

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<i>494</i>	Press
		Mile.
Dated	<i>23.7</i>	1858

B no 6-7

223

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 6. From C. A. ROBERTS, Esq., Secretary Mint Committee; to T. FYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 20th July 1858, No. 119.

SIR,

1. I have the honor, by desire of the Mint Committee, to forward, for submission to the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Acting Mint Master, dated 17th Instant, No. 93, reporting that the Steel received from England by the ship "Kashimur" is of a quality ill suited for the manufacture of Dies, and requesting that a supply of about 5 tons may be sent for by the overland route, as otherwise the want of the material will cause a check in the Copper Coinage involving serious loss.

2. The Committee instruct me to recommend the request of the Acting Mint Master to the consideration of Government, and to solicit early orders thereon.

From Lieutenant Colonel F. C. COTTON, Engineers, Acting Mint Master;
To G. L. PRENDERGAST, Esq., } Mint Committee,
" S. D. BIRCH, Esq., }
" W. H. BAYLEY, Esq., }
Dated 17th July 1858, No. 93.

GENTLEMEN,

First. I beg to bring to the immediate notice of your Committee that the Steel which has been received from England by the ship "Kashimur" on the Mint Indent of March 1857, is found to be so ill suited for the Manufacture of Dies, that the destruction of them is so great in the Copper Coinage that the Die Department cannot supply the number expended; and if Steel of a better quality cannot be soon obtained, I fear that this failure may materially affect the issue of Copper Coins, on which, as your Committee are aware, the great profits of the Mint depend.

Second. Of late years the round Steel supplied to the Madras Mint from England has answered its purpose exceedingly well; and each pair of Dies has on an average struck 20,000 Rupee pieces or 25,000 pieces of Half annas, whereas the Dies of the Steel now received have not struck above 10,000 Half anna pieces; and as the trial of the Rupee Dies is far greater, the Steel is probably entirely unfit for their manufacture.

Third. The Steel that has now been received is not round as was intended for, but octagonal and of a much coarser grain in the fracture. If the quality had been good the form would not have mattered, but I hope that previously the same description of round Steel may now be sent out as was supplied last year. The efficiency of the Mint being now in a great degree dependent upon the Die Department, any failure in the material used is ruinous.

Fourth. I must now request that about 5 tons of the Steel carefully selected may be sent by the overland route. The cost of this will only be about six hundred Rupees, a sum utterly insignificant compared with the loss that would be entailed by a check in the Coinage.

Fifth. A request has been made in Calcutta that some round Steel may be sent to the Madras Mint, but if the Steel sent there is of the same description, we shall obtain no help from that quarter.

No. 7. ORDER THEREON, No. 404; dated 28th July 1858.

Ordered to be brought to the notice of the Honourable the Court of Directors, with a request that immediate steps may be taken for complying with the requisition of the Acting Mint Master for a supply of about (5) five Tons of Steel of good quality by the overland route.

(Signed) T. FYCROFT,

Chief Secretary.

No 1494

Ordered to be brought
to the notice of the Honble the
Comr of Directors, with a request
that immediate steps may be
taken for complying with the re-
quisition of the Acting Secy. Hav-
ing for a supply of about (3)
thousand tons of coal of good quality
by the overland route.

For George
28 July 1858
first supply of 3 tons
may be sent for by the over-
land route.

Recommend the
Acting Secy. to request
the Government, and solicit
early order thereon.

To the Secy Committee. Disf 25.