(1) Number of pages 2 Sheets

(2) Date of repair 27.8.82

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No:	131	Press. / Mis.
Dated	14.1.1878	197 .

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Archives I—10,006—19-4-79.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

7th January 1878, No. 55.

Ordnance—Stores.

Read the following papers:—

No. 44. *From C. W. W. MARTIN, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of Madura, to W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura; dated Dindigul, 20th October 1877, No. 600.*

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, calling for an explanation of the work described in my progress reports as bringing down cannon balls from the Dindigul Fort, I have the honor to explain that when the fort was evacuated, there was left lying about a great number of balls of different sizes, which were supposed to be in the care of the civil authorities, but, as the fort is open to every body, there was nothing to prevent appropriations of these balls. Accordingly, when a great number of weak persons flocked into the Dindigul relief camp, it occurred to me that while other work was being got ready, these people might with advantage carry down the cannon balls and store them in the court-yard of the police station; and this was done.

2. Last year, an offer was made by Mr. Wallace, of Bangalore, of Rupees 3½ per ton for all this old iron. On inquiry, however, it appeared that small quantities have been sold from time to time at Dindigul at the price of 8 Pies per lb. or Rupees 93-5-4 per ton. The offer did not appear, therefore, to be an advantageous one.

3. The quantity of iron now stored at the police station is as follows:—

Solid Balls.					Tons.
5,585	weighing 24	lb. each	...	1,34,040 lb.	or $59\frac{1880}{2240}$
5,072	do. $17\frac{1}{2}$	„	...	88,760	„ $39\frac{1400}{2240}$
7,960	do. $11\frac{1}{3}$	„	...	91,540	„ $40\frac{1940}{2240}$
4,648	do. $8\frac{1}{2}$	„	...	39,508	„ $17\frac{1420}{2240}$
1,706	do. 6	„	...	10,236	„ $4\frac{1276}{2240}$
99	do. $3\frac{1}{2}$	„	...	$346\frac{1}{2}$	„ $0\frac{693}{4480}$
104	do. $2\frac{3}{4}$	„	...	286	„ $0\frac{286}{2240}$
25,174					$162\frac{13284}{2240}$

Hollow Balls.					Tons.
3	weighing 52	lb. each	...	156 lb.	or $0\frac{156}{2240}$
170	do. $15\frac{1}{2}$	„	...	2,635	„ $1\frac{395}{2240}$
10	do. 8	„	...	80	„ $0\frac{80}{2240}$
382	do. $7\frac{1}{2}$	„	...	2,865	„ $1\frac{625}{2240}$
6	do. 2	„	...	12	„ $0\frac{12}{2240}$
571					$2\frac{1268}{2240}$
				Total ...	$165\frac{1965}{2240}$

This gives a total weight of 165½ tons nearly. If the small sum of Rupees 7 per ton can be obtained for this iron, it will recoup the cost of taking the iron down from the rock, as well as give a return equal to that offered by Mr. Wallace of Bangalore.

4. I have the honor to suggest that tenders may be called for, for the purchase of these balls as old iron.

No. 690.

Submitted to the Board of Revenue, with reference to paragraph 8 of their Proceedings, No 3524, dated 27th July.

MADURA,
26*th October* 1877.

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Collector.

Referred to the Inspector-General of Ordnance, for an expression of opinion whether it is worth while removing the shot and shell alluded to from Dindigul to Madras, or whether they had better be sold by auction.

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

No. 45. *From Colonel R. CADELL, C.B., R.A., Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines, to Colonel J. MICHAEL, C.S.I., Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort St. George, 13th November* 1877, *No.* 281-*G.*

With reference to your memorandum, dated 31st ultimo, forwarding correspondence (herewith returned) relative to certain old shot and shell now lying at Dindigul, I have the honor to state, for the information of Government, that as the shot and shell are evidently for 24, 18, 12, 9, 6 and 3 pounder guns, I do not think it would be well to sell such a quantity of materiel of war except to a known individual who will guarantee either to melt or export it.

Letter, No. 600, dated 20th October 1877, from Acting Sub-Collector of Madura, to Collector of Madras.

2. The existing Order of Government for the guidance of the Ordnance Department on the subject limits the price at which old shot and shell is to be sold in Madras to a minimum of Rupees 20 per ton, and no difficulty has hitherto been experienced in obtaining that amount. It would, therefore, should that price or a better one now be obtainable at Madras, pay to bring the shot and shell here for the purpose of being sold, unless more than Rupees 6-4-3 per ton can be obtained for them at Dindigul, that price being so obtained under the conditions named in the concluding portion of paragraph above. Rupees 6-4-3, plus the Railway charges from Dindigul to this, would make up a sum of Rupees 20.

3. In conclusion, I would invite attention to paragraph 4 of this office letter, No. 130, dated 30th September 1861, recorded in Order of Government, No. 3705, dated 11th October 1861, Military Department, in which it is stated that 400 tons of old shot and shell had "been reported to be lying on the rock at Dindigul," but paragraph 1 of the above Order of Government appears to leave its disposal to the discretion of the civil authorities of the district. At that time, however, the idea of a railway to Dindigul was only remotely anticipated.

No. 46. ORDER THEREON, 7th January 1878, No. 55.

His Grace the Governor in Council does not consider it advisable to sell shot and shell in the country.

2. The Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines is directed to ascertain, in communication with the Collectors of all districts, whether similar abandoned stores exist elsewhere, and to report the result to Government.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. MICHAEL, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

(True Copy.)

First Assistant, Mily. Dept.

To the Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines.
" Revenue Department, for information.
" Controller of Military Accounts.

Exd. A. Ratt.

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