

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 158

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated 9. 3. 1888

B. no. 17-18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Fort Saint George, Financial Consultation, 12th March 1858.

No. 17. From R. E. MASTER, Esq., Acting Secretary Mint Committee ; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated 27th February 1858, No. 49.

SIR,

I have the honor, by desire of the Mint Committee to forward for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council the accompanying copy of a letter from the Acting Mint Master, dated 20th February 1858, No. 326, reporting on the coinage of Copper Cents for the Straits, and exhibiting the amount of the Out-turn up to date. The Committee consider that the work done, reflects great credit on the Mint Establishment.

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

To G. L. PRENDERGAST, Esq., }
" S. D. BIRCH, Esq., } Mint Committee,
" W. H. BAYLEY, Esq., }

dated 20th February 1858, No. 326.

GENTLEMEN,

PARA : 1st. With reference to the Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 11th Instant, forwarded for my information, I beg to lay before your Committee the following Memorandum of what has been done in the Mint, to meet the wants of the Straits' Settlements.

2nd. The first requisition of the Supreme Government was for 10,000 Dollars' worth of the Cent Coinage, in Cents, half Cents, and quarter Cents, and as there were no dies in the Mint for this description of Coin, application was made to Calcutta for as many as it was expected would be sufficient to stamp the number of pieces wanted. When these dies arrived it was found that they were not suited to the presses, but by some contrivance they were brought into use, when it was detected that the larger, or Cent dies, were of steel so unfit for the purpose, that they could not be trusted. In the Madras Copper Coinage, each pair of dies will stamp on an average 30,000 pieces, whereas, when 37 pairs of the Calcutta Cent dies had been expended, only 2,36,000 pieces had been issued. Upon this failure an immediate requisition was made to Calcutta for Matrix or Concave dies, in order that " punches " or convex dies might be prepared here, by means of which the working dies could be made in the number requisite.

3rd. As the demand for the Cent Coinage was urgent, I determined not to wait an answer to this requisition, but to try if by extreme care in the annealing, convex dies could not be made from the ordinary dies received from Calcutta. This experiment succeeded perfectly, and great credit is due to the Die Cutting Department, that it did so. Excellent punch dies were made for all the description of Coin, and 83 pairs have already been made from them, and brought into use.

4th. By aid of these the original demand for Copper Coin was completed, considerably within the time promised. And when the Madras Government found that there was a loss in the payment of the Singapore Troops in Silver Coin, &c., a further demand upon the Mint was made, they enabled me to continue the Coinage at the rate of more than 1,50,000 pieces a day, till the Coinage was suspended by a requisition from the Accountant General for Madras Coin.

5th. The answer received from Calcutta was, that the Mint was too fully engaged to make Matrix dies, but that punch dies would be prepared and sent ; neither one nor the other have however yet reached us ; and but for the good management in the Die Cutting and Stamping Rooms the issue of the Straits' Coinage would have been an exceedingly small trifling proportion even of the first demand.

6th. I may here remark that the Cent Coinage now issued from the Madras Mint is particularly good, for which great credit is due also to Mr. Christian, the Superintendent of the Stamping Room, as from the form of the surface of the Die the blanks require peculiar treatment

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to ensure the Coin turning out good, and his efforts to produce a perfect Coin has been eminently successful. The whole issue of this Coinage up to the present time is as follows :

	Pieces.	Dollars.
Single Cents	28,65,400	= 28,654
Half do.	13,89,100	= 6,945½
Quarter do.	8,35,400	= 2,088½
	<u>50,89,900</u>	<u>= 37,688.</u>

7th. With reference to an expression used in the Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 21st December 1857, and noted in the margin, I beg
"As soon as the Mint can be employed on to explain that the Copper Coinage is no longer dependent upon the Silver apparatus. The Coinage of Copper may now be considered permanent, for though the apparatus is rude compared with what it ought to be, the issue of Copper need never fall below 1,50,000 pieces daily."

No. 18. ORDER THEREON, No. 158; dated 9th March 1858.

The Government concur with the Acting Mint Master and the Mint Committee in considering that great credit is due to the Die Cutting Department, and also to Mr. Christian, Superintendent of the Stamping Room, for their exertions in the coinage of Copper Cents for the Straits' Settlements under the difficulties noticed.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

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The Govt concur

with the Acting Mint Master and the Mint Committee in considering that great credit is due to the Die Cutting Department and also to Mr. Christian, Superintendent of the Stamping Room, for their exertions in the coinage of Cop- per Cents for the Straits Settlements under the difficulties noticed.

For S. George, 9. March, 1858-3

To the Mint Committee. Dipd. 13th

of Vouchers for the State, and expending the
amount of the Cattle up to date. The Committee
consider that the work done, reflects great credit on
the Mil Establishment.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

W. L. L. S.

Acting Secretary Mil Committee