

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

408

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated

23. 7. 1859.

B no. 9-11

5/6

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
from 23rd to 29th July 1859.*

No. 9. Read the following letter from Major CHARLES A. ORR, Mint Master; to the Mint Committee, dated 8th July 1859, No. 87.

Para. 1. I have the honor to report that agreeably to the orders of Government under date the 22nd June 1859, I have taken over charge from the Acting Sub-Treasurer of all the Old Un-
current, and Current Gold, Silver and Copper Coins referred to, and that they have been trans-
ferred from the General Treasury to the Mint.

2nd. The Coins consist of the following numbers, denominations, weights and nominal values.

Number.	Denomination.	Weight.	Value.
18	Gold Rupees	17 15 0	270 0 0
10	Do. $\frac{1}{2}$ do.... ..	3 5 0	50 0 0
2434	Gold Rupees	2,432 11 0	36,510 0 0
259	Old Star Pagodas	75 2 0	906 8 0
5	Old Gold Rupees	6 0 0	90 0 0
2	Do. $\frac{1}{2}$ do.		
190774	New Gold Fanams... ..	6,202 5 0	54,506 13 8
45	Old Gold Fanams	1 7 0	11 4 0
2	Gold Madras Pagodas	0 7 0	7 11 2
Total...		8,739 4 0	92,352 4 10

3rd. The small quantities of Silver and Copper will be applied to the Coinage of the res-
pective metals in the usual way, but the disposal of the Gold is more difficult, for not being a
legal tender it cannot be passed into circulation so long as its Mint price in Silver is, as at pre-
sent, so much higher than its market price.

4th. It is not easy to ascertain with precision the exchangeable value for Silver of Gold
Coins in the bazar, as there appears to be few if any transactions, but in the last Price Current
the English Sovereign is quoted at Rupees 10-2, equivalent to Rupees 14-12-6 for the Gold-
mohur, and this is probably about the price of the latter coinages of that piece, which only are
now current, although those of older date, notwithstanding their being uncurrent, are not only
saleable, but would bring a premium in consequence of their better appearance than those bear-
ing English inscriptions, the Coins not being wanted as money but as medals, or for other adap-
tation to ornaments. The current Gold fifteen Rupee pieces are held in excessively low estima-
tion, owing to their appearance and alleged brittleness taken in connection with the fact of their
not being receivable at the General Treasury, nor exchangeable for their denominational value of
Silver.

5th. While this is the case, and the established weight of bullion in the Coin is really of
less exchangeable value than it is rated at at the Mint, relatively to Silver, it is certain that no one
will purchase Gold Coins at their denominational price, either as Bullion or as money, and that
all the Gold in the Mint cellars must remain there unless it be sent to England as was done in
1854, "in part satisfaction of the home requirements" or till gold is made the legal tender. Ad-
mitting the difficulties connected with the effect this change would have on public and private
debts, on the realization of the Revenue, and on the circulation of Silver, should the supply of
Gold continue undiminished, I believe the increasing operations of industry throughout this
country, the fast enlarging transactions of commerce, and the improvement of the productive
powers of the soil, added to the effect of the drain of Silver to the East on the supply of that
metal, will nevertheless soon demand so vast an extension of the means of exchange as to neces-
sitate the introduction of Gold as the more convenient form of currency; and as this Presidency
will absorb large quantities of it as soon as it is made the legal tender, I would recommend that
so much of the Coins, still of a current description, as cannot be disposed of for their denomina-
tional value, shall be retained as a means of paying for the first Gold Bullion tendered for coin-
age, and that the remaining uncurrent coins, constituting too small a quantity of pure Gold to be

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
from 23rd to 29th July 1859.*

worth the expense of coinage, be melted down, and sold as Bullion at the market price of that commodity, either in its present base condition or after being refined.

No. 10. *MINUTE BY THE HONORABLE THE PRESIDENT, dated 20th July 1859.*

I do not see that any thing would be gained by melting down the uncurrent Gold Coins, and suggest that the Master of the Mint should be instructed to dispose of the whole of the Coins, as Bullion, to the best advantage—taking care that they are properly advertised.

(Signed) C. E. TREVELYAN,

No. 11. *ORDER THEREON, 23rd July 1859, No. 408*

The Government do not see that any thing would be gained by melting down the uncurrent Gold Coins as recommended by the Mint Master at the end of his letter; and they resolve therefore to instruct him to dispose of the whole of the Gold Coins, current and uncurrent, as bullion, to the best advantage—taking care that they are properly advertised.

2. The small quantities of Silver and Copper uncurrent coin will be disposed of as proposed in para. 3 of Major Orr's letter.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

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would be gained by melting
down the uncurrent gold coins,
and suggest that the Master
of the Mint should be instructed
to ~~dispose~~ dispose of the
whole of the coins, as bullion,
to the best advantage—taking
care that they are properly
advertised

W. C. Mundy
20 July 59

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held in excessively low estimation, owing to their appearance and alleged brittleness taken in connection with the fact of their not being receivable at the General Treasury, nor exchangeable for their denominational value of silver.

5th While this is the case, and the established weight of Bullion in the coin is really of less exchangeable value than it is rated at at the Mint, relatively to silver, it is certain that no one will purchase gold coins at their denominational price, either as Bullion or as money, and that all the gold in the Mint Cellars must remain there unless it be sent to England as was done in 1854, "in part satisfaction of the home requirements" or till gold is made the legal tender. Admitting the difficulties connected with the effect this change would have on Public and private debts, on the realization of the Revenue, and on the circulation of Silver, should the supply of gold continue undiminished, I believe the increasing operations of industry throughout this country, the fast enlarging transactions

Pro of Gold & Silver
1859 Department

The Mint & Treasury

The Mint Committee

John A. George

Dated 28th

Pro. 9th July 1859.

2/59 & 2/30.

1/87. 1/77 1/4

With reference to the order of Government in relation to the 25th June 1859 states that the Coin (Mint) referred to have been taken from the General Treasury to the Mint - the small quantity of silver and copper will be applied to the Coinage of those metals. It is recommended that the Gold coins of a current description be retained as a means of paying for the public debt & Bullion to be used for the Mint. The Coin Committee has also the quantity of silver & gold in the Mint & Treasury.

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1220
1220

Transactions of Commerce, and the improvement
of the productive powers of the soil, added to
the effect of the drain of Silver to the East
on the supply of that metal, will nevertheless
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means of exchange as to necessitate the in-
troduction of gold as the more convenient
form of Currency; and as this Presidency
will absorb large quantities of it as soon as
it is made the legal tender, I would recom-
mend that so much of the Coins, still of a
current description, as cannot be disposed of
for their denominational value, shall be
retained as a means of paying for the
first gold Bullion tendered for Coinage,
and that the remaining Uncurrent Coins,
constituting too small a quantity of pure
gold to be worth the expense of Coinage,
be melted down, and sold as Bullion at
the Market price of that commodity, either
in its present base condition or after being
refined.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most Obedt. Servant,

Chas. A. B. R.
Mint Master.

L. B. R.

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Financial Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Read the following
letter from the Mint
Master to the Late Mint
Committee.

(Dated 8th July 1859. N. 87.)

Read also Minutes by the Hon. the President, — a — 20 July —
Order thereon. 23rd July, 1859. No. 108.

The Govt. do not see
that any thing would be
gained by melting down
the uncurrent Gold coins
as recommended by the
Mint Master at the end of
his letter; and they resolve
therefore to instruct him
to dispose of the whole of
the ^{current & uncurrent} coins, as bullion, to the
^{gold} best advantage — taking
care that they are properly
advertised.

2. The small
quantities of silver & copper
uncurrent coin will be
disposed of as proposed
in para 3 of Major Davis letter.

To the Mint Master. Dispd 25.

No. of Govt 29 July
Minutemen 1857 & 1858

No. 108.

Proceeding of Govt.

29 July 1859

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