

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 510

Press
Mis.

Dated 13. 9. 1859

B. No. 7-8

5/6

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
from 10th to 16th September 1859.*

No. 7. Read the following letter from Major CHARLES A. ORR, Mint Master; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 7th September 1859, No. 173.

Paragraph. 1st. The Stamping Press for small Coins, for which Lieutenant Colonel Cotton, indented on the 21st January 1858, having been received a short time ago by the ship "Tartar." I have the honor to report that, with a slight modification of the Feeding apparatus which was easily effected here, the Machine answers so satisfactorily that I would strongly urge the expediency of obtaining, as speedily as possible from England, such a number of them as will suffice to make this Mint entirely independent of Manual labor for the operation of Stamping, which, being the severest labor to which men can well be put, requires a very large number of people who are becoming day by day more difficult to procure notwithstanding the high wages given.

2nd. As Colonel Cotton did not name the description of Press required, but left it to the Home Authorities to select one of the latest and most improved kind, such as he had seen allusion made to as having been despatched to Siam and other foreign countries, it is probable that the one we have received is of the most approved construction. It is of the very simplest form, not likely to get out of order or to be difficult to repair, and being complete in itself, and capable of being worked from ordinary shafting, it is exactly the description of Press required for this Mint, where, owing to the irregularity of the buildings, no compact arrangement of Machinery, nor common application of steam is possible, and each process of the Coinage must be carried on, not only separately, but with distinct motive power.

3rd. The pattern Press which has been sent out is adapted for small Coins only, but they are no doubt made of larger sizes for the heaviest pieces, and as the effective work appears to be about 4,000 pieces per hour, or from 30,000 to 40,000 per day of ordinary time, this Mint should possess from eight to ten such Presses to enable it to turn out the same number of pieces as it does with the twenty-six hand Presses at present in use. To work these an Engine of 10 or 12 Horse Power should also be provided, and I have accordingly included one in the accompanying Indent for Nine Presses, of which five should be of size and strength to stamp single Rupee pieces of $1\frac{2}{10}$ Inches diameter and weighing 180 grains Troy, and the other four exactly similar to the Press we have received, or adapted for small Coins only.

4th. The cost of the Nine Presses and Engine complete according to the Invoice price of the trial Press, and of the 10 Horse Engine by "Nasmyth and Co.," which we lately received by the "Janet Willis" for the lamination of Copper should be about £ 4000,* which is not, I submit, a heavy price to pay to get rid in an Establishment like this of the precarious and extravagant employment of a large amount of human labor, even if the outlay were not to be returned within

little more than one year, and a subsequent saving of at least as much annually effected.

5th. For the present daily out-turn of from 30,000 to 50,000 Rupees, and nearly 3,00,000 pieces of Copper, the

* Wages...	Rupees	2596	cost of merely working
Sundries	"	264	the Presses is Rupees
		—	2860* monthly or Ru-
Total	2860		pees 34,320 per annum,

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1 Enginemen...	20	and to perform by
2 Firemen ..	18	means of 10 Presses
12 Tons of Coal	300	driven by steam not only
Oil and Sundries...	50	the same amount of
1 Maistry	20	work but also to in-
10 Pressmen	100	crease the daily out-
10 Feeder Boys	40	turn of Silver to about
1 Chickledar	8	1,00,000 pieces, I cal-
Sundries...	54	culate the cost to be
	---	Rupees 9,320 inclusive
Monthly Total Rupees	610	of interest on the prime

Add Interest on 40,000 Rupees at 5 per cent per annum	610 x 12 = 7,320	would not be more than
	2,000	in the hand Presses.
	---	6th. A direct sa-
	9,320	ving of Rupees 25,000†
	---	would therefore at once
		result, but indirectly the

† Rupees 34,320
" 9,320
Rupees 25,000

saving would be increased by a reduction in the consumption of Dies, which it is certain will last more than twice as long in the Machine as in the hand Press, in consequence of the action of the former being by compression, and of the latter by percussion. The yearly cost of Dies is now about Rupees 16,000, and Estimating the saving at only Rupees 5,000 which is probably below the mark, the total amount to be saved in the Stamping and Die Departments of the Mint by the substitution of steam driven Machines for the primitive screw Presses worked by men will be quite Rupees 30,000 or about 75 per cent on the prime cost of the proposed improvement.

- 7th. Under these circumstances, I trust the Government will approve of my Indent, and forward it to England with the strongest recommendation that it be complied with, without delay.
- 8th. Lieutenant Colonel Bell, who is well acquainted with the excellent modern machinery of the Calcutta Mint, having at my request seen the small Pattern Press at work, agrees with me that it is of exactly the description required for this Mint.
- 9th. There being no name upon the Press I am unable to say who is the maker, and therefore, to prevent any mistake, I forward the original drawings which were received with it. Comparing it with other more elaborate and more highly finished machines the charge of £400 for so simple a piece of mechanism seems to me excessive, and although I have made my Estimate of the probable saving by the use of Presses of similar construction, on the supposition that each was to cost that sum, I hope that those we require may be obtained of the very best possible make, at a much more moderate price.
- 10th. I also forward a sketch in illustration of the principle of the Feeder which we have found it necessary to adapt to the machine, and I request that the makers may be instructed to adopt it in the construction of the Presses they manufacture for us.

No. 8. To the UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA, dated 13th September 1859, No. 510.

With reference to my letter to the late Secretary at the East India House dated 1st February 1858, No. 55, I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council to transmit for submission to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, an Indent for nine Stamping Presses and one Engine of 12 Horse Power, complete with plain flue boiler, required for the use of the Madras Mint: together with copy of

Dated 7th September 1859, No. 173, with the original Drawings of the Pattern Press, and Sketch attached to the letter.

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a letter from the Mint Master affording explanation of the necessity as well as the great advantages of the Machines indented for, and requesting that they may be sent out from England without delay.

2. Under the circumstances represented by Major Orr, and adverting to the large saving calculated to result from the use of the Machines applied for, besides the other advantages incident to their adoption, the Governor in Council would strongly urge on the Home Government an early compliance with the Indent now forwarded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

11.13.13th Sept.

Encls: 1 - Indent. 2.

Plans 2. Sketch. 1.

Sup^{ts} copy 20th Sept.

Financial Dept 8

No 570 of 1857.

To

The Under Secretary of State
for India.

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Dated 7th Sept. 1857. No 573.

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Fort St George
13 September 1854

JP

Must be given to follow
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Copy to the Print Master. Disfr. 19th

Adm. Gen. Secy.
War. Dept.
Washington

Part of Govt 10 Sept
Financial 1859 Report

11:57A.

The Under Secy. of State
for India

13 September 59
Sept 10 282 March
Ch 22 of 1801

February 1867 90 70.
Transmitting an Report
for Prime Minister of India
and one engine of 12 horse
power, required for the
use of the Madras Mills
and on going on 22nd
confluence with the
Mand.

Supplement
con