

On Her Majesty's Service

WASC1380

Royal Laboratory

Woolwich 12th March 1802.

Gentlemen,

The Comptroller has directed me to send you the inclosed copies of the letters from the Hon^{ble} Board and President & Council of the Royal Society relative to covering the Floors of Magazines &c. with painted Canvas; And the Comptroller desires you will apply to the Board for their further commands on that subject

I am Gentlemen

Your most obedient Servant
Henry Foreman

Respective Officers of the Ordnance
Waltham Abbey.

Copy -

We the Committee appointed by the Council of the Royal Society to take into consideration the questions proposed by the Lieutenant General and Board of Ordnance on the 29th May 1807. are of opinion, that no danger is to be apprehended from such electrical excitation as can be produced by walking or rolling Barrels upon the Hides as now used to cover the floors of the Magazines &c. at the Royal Powder Works at Waltham Abbey, even when the said Hides are used without being previously wetted; We are also of opinion, that no danger of explosion from electrical excitation can arise from the use of Silk Dusting Reels in the —
 Manufacture of Gunpowder.

With respect to the question, which is the best covering for the floors of Powder Works and Magazines, We are of opinion: that the Hides as now used, have the disadvantage of affording a lodgement for the Dust of the Powder, as they do not lie close upon each other, or upon the floor, on which account we think that some uniform
 Material

Material of sufficient size to cover the whole floor,
such as painted floor cloth without seams would
in that respect be preferable and would be equally
free from danger by electrical excitation,

signed - Jos: Banks. P. R. I.

Rumford

C. Blagden

H. Cavendish

C. W. Gray

Charles Hatchett

July 23rd 1801

Copy.

Office of Ordnance
24th July 1801 -

Sir)

I have the Commands of the Lieut: General and Board to transmit for your information, the enclosed Copy of the opinion by the Committee appointed by the Council of the Royal Society, on the best sort of covering for the floors of Magazines; And I am directed to acquaint you that the Board have ordered Major Finlay to prepare, and transmit to them an account of the Quantity of Floor Cloth that will be required for covering the Floors of the Magazines at the Royal Powder Mills both at Faversham and Baltham Abbey

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient
Humble Servant

R. A. Crew

Colonel Cupper