

Public Works (1899) Department.

G.O., No. 1723 W

DATED 6th July 1899.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Red Ink

Pres. J. H. Deftt, requesting the Suptd of Stationing to substitute gradually the ink manufactured from the Express Ink Co's scarlet powder No. 2 for Blackwood's —, and directing him to continue his enquiries as regards a substitute for fuchsine, Comm^d to the Officer of the Department for information

gan
etc.

FINANCIAL.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 621, 20th May 1899.

Communicated to the
officers of the Department
for information.

MAY.

19.6.11
 19.6.11

Gray

To S. Sec. 5-5-19-5-5-5
S. of W. L. D. Orr &
C. A. to Court. 1
Env. P. W. Scott 2
Env. Ry. Scott 2
L. C. for Engraving!
Comp. Large for Rep.

Red Ink.

Requesting the Superintendent of Stationery to substitute gradually the ink manufactured from the Empress Ink Co.'s scarlet powder No. 2 for Blackwood's —, and directing him to continue his enquiries as regards a substitute for fuchsine.

E. E. in Charge of Vignapattan
Hankow in Hekem

27/7/52

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following papers:—

G.O., No. 411, Financial, dated 7th July 1896.

ABSTRACT.—Directing the Superintendent of Stationery to take early steps to procure fuchsine of superior quality to that in use at present and to place himself in communication with the Superintendents of Stationery in other provinces in view of ascertaining the quality of the red ink supplied by them to public offices.

G.O., Mis. No. 12, Financial, dated 3rd January 1899.

Read—the following papers:—

From the Superintendent of Stationery, dated Madras, 20th August 1898, No. 1926.

From J. N. ATKINSON, Esq., I.C.S., Superintendent of Stationery, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 16th December 1898, No. 3954.

With reference to G.O., No. 411, dated 7th July 1896, I have the honour to report that, with a view to obtain a suitable substitute for fuchsine, samples of five kinds of red-ink powder were obtained from the Director-General of Stores, India

Chemical Examiner, Madras.
Chief Secretary to Government, Financial
Department.
Secretary, Board of Revenue, Land Revenue
Department.
Accountant-General.

Office, and forwarded to the marginally-noted offices for favour of trial and an expression of opinion. From the replies received it appears that the balance of opinion is in favour of the powder manufactured by Messrs. F. Mordan & Co. The ink has been found to give fairly satisfactory results and to be a suitable substitute for fuchsine, but its price appears to be quite prohibitive as it is nearly five times that of fuchsine. The substitution of it would entail an additional expenditure of about Rs. 6,300 per annum.

2. I propose to inform the Director-General of Stores accordingly and to request that, pending the result of further enquiries, fuchsine may be supplied as heretofore. But for its colour, fuchsine is, in the opinion of the Chemical Examiner, Madras, even better than Blackwood's red ink in that it is capable of resisting the action of many reagents.

3. Some samples of red-ink powder and of red ink were obtained from the stationery offices in Calcutta and Bombay more than two years ago, but as they have deteriorated somewhat by being kept, I have asked the Superintendents of Stationery to furnish me with fresh samples. On receipt, they will be forwarded to the Chemical Examiner for comparison with fuchsine and Blackwood's ink, respectively.

4. As I have received several letters from the Director-General of Stores in regard to the samples he sent to me, may I request the favour of early orders on this reference.

Order—Mis. No. 12, Financial, dated 3rd January 1899.

The action of the Superintendent of Stationery is approved.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

To the Superintendent of Stationery.

READ—also the following paper:—

From HERBERT BRADLEY, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Superintendent of Stationery, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 16th March 1899, No. 1581.

With reference to paragraph 3 of my letter No. 3954, dated 17th December 1898, I have the honour to inform you that in response to my application to the Superintendents of Stationery, Bombay and Calcutta, to furnish me with fresh samples of scarlet ink and scarlet-ink powder which are obtained locally at present by their departments, I have received from the former two samples of scarlet ink and two samples of powder manufactured by the Empress Ink Co., Bombay; and from the latter two samples of ink manufactured by Messrs. D'Waldie & Co., Konnagar, and P. M. Bagchi, Musjid Bari Street, Calcutta. They were forwarded to the Chemical Examiner, Madras, for examination as to how they compare in quality with fuchsine and Blackwood's red ink. He reports that the Empress Ink Co.'s scarlet powder No. 2 is about the best and is even better than Blackwood's red ink. Next to it in order he places P. M. Bagchi's red ink, Empress Ink Co.'s scarlet inks No. 1 and No. 2 and Blackwood's red ink, and states that all these four resemble each other very nearly both in colour and in the power of resistance to the actions of bleaching agents. Next to these come Empress Ink Co.'s scarlet ink powder No. 1, D'Waldie's red ink, and lastly fuchsine. The last three he says bleach more or less readily under the influence of chemicals.

All the samples of inks and powders received from Bombay and Calcutta are forwarded herewith for trial and favour of an expression of your opinion. A comparative statement of the prices is appended below:—

				Price per quart containing 28 oz. of ink.		
				RS.	A.	P.
Blackwood's rubian red ink in stone bottles	..	..	..	0	9	1
Fuchsine	..	..	..	0	0	9
Empress Ink Co.'s scarlet powder No. 1	..	..	..	0	6	8
Do. do. do. No. 2	..	..	..	0	4	8
Do. do. scarlet ink No. 1 in glass quarts	..	..	..	0	8	8
Do. do. do. No. 2 do.	..	..	..	0	6	0
D'Waldie & Co.'s scarlet ink in glass quarts	..	..	..	0	3	2
P. M. Bagchi's ink in glass quarts	..	..	..	0	2	11

ORDER—No. 621, Financial, dated 20th May 1899.

In view of the report of the Chemical Examiner as to the ink manufactured from the Empress Ink Co.'s scarlet powder No. 2, which has been tested with satisfactory results in the Secretariat, the Superintendent of Stationery will be requested to substitute this ink gradually for Blackwood's red ink.

2. The substitution of any of the other inks mentioned in the Superintendent's letter for fuchsine is rendered impracticable by the extra cost which would be involved in such a measure. The Superintendent will, however, continue his enquiries as regards a substitute for fuchsine.

(True Extract.)

A. Edgington
for Chief Secretary.

To the Superintendent of Stationery.
" Accountant-General.
" Departments of the Secretariat. (P. W. K.)