

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	543	Press Mis.
Dated	24. 9.	18 59

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
from 24th September to 4th October 1859.*

No. 1. Read the following letter from Major CHARLES A. ORR, Mint Master; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 21st September 1859, No. 194.

Paragraph 1st. I have the honor to report, for the information of Government, that I have dismissed Baloo Moodeliar from the situation he has held in this Mint since 1st September 1852 of Deputy Treasurer and Bullion keeper, together with the five contingent servants named in the margin, in consequence of it having been discovered that the former in collusion, and with the assistance of, the latter, on the Morning of Saturday the 10th instant, if not on previous occasions, introduced an Ingot of Copper into the merchants Bullion Melting Room, and after having it heated and broken up secreted it for the un-mistakeable purpose of mixing small portions of it from time to time, with the silver there melted, in place of equal quantities abstracted from the latter.

*Cundasawmy, Assistant.
Thungan, Deputy Maistry.
Coopen, Melter.
C. Veerasawmy, Furnaceman.
Sadarajah... .. do.*

2nd. The circumstances which brought this transaction to light are these. A small bar of Bullion formed by the fusion of $22\frac{1}{8}$ tolas weight of Uncurrent Silver Coins lately received from the Treasury having been reported by the Assay Master some 9 dwts. worse than it was expected to have turned out, I, on Monday, the 12th instant, set on foot inquiries into the cause, and had resolved on nominating on the following day a Committee of the most experienced officers of the Mint thoroughly to investigate the matter. Unfortunately a domestic occurrence prevented my attendance at the Mint on Tuesday the 13th, but early that Morning a Maistry of the name of Narrainsawmy, no doubt having become alarmed, went to Mr. D'Silva the Store keeper, and begged that he would accompany him to Mr. Scriven the Head Accountant and Manager of the Mint Office, as he had to reveal certain proceedings in the pre-melting room criminating the Deputy Treasurer, Baloo Moodeliar, of whom he stood in the greatest dread.

3rd. Before Mr. Scriven and Mr. D'Silva Narrainsawmy stated, that on Saturday, the 10th instant, the Deputy Bullion-keeper, Baloo Moodeliar, had carried a small Ingot of Copper from the Treasury to the Silver premelting room, and, being from his position exempted from the strict search to which every one entering or leaving that room is subjected, he took it inside, and delivering it to his creature "Coopen" the melter, had it heated in one of the small furnaces and broken up, and putting the pieces into a small crucible, placed the latter on a shelf among a number of others, where he, Narrainsawmy, could point it out. Mr. Scriven and Mr. D'Silva followed the informant to the spot and found the crucible. Hearing this Baloo Moodeliar waylaid the Treasurer and Bullion-keeper, Mr. Price, and attempted to persuade him that Narrainsawmy wished to make it appear that a quantity of "particles" which had been left in the room since it had been used, some time in 1858, for Melting Copper had been deposited there by him, Baloo. Mr. Price knowing that the most positive orders existed against the smallest atom of Copper being in that room and that the room had, under my direction, only lately been entirely cleared out and repaired, replied that it was impossible, and going to the place indicated, at once perceived, on the metal being shown to him, that it did not consist of particles of former meltings, but was an Ingot of Copper which had shortly before been heated and broken up.

4th. All these circumstances were reported to me on my entering the Mint on Wednesday morning the 14th, and after a short examination of Narrainsawmy and another man of the name of Permaul, I appointed a Committee of three of the Officers of the Mint, in the customary manner, to make the most searching inquiry.

5th. The result is the clearest evidence that Baloo Moodeliar, taking advantage of his position, and making use of the influence he had acquired over his immediate superior, the Treasurer and Bullion-keeper, to intimidate and win over the necessary tools, in the persons of the Assistant Cundasawmy and others, had, on the morning of Saturday, the 10th instant, taken Copper into the Silver premelting room exactly as Narrainsawmy described, and that, notwithstanding nothing definite could be elicited as to how or on what occasions it was there used, there could be no doubt of the purpose to which it was to be applied, although it is difficult to understand how the equivalent weight of Bullion could be abstracted without the connivance,

*and Bullion keeper in the Mint, who
has been dismissed. under these*

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
from 24th September to 4th October 1859.

or gross negligence of the owner or his agent, one or other of whom is always in attendance, and has charge of the Bullion during the process of melting.

6th. Under these circumstances, and being well advised* that, as no specific charge of

*By late Mint Master and Government Solicitor. fraud can be laid, a criminal prosecution would not succeed, I have dismissed all the parties implicated; and it is satisfactory to

me to be able to state that, as far as I can yet see, the fraud has been nipped in the bud, or if ever successful has been so only on the most paltry scale, though suspicions are not wanting that it has been practised in connection with the small tenders of petty Native Merchants from an old date, with the knowledge of these individuals or their Agents, it being so managed that the loss fell upon the Mint and not upon them.

7th. The salary attached to the Office of Deputy Treasurer and Bullion-keeper being only Rupees 30 per mensem, it ought to be no matter of surprise that the strong temptations in the way of the holder should prove too much for any ordinary native, if either by the negligence, or too confiding reliance on him of his immediate superior in that Department of the Mint, the power be given him of insuring, as in the case under report, the assistance and silence of the larger number of his subordinates. To Mr. Price, the Treasurer and Bullion-keeper, who, upright and truthful to a degree, is far too simple and easily led for a position requiring the vigorous exercise of the most distrustful and watchful vigilance, I attribute much blame, but the occurrence has awakened him to a full sense of the responsibility he has incurred, and I shall take effectual measures for the future.

No. 2.

ORDER THEREON, 24th September 1859, No. 543.

The Government approve the proceedings of the Mint Master as reported in the above letter.

Baloo Moodely, Deputy Treasurer and Bullion keeper in the Mint, who has been dismissed under the circumstances stated, is declared ineligible to employment in any Government Office, and Notification to that effect will be made in the Fort Saint George Gazette.

The Mint Master will report whether he considers that the Office of Deputy Treasurer and Bullion keeper should be continued, and, if so, at what rate of salary.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. A. P. W. Begbie.

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Financial
1859 Departt.

From
The Mint Master

The Chief Secretary

to Government

Dated 21st Sept 1859

Recd. 22nd Sept 1859

No. 457

With an order

Reports the dismissal of

Baloo Moodely the

Deputy Treasurer and Bullion

keeper together with his other

inconsequence of a Copper

ingot that was broken

having been discovered in

the melting Department,

which on enquiry was found

to have been introduced there

for the purpose of substituting

it for Equivalent Weight of

silver to be abstracted during the

process of melting.

Order Thereon. 21st Sept 1859 No 543.

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C 21st Sept
1859

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incurred, and I shall take effectual
measures for the future.

I have the honor to be

Sr,

Your most Obedt Servant,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison

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