October 1897, although required for early compliance. It contained 14 items, all of which were shipped in 4½ months from the date of its receipt except the final instalments of some mamooties and pickaxes.

The next (11 of 21st July 1897) was not received until 4th October 1897. Early compliance was asked for. It contained 31 items, all of which were shipped within five months, except some delta metal delayed by the Engineers' strike and some steel channels delayed by a break-down of the contractor's machinery.

The last (9 of 29th July 1897) was stated to be urgent, and was received on 21st September 1897. It consisted of materials for a sluice which were shipped in seven months from the date of receipt of the indent. The delay was due to the illness and death of the inventor of the sluice.

There was no doubt some delay in complying with these indents, but it was in most instances due directly or indirectly to the Engineers' strike in 1897–98, which rendered it extremely difficult to obtain promises of early delivery or punctual execution of these promises, and the same difficulty existed for some time even after the strike was over. In such cases the Store department is practically at the mercy of the contractors as time would as a rule only be lost by cancelling the contracts and placing them elsewhere.

As stated in Despatch No. 1 of 26th November 1896 above quoted, the bulk of the stores can in ordinary times be shipped within five months from the *receipt* of the indent in England; every effort is made to secure this end, but rejections of supplies, strikes, break-down of machinery and many other causes tend to make invariable punctuality of supply unattainable.

The execution of the indents from the Madras Public Works Department at present under compliance is being expedited as much as possible, and every endeavour will be made, as far as practicable, to avoid any delay on future indents. It is desirable that Public Works indents, including as they do a large variety of stores, should state the dates by which the supplies are absolutely required for issue, as much time as possible being allowed for provision. It is also important that indents should be sent home with as little detention in India as may be practicable.

It will be seen above that some of the indents on which this complaint is made were not received here until three or four months after they were prepared.

Ind			Causes of delay.	Shipments.	Period between receipt of indent and despatch of stores.
1 of 11th January 1897.	27th April 1897.	Blocks ..	Defects in blocks first offered by the contractors which necessitated fresh ones being made.	S.S. "Clan Grant," 13th October 1897, and S.S. "Clan Monroe," 27th November 1897.	5½ months to 7 months.
		Nuts ..	Difficulties between contractors and their workmen ..	1st shipment S.S. "Clan Sutherland," 14th November 1897; last S.S. "Clan Cameron," 1st March 1898.	6½ months to 10 months.
		Gauges ..	Defects in first delivery which necessitated fresh gauges being made.	1st shipment S.S. "Goorkha," 15th October 1897; last S.S. "Rewa," 7th January 1898.	5½ months to 8¼ months.
		Oilstones ..	Contractors stated that pressure of business prevented them from making earlier delivery.	S.S. "City of Dublin," 27th November 1897	7 months.
		Swedish iron ..	Rejection of first delivery	S.S. "Goorkha," 15th October 1897, and S.S. "Ameer," 12th November 1897.	5½ months to 6½ months.
		Planes and irons.	Contractors' failure to deliver earlier	1st shipment S.S. "Rewa," 7th January 1898; last S.S. "Umballa," 19th March 1898.	8¼ months to 10¾ months.
		Door bolts ..	Rejections in first delivery	S.S. "Paramatta," 20th November 1897, and S.S. "Rewa," 7th January 1898.	7 months to 8¼ months.
		Measuring tapes	Seven feet tapes were asked for, and as this size is an unusual one it was found after tenders had twice been invited that they could not be obtained ready made, and that the quantity required (12) was too small for any firm to care to make them. Reference was therefore made to Madras (Letter to Secretary, Public Works Department, dated 30th July 1897), and a reply was received on 25th October 1897. The tapes were shipped per S.S. "Rewa," 7th January 1898.		2½ months from date of receipt of reply from India.
		Rivets ..	Breakage of contractor's machinery	S.S. "Clan Matheson," 7th January 1898, and S.S. "Oronsay," 24th January 1898.	8¼ months to 9 months.
		Steel wire ..	The first two deliveries were rejected and had to be replaced	S.S. "Clan Monroe," 27th November 1897, and S.S. "Clan Matheson," 7th January 1898.	7 months to 8¼ months.
		Iron, flat, angle, square, and round.	Contractor's inability to supply earlier; the order was a complicated one and comprised 178 different sizes of iron.	1st shipment S.S. "Clan Macarthur," 3rd September 1897; last S.S. "Clan Matheson," 7th January 1898.	4¼ months to 8¼ months.
		Chain ..	There was no special reason for the delay. The manufacture of chain usually occupies a considerable time when, as in this case, the order is a large one. Testing the samples adds to the time, and on this contract 24 samples had to be tested.	S.S. "Clan Murray," 7th November 1897, and S.S. "Clan Matheson," 7th January 1898.	6¼ months to 8¼ months.
		Chesterman's tapes.	No delay	S.S. "Orisa," 21st August 1897, and not S.S. "Golconda," as quoted in the Indian statement.	4 months.
		Monkey wrenches	Original contractor failed to supply satisfactory wrenches. Contract had to be cancelled and another entered into.	S.S. "Manora," 18th February 1898	9¾ months.
		Iron sheet ..	Accident to contractor's machinery	1st shipment S.S. "Clan Grant," 13th October 1897; last S.S. "Clan Matheson," 7th January 1898.	5½ months to 8¼ months.
		Locks ..	Locks take a long time to manufacture, and the contractor took two months longer to complete the contract than he anticipated.	S.S. "Oronsay," 24th January 1898, and S.S. "Manora," 18th February 1898, and S.S. "City of Dublin," 2nd April 1898.	9 months to 11 months.
		Files ..	The Engineers' strike	S.S. "Matiana," 4th March 1898, and S.S. "Umballa," 19th March 1898.	10¼ months to 10¾ months.
3 of 29th May 1897.	4th August 1897	Cement-testing machines.	Contractors were unable to obtain a portion of the materials earlier.	S.S. "Golconda," 21st January 1898	5½ months.
22 of 24th November 1896	22nd March 1897	Gauges ..	The Engineers' strike	S.S. "Clan Robertson," 21st February 1893	11 months.
4 of 19th July 1897.	14th Oct. 1897.	Belting, brushes, buckets and bricks.	No delay	S.S. "Matiana," 4th March 1898, and S.S. "Clan Cameron," 1st March 1898.	Less than 5 months.
		Pulley blocks ..	Rejections on first delivery	S.S. "Clan Cameron," 1st March 1898, and S.S. "Clan Monroe," 20th March 1898.	5 months and 6 days.
		Galvanised sheets.	No appreciable delay	S.S. "Clan Monroe," 20th March 1898	Do.
		Squares, &c. ..	Contractor's difficulties with workmen	S.S. "Goorkha," 4th February 1898, and S.S. "City of Dublin," 2nd April 1898.	3½ months to 5½ months.
		Files ..	Examination, greasing, paper [illegible] take a long time.	S.S. "City of Dublin," 2nd April 1898	5½ months.
		Vices ..	Contractor was five weeks late in delivery	Do. do.	Do.
		Blocks ..	Difficulty was experienced in obtaining tenders for the blocks required, and the contractors were late in delivery.	S.S. "Clan Ross," 9th April 1898	5¾ months.
		G. M. (gauge cocks) with screwed end.	Reference was made to Madras (Letter to Secretary, Public Works Department, dated 5th November 1897) for further particulars. Reply received 3rd January 1898. Shipment made per S.S. "Golconda," 13th May 1898.		4⅓ months from receipt of reply from India.
8 of 19th July 1897.	14th Oct. 1897.	Pickaxes ..	Contractors were six weeks late in completing the order ..	1st shipment S.S. "Clan Robertson," 21st February 1898; last S.S. "Clan Macdonald" in April 1898.	4½ months to 6 months.
		Weighing machines.	No delay	S.S. "Clan Cameron," 1st March 1898	Less than 5 months.
		Mamooties ..	Contractors were rather behindhand with their deliveries ..	1st shipment S.S. "Golconda," 21st January 1898; last S.S. "Clan Macdonald," in April 1898.	3½ months to 6 months.
		Delta metal ..	The Engineers' strike	S.S. "Umballa," 19th March 1898	5½ months.
11 of 21st July 1897.	14th Oct. 1897.	Channels ..	Break-down of contractor's machinery	1st shipment S.S. "Golconda," 21st January 1898; last S.S. "Golconda," 13th May 1898.	3½ months to 7¼ months.
		Iron, flat ..	No delay	S.S. "Clan Grant," 8th February 1898, and S.S. "Clan Cameron," 1st March 1898.	Less than 5 months.
		Steel ..	Do.	S.S. "Clan Cameron," 1st March 1898	7 months.
9 of 29th July 1897.	21st Sept. 1897.	Materials for a sluice.	Illness and death of the inventor	S.S. "Rewa," 29th April 1898	

Order—No. W., dated June 1899.

The despatch read above will be communicated to officers of the Public Works Department, whose special attention will be drawn to the remarks of the Secretary of State in paragraphs 5 and 6. All officers indenting for stores will state in the "remarks" column of indents when the stores indented for are absolutely required. All indents will further be treated as specially urgent by officers dealing with them, so as to admit of their despatch to the India Office as speedily as possible after preparation.

2. In G.O., No. 724 W., dated 12th March 1897, orders were issued directing that intelligent and comprehensive forecasts be made annually of requirements in regard to European stores in order to avoid local purchases. The attention of officers of the department will again be drawn to these orders, and the necessity of making estimates of their requirements at the earliest possible dates will be emphatically impressed on them.

3. It has been decided in G.O., No. 1208 W., dated 4th May 1899, that indents need not in future be sent through the General Superintendent, Public Works Stores, unless the indenting officer is unable to complete the entries. The General Superintendent, Public Works Stores, will now be empowered to forward indents direct to the Chief Engineer and not through the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, as hitherto. This will remove some of the delay which now unavoidably occurs in the despatch of indents owing to their passing through so many offices.

4. Ordered that the Secretary of State be addressed.

[Here enter No. 2 W., dated 23rd June 1899.]

(True Extract.)

Under Secretary to Government.

2/1653W

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" all Superintending Engineers.
" the Consulting Architect to Government.
" the Superintendent of Works, Lighthouse Division.
" the Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

Edd. W. D'Moss.

4. P. W. Dept.

Read the following:—

Despatch from the Secy. of State No. 1 Public Works (P
dated 2nd March 1899

Circulated to

(1) The Hon'ble Mr Arundel C.S.I.
(2) His Exy. the Governor.

ORDER. No. 165-3 W & 23-6

The despatch read above will be communicated to Officers of the P.W. Dept. whose special attention will be drawn to the remarks of the Secy. of State in paras 5 & 6. All officers indenting for stores will state in the 'remarks' column of indents when the stores indented for are absolutely required. All indents will further be treated as specially urgent by Officers dealing with them, so as to admit of their despatch to the India Office as speedily as possible after preparation.

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[P. W. 4 / 1,000—14-11-98.]

me as soon as possible after
reparation, ~~and~~
2) that indenting Officers be
irected to make estimates
their requirements at the
earliest possible dates, so
~~t~~ at the necessity for acting
nder pressure in England
may be avoided.

he have the honour
to inform your Lordship that
the necessary directions for
carrying out the above instructions
have been issued. Every
endeavour will be made to
obtain [good] accurate forecasts of require-
ments as early as possible, & to avoid
delays in the preparation and
submission of indents in this
~~will be presented in~~
~~time as much as possible.~~
we have &c.

AcK
29.5.99.

accurate
A.C.S. 2.6.

D 5/7/99

Note

With reference
Hon'ble Ld. Arundel's rem
dated 3.5.99, it is sub
that a prolonged search
been made for the report o
inquiry made into the work
of the Store Dept. when Sir
Elliot was P.W. Minister,
it does not appear to have
sent to this Govt:

The Genl Supdt., P.W.
stores, submits to the chief
Engineer monthly a statement
showing the stores received with
the length of time the India
Office has taken to comply with
demands. These are kept on
record & can be utilised
at any time.

AcK
29.5.99.

Sum
G.H.

Rw.

—14-11-98.—

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BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	2843 W/A	P.W.	8-11-98
	5045 C	"	23-12-98
	2661 W	"	18-9-96
	22 / 2661 W	"	18-9-96
	724 W	"	12-3-97
	5348 C	"	9-12-97

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	1883 W	P.W.	23-6-88
	22 / 2394 W	"	30-8-97
	2527 W / 2528	"	10-9-97
	2479-80 W	"	6-9-97
	560-1 W	"	26-2-97
	1789-90 W	"	2-7-97
	436-37 W	"	13-2-97
	672 W		15-3-82
	~~190~~ 9		
	469 W	J	12-2-83
	491	J	24-1-90

lying with many [illegible] that "there was

7.5K 20.3.99

India Office,
London, 2nd March 1899.

Public Works (Stores),
No. 1.

To His Excellency the Honourable the Governor in Council, Fort St. George.

SIR,

Delay in the supply of Stores for Madras Public Works Department.

I have considered in Council your Excellency's Public Works Letter, No. 3/2843 W/A, dated 8th November 1898, with which you forward a statement showing the period taken in complying with certain demands for stores.

2. You also refer to paragraph 3 of my Despatch, No. 1, of 26th November 1896, in which it was stated that it is as a rule impossible in the case of annual indents not designated as urgent, to secure the despatch of the bulk of the stores in less than about five months after the date of the *receipt* of the demand.

3. This paragraph appears to have been misunderstood, as the statement on which the complaint is based shows the period between the date of the *despatch* of the indent from India and the *receipt* of the stores in that country—a shorter period by at least two months being thus allowed for supply.

4. I enclose a report by the Director-General of Stores showing that the delays were mainly due to the general disorganization of the trade of this country during and for some time after the Engineers' strike of 1897–98.

5. Every effort will be made to obviate delay in future; but it is desirable that indents should state the date or dates by which the stores are absolutely required for issue in India, and should allow as much time as possible for purchase and shipment. The indents should in all cases be sent home as soon as possible after their preparation.

6. I take this opportunity of observing that the prevailing habit of making urgent demands for stores, and the consequent necessity for hurried action in this country, are injurious to the interests of the public service, inasmuch as they tend to lower the quality of the articles supplied and to enhance their cost. I therefore request that your Excellency will give such directions as will lead indenting officers in India to make estimates of their requirements at the earliest possible

dates, so that the necessity for acting under pressure in this country may arise as seldom as possible. At the same time I recognise the fact that occasional urgent demands are unavoidable; and these, when they are received, will in all cases be complied with as speedily as may be practicable.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble Servant,

George Hamilton

The delays noticed below between date of indent & its receipt by Secy. of S's Stores Dept. are extraordinary. Can they be due to delay of despatch from Madras, or it is possible there was delay in the Secy of S's office in forwarding to Stores Dept?

MR 22-3-99

ENCLOSURE.

Report by the Director-General of Stores.

In this complaint of delay the Government of Madras refers to paragraph 3 of Public Works (Stores) Despatch to Madras No. 1 of 26th November 1896 in which it was stated that, in the case of annual indents for replenishment of stock and not designated as urgent, it is, as a rule, impossible to secure that the *despatch* of the bulk of the stores shall have been completed in less than about five months after the date of the *receipt of the indent*.

The complaint, however, is based on the periods between the *despatch of the indents* from India and the *receipt of the stores* in that country, and the statement accompanying it includes many articles stated to have been actually *received* in India within five months and some odd days from the date of *despatch* of the indent. It also refers to the same indent over and over again, and in the same way one item shipped in instalments by several vessels appears as so many separate items which have been delayed.

Omitting the items admitted to have been received within five months and odd days from the date of despatch of the indent, and grouping together the items referring to each of the indents specified, as well as those shipped by instalments, the result is shown in the accompanying statement.

It will be seen from this statement that seven indents are involved. The first of these indents (1 of 11th January 1897), to which most of the complaints refer, is an annual indent for replenishment of stock and contains no mention that any of the articles are urgently required. The letter from Madras asking that it might be complied with is dated 13th February 1897, but the indent itself was sent home in a freight packet and did not arrive until 27th April 1897, 3½ months after its date. It contains 971 items.

The next indent (3 of 29th May 1897) was received on 4th August 1897. It is for one item only and makes no mention of urgency.

The next (22 of 24th November 1896) was received on 22nd March 1897, four months after its date. It is for one item only, and contains no mention of urgency.

The next (4 of 19th July 1897), although forwarded for very early compliance was not received until 14*th October* 1897. It contained 134 items.

The next (8 of 19th July 1897), was also not received until 14th October 1897, although required for early compliance. It contained 14 items, all of which were shipped in 4½ months from the date of its receipt except the final instalments of some mamooties and pickaxes.

The next (11 of 21st July 1897) was not received until 4th October 1897. Early compliance was asked for. It contained 31 items all of which were shipped within five months except some Delta metal delayed by the Engineers' strike and some steel channels delayed by a breakdown of the Contractors' machinery.

The last (9 of 29th July 1897) was stated to be urgent, and was received on 21st September 1897. It consisted of materials for a sluice

which were shipped in seven months from the date of receipt of the indent. The delay was due to the illness and death of the inventor of the sluice.

There was no doubt some delay in complying with these indents, but it was in most instances due directly or indirectly to the engineers' strike in 1897–98, which rendered it extremely difficult to obtain promises of early delivery or punctual execution of these promises, and the same difficulty existed for some time even after the strike was over. In such cases the Store Department is practically at the mercy of the contractors as time would as a rule only be lost by cancelling the contracts and placing them elsewhere.

As stated in Despatch No. 1 of 26th November 1896 above quoted, the bulk of the stores can in ordinary times be shipped within five months from the *receipt* of the indent in England; every effort is made to secure this end, but rejections of supplies, strikes, break down of machinery and many other causes tend to make invariable punctuality of supply unattainable.

The execution of the indents from the Madras Public Works Department at present under compliance is being expedited as much as possible, and every endeavour will be made, as far as practicable, to avoid any delay on future indents. It is desirable that Public Works Indents including as they do a large variety of stores should state the dates by which the supplies are absolutely required for issue, as much time as possible being allowed for provision. It is also important that indents should be sent home with as little detention in India as may be practicable.

It will be seen above that some of the indents on which this complaint is made, were not received here until three or four months after they were prepared.

Enclosure in above.

Indent.	Date of Receipt.	Items in Question.	Causes of Delay.	Shipments.	Period between Receipt of Indent and Despatch of Stores.
1 of 11th January 1897.	27th April 1897	Blocks -	Defects in blocks first offered by the contractors, which necessitated fresh ones being made.	S.S. "Clan Grant," 13th October 1897, and S.S. "Clan Monroe," 27th November 1897.	5½ months to 7 months.
		Nuts - -	Difficulties between contractors and their workmen.	1st shipment S.S. "Clan Sutherland," 14th November 1897; last S.S. "Clan Cameron," 1st March 1898.	6½ months to 10 months.
		Gauges - -	Defects in first delivery which necessitated fresh gauges being made.	1st shipment S.S. "Goorkha," 15th October 1897; last S.S. "Rewa," 7th January 1898.	5½ months to 8¼ months.
		Oilstones -	Contractors stated that pressure of business prevented them from making earlier delivery.	S.S. "City of Dublin," 27th November 1897 -	7 months.
		Swedish iron -	Rejection of first delivery - - -	S.S. "Goorkha," 15th October 1897, and S.S. "Ameer," 12th November 1897.	5½ months to 6½ months.
		Planes and irons	Contractors' failure to deliver earlier -	1st shipment S.S. "Rewa," 7th January 1898; last S.S. "Umballa," 19th March 1898.	8¼ months to 10¾ months.
		Door bolts -	Rejections in first delivery - -- -	S.S. "Paramatta," 20th November 1897, and S.S. "Rewa," 7th January 1898.	7 months to 8¼ months.
		Measuring tapes	Seven feet tapes were asked for, and as this size is an unusual one it was found after tenders had twice been invited that they could not be obtained ready made, and that the quantity required (12) was too small for any firm to care to make them. Reference was therefore made to Madras (Letter to Secretary, Public Works Department, dated 30th July 1897), and a reply was received on 25th October 1897. The tapes were shipped per S.S. "Rewa," 7th January 1898.		2½ months from date of receipt of reply from India.

		Files - -	The engineers' strike - -	S.S. "Matiana," 4th March 1898, and S.S. "Umballa," 19th March 1898.	10¼ months to 10¾ months.
3 of 29th May 1897.	4th August 1897.	Cement testing machines.	Contractors were unable to obtain a portion of the materials earlier.	S.S. "Golconda," 21st January 1898 - -	5½ months.
22 of 24th November 1896.	22nd March 1897.	[illegible] - -	The engineers' strike - - -	S.S. "Clan Robertson," 21st February 1898 -	11 months.
4 of 1 1897	14th October 1897.	Belting, brushes, buckets, and bricks.	No delay - - - - - -	S.S. "Matiana," 4th March 1898, and S.S. "Clan Cameron," 1st March 1898.	Less than 5 months.
		Pulley blocks -	Rejections on first delivery - - -	S.S. "Clan Cameron," 1st March 1898, and S.S. "Clan Monroe," 20th March 1898.	5 months and 6 days.
		Galvanised sheets	No appreciable delay - - -	S.S. "Clan Monroe," 20th March 1898 - -	Do. do.
		Squares, &c. -	Contractor's difficulties with workmen -	S.S. "Goorkha," 4th February 1898, and S.S. "City of Dublin," 2nd [illegible] 1898	3½ months to 5½ months.
		Files - -	Examination greasing, papering and packing take a long time.	S.S. "City of Dublin," 2nd April 1898 - -	5½ months.
		Vices - -	Contractor was five weeks late in delivery -	Do. do. - -	Do.
		Blocks - -	Difficulty was experienced in obtaining tenders for the blocks required, and the contractors were late in delivery.	S.S. "Clan Ross," 9th April 1898 - -	5¾ months.
		G. M. (gauge cocks) with screwed end.	Reference was made to Madras (Letter to Secretary, Public Works Department, dated 5th November 1897) for further particulars. Reply received 3rd January 1898. Shipment made per S.S. "Golconda," 13th May 1898.		4⅓ months from receipt of reply from India.

Indent.	Date of Receipt.	Items in Question.	Causes of Delay.	Shipments.	Period between Receipt of Indent and Despatch of Stores.
1 of 11th January 1897 —*cont.*	27th April 1897 —*cont.*	Rivets - -	Breakage of contractor's machinery - -	S.S. "Clan Matheson," 7th January 1898, and S.S. "Oronsay," 24th January 1898.	8¼ months to 9 months.
		Steel wire -	The first two deliveries were rejected, and had to replaced.	S.S. "Clan Monroe," 27th November 1897, and S.S. "Clan Matheson," 7th January 1898.	7 months to 8¼ months.
		Iron, flat, angle, square, and round.	Contractor's inability to supply earlier; the order was a complicated one, and comprised 178 different sizes of iron.	1st shipment S.S. "Clan Macarthur," 3rd September 1897; last S.S. "Clan Matheson," 7th January 1898.	4¼ months to 8¼ months.
		Chain - -	There was no special reason for the delay. The manufacture of chain usually occupies a considerable time when, as in this case, the order is a large one. Testing the samples adds to the time, and on this contract 24 samples had to be tested.	S.S. "Clan Murray," 7th November 1897, and S.S. "Clan Matheson," 7th January 1898.	6¼ months to 8¼ months.
		Chesterman's tapes.	No delay - - - - -	S.S. "Orissa," 21st August 1897, and not S.S. "Golconda," as quoted in the Indian statement.	4 months.
		Monkey wrenches	Original contractor failed to supply satisfactory wrenches. Contract had to be cancelled and another entered into.	S.S. "Manora," 18th February 1898 - -	9¾ months.
		Iron sheet -	Accident to contractors' machinery - -	1st shipment S.S. "Clan Grant," 13th October 1897; last S.S. "Clan Matheson," 7th January 1898.	5¾ months to 8¼ months.
		Locks - -	Locks take a long time to manufacture, and the contractor took two months longer to complete the contract than he anticipated.	S.S. "Oronsay," 24th January 1898, and S.S. "Manora," 18th February 1898, and S.S. "City of Dublin," 2nd April 1898.	9 months to 11 months.

Indent.	Date of Receipt.	Items in Question.	Causes of Delay.	Shipments.	Period between Receipt of Indent and Despatch of Stores.
8 of 19th July 1897.	14th October 1897.	Pickaxes -	Contractors were six weeks late in completing the order.	1st shipment S.S. "Clan Robertson," 21st February 1898; last S.S. "Clan Macdonald" in April 1898.	4¼ months to 6 months.
		Weighing machines.	No delay - - - - -	S.S. "Clan Cameron," 1st March 1898 - -	Less than 5 months.
		Mamoooties -	Contractors were rather behindhand with their deliveries.	1st shipment S.S. "Golconda," 21st January 1898; last S.S. "Clan Macdonald," in April 1898.	3¼ months to 6 months.
11 of 21st July 1897.	4th October 1897.	Delta metal -	The engineers' strike - - - -	S.S. "Umballa," 19th March 1898 - -	5½ months.
		Channels -	Breakdown of contractor's machinery -	1st shipment S.S. "Golconda," 21st January 1898; last S.S. "Golconda," 13th May 1898.	3½ months to 7¼ months.
		Iron, flat -	No delay - - - - - -	S.S. "Clan Grant," 8th February 1898, and S.S. "Clan Cameron," 1st March 1898.	Less than five months.
		Steel - -	No delay - - - - -	S.S. "Clan Cameron," 1st March 1898 - -	
9 of 29th July 1897.	21st September 1897.	Materials for a sluice.	Illness and death of the inventor - -	S.S. "Rewa," 29th April 1898 - - -	7 months.