M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 187 — Press — Mis.—

371.372

Dated 28 . 1 19 63

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 371. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. BARROW, Superintendent of Stationery, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Fort Saint George, 9th January 1863, No. 1,954 :—

SIR,

1. With reference to the Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 24th December 1862, No. 2,695, forwarding for explanation a letter from the Superintendent of Stamps, dated 8th December 1862, No. 461, I have the honor in reply to state that a letter was received from the Officiating Superintendent of Stamps on the 11th October (see Appendix copy marked A), forwarding a sample of paper used in his Office, with a request that a sample ream, with price per ream, be sent to his Office preliminary to obtaining the sanction of the Board of Revenue, for the purchase of 300 reams, to be supplied, if possible, within a fortnight, as the paper was urgently required to meet Indents.

2. The letter also contained an enclosure from P. Ramanjaloo Naidoo the Contractor who had hitherto furnished the paper to the Stamp Office, praying that he may be allowed to continue the supply, as the paper was expressly manufactured for the Stamp Office, and offering to sell at 5 rupees per ream, the same description of paper which he before supplied to the Stamp Office at 5¼ Rupees per ream.

3. The requisition it will be seen conveyed no authority to purchase the paper, but simply to submit a sample ream, with price, for approval, and it was on account of the alleged urgency of the demand only that the Commissariat Officer closed his register of tenders within nine days of the receipt of the application, instead of one month as usual. (See original document enclosure No. 1).

4. It was on the 10th November only that the sanction of the Board of Revenue was received for the purchase of the paper, and this decision was communicated by me *on the same day* to the Commissariat Executive Officer, as all purchases for the Stationery Office are made by that Department in accordance with Government Resolutions in the Public Department of date 27th May 1811 (see letter in Appendix copy marked D).

5. On the 13th November I was favored with the letter in the Appendix (copy marked C), and notwithstanding the opinion previously expressed (see Appendix copy marked D) I was again on the 21st November favored with a letter from the Commissary General enclosing a Petition from the Contractor (copy in Appendix marked E), this only was the cause of delay, viz., the Contractor's attempt to adhere to the former practice of a direct delivery into the Stamp Office instead of its supply being made as sanctioned through the medium of this Office.

6. To prevent any further delay as the Superintendent of Stamps said the paper was required to be delivered soon into his Office to meet urgent demands, I consented, under the above circumstances, that the paper should be delivered direct into the Stamp Office, but maintained the right to watch over the interest of Government, to inspect the paper, at the time of delivery, to see that it was according to the approved sample tendered (see letter in Appendix copy marked F), and the caution proved necessary for the paper conveyed to the Stamp Office on the 28th November was of a very inferior description, in fact, there was not one single ream of the quality of the approved sample tendered by the Contractor, and it was only on account of the very great want of paper in the Stamp Office that Mr. Norfor notwithstanding its inferior quality accepted 243 out of the 300 reams tendered by the Contractor; 57 reams were rejected as being quite unfit for Office use. These 57 reams it would appear were afterwards replaced by the Contractor direct into the Stamp Office, without any previous intimation being given to this Office (see letters in Appendix copies G1 to 5).

7. Mr. Norfor points out that Goa paper was lately purchased in his Office at 4½ Rupees per ream, whereas that supplied by the Commissariat through the Stationery Office was 5½ Rupees per ream, but he has failed to mention that the purchase of the Goa paper at 5½ Rupees per ream, was the act of the Stamp Office, notwithstanding, I had pointed out its exceeding high price. But here also the Superintendent of Stamps urged the necessity of an immediate direct

delivery of the paper into his Office to meet any emergent indent that may be received. In fact the Goa paper was received and accepted by him without so much as an opportunity given to the Stationery Office to ascertain if the paper delivered was of the approved sample tendered by the Contractor. The French Foolscap paper on stock in this Office is priced at Rupees 1-14-6 per ream.

8. To allow the Superintendent of Stationery to revert to the former practice would be to cause an innovation of the Order of Government so recently determined, on I think excellent grounds, and I may here mention that Mr. Ellis with whom I had much personal consultation on the subject, fully coincided with me, in the opinion, that the Stationery Office alone, was the proper one, to make the arrangements for the purchase and delivery of paper, and he it was, who particularly brought to my notice, what he considered a practice detrimental to the interests of Government, in the Superintendent of Government Press being authorized to make his own purchases, a practice which if extended as proposed by Mr. Norfor would cause several public Departments to go into the market for the same articles, and enhance its price, by one public Officer outbidding another, to ensure an early delivery. The Despatch from the Secretary of State for India, of date 15th October 1862, No. 38, referred to in the Proceedings of Government in the Public Department of date 27th November 1862, No. 1,388, directs that all requisitions for stationery for the various Public Departments be made upon the Stationery Depôt, and there is no doubt that if this rule be observed a great saving to Government would be effected thereby.

9. There would be no difficulty whatever in obtaining stationery articles either from the home or local market, if heads of Departments will only communicate their requirements in proper time, to obtain these supplies at fair and reasonable prices, and their doing so only at very short notices, when the supplies are stated to be very urgently required, impedes the working of this Office to procure the articles on the most advantageous terms to Government, their asking also for the submission of samples in every instance before purchase, is another obstruction to the free action of this Department to benefit Government. This would be obviated if heads of Departments will simply state their requirements in proper time and forward the samples of paper. This Department could then go into the market and either by tenders or by advertisement in the Official Gazette obtain the articles on the most favorable terms, and even should it then chance that paper of the same quality was not procurable, the paper next approximating to it in quality could always be obtained, at more favorable rates than when forced to go into the market to meet urgent demands.

10. I so far coincide with Mr. Norfor as to be of opinion that the intervention of the Commissariat is quite unnecessary, in the purchase of stationery, every thing connected with which might be effected by this Department, and much time would thereby be undoubtedly saved.

11. In conclusion I would hope that the explanation now afforded will be deemed sufficient to relieve this Department from blame for any delay in meeting the requirements of the Superintendent of Stamps.

No. 372. ORDER THEREON, 28th January 1863, No. 187.

1. Ordered that a copy of this letter be furnished to the Board of Revenue, with reference to their Proceedings dated 17th December 1862. The explanation given by the Superintendent of Stationery is satisfactory.

2. The Government do not deem it desirable to allow the Superintendent of Stamps to purchase the paper required for his Department. If such permission is allowed in his case, it could scarcely be refused in others, and such a plan will ultimately lead to the different Offices bidding against each other in the market.

3. All that is necessary is that sufficient notice, not less than two months, should be given to the Superintendent of Stationery with correct samples of the kind of paper, &c., required, and

if due foresight is exercised by the Superintendent of Stamps there will be no difficulty in procuring in proper time supplies of good paper, &c., at reasonable prices.

4. The Government do not see any necessity for the intervention of the Commissary General for supplies required by the Revenue Department, and it will therefore cease as regards that Department.

(Signed.) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

Remarks Department -

No. 1 / 1843.

Office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court
Sydney 28th January 1843.

Read the following
Letter from the Department
= end of Application -

Application explanation
to Letter from the Department =
= enclosing Statistical Returns
1842, for the Year ending the 31st
= May of Counties forwarded Papers -

Letter dated 9th June
1843

Ordered that
a copy of this Letter be
communicated to the Commissioner
of Crown Lands requesting
to be informed whether the
Returns for the Counties
of Stanley and Murray
for the year 1842 - have been
transmitted by the
Chairman of Quarter Sessions
Stephen in Hobart Town -

= Copy of Letter sent -

2. The Registrar General
has not received the Returns
from the Chairman of Quarter Sessions
Hobart Town for the Counties
of Stanley and Murray
for the year 1842 -

Pub. Pro. 27 May 1844 No. 103
R & Circ. - 162 - " - 102-103
" 24 - " - " - 379-380.

Pro: of Govt for January 1843

Note.

I should be no difficulty in this. The deficiencies should be supplied by the Clerk of Stationery alone who can obtain the paper as required.

I see no work in the intervention of the Commissariat so far as my Dept are concerned. He never hands a contract paper through the hands of the Govt.

I D F

No 371
C S Office 15 Feb 1843. R 22.

Col Sec's explanation seems perfectly satisfactory -

I think it would be a mistake to allow the Dept of Stamps to have any concern in the actual purchase of the paper required for this Dept. If allowed in this case, it could scarcely be refused in others & ultimately we should have two different Offices bidding against each other in the market -

All that is necessary is that sufficient notice should be given to the Clerk of Stationery in connection samples of the kind of paper required & the date for which it is required by - The Head of the Dept there will

x - No, and I would stop it accordingly

~~subject to be addressed from the Public Department~~

in others, and such a plan will ultimately lead to the different offices bidding against each other in the market—

3. All that is necessary is that sufficient notice not less than two months should be given to the Superintendent of Stationery to enable him to collect samples of the kind of paper, &c required and if due foresight is exercised by the ~~Heads of Departments requiring the articles supplied by~~ the Superintendent there will be no difficulty in procuring in proper time supplies of good paper at reasonable prices—

4 The Board do not see any necessity for the intervention of the Commissariat General for supplies required by the ~~Stationery~~ Revenue Department—and it will help to decide ~~as to~~ the question whether the ~~Superintendence in that~~ Indent—

To The Bd of Revenue, Dept. 21
11th — 1. Supt. of Stationery—with 17 Enclos
1st. 5. Public Supt., 5.
7 " Military Supt.—

Revenue 1863 Dept.
Pro: of Govt for Jany:

No 187.

Pro: of the Madras Govt
Dy 28th Jany 63

From Bd Revt 9th Feby 63
No 357.

Supply of paper
to the Camp Office
ordered to be continued
from the Stationery
Office.

No 371 & 372.