

1. Number of copies 30
2. Date of receipt 10-5-37
3. Initials of receipt
M.B.O. 1-82,400-28-11-80.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1252 Press
Mis.

Dated 16-8-1871

Not to be folded or roughly handled

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

No. 1252.

FROM

THE HON. R. S. ELLIS, C.B.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

Referring to the Order of the Government of India in the Financial Department, dated the 28th June last, No. 1547, I am directed to transmit copies of letters* from the Inspector-General of Ordnance and
• Dated 22nd July 1871, No. 104-G.
„ 18th „ „ „ 206. Magazines and the Superintendent of Stationery, Madras, and to state that the Governor in Council concurs with these Officers in thinking that no advantage will result in this Presidency from the introduction of sub-indents for the supply of stationery from England.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Captain, R. E.,

*Under Secretary, P. W. D.,
for Chief Secretary.*

OOTACAMUND,
16th August 1871.

From the Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Fort St. George, 22nd July 1871, No. 104-G.

Ordnance Department.

In returning original papers referred to me for report with your docket, dated 7th July 1871, I have the honour to submit copy of a letter from the Acting Superintendent of Stationery, giving his opinion against the introduction of the system of sub-indents for stationery based on his practical experience of the working of the present system; and, from a still longer experience in the Department as Superintendent of Stationery, I beg to inform Government that I quite coincide in the remarks made by Major Dangerfield.

From Major D. DANGERFIELD, Acting Superintendent of Stationery, to the Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines, dated Fort St. George, 18th July 1871, No. 206.

With reference to the Order of the Government of India, Financial Department, dated 28th June 1871, No. 1547, referred to me for report with your Official Memorandum, No. 1721, dated 11th July following, I have the honour to state that it does not seem desirable to me to introduce into this Presidency the system of sub-indents.

under the margin.

Rede

2. The advantages of this system have been set forth in the correspondence annexed to the order as follows :—

I. Avoidance of deterioration of stores. The effect of the damp climate of Bengal on all kinds of stores, particularly paper, quills, water colours, &c., is so well known that it is unnecessary to enter into further details upon this point.

II. Saving of rent of godowns at present amounting to Rupees 500 a month.

III. Release of a portion of the capital invested in stores, the established proportion, which is now two-and-a-half years' stock being capable of reduction to one-and-a-half year's stock. The result is shown in the margin.

Amount of two-and-a-half years' stock	17,50,000
Amount of one-and-a-half year's stock.....	10,50,000
Total release of capital ...	7,00,000

IV. Reduction of the Store-keeper's responsibility.

3. Of these advantages, only one has been recognised as substantial by the Secretary of State. He says, "the lessening of the stock of stationery in India would, without doubt, save the deterioration to which it is exposed from the effects of climate."

4. And, in reporting that the system of sub-indentments could not suitably or advantageously be applied to this Presidency, I have been only influenced by the consideration as to whether there would be such an avoidance of deterioration of stock as would render any change of system in the above direction useful.

5. The loss on account of deterioration of property in store has been very trifling during several years past ; the only instance I can bring to recollection is that of the varnished covers of Prayer-books for Soldiers' use in Hospitals found unsuitable to this climate, and so I am constrained to consider that the suggested change could not usefully be extended to this Presidency.

1871.
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

From
The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort St. George,

To
The Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Financial Department.

Dated 16th August 1871.

Recd. No. 1252.
Enclosure.

Intimating that no advantage will be gained in this Presidency by the introduction of sub-indents for stationery from England.

No. 206

From
The Superintendent of Stationery
Fort St. George
To
The Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines
Fort St. George

Sir,

With reference to the order of the Government of India Financial Department dated 28 June 1871, No. 1547, referred to me for report with your official Memorandum No. 1721 dated 11 July following, I have the honor to state that it does not seem desirable to me to introduce into this Presidency, the system of sub-indents.

2 The advantages of this system have been set forth in the correspondence annexed to the order as follows.

I Avoidance of deterioration of stores. The effect of the damp climate of Bengal on all kinds of stores particularly paper, Quills, Water Colors, &c., is so well known that it is unnecessary to enter into further details upon this point.

II Saving of rent of godowns at present amounting to Rupees 500 a month.

III Release of a portion of the Capital invested in stores, the established proportion, which is now 2 1/2 Years

Rs.
Amount of 2 1/2 years Stock - 17,50,000
do of 1 1/2 do - 10,50,000
Total release of Capital - 7,00,000

Stock being capable of reduction to 1 1/2 years Stock. The result is shown in the Margin.

7
Reduction of the Storekeepers responsibility.

3. Of these advantages, only one has been recognized as substantial by the Secretary of State. He says "The lessening of the Stock of Stationery in India would, without doubt, save the deterioration to which it is exposed from the effects of climate."

And in reporting that the system of sub-indeents could not suitably or advantageously be applied to this Presidency. I have been only influenced by the consideration as to whether there would be such an avoidance of deterioration of stock as would render any change of system in the above direction useful.

The loss on account of deterioration of property in Store has been very trifling during several years past, the only instance I can bring to recollection is that of the worn-out covers of Prayer books for Soldiers in Hospitals found unsuitable to this climate; and so I am constrained to consider that the suggested change could not usefully be extended to this Presidency.

H. M. Stationery Office
Fort St. George
18th July 1871

I have the
Signature of G. Dangerfield
As: Supt. of Stationery

True Copy

Wm
To Col. R. A.
Inspector General of Ordnance & Magazines

No. 104

From, Colonel J. L. Harrow C. B.
Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines.

To The Chief Secretary to Government.

Sir,

In returning original papers referred to me for report with your Docket dated 7th July 1871, I have the honor to submit copy of a letter from the Acting Superintendent of Stationery giving his opinion against the introduction of the system of Sub-Indents for Stationery based on his practical experience of the working of the present system; and from a still longer experience in the Department as Superintendent of Stationery, I beg to inform Government, that I quite coincide in the remarks made by Major Dangerfield.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant.

J. L. Harrow C. B.
Inspector General of Ordnance & Magazines

From
The Superintendent
of Stationery
Fort St George

Dated 18th July 1871

Depend upon the pro-
position of Sub-indents
and indents for Stationery
Office from England &c

M. G. 2716 Aug 1871
du 13. 1871

du 13. 1871

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401573

Forwarded Copy of letter
from the President of
National Society his opinion
against the confederations
of the Systems of the incidents
to National and Science
with him in his remarks.

5. The sub-indent should, as suggested, be forwarded direct by the Superintendent of Stationery to the Director General of Stationery, and the latter Officer will then arrange with Her Majesty's Stationery Office for the prompt provision and despatch of the demands. It will, of course, be understood that the aggregate demands made in the sub-indent must not, as regards any item, exceed those embodied in the sanctioned annual indent. No store to meet such requisitions will be retained in this country, but as the sub-indent will neither have to be submitted to your Government prior to their despatch from India, nor to myself on their arrival, there will be a considerable saving of time as compared with the present system.

6. The arrival of stores may fairly be expected at Calcutta, under the proposed arrangement, within nine months of the date of the sub-indents, when the supplies are sent *via* the Cape, or within seven months, if sent *via* the Suez Canal. The sub-indents should specify when the latter mode of despatch is desirable.

7. In many cases the date at which supplies will be required in Calcutta may probably be, without difficulty, furnished in the original indent. In such cases, sub-indents from the Superintendent of Stationery will be unnecessary.

8. With regard to the despatch of stores through the Suez Canal, I have to remark that the total measurement of stationery shipped to Calcutta in the year 1870 amounted to about 3,500 tons. The extra freight which would have been incurred by shipping these stores through the Canal would have amounted to between 5,000*l.* and 6,000*l.* It is therefore evident that the despatch of stationery by this route should, under present circumstances, be only resorted to in exceptional cases.

9. The demands for stationery stores received from Madras and Bombay are considerably smaller than from Bengal. There appears to be no reason, however, why the arrangement now proposed should not also be extended to those Presidencies, should your Government see no objection thereto.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant.

(Signed) ARGYLL.

(True Copies)

Enclaving
Registrar
Financial Department
27/6

21/7/0
27/6/1398

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT PROCEEDINGS, MARCH, 1871.

ACCOUNTS.

INDENTING FOR STATIONERY STORES FROM ENGLAND.

B. Accts., July 1870, No. 9.

No. 4495, dated 18th November, 1870.

No. 63.] From—RIVERS THOMPSON, Esq., Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal, Revenue Dept.,
To—The Secretary to the Government of India, HOME DEPT.

In May last, the Lieutenant Governor was asked to favor the Government of India in the Military Department with any remarks His Honor might desire to offer on a despatch* from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India relative to the conveyance of light stores from England to India by the Suez Canal. The Master Attendant and the Board of Revenue were accordingly requested to report on the subject as regards their respective departments. Captain Boon's reply has been forwarded to the Military Department with the Lieutenant Governor's recommendations, and a copy of the Board's report has also been sent for information on the general question of adopting the Suez Canal route. But the Lieutenant Governor desires that a separate communication should be addressed to the Home Department with a view to the consideration of the proposals contained in the letter from the Board, with its enclosure, on the subject of the conveyance of stationery sent out to this country from England. A copy of this letter† is herewith forwarded, and I am desired to say that the Lieutenant Governor concurs in thinking that, as long as the present system of indenting is insisted upon, under which indents for stationery must be received in England fifteen months before the stores can be expected in this country, the question of saving a few weeks in the passage out by adopting the route by the Suez Canal instead of the long sea route via the Cape, is immaterial. A reduction in the stationery stock and the general improvement of the system must first be sought in the abridgment of the time occupied in complying with the indents from India.

2. Not the least important feature in the Superintendent's scheme for shortening the period during which articles are being selected and despatched from England in compliance with indents from this country, is the establishment of direct correspondence in all matters of detail between the Superintendent in Calcutta and the Director General of Stores at Home. The Lieutenant Governor considers that the recommendations of the Superintendent in the 7th paragraph of his letter to the Board are well worthy of adoption.

3. When freights by the Suez Canal are reduced by competition, it will doubtless be of advantage to adopt that route for the importation of all light European stores from England.

No. 581C, dated 28th September, 1870.

No. 64.] From—F. B. PEACOCK, Esq., Offg. Junr. Secy. to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces,
To—The Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Dept.

With reference to Government order No. 2257, dated 29th July last, I am directed to submit the accompanying copy of a report‡ from the Officiating Superintendent of Stationery, regarding the conveyance of stores from England to India by the Suez Canal route.

2. It appears to the Board that Mr. Rees is perfectly correct in his remark that, so long as the present system of indent is maintained, the mere use of the Suez Canal will have but little effect either on the amount of stationery in store or in obviating the necessity of making purchases in the local market. It is of course manifestly impossible for calculations, which are to extend over a period of 18 months, to be so accurate as not to break down sometimes, thereby entailing local expenditure. It appears, therefore, clear to the Board that the first step to be taken should be in the direction of an amendment of the present system of indent.

3. The advantages of reducing the stock kept in Calcutta have been detailed by the Superintendent in paragraph 6 of his report, and are too palpable to need further comment by the Board.

Ms. A. 1. 6 Aug. 1871
L. 13. 10. 67.

4. In the 7th paragraph of his report, the Superintendent proposes a scheme which is briefly as follows, *viz.*,—that, as soon as the year's indent has been sanctioned in India and sent to England, he should be allowed to draw against it, as it were by means of sub-indent on the Home Stationery Office, the annual indent being taken to be an estimate of the total quantity of stationery required during the year to which it relates, and not to be exceeded.

5. The Board are of opinion that a very little arrangement would make this scheme work well. On the arrival of the indent in England, it should be sent to the Director General of Stores (with whom the Superintendent of Stationery here should be allowed to correspond direct), who will be instructed to comply promptly with all sub-indent from the Superintendent here, of course taking care that the aggregate of the sub-indent does not exceed that of the annual indent itself. The sub-indent are not to be emergent indents, but indents showing the instalments in which the quantity sanctioned in the annual indent is to be despatched.

6. It will not be difficult, the Board imagine, for the Director General of Stores in England and the Superintendent here to settle the minor details of this scheme, such as the time that will be required in England to procure and ship particular articles, the seasons at which they can best be procured, and other matters of a like nature. The Board would strongly urge the importance of free and unreserved communication on all such points between these officers, feeling confident that the result will be the introduction of a system better in all respects than the one now in existence.

7. Lastly, the Board would strongly advocate all despatches of stationery being sent *via* the Suez Canal. Competition will, in all probability, reduce the freight of steamers passing through it to a figure not much higher than that charged by vessels round the Cape, and favorable terms could no doubt be obtained from the proprietors of any line of steamers trading to India *via* the canal, who would be glad to secure at reduced rates the conveyance of all the stores required for Bengal and possibly also those for Madras and Bombay. Even if this should not be so, the Board believe that it would in the long run be an actual saving to pay the higher rate of freight by the canal and thereby secure a regular periodical supply of stationery, which would enable the stock now obliged to be kept in store to be materially reduced, would almost preclude the possibility of deterioration in the articles supplied, and would admit of a saving being effected in ware-house rent and establishment.

No. 3865, dated 17th September, 1870.

From—F. W. J. REES, Esq., Offg. Supdt. of Stationery,

To—The Offg. Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces.

As directed in your No. 259C, dated the 9th instant, I have the honor to submit the following report on the advantages which will be secured by the use of the Suez Canal route for the conveyance of the stationery sent out to this country from England.

2. Under the present system it is the duty of the Superintendent of Stationery to be constantly watching to prevent, on the one hand, an unnecessary large accumulation of any article and, on the other, the total expenditure of any article before the arrival of a fresh supply, the former leads to rapid deterioration of the stores in the damp climate of Bengal, the latter renders necessary local purchases, which can only be effected at a considerable advance (probably 50 per cent.) upon English prices. See margin.

3. And, in spite of the greatest care, it is impossible to avoid frequent instances of each of the above faults. Great pressure is put upon this office by the Secretary of State to submit the annual indent as early as possible. In a recent despatch it was ordered that indents should be forwarded so as to reach England at least a year before the stores are required in India; on the other hand, emergent indents are discouraged as much as possible: hence it not unfrequently happens that the necessity for some stores has passed before their receipt, while, on the other hand, an unexpected run on certain stores, renders local purchases (and those often to a large extent) unavoidable.

4. It should, however, be pointed out here that the mere use of the Suez Canal route instead of that *via* the Cape will make little difference in the present system. For example, an indent submitted by this office in March will perhaps reach England in June, and the stores under present arrangements will be shipped in the following June; if *via* the Cape, they will arrive in September; if sent through the canal, they will arrive six weeks earlier, but it is manifest that the difference of six weeks only in a period of eighteen months (*viz.*, from date of indent to date of probable arrival of stores, is too little to be of any real advantage.

5. Further, it is unlikely that any change would be sanctioned which would not allow ample time for the purchase of stores at Home.

The last occasion on which it was found necessary to make extensive purchases showed the following result:—

	Rs.
Local price ...	14,323
English price ...	9,921
Difference ...	4,402

6. The benefit, however, of reducing to a minimum the stock of stationery kept in Calcutta is so great that an attempt should be made to meet the difficulty suggested in paragraph 5. I classify the principal advantages of a small stock in India under the following heads:—

I.—Avoidance of deterioration of stores. The effect of the damp climate of Bengal on all kinds of stores, particularly paper, quills, water colors, &c., is so well known that it is unnecessary to enter into further details upon this point.

II.—Saving of rent of godowns at present amounting to Rs. 500 a month.

III.—Release of a portion of the capital invested in stores, the established proportion, which is now $2\frac{1}{2}$ years' stock, being capable of reduction to $1\frac{1}{2}$ year's stock. The result is shown in the margin.

Amount of $2\frac{1}{2}$ years' stock ...	Rs. 17,50,000
Ditto of $1\frac{1}{2}$ ditto ...	10,50,000
Total release of capital ...	7,00,000

IV.—Reduction of the Store-keeper's responsibility.

7. I would therefore propose that, when the annual indent has been submitted and sanctioned, it should be treated as an estimate of the total quantity of stores which will be required for the year, and that the Superintendent of Stationery should be authorized to make sub-indent (within the limits of the annual indent) direct upon the Home Stationery Office. The stores would then be shipped only on receipt of these sub-indent, and if these met with prompt compliance, and the stores were despatched by the Suez Canal route, it would be possible to reduce the stock to the estimated requirements of six months. I believe it would also be to the advantage of all departments if this office were allowed to correspond directly with the Director General of Stores.

8. It must, however, be kept in mind that this system will be futile unless the most prompt compliance with the sub-indent of this office can be ensured. The system also presupposes the existence of a line of steamers starting from England with some regularity. This expectation will, there is little doubt, be fulfilled.

9. When I had the honor to address the Board on this subject a few months since, I was only able to suggest one drawback to the use of the Suez Canal route, *viz.*, the additional cost of freight, and I expressed an opinion that this difference would shortly be reduced by increased competition. I observe that already a considerable reduction has been made.

10. With regard to the reduction of stock it will be only necessary to make a smaller indent. If my proposal is found satisfactory and feasible, most articles will in this manner be gradually reduced in the case of a few items, such as those noted in the margin, of which the stock is large, and for which the demand is small. Some special steps will be necessary before making any suggestions on this hand: it will be necessary for me to consult the departments for which these stores were imported, and this is a matter of detail on which it is not necessary to enlarge in a general report like the present.

White cartridge.	Double demy.
Colored paper.	Hand-made royal.
Double foolscap, thin.	Books of laid demy.
Ditto, super-royal.	Ditto of laid medium.

11. The enclosures of your memorandum under reply are enclosed.

No. 5644, dated 21st December, 1870.

Endorsed by the HOME DEPT.

Copy forwarded to the Financial Department for an expression of its opinion.

No. 15, dated 8th February, 1871.

From—The Government of India,

To—The Secretary of State for India.

No. 65.]

We have the honor to forward to your Grace the papers noted in the margin, which refer to a proposal made by the Government of Bengal in connection with the system of indenting for stationery.

2. The Government of Bengal propose that, on the annual indent receiving the sanction of your Grace, the amount of it instead of being supplied at once to the indenting officer should be drawn against by sub-indent from him in direct communication with the Director General of Stores in England.

3. The plan seems to us well calculated to promote economy and efficiency, and we solicit your Grace's sanction to its adoption.

No. 639, dated 2nd February, 1871.

No. 66.] Office Memo.—By W. M. SOUTTAR, Esq., Offg. Under Secy. to Govt. of India, HOME DEPT.

No. 5644, dated 21st December 1870.

The undersigned is directed to invite attention to the communication marginally noted, and to request the issue of early orders thereon.

No. 1062, dated 20th February, 1871.

No. 67.] Office Memo.—By J. WESTLAND, Esq., Under Secy. to Govt. of India, FINANCIAL DEPT.

In reply to office memorandum from the Home Department, No. 639, dated the 2nd instant, the undersigned is directed to intimate that, in dealing with the previous reference* regarding the system of indenting for stationery, it was not observed that the case was sent to this Department merely for opinion, and accordingly it was disposed of by a despatch to the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State. A copy of that despatch is forwarded for information with a request that it may be stated if it is considered necessary that any alteration should be made in the final orders.

* No. 5644, dated 21st December 1870, and enclosures.

No. 1287, dated 7th March, 1871.

No. 68.] Office Memo.—By W. VERNER, Esq., Offg. Under Secy. to Govt. of India, HOME DEPT.

In reply to office memorandum from the Financial Department, No. 1062, dated the 10th ultimo, the undersigned is directed to state that no alteration seems required in the final orders passed by that Department, on the reference from the Government of Bengal regarding the system of indenting for stationery stores from England.

No. 1602, dated 21st March, 1871.

**No. 69.] From—J. WESTLAND, Esq., Under Secy. to the Govt. of India, FINANCIAL DEPT.,
To—The Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Dept.**

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 4495, dated 18th November 1870, to the address of the Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department, and to inform you that the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India has been asked to sanction the adoption of the proposal made by the Government of Bengal in connection with the system of indenting for stationery stores from England. A copy of his Grace's reply will be duly forwarded.

Copy to the Home Department for information with reference to its No. 1287, dated 7th March 1871.

REFERENCE TO FORMER CASES.

B. Accts., July 1870, No. 9.

REFERENCE TO LATER CASES.

Office Notes.

GOVT. }
OF INDIA. }

1871.

{ FINL.
DEPT. }

ACCOUNTS.

March.

Nos. 63 to 69.

Bengal Government's proposal in connection with the system of indenting for Stationery Stores from England.

SUBJECT.

Bengal Government's proposal in connection with the system of indenting for Stationery Stores from England.

N^o 1547

Government of India
Financial Department
Simla

The 28 June 1871-

Read, again, Financial Proceedings (Accounts)
March 1871 Nos. 63 to 69.

Read Financial Despatch from the
Secretary of State for India N^o 154 dated
18th May 1871.

Ordered that a copy of the foregoing
Despatch be sent to the Government of
Bengal with reference to letter to that
Government N^o 602 dated 21st March.

Also that a copy of the entire correspondence
be sent to the Government of Madras and Bombay
for report on para. 9 of the Secretary of State's
Despatch quoted above.

R. H. Hollingbery
Asst Secy to the Govt of India

W. B. Munro

27/6

Asst Secy to the Govt of India

desd 24/8

Public Department.

No. 1252

To
The Secretary to the Government
of India.

Financial Department.

Sir,

Referring to the order of the Government of India in the Financial Department dated the 28th June last No. 1547, I am directed to transmit copies of letters* from the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines and the Superintendent of Stationary Madras, and to state that this Government concurs with the officers in thinking that no advantage will result in this Presidency from the introduction of sub

* Dated 22nd July/71 No. 9/104
— 18th July/71 No. 206.

A. V.

67
Referred to the Inspector General of Ordnance
Magazines for report with reference to paragraph
9 of the Secretary of India's Despatch dated
the 18th May last. No. 154.
Patel's letter
3 July 1871
The Inspector General of Ordnance
Magazines
forwarding correspondence in connection
with the system of indenting
for Stationary Stores from
England
level.
No. 1548
S. L. No. 152
Dated 25 June 1871
Recd 5 July 1871
Public 1677 Despatch
Recd 16 July 1871
Indian Revenue
India
S. L. No. 152
Dated 25 June 1871
Recd 5 July 1871
Public 1677 Despatch
Recd 16 July 1871
Indian Revenue
India

Referring

Out Indents for the sup-
-ply of Stationery from
England.

Wk

Estacount
16 Aug. 1871 -

18 . *Department.*

No.

To
The Secretary to the
Government of
Department

Dated 187 .

187/ ?
Financial DEPARTMENT

From
The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort Saint George.

To
The Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Financial Department.

Dated Aug. 16. 1871.
Recd.

No. 1402
Enclosure.

Nos. 67-69.

*Intimating that no advantage
will be gained in this way
by the introduction of Sub.
Indents for Stationery
from England*