

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 302

Press
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Dated 26. 5-1857

18 no 7-8

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Fort Saint George, Financial Consultation, 26th May 1857.

No. 7. Read the following letter from J. W. BREEKS, Esq., Secretary Mint Committee; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated 26th May 1857, No. 121.

SIR,

I have the honor by desire of the Mint Committee, to forward the accompanying copy of a letter from the Acting Mint Master, dated 25th Instant, No. 17, suggesting certain changes which he considers urgently demanded for his Department.

2. The Committee would, however, beg for the present to solicit the attention of Government to the 5th and concluding paras: of the letter, and request that sanction may be granted for the entertainment of an additional number of Gollahs for watching outside of the walls of the Mint at a total monthly expense of Company's Rupees 147.

3. The Committee beg also to support the proposition of the Acting Mint Master that future Tenders of Bullion may be sent to the General Treasury to be held in deposit till such time as the Bullion can be conveniently brought into Coinage, the Acting Mint Master being allowed to consider the advisability or otherwise of the same.

(Signed) J. W. BREEKS,
Secretary Mint Committee.

From Lieutenant Colonel F. C. COTTON, Engineers, Acting Mint Master,

To G. L. Prendergast, Esq.,
S. D. Birch, Esq.,
W. H. Bayley, Esq.,

} Mint Committee,

dated 25th May 1857, No. 17.

GENTLEMEN,

Para: 1st. It was my intention after the close of the Settlement to address your Committee upon the many alterations required in the Mint to suit it to its very greatly increased and increasing operations. This I am not able to do fully at the present time, but there are some changes urgently demanded which I think it my duty to bring to your immediate notice.

2nd. First regarding a supply of water for the use of the Mint Workmen. It has for some years been the custom to keep within the Mint walls the whole of the rubbish and filth that has accumulated there, during each Settlement, lest in carrying it out Silver should be secreted in it and lost. The consequence of this has been that the soil has become so impregnated with organic matter that the water in the well is tainted and becoming every year more so. This cannot now be corrected by clearing out the old wells or even by sinking new ones, as the whole soil is foul and so must be the water that passes through it. The only mode of obtaining good water is by procuring it elsewhere, and fortunately we are so situated that we can do this without any great expense; as the Mint wall is only separated from the compound of the Seven Wells by the breadth of the Street.

3rd. I am now in communication with the Garrison Engineer, and as soon as I receive permission to draw a supply from that quarter, an Estimate will be forwarded through the proper channel.

4th. The next point is regarding the Mint Guard Room; which is a most unfit building, in a most unsuitable position. It is a low roofed shed against the outside of the outer wall of the Mint, whereas it ought to be an airy Room capable of containing 50 men, within the Mint Compound. At present a Native Officer's Guard posts 13 Sentries, 6 of whom are without the walls of the Mint, and 7 are within it. I would with your permission have Peons as Watchmen outside, and Sentries only within the Mint. They would thus be out of the reach of surprise and would be where they were required, if their Services should be needed. To make this change it would be necessary for me to find a Guard Room inside the Mint, which can be done when I move the Die Cutting Lathes to the Verandah of the Machinery Room to bring them within reach of the Small Engine I have indented for.

5th. I would now solicit your permission to remove the old Guard Room; to place the Guard as I propose inside the Mint, and to entertain an additional number of Gollahs or Peons for watching outside the walls. This would enable me to have three reliefs and one man on each side of

Fort Saint George, Financial Consultation, 26th May 1857.

the building. To which I would add three extra men in case of sickness. The sum requiring sanction for this purpose is as follows:

1	Head Peon.....	12
3	Head watching Peons.....	30
12	Do. 7}	
3	Extra at 7}	15..... 105

Total Monthly 147

6th. There is another point on which I would solicit your Committee's instructions. There is now as you will have seen a larger amount of Bullion in the Mint Cellars than I can hope to Coin in many Months. At present I can only turn out 50,000 Rupee pieces daily which is not more than the Bullion tendered and received. Indeed the last two Steamers have brought more Silver than could be coined in a fortnight, making no allowance for Holydays. I am now making arrangements for laminating Silver in the Mill I set up for Copper; but even with this help the Outturn will be so little above the Receipts that many months must elapse before the balance of Bullion can be materially lessened, and if, as is very probable, the Receipts should continue to increase as they have hitherto done, the Stock in the cellars must become greater every Mail in spite of all my efforts to reduce it.

7th. Under these circumstances I would solicit your Committee's permission to send the tenders that are received hereafter to the Treasury to be held in deposit till they can be brought into Coinage should I consider it advisable. The necessity will depend upon how the amount received compares with the Coin I am able to issue with my improved means. If I am unable to send the Tendered Bullion direct to the Treasury, I will despatch it from the Mint when the value is determined in the Assay Office.

(Signed) FRED. C. COTTON,
Acting Mint Master.

(True Copy)

(Signed) J. W. BREEKS,
Secretary Mint Committee.

No. 8. ORDER THEREON, No. 302; dated 26th May 1857.
The arrangements proposed in this

The arrangements proposed in this letter are approved of by Government. Future Tenders of Bullion may be sent to the General Treasury to be held in deposit until the Bullion can be conveniently brought into Coinage, and the Acting Mint Master is authorized to entertain the extra Peons applied for by him at a monthly cost of Rupees (147) one hundred and forty seven, pending an application which will be made to the Supreme Government, but he is directed to report through the Mint Committee what number of Gollahs or Peons his Establishment now contains.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. A. Willson.

No 302

The arrangements proposed in this letter are approved by Government. This letter is approved by the future tender of bullion may be sent to the General Treasury to be held in deposit until the bullion is conveniently brought into coinage and the acting Mint Master is authorized to entertain the extra pecies as applied for by whom at a monthly cost of Rs 147, pending an application which will be made to the Supreme Government. But he is directed to report through the Mint Committee what number of Gollahs or pieces his establishment now contains.

For 6. St. George, 3 Copies to Mr. Committee } Disps 26
24. May, 1857 } " " }
" " }
" " } Disps 2

