M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-99.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 35 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 19-1- 1857

(17-28)

Not to be folded or roughly handled

31/7/31

Fort St. George,
Mint Committee Office
1st January 1857.

No. 8

From,
J. W. Breeks Esq.
Secretary Mint Committee.

To,
T. Pycroft Esq.
Chief Secretary to Government.

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 16th December 1856 No. 204, together with the correspondence therein alluded to, relative to the inconvenience of the practice obtaining at the Mint, of weighing and adjusting double anna coins by single pieces instead of as is stated to be the practice at Calcutta, by a hundred pieces at a time.

From Mint Master of 15th May 1856 No. 12.
To — do — of 22nd May 1856 No. 104
From — do — of 22nd May 1856 No. 20.

The

2. In their letter dated 22d May 1856 to the then Mint Master the Committee, it will be seen, objected to any alteration of the mode of individual adjustment of these coins, on the ground that there did not seem to them then sufficient grounds to justify their recommending a change to a system in which, though there is a saving of labor and expense, there is also of necessity somewhat less accuracy; - but, as Colonel Cotton has also found reason to bring the matter before the Committee, and to urge the loss of time and labor incurred under the present system as the result of his own experience; and as, from para 2 of his letter, it is shewn that Colonel Smith, the late Mint Master of Madras, considered it unnecessary to test the small coins individually, the Committee under the present pressing want of small coins in the country are inclined to recall their former objection, believing that what all these Officers recommend, will not be injurious to the reputation of the Madras Mint.

D/22d May 1856 No 20

The Statement in para 1 of Major Bell's letter shews that there will be a saving of about 8 per cent of expense by the adoption of the change proposed. The Committee therefore refer the subject for the favorable consideration of Government.

3. It will be observed that Colonel Cotton in para 1 of his letter wishes to have quarter rupee pieces also treated in a similar manner; but, as this Coin is not included in Major Bell's proposition, the Committee think it advisable to defer that point till information shall have been obtained from Calcutta and Bombay, as to the practice observed in those places in the weighing of Half and Quarter Rupees.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Secretary Mint Committee

N.L.H.

Fwd. Dr. to Eng. of 30th June
No. 13 of 1857
Para 23

17.

Fd. in Dept. Com. 20th January 57
Financial 1857 Depart.

From

The Secy. Mint Committee

To

The Chief Secy. to Govt.

Dated 8th
Recd. 8th January 1857

S.B. No. 35

No. 5 Recd.

With three enclosures

No. 11

Forwards copy of a letter from the Actg. Mint Master relative to the inconvenience of weighing and adjusting double anna coins by single pieces instead of by a hundred pieces at a time as stated to be the practice at Calcutta, and recommends the latter mode for adoption here
to the favourable consideration of Govt.

e. 13. Jany.
1857

Fort St. Geo.
Mint,
16th December 1856.

No. 264.

From,
Lieut. Col. F. C. Cotton, Engrs.
Acting Mint Master

To,
G. L. Prendergast Esq.
J. L. Lushington Esq. } Mint Committee
W. H. Bayley Esq.

Gentlemen,

Para 1st. Referring to your Committee's letter and those from the Mint Office noted in the margin, I take the liberty of asking for further instructions regarding the adjustment of the individual pieces in the coinage of Quarter Rupees and Double Annas.

22d May 1856
⊗15th — do —
22d — do —

2d. Your Committee having been under the impression that Colonel Smith considered the present system advisable. I took occasion on his last visit to Madras to question him on the subject, when he assured me that nothing could be further from his intention when urging accuracy in the coinage than to argue in favor of testing the small coins individually. He thought that process essential with the rupee, but with no other coin; and considered the great labor now expended on the Half Rupees, Quarter Rupees and Double Annas as altogether needless.

3rd. Your Committee I believe intimated your intention of referring to Bombay or Calcutta to ascertain what was the practice elsewhere; but it is of so much importance that a decision should be come to, while the whole power of the Mint is employed upon small coin, that I venture to bring the subject to your notice again, and solicit an early reply.

(True Copy.)

I have the honor to be &c.

(Signed) Fred. C. Cotton
Ag. Mint Master.

Secy M. C.

[illegible]

Finl. Dt. to Cy. of 30
June No. 13 of 1857
Para 23

1857 Depart.

In a letter from the
Secretary Mint Committee
dated 6th January 1857
No. 8.

From the Ag. Mint Master
To the Mint Committee

Asking for further
instructions regarding the
adjustment of the small
silver coinage and stating
the opinion of Colonel
Smith upon the
subject referred to
therein.

7.1857 D.
In 1811

Fort St. George
Mint
15th May 1855.

No. 12

From
Major J. H. Bell Engrs.
Mint Master

To
G. L. Prendergast Esq.
J. D. Birch Esq.
W. H. Bayley Esq.
} Mint Committee

Gentlemen,

1st. I have the honor to bring to your notice a subject which I consider of much importance to the expedition of the Mint operations under the present pressure of work from the large influx of bullion.

2d. Having procured the additional bullocks sanctioned by Government I am now working extra time, and the daily delivery of rupee blanks amounts to 45,000 or one half more than the Laminating and Cutting Department was able to turn out with the former number of bullocks without dangerously distressing and weakening the animals.—

3rd This is a favorable result as far as the rupee coinage is concerned; but as I have been directed to supply also a large amount of small coins, particularly double annas it will be difficult and perhaps impracticable to make any great impression upon the balance of bullion while the present system of adjusting these small pieces individually continues. In this Mint the arrangements for cutting and assorting the double annas are very complete. There is an assorting machine on Lieutenant Colonel Smith's principle expressly for them, and there is also a cutting machine by which ten disks are cut into blanks at one stroke. These arrangements have afforded excellent practice for the scientific knowledge of the late Mint Master, and for the skill of the Superintendents and workmen of the Laminating Department; but it is a question whether it is worth while to consume the time and labor required to work out these arrangements for the sake of bringing every double anna piece within the minute remedy of ¼ grain. In Calcutta no such practice is followed but the blanks

are

are weighed by hundreds, the heavy and light being mixed together to form bags of 4.000 the weight of which should be T. 500-8-9 to allow for refinement in cleaning. I have, with the view of introducing the same system here, caused an experiment to be made of cutting the blanks direct from straps instead of from disks, and the result is shewn in the accompanying table in which the weight of each 100 is given, and from which it will be seen that in only two of 233 parcels of 100 each is the weight as much as 2 annas above the proper weight of 12-8; which result is within the remedy of ¼ grain for each coin on the average.—

4th If the Mint is permitted to adopt the Calcutta system it can turn out at least double the number of two anna pieces that are now possible in a given time; and I cannot conceive any inconvenience that can result from the proposed measure. The double annas are not required for weights, and if they were the difference in one piece from another would be of no consequence in any weighments that are likely to be made against coins.

5th While this Mint had but little work comparatively on hand the separate adjustment of each two anna piece might be expedient for the sake of uniform accuracy of work, but such an advantage may be too highly purchased, and would be so in my opinion at the present juncture when rapidity in our operations is of far more importance.—

6th I have been delayed in submitting this proposition by the necessity of a reference to Calcutta, and I shall be glad if your Committee can procure the decision of Government upon it before I quit Madras.—

7th Should the proposition receive approval it will be necessary that the Assay Master should be instructed to discontinue the weighment of the Pyx double annas.—

I have the honor to be &ca
(Signed) J. H. Bell
Mint Master.

Fort St. George,
Mint Committee Office
22nd May 1836.

No. 104

No. 104.

From
J. W. Breeks Esqr.
Secretary Mint Committee.

To
Coll. J. H. Bell, Engr.
Mint Master.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 15th May requesting sanction to introduce the Calcutta practice of weighing the double anna blanks by hundreds instead of adjusting each piece individually as hitherto done, the Committee desire me to state that the efforts of Colonel Smith would always seem to have been exerted to insure as nearly as possible perfection in every stage of manufacture and though the Bullion balance is at present large, that fact seems to them scarcely justification enough for the introduction of a system somewhat less accurate, and trustworthy.

2. The present balance is less than when you took charge of the Office in August last; and working at the rate of 2,50,000 single rupees a week, in spite of the labor of the double coinage, the Committee feel confident of a still further decrease.

3. In the present state of the market the remittances from home are not likely to be as heavy as they have been; the last returns give an exchange of 2/, and the Courts bills were the same.

4. Should you however, still being of opinion that the advantage of uniform accuracy of work is too highly purchased in the present instance, desire the question to be referred for the consideration of Government, the Committee will do so with the expression of their opinions thereon.

Have &ca
(Signed) J. W. Breeks
Secy Mint Committee

Fort

Fort St George
Mint,
22nd May 1856.

No. 20

From,
Major J. H. Bell, Engrs
Mint Master

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

Gentlemen,

Para 1st. In reply to your Secretary's letter of the 22nd instant I have the honor to state, that it is not my wish that the proposition which I submitted on the 15th instant for discontinuing the adjustment of two anna pieces should be laid before Government unless with the full support of your Committee. I have only to add to what I have already advanced upon the subject, that there would be a saving of expense also, reckoned at nearly 1/12 of the whole, in the new method of working.

2nd Should any emergent demand for small coins in great numbers arise, the experiment that I have made and recorded will perhaps furnish a remedy, which will not, I think, be itself injurious in any way, though it implies a deviation from strict accuracy in individual coins.

I have the honor to be &c
(Signed) J. H. Bell.
Mint Master.

(True Copies)

Secretary Mint Committee.

Fin. Dr. L. [illegible] 20
Jun No 13 of 1857
Dec 28

1857 Deposit

In a letter from
the Assay Branch
Committee dated
January 1857 No 5

From the Assay Master
To the Mint Committee

Recd
7/1857

Statement of the weight of each hundred 78th Rupee Blanks

	Blanks		Tolas	As.	P.
	100	weighing	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	7	6
	100	do	12	8	3
	100	do	12	7	9
	100	do	12	8	4
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	7	9
	100	do	12	8	3
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	5
	100	do	12	8	9
	100	do	12	8	4
	100	do	12	8	6
	100	do	12	8	2
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	3
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	4
	100	do	12	8	3
	100	do	12	7	9
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	7	9
	100	do	12	7	6
	100	do	12	8	6
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	3
	100	do	12	8	4
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	7	9
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	3
	100	do	12	8	2
	100	do	12	7	9
	100	do	12	8	3
1 Bag containing	4000	do	500	3	3.

	Blanks		Tolas	As.	P.
	100	weighing	12	8	3
	100	do	12	8	4
	100	do	12	8	3
	100	do	12	8	3
	100	do	12	7	9
	100	do	12	8	3
	100	do	12	7	8
	100	do	12	7	6
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	2
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	4
	100	do	12	7	6
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	8
	100	do	12	8	3
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	1
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	1
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	1
	100	do	12	7	11
	100	do	12	8	3
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	3
	100	do	12	7	9
	100	do	12	8	2
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	7	10
	100	do	12	8	3
	100	do	12	7	6
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	3
1 Bag containing	4,000	do	500	1	8

	Blanks		Tolas	As.	P.
	100	weighing	12	9	6
	100	do	12	9	3
	100	do	12	9	6
	100	do	12	9	3
	100	do	12	9	.
	100	do	12	9	3
	100	do	12	9	9
	100	do	12	9	3
	100	do	12	9	9
	100	do	12	9	5
	100	do	12	8	9
	100	do	12	9	.
	100	do	12	9	.
	100	do	12	9	9
	100	do	12	9	3
	100	do	12	9	6
	100	do	12	9	3
	100	do	12	9	1
	100	do	12	9	3
	100	do	12	9	3
	100	do	12	9	.
	100	do	12	9	9
	100	do	12	9	9
	100	do	12	9	.
	100	do	12	9	6
	100	do	12	9	6
	100	do	12	9	.
	100	do	12	9	10
	100	do	12	9	8
	100	do	12	9	6
	100	do	12	8	9
	100	do	12	9	6
	100	do	12	9	.
	100	do	12	9	4
	100	do	12	9	.
	100	do	12	9	.
	100	do	12	9	1
	100	do	12	9	6
	100	do	12	9	3
	100	do	12	9	5
1 Bag containing	4000	do	503	4	2

	Blanks		Tolas	As.	P.
	100	weighing	12	7	3
	100	do	12	8	1
	100	do	12	8	7
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	6
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	7	6
	100	do	12	7	9
	100	do	12	7	9
	100	do	12	7	6
	100	do	12	7	9
	100	do	12	8	3
	100	do	12	7	9
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	3
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	8
	100	do	12	8	3
	100	do	12	8	4
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	3
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	8
	100	do	12	8	6
	100	do	12	8	6
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	6
	100	do	12	8	3
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	7	6
	100	do	12	8	6
	100	do	12	8	6
	100	do	12	7	9
	100	do	12	8	.
	100	do	12	8	5
	100	do	12	8	5
	100	do	12	8	.
1 Bag containing	4,000	do	500	3	2

Blanks		Tolas	as	p
100	weighing	12	8	3
100	do	12	8	.
100	do	12	8	.
100	do	12	7	6
100	do	12	8	9
100	do	12	8	6
100	do	12	8	3
100	do	12	8	6
100	do	12	8	3
100	do	12	8	.
100	do	12	7	9
100	do	12	8	3
100	do	12	8	.
100	do	12	8	3
100	do	12	7	6
100	do	12	8	3
100	do	12	7	6
100	do	12	8	6
100	do	12	8	6
100	do	12	8	3
100	do	12	8	3
100	do	12	8	4
100	do	12	8	6
100	do	12	8	.
100	do	12	8	.
100	do	12	8	6
100	do	12	8	9
100	do	12	8	.
100	do	12	7	6
100	do	12	8	.
100	do	12	7	6
100	do	12	8	3
100	do	12	8	4
100	do	12	7	9
100	do	12	8	6
100	do	12	8	.
100	do	12	8	.
100	do	12	7	9
100	do	12	8	4
100	do	12	8	6
1 Bag containing 4000	do	500	5	6

Blanks		Tolas	as	p
100	weighing	12	9	9
100	do	12	9	3
100	do	12	9	.
100	do	12	9	9
100	do	12	10	.
100	do	12	9	6
100	do	12	9	5
100	do	12	8	6
100	do	12	8	7
100	do	12	9	4
100	do	12	9	.
100	do	12	8	6
100	do	12	9	3
100	do	12	9	9
100	do	12	9	3
100	do	12	8	6
100	do	12	8	3
100	do	12	8	3
100	do	12	9	9
100	do	12	9	9
100	do	12	9	6
100	do	12	9	.
100	do	12	9	3
100	do	12	9	4
100	do	12	9	8
100	do	12	9	6
100	do	12	9	.
100	do	12	9	6
100	do	12	9	9
100	do	12	9	6
100	do	12	9	4
100	do	12	10	3
100	do	12	9	6
29	do	3	10	4
1 Bag containing 3329	do	418	12	9

(Signed) J. H. Bell
Mint Master

Fort St George
Mint
15th May 1850

(True Copy)

Secretary Mint Committee

J.1857 D
In 1811

No 1. H

Fin. L. to Eng of 30 June
No 13 of 1857 Para 23

1857 Deposit

In a letter from the Secretary Mint Committee dated 6th January 1857
No 8

From the Ast Mint Master
To the Mint Committee

Financial Department.

No 35

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Dated 19th January 1857

Read the following letter from the Secretary Mint Committee

Dated 6th January 1857, No 8.

Under the circumstances represented in the foregoing letter, the Govt. authorize the adoption of the Bengal plan of weighing and adjusting double Anna Coins by a hundred pieces at a time and desire the Mint Committee to ascertain from the Calcutta Mint what is the practice there followed in regard to the testing of Half and Quarter Rupees.

Chief Secretary

To the Mint Committee Dispd 19th

Recd entd & retd 20th Jany 57 –

Secy Mint Comtee

Geo. S. Huntly

Finl. Lr. to Cy. of 30 June
No. 13 of 1857 Para 23.

Ind. Lr. from 20 January /57
Financial 1857 Depart.

No. 35.

Extract Mins. of Cons.

D/19th Jany /57.

17 & 18.

c. 13 Jany
R. 17 "