

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 355	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated <i>17. July.</i> 18 <i>60</i>	

13 no. 35-36

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
17th July 1860.,*

No. 35. Read the following letter from Major CHARLES A. ORR, Mint Master, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 28th June 1860, No. 70.

Para. 1st. In compliance with the Order of Government, under date the 14th May 1860, *Letter dated 21st April 1860, No. 3,346. No. 212, directing me to furnish the report called* for by the Government of India as to the annual losses in the Madras Mint, and the measure in which such losses can be remedied or reduced, and as to the means by which the responsibility of the Bullion keeper can be regulated, I have the honor to submit the accompanying three Statements, showing in the fullest detail the results of the operations of this Mint for the last ten years.

	Tolas.	A.	P.	
Amount of Bullion remaining in the Mint as per Register forwarded to the Mint Committee and brought to account on the 1st May 1850..	5,32,969	13	5	
Amount value of Merchants Bullion received and brought to account as per Assay Master's Out-turn Reports from May 1850 to April 1860..	468,23,591	7	0	
Amount of Uncurrent Coins and Public Bullion received from the General Treasury and other Departments and brought to account as per Assay Master's Out-turn Reports from May 1850 to April 1860..	70,86,180	5	7	
Total amount debited against the Mint..	544,42,741	10	0	
Weight of Coins remitted to the General Treasury from May 1851 to April 1860..	534,83,738	10	0	
Balance as per debit..	9,59,003	0	0	
Actual balance in the Mint on the 30th April 1860..	10,21,346	0	1	
Excess in favor of the Mint..	62,342	15	11	

2nd. As shown in the marginal Statement the total amount of Bullion debited against the Mint at the "trade assay" since the 1st May 1850 has been tolas 544,42,741, from which deducting the weight of the Coin delivered, tolas 534,83,738, and that of the balance in the Mint on the 30th April 1860, 10,21,346, there remained a clear excess of tolas 62,343.

3rd. To show exactly how this gain has been realized, the excess and loss in each Department must be separately noted and considered.

	Tolas.	A.	P.
<i>Gains.</i>			
Mint Treasury...	41	0	0
Melting Room...	65,073	0	0
Laminating do.	29,434	0	0
Premelting do.	12,402	0	0
	1,06,950	0	0
<i>Losses.</i>			
Milling, Cleaning and Stamping Rooms.....	44,607	0	0
Gain.....	62,343	0	0

From this deducting the recoveries from the Premelting of Merchants' Bullion, Tolas 12,402, which properly are not connected with the processes of the coinage, and Tolas 4,100, the amount by which the coinage of the ten years in the aggregate fell below standard, the real operative excess has been Tolas 45,841, at the rate of 85 per lac of the Outturn without reckoning the silver left in the drosses, which are now so thoroughly exhausted as to be left valueless and therefore unsaleable.

4th. This surplus is due entirely to unreported fractions, for although Tolas 1,46,937 of Copper were added to the alligations to cover those fractions and loss of Statement No. 1. Copper by refinement, Tolas 1,42,837 are shown* by the Pyx Assays to have been carried off in the processes of melting and bleaching, leaving the coin below standard to the extent of Tolas 4,100, which have therefore been deducted from the gross excess, thereby making the net gain Tolas 45,841.

5th. This excess falls considerably short of the gain which Colonel Smith, in his elaborate report on the operations of the Indian Mints, printed as No. X of the Selections of the Madras Government, states is derivable from unreported fractions under the most favor-

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
17th July 1860.*

be selected as a standard by which to judge what the combined surplus of the ten years might have been, and thence to estimate the losses sustained, no doubt an apparent deficiency of the precious metal either by wasteful manipulation or abstraction would be brought to view, but no proper perception of the working of this Mint under the precautionary system of checks and regulation of responsibilities, established only in 1854, would be obtained. As this is, I presume, the object of the inquiries under reply, the three years previous to 1854 should not be taken into consideration. Omitting these the net gains of the last seven years are shown below, and in adjoining columns are contrasted with what they might have been had the most favorable results ever attained prevailed throughout the period, or had those calculated by Colonel Smith, as obtainable under the most successful circumstances, been realized.

Years.	Outturn.	Gains actually obtained.	Gains which ought to be realized at 1 per mille according to Colonel Smith's expectations.	Gains which might have been obtained if the results of 1859-60 be selected as a standard.
1853/54	67,51,002	5,951	6,751	13,929
1854/55	28,68,626	2,772	2,868	5,919
1855/56	54,52,049	6,601	5,452	11,249
1856/57	86,78,139	7,314	8,678	17,906
1857/58	96,21,933	2,735	9,621	18,087
1858/59	48,53,440	4,822	4,853	10,014
1869/60	56,62,073	11,683	5,662	11,683
Total...	4,38,87,262	41,878	43,885	88,787

* 11th. The total losses under the present system of management would thus appear to have been Tolas 46,909, or Tolas 6,701 annually, if they be estimated by comparing the actual gain during the last seven years with what they might have been according to the exceedingly favorable results of last year's operations, and Tolas 2,007, or Tolas 286 annually, if by Colonel Smith's data. This however includes the silver in the drosses estimated to have been Tolas 7,621 or Tolas 1,088 per annum.

12th. With an actual annual excess more or less large, and only the presumptive evidence of losses which the above comparison of the whole period of years with the most favorable one affords, it may still be reasonably supposed that preventable losses have been sustained, as it is impossible to believe that amongst a large number of men there will be none capable of yielding to the severe temptation that the handling of large quantities of precious metal in the most convenient of shapes must be to them, but remembering the uncertainty of the value of the unreported fraction, and the unavoidable irregularity of the issue of the manipulation of Bullion, it will be admitted, I hope, that there is nothing in these statements to indicate the existence of systematic plunder, and I trust I have shown sufficient to justify me in stating that, with the experience I have as yet acquired, no new measures for preventing the possibility of losses occur to me, or for better regulating the responsibilities of the Bullion keeper.

13th. As the Bullion keeper after issuing the precious metal to the operative departments for coinage has no control whatever over it till it is returned to him again in the form of finished pieces, he is in no way responsible, as it would seem it is supposed he is, for its safe custody while passing through the processes of conversion into coin, or for the prevention of losses. The various operative departments are divided into distinct branches under the superintendence of separate Officers, who are held responsible under heavy securities for the due acquittance of their trusts, and are aided by confidential Assistants on whom they can rely, and by watchmen, and searchers, who closely overlook the workmen and subject to the strictest examination the persons of all entering or leaving the rooms where Bullion is under manipulation. This arrangement, supported by a system of most accurate weighments before and after each operation, and on every transfer from one department to another, and by most stringently enforced regulations, for the introduction and removal of every, the most minute, article through the Mint Gate, and for a thorough personal search there, affords, I believe, all the security that can by such means be obtained, and leaves no room to suspect that abstraction of the precious metal can be effected unless through the remission of the established precautions and checks which, of themselves, are sufficiently comprehensive and rigorous.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
7th July 1860.*

No. 1.												
Statement shewing the Fineness of Coins issued from the Madras Mint, as per Assay Master's Pyx Reports for the ten years from May 1850 to April 1860.												
Years.	Description of Coins.	B. 1½.	B. 1.	B. ½.	Standard.	W. ½.	W. 1.	Total.	Value of Coins issued.	Better.	Worse.	
1850-51..	{ Single Rupees...	...	5	80	616	71	...	772	15,33,115	5 or 37,855 at B. 1...	R. A. P.	
	{ Quarter Rupees...	...	2	74	356	4	2	438	2,18,836	5 or 34,973 at B. 1...	86 0 61½	
	{ Double Annas...	...	...	124	618	48	...	790	1,97,319	6 or 18,982 at B. 1...	79 7 8½	
1851-52..	{ Single Rupees...	3	6	112	1,324	223	17	1,685	33,74,085	7 or 24,829 at W. ½...	43 2 3	
	{ Quarter Rupees...	...	...	...	426	68	...	512	2,55,722	13 or 24,972 at W. ½...	...	
	{ Double Annas...	...	...	...	293	16	...	309	77,223	15 or 3,998 at W. ½...	564 5 0	
1852-53....	{ Single Rupees...	...	...	49	1,606	314	...	1,969	39,35,171	5 or 5,29,729 at W. ½...	56 12 0½	
	{ Quarter Rupees...	...	34	329	2,467	441	11	3,282	65,49,745	4 or 1,31,713 at W. ½...	9 1 4½	
	{ Double Annas...	...	2	44	153	...	...	199	99,512	6 or 24,002 at B. 1...	1,203 14 10½	
1853-54..	{ Single Rupees...	...	10	92	328	79	...	407	1,01,744	6 or 19,748 at W. ½...	299 5 6½	
	{ Quarter Rupees...	...	10	92	1,070	59	...	1,231	24,57,180	3 or 1,05,771 at B. 1...	44 14 1½	
	{ Double Annas...	...	...	10	337	28	...	375	1,88,023	13 or 90,030 at B. 1...	240 6 2½	
1854-55..	{ Single Rupees...	...	60	818	818	16	...	894	2,23,422	4 or 10,995 at B. 1...	20 8 4½	
	{ Quarter Rupees...	...	14	182	1,843	160	3	2,202	44,08,115	7 or 88,082 at B. 1...	...	
	{ Double Annas...	...	...	6	408	13	...	427	4,26,639	6 or 6,994 at W. ½...	...	
1855-56..	{ Single Rupees...	...	48	873	873	40	...	961	4,80,581	8 or 4,000 at B. 1...	15 14 3½	
	{ Quarter Rupees...	...	...	24	479	44	...	547	1,36,713	6 or 4,998 at W. ½...	11 5 8	
	{ Double Annas...	...	6	138	1,882	268	7	2,301	73,15,413	15 or 4,19,652 at W. ½...	953 12 0½	
1856-57..	{ Single Rupees...	...	13	543	543	54	2	612	7,70,293	0 or 56,639 at W. ½...	128 11 7½	
	{ Quarter Rupees...	...	54	1,705	1,705	229	...	1,988	5,92,432	8 or 52,150 at W. ½...	118 8 4½	
	{ Double Annas...	...	98	1,461	1,461	55	2	1,623	80,77,635	12 or 2,63,779 at B. 1...	599 7 11½	
1857-58..	{ Single Rupees...	...	7	...	...	...	...	110	2,72,780	1 or 7,439 at W. ½...	16 14 6	
	{ Quarter Rupees...	...	2	103	103	5	...	491	6,14,055	5 or 32,516 at B. 1...	75 5 0½	
	{ Double Annas...	...	6	24	451	10	...	2,103	6,57,461	15 or 33,138 at W. ½...	431 10 9½	
1858-59..	{ Single Rupees...	...	39	1919	1919	145	...	883	44,10,767	15 or 1,89,938 at W. ½...	59 12 11½	
	{ Quarter Rupees...	...	...	23	800	59	1	937	2,97,012	1 or 26,317 at W. ½...	37 0 3½	
	{ Double Annas...	...	...	4	208	25	...	465	1,45,660	9 or 16,288 at W. ½...	990 3 6½	
1859-60..	{ Single Rupees...	...	...	4	405	56	...	384	44,40,055	0 or 4,35,698 at W. ½...	124 4 3½	
	{ Quarter Rupees...	...	...	14	317	50	3	65	3,40,146	14 or 54,679 at W. ½...	31 9 6½	
	{ Double Annas...	...	...	1	52	12	1	118	2,73,298	0 or 13,903 at W. ½...	317 9 2½	
		...	2	8	91	16	...	919	6,08,573	4 or 1,39,734 at W. ½...	1,411 4 1½	
		...	...	...	708	211	...				5,511 7 7½	
Deduct amount of better...										1,411 4 1½	1,411 4 1½	
Total amount of worse...											4,100 3 61	

FORT SAINT GEORGE, MINT,

28th June 1860;

Mint Master.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
17th July 1860.

No. 2.

Statement, shewing the operative Losses in the various Departments of the Madras Mint, and the Rates, per Lac of Coins issued; for the 10 years from 1850/51 to 1859/60.

Year.	Melting Department.		Laminating Department.		Milling, Bleaching & Stamping Departments.		Sundry losses.		Net Final Result.		
	Losses.		Excess.		Losses.						
	Amount.	Rate per Lac of Coins issued.	Amount.	Rate per Lac of Coins issued.	Amount.	Rate per Lac of Coins issued.	Amount.	Rate per Lac of Coins issued.	Loss after deducting excess.	Value of Coins issued.	Rate per Lac of Coins issued after deducting excess.
	Tolas.	Tolas.	Tolas.	Tolas.	Tolas.	Tolas.	Tolas.	Tolas.	Tolas.	Tolas.	Tolas.
1850/51...	3,417	174	24	1	1,150	58	...	...	4,543	19,54,271	232
1851/52...	5,849	161	73	2	2,103	56	1	...	7,880	37,07,032	212
1852/53...	4,532	115	1,470	37	1,995	50	...	...	5,057	39,35,171	128
1853/54...	8,485	125	2,113	31	4,763	70	5	...	11,140	67,51,002	164
1854/55...	2,871	100	1,862	64	2,758	96	6	...	3,773	28,68,626	131
1855/56...	9,581	175	3,596	65	4,626	84	3	...	10,614	54,52,049	194
1856/57...	13,835	159	6,909	79	7,413	80	...	...	14,339	86,78,139	165
1857/58...	21,520	223	5,924	61	10,985	114	...	...	26,581	96,21,933	276
1858/59...	5,806	119	2,893	59	4,138	85	...	...	7,051	48,53,440	145
1859/60...	7,144	126	4,570	80	4,676	82	...	...	7,250	56,62,073	128
Total...	83,040	155	29,434	55	44,607	83	15	...	98,228	5,34,83,736	183

FORT SAINT GEORGE, MINT,
28th June 1860.

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR,
Mint Master.

No. 3.

Statement shewing the loss and gain in the different Departments with the net results on the operations of the Madras Mint for the past 10 years from 1850/51 to 1859/60.

Years.	Gain by recoveries in the Premelting Department.	Difference in weight of the Coin received from the Stamping Room and the Remittances.	Net Excess of the Melting Room.	Rate per lac of Out-turn.	Excess of the Laminating Room.	Rate per lac of Out-turn.	Total Gains.	Milling, Bleaching and Stamping Losses.	Rate per lac of Out-turn.	Net Gain.	Rate per lac of Out-turn.
1850/51...	750	1 — 0	2,143	109	24	1	2,918	1,150	57	1,768	90
1851/52...	594	0 — 0	4,168	112	73	1	4,835	2,103	55	2,732	73
1852/53...	1,347	8 — 0	5,392	137	1,470	36	8,217	1,995	50	6,222	157
1853/54...	2,191	0 — 0	8,601	127	2,113	30	12,905	4,763	69	8,142	120
1854/55...	359	15 — 0	3,668	128	1,862	63	5,904	2,758	94	3,146	109
1855/56...	2,526	0 — 0	7,631	139	3,596	64	13,753	4,626	82	9,127	167
1856/57...	2,263	1 — 0	7,818	90	6,909	78	16,991	7,413	83	9,578	110
1857/58...	930	5 — 0	7,796	81	5,924	60	14,655	10,985	112	3,670	38
1858/59...	763	7 — 0	6,067	125	2,893	58	9,730	4,138	84	5,592	115
1859/60...	679	4 — 0	11,789	208	4,570	79	17,042	4,676	81	12,366	218
Total...	12,402	41 — 0	65,073	121	29,434	55	1,06,950	44,607	83	62,343	116

FORT SAINT GEORGE, MINT,
28th June 1860.

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR,
Mint Master.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
17th July 1860.

No. 36. To the Secretary to the Government of India, dated Fort Saint George, 17th July 1860, No. 355.

I am directed to acknowledge your letter of the 21st April last, No. 3,346, requesting to be furnished with a report as to the annual losses in the Madras Mint during the past ten years and the causes to which they are attributable, also with any suggestions as to the manner in which such losses can be remedied or reduced, and the means by which the responsibilities of the Bullion keeper can best be regulated.

2. In reply I am desired to forward a copy of a letter from the Mint Master, submitting three Statements showing in the fullest detail the results of the operations of the Mint at this Presidency for the last ten years. These Statements are fully reviewed by Major Orr in his report. He remarks that "the great variations from year to year in the operative results of the Mint are obvious, but it is not easy to assign a reason for them subsequent to the year 1854, when the measures of check, partially introduced in 1852, were brought into full effect, nor is it possible to show how much is attributable to causes beyond control and how much to a want of honesty on the part of those employed within the establishment." But, he adds, remembering the uncertainty of the value of the unreported fractions, and the unavoidable irregularity of the issue of the manipulation of Bullion, it will be admitted, that there is nothing in the Statements now submitted to indicate the existence of systematic plunder, and he trusts he has shown sufficient to justify him in stating that, with the experience he has as yet acquired, no new measures for preventing the possibility of losses occur to him or for better regulating the responsibilities of the Bullion keeper.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,

Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

17/4/74 for H^{rs}

Financial Department

No. 355.

The Secy to the Govt of India

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge your letter of the 21st April last, No. 346, requesting to be furnished with a report as to the annual losses in the Madras Mint during the past ten years and the causes to which they are attributable, also with any suggestions as to the manner in which such losses can be remedied, or reduced, and the means by which the responsibilities of the Bullion Keeper can best be regulated.

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17/4/74

Dated 28 June 1860. to go.

communication from the
Minister of the Interior
information required

2 In reply I am pleased
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from the Mint Master, sub-
mitting three Statements
showing in the fullest detail
the results of the operations
of the Mint at this Presidency
for the last few years. These
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He remarks that the great
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Fort St. George,
14th July, 1860-5

C. C. C.
Major Master of the
Bullion

J. P. The

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