M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. ~~608~~ 609. ~~Press~~ Mis.

Dated 8 November 1861.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers :—

Memorandum from the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George, 21st September 1861 ; *to the Inspector General of Ordnance.*

With reference to the Extract marginally quoted, the Military Secretary to Government has the honor to request, that the Inspector General of Ordnance will be good enough to report on the best mode of disposing of the Guns and Shot, the property of the Madras Government, and now lying in the Fort of Seringapatam.

Extract from a Report from the Commissioner of Mysore, dated 26th June 1861.

"His Highness the Maha Rajah has some Cannon at Mysore, but these are the only Cannon throughout the country, not belonging to ourselves, which are supposed to be in a serviceable condition, although many of the Hill Forts are mounted with Cannon more or less unserviceable, but which might and doubtless would be used by Natives. It may not be out of place to mention here, that the Fort of Seringapatam contains ranges of Guns that have only had the trunnions knocked off, and which might, under certain contingencies, give confidence if they are not capable of doing any very serious amount of mischief, more especially as there is Shot enough for a protracted defence lying piled up within the Fort. The Guns and Shot are the property of the Madras Government, and it is suggested that the Guns should be destroyed and the Shot removed to the nearest Arsenal."

From the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, Fort Saint George, 30th September 1861, *No.* 130 ; *to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Memorandum, dated 21st September 1861, calling for a Report on the best mode of disposing of the Guns and Shot (the property of Government), now lying in the Fort of Seringapatam.

2. I beg to suggest that the old Guns be destroyed; and with reference to the unserviceable Shot, it appears the preferable course to have them thrown into the Caveri, than incur the cost of carriage in removing them from their present locality to the Bangalore Arsenal,—a distance of nearly eighty miles.

3. The Shot in question are perfectly useless, excepting for Foundry purposes, or as Ballast for Shipping; but the expense of taking them to any Port, or bringing them to Madras, would be greater than the value of the metal;—moreover, the quantity of unserviceable Shot already at the Presidency alone, is so great, as to be more than sufficient to meet the demands of the Mint for many years.

4. While on this subject, I beg to bring to the notice of Government, that a large number of old Shot and Shell, in weight about 400 tons, has been reported by the Collector of Madura to the Officer Commanding the Southern Division, to be lying on the rock at Dindigul; for the disposal of which, I have to solicit the instructions of Government.

5. The distance of the locality referred to, from the Coast, renders any useful appropriation of the Shot and Shell impracticable; their conveyance to the Coast for shipment to Madras, being estimated at Rupees 8,000.

6. The Collector of Madura, with whom I have communicated on the subject, suggests that the Shot and Shell remain for the present where they are; and that measures be taken hereafter for their removal to Trichinopoly or Madura, when the Railway Line is extended to those Districts.

7. As however the object desired is not the transfer of the Shot and Shell from one Inland Station to another, but rather their disposal in such a manner as to prevent their falling into the hands of unauthorised parties, I have considered it necessary to submit the matter to Government.

8. The broken pieces of the unserviceable Guns which were burst in Dindigul, were sold at auction. The proceeds amounting to Rupees 281-8, will be brought on the books of the local Civil Treasury, and placed to such head of Account, as the Revenue Board may consider should be credited with the amount.

ORDER, No. 3705, 11*th October* 1861.

The Governor in Council observes, that the disposal of the unserviceable Shot, referred to in the foregoing papers, will be of little importance on the destruction of the Guns being effected—

Government consider that it may be left at the discretion of the Civil authorities of the Districts, to turn the Shot to any account they may deem useful.

2. The Inspector General of Ordnance will make arrangements for the Warrant Officer, entrusted with the duty of bursting unserviceable Ordnance, proceeding to Seringapatam as early as practicable, to destroy the Guns in that Fortress.

3. The Commissioner of Mysore, to whom these Proceedings will be communicated, will be requested to issue instructions to the Superintendent of the Astagram Division, to afford such aid as may be required, in view to these orders being carried into effect. The Warrant Officer appointed to this duty, will be instructed to report himself to the Superintendent of the Division.

To the Commissioner of Mysore. | Here enter 11th October 1861, No. 3706.

(True Extract.)

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector General of Ordnance.
„ Revenue Department. With 3 Spare Copies
„ Controller of Military Finance.
„ Political Department.
„ Quarter Master General, } for information.
„ Adjutant General, }

Exd. A. A. DeMonte.

Apr 1861 Department
Rec'd of Govt for Mad Pr
No 2489

Copy of the Madras
Gov in the Mily Dept
Dated 11th Oct 60
Received 21st Oct 60
No 3705

Leaving the disposal
of old Shots at Sheerum
=patam &c to the discre=
=tion of the Civil
Authorities of the
Districts, who may
turn them to any
useful account they
think proper.
Lodged
Fort St George
8th Oct 60

Mis: No 6084 Reg.