M.R.O. 1—82,400—28-11-80.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 672 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 24 10 1857

B-no- 5-6

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Financial Consultation, 29th October 1857.

No. 5. From the Accountant General; to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated 19th October 1857, No. 204.

Sir,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the order of Government, dated 2nd Instant, No. 616, passed on a letter to them from the Colonial Secretary at Colombo dated the 19th Ultimo, No. 55, regarding a supply of small Silver Coins applied for by the Oriental Bank Corporation, I am requested to state to what extent the requisition of the Ceylon Government can be met.

2. The Colonial Secretary states that the small Silver Coins are urgently required for the service of the Island, and the Manager of the Oriental Bank Corporation mentions in his letter to the Colonial Secretary that in the event of his succeeding in his application, he will import the Coins and give the Government a fair share free of charge.

3. It is not stated to what amount small Silver Coin is wanted by the Ceylon Government, but it would *appear* from the Manager's letter that the small Silver Coins required by the Oriental Bank are £ 5,000 worth, or Rupees 50,000, that being the extent to which the Bank has applied for them through the Agents at Madras* and at Calcutta.*

4. Of the quantity required by the Manager of the Oriental Bank Corporation, a portion† only will be given to the Ceylon Government, the other portion being reserved for the Bank's purposes, the object being probably gain on the issue, because it may be presumed that a Bank or mercantile firm will not do business without gain. It therefore occurs to me, and I accordingly submit it to Government, if they think fit for adoption, that the Government of Ceylon be asked to state what quantity of small Silver Coins they require for issue by them in the Colony, or for their own services, a supply to the extent which may be be named by them can then be sent from the General Treasury here, (the state of which will *probably* admit of it) by the first opportunity‡ which may occur after the receipt of their reply. The value of the small Silver Coins thus to be sent can be remitted by the Colonial Government in the usual manner by an order on their Agents here.

5. I suggest this because I consider it advisable to impede exportation* of our small Silver Coins of which we have not a great abundance, beyond our Territories, except when wanted by Her Majesty's Governments. If we supply them for its own purposes to one Bank, other Banks or Agency Houses will claim the same indulgence from us and it will be difficult then to refuse such applications.

(Signed) G. L. PRENDERGAST,
Accountant General.

---

* *It is not quite clear whether the Manager means £ 5,000 in all or £ 5,000 from Calcutta and another £ 5,000 from Madras.*

† *The Manager says "a fair share."*

‡ *Or by the Peninsula and Oriental Company's Steamer if the Ceylon Government think proper.*

* *I believe neither Calcutta nor Bombay can Coin enough for their own use at present.*

No. 6. To the Colonial Secretary at Colombo, dated 24th October 1857, No. 672.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 19th Ultimo, No. 55, forwarding an application from the Manager of the Oriental Bank Corporation for a supply of small Silver Coin, I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to request information regarding the quantity of small Coins which the Government would wish to be supplied with. On receipt of this information, arrangements will be made for sending a supply from the General Treasury here by an early opportunity, or, if urgently needed, by the P. and O. Company's Steamer, but Government doubt its being in their power to supply the Oriental Bank Corporation.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

26

Financial Depart.t

No 172

To

The Colonial Secretary
at Colombo

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 19th ultimo No 55, forwarding an application from the Manager of the Oriental Bank Corporation for a supply of small silver coin, I am directed by the R. H. the Governor in Council to transmit copy of a Report from the Accountant General to whom a reference was made on the subject and to request ~~that the Govt of Ceylon will state what~~ information regarding the quantity of small coins which the Govt would wish ~~is required for the Service of the Colony~~ ~~to be supplied with~~. On receipt of this information, arrangements will be

19 Oct. 1857 No 204.

be made for sending a supply from the General Treasury here by an early opportunity - or if urgently needed, by the P & O Company's Steamer - but Govt doubt its being in their power to supply the Oriental Bank Corporation

Fort St George,
24 October 1857.

Elr

Finl Lr to Eng 16th Feby
No. 4 of 1858.
Para 13

Inds to com-29 Octr

Financial 1857 Departt

No. 672

D13

To
The Colonial Secy
Colombo

D/24th October/57

5—6

5-6

5-6

C 22 Oct
R 23 "