M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	899	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	19 10.	~~19~~ 1887

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 35. From Messrs. LECOT, HICKS and Co.; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 15th October 1857.

SIR,

On the 1st Ultimo, there appeared in the Fort Saint George Gazette, a Government Notification prohibiting the Sale of Sulphur. From the tenor of this Notification it appeared to us to be the intention of Government, to purchase at the current value, any quantity of the Article that might be in the Market; and we therefore stopped the delivery of a quantity which we had sold to a Native Firm before the publication of the Notice referred to, in order to prevent the possibility of an improper use being made of it; and tendered the whole of the stock in our possession to the Commissary General. After considerable delay we were informed, that our tender was declined on the ground of no Sulphur being required by the Ordnance Department; and on reference to the Inspector General of Ordnance we were recommended to apply to the Commissioner of Police for a License, to dispose of it by private sale.

The Commissioner of Police informed us in reply to our application for a License, that he has no authority to grant one, or to permit the removal of the Sulphur from our Godowns.

The Shippers of the Sulphur are in the meanwhile suffering the loss attendant on the retention of it in our Godowns for an indefinite period; and we have made ourselves liable for any loss arising from the resale of the quantity previously sold, and detained by us on our own responsibility.

We feel assured that it is not the wish of Government to exercise any injurious interference with private trade, and as we may reasonably infer from the removal of the restriction on the Sale of Arms, that no fears need be entertained of an improper use being made of Sulphur in this Presidency, we have the honor to request that the Governor in Council will be pleased to authorize the grant of a License to us, to sell the quantity in our possession, or the acceptance of our tender of it on Government account.

(Signed) LECOT, HICKS AND Co.

No. 36. ORDER THEREON, No. 899; dated 19th October 1857.

Government observe that the order to which Messrs. Lecot, Hicks and Co. refer emanated from the Government of India, and absolutely prohibits the transport or sale of Sulphur until further Notice. From the terms of that order this Government cannot depart.

Encl. J. A. Wilson.

