

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 533

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated 21. 9. 1859.

B. No 26-27

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
from 17th to 23rd September 1859.*

No. 25. Read the following letter from W. WATERFIELD, Esq., Acting Sub Treasurer ;
to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated
30th August 1859, No. 570.

I have the honor to report, for the information of Government that I have received replies
to letters addressed by my predecessor Mr. Balmain to the Sub-Treasurers of Fort William and
Bombay, regarding the mode adopted by them in receiving copper coin from the Mint.

2. The answers are very dissimilar. In Bengal, the whole is counted *carefully by the
hand*: and as a check, bags of 50 Rupees are weighed in large scales. The weight is never ad-
justed, and the result of receiving the coin by weight will in no instance be found to be correct.
In Bombay on the other hand, the practice is carefully to count the first 3 or 4 bags, selected of
Rupees 50 worth each, and if these be found correct to weigh the remainder in large scales bag
by bag, and only in case any difference in the weight is noticed to count the coin. I cannot but
suspect however that in the latter case our question has been misunderstood, and that the Sub-

* Here we do not consider it necessary to apply
any such check in the case of copper.

Treasurer has merely explained his method of
testing the accuracy of his Shroffs' reckoning.*
If the coin were given out by weight alone, I
do not think it possible that 3 or 4 bags could
be found perfectly correct when counted.

3. I propose with the sanction of Government to abandon the test of counting altogether
from the 1st proximo, I do not wish to make any change in the contents of each bag, as the pre-
sent size is more convenient for carrying or packing, while an alteration would necessitate cor-
responding changes in the fashion of our bags and treasure chests. The half and quarter Annas
will therefore be packed still in bags of 30 Rupees worth, and the single Pie in bags of 10 Ru-
pees worth.

4. The Mint Master is now in the practice of giving out the pieces from the stamping room
by thousands. On being counted by our people, they are distributed into bags. He informs me
however that he will be able to have the proper division effected in the Stamping room: *e. g.*,
960 half Annas will be weighed together instead of a thousand. Our Shroffs will be directed
merely to look to the correctness of the weight of each bag given them, and on no account to ap-
ply any other test. Major Orr has promised to give me the average of a large number of weigh-
ments, which will be adopted as our standard in preference to any particular bag we may happen
to have selected and counted.

5. No doubt, although by this means we approximate to accuracy for any large amount,
individual bags will vary more or less from the right number, and we are more likely to have the
deficiency brought to our notice than the excess. It will be necessary therefore for Government
to allow us to carry any discrepancies to 'profit and loss.' This will be far more than counter-
balanced by the saving in the wages of extra Shroffs and Gollahs. At present, I reckon this at
3 of each for every working day or some thing like 67 Rupees a month. But if the out turn of
Mint copper be reduced to its former rate, of course the saving will not be so considerable.

6. I cannot however conceal the fact that I see many difficulties in the way of the experi-
ment, though I hope they will not be found insurmountable. The chief is, that parties who draw
largely on the Treasury are accustomed to take the office seal as a guarantee, and accept a bag
as worth 10 or 30 Rupees without examining it—I am doubtful whether this will continue. They
will of course be warned that the bag is filled by weight, and that if they please, they may run
the chance of loss or gain: but if they object, and insist on the money being counted before
them, we shall lose much of the advantage we win in the Mint. We cannot in such cases, charge
to 'profit and loss' deficiencies reported by other than Government Servants, and we shall be
obliged to entertain extra Shroffs for our payments, which even then will not be made so expedi-
tiously as at present.

No. 26. MINUTE BY THE HONORABLE THE PRESIDENT, dated 6th September 1859.

When I visited the Mint, I found two rows of Shroffs and Assistants employed on behalf of
the General Treasury in weighing Copper Coin in small hand scales, upon which I suggested to

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the Sub Treasurer that the bags of Copper Coin received from the Mint should be weighed against an average bag of the same Coin, according to the practice in taking and making over charge of Treasuries in Upper India, and this proposal is the result. It should, I think, be approved, and the latter part of the Sub Treasurer's letter should be criticised in the sense of Mr. Pycroft's remarks.

(Signed) C. E. TREVELYAN.

No. 27. ORDER THEREON, 21st September 1859, No. 533.

The Government approve of the Acting Sub Treasurer's proposal, and accordingly direct that the practice of *counting* copper coin received from the Mint be discontinued for the future, and that the bags be received from the Mint by weight, in the manner described by Mr. Waterfield in paragraph 4 of his letter, any discrepancies that may be discovered being carried to profit and loss.

2. The Governor in Council does not quite appreciate the difficulty adverted to by Mr. Waterfield at the end of his letter. No one is entitled to demand payment in copper, unless where the sum payable be a fraction of an Anna. For all payments above that, Silver is the legal currency. No one therefore can demand a bag of copper in payment of any charge upon the Treasury. If it be given, it must be as an accommodation, and the party has the choice either of taking the bag uncounted at his own risk, or not having it at all. If, however, the way in which the bags are packed and tested be explained, it does not seem likely that parties resorting to the Treasury will object to receive them.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. A. P. W. Begbie.

Financial Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Read the following papers.

*From the Actg. Sub Treasurer — Here enters 30th Aug^r 1859 No. 570
Minute by the Hon: the President — " — " — 6th Sept^r — " — "*

Order thereon 21st September 1859 No. 533.

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