

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 533

Press
Mis.

Dated 27. 10. 1860

13/m 57-58

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,

27th October 1860.

do so, but has requested that, in consideration of his long service of upwards of fourteen years in the Mint and of his loss of health at his post, he may be permitted to resign instead of being subjected to dismissal.

MINT, 3rd October 1860.

PROCEEDINGS OF A COMMITTEE APPOINTED IN DIARY ORDER, No. 311, TO INQUIRE INTO A CHARGE PREFERRED AGAINST MR. PHILLIPS BY THACHNAMOORTHEE, PUNCHMAKER.

Thachnamoorthee, Punchmaker.

Q.—Is this your letter addressed to the Mint Master, dated 3rd October, and bearing your signature ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You charge Mr. Phillips with having received from the servants of the Die Cutting Room one day and a half pay as a bribe from each man in September last, is this true ?

A.—It is true.

Q.—Did you give anything ?

A.—I did not give.

The Muster Roll of the Die Cutting taken, and the Workmen examined accordingly.

Samy, Head Engraver.

Q.—Did you give Mr. Phillips one and a half day's pay as a bribe ?

A.—I did not give.

Q.—Did you give any money at all to Mr. Phillips ?

A.—I did not give any money.

Nullathumbee, Engraver.

Q.—Did you give Mr. Phillips one and a half day's pay as bribe in last month ?

A.—I did not give it as a bribe, but he was hard up for food, and he asked me and I gave one and a quarter Rupee.

Poonoosamy, Punchmaker.

Q.—Did you give Mr. Phillips one and a half day's pay as a bribe in September last ?

A.—I did not give.

Q.—Did you give anything at all or through any other person ?

A.—I did not.

Moonien, Die Puncher.

Q.—Did you give Mr. Phillips one and a half day's pay as a bribe in last month ?

A.—I did not give either as a bribe or in any other way.

Thumboosawmy, Die Temperer.

Q.—Did you give Mr. Phillips one day and a half pay as a bribe in last month ?

A.—I was not asked to give nor did I give.

Sooboo Chetty, Chickledar.

Q.—Did you give Mr. Phillips one and a half day's pay as a bribe in last month ?

A.—It is true that one and a half day's pay was given—9 Annas.

Q.—For what reason did you give this ?

A.—Marriappen Moodely said that Mr. Phillips' children are starving, as every one are giving a day and half's pay, so you to give.

Q.—Did Mr. Phillips ask you to give this ?

A.—No. Mr. Phillips was not here.

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Rungiah, Conicopoly.

Q.—Did you give Mr. Phillips one and a half day's pay as a bribe in last month?

A.—I did not give, and no one asked me. I don't know anything.

Belivanderam, 2nd Class Apprentice.

Q.—Did you give Mr. Phillips one and a half day's pay as a bribe in last month?

A.—I did not give it as a bribe, Mr. Phillips did not ask me neither did I give it to him—his children were without meals for two days. I asked the reason why they were starving—they said that he had given all his pay to his creditors and he was in Hospital. I therefore gave fifteen Annas to Rungiah, Conicopoly, to go and give it in his house.

Armoogacharry, Die Cutter.

Conicopoly Rungiah told me that Mr. Phillips asked that one and a half day's pay may be given, but I did not give. Rungiah asked this of every one in the room. Mr. Phillips was in the Hospital at the time.

Coomarasawmy, Die Cutter.

Conicopoly Rungiah came and said that Mr. Phillips was in difficulty, if you could all help him with one and a half day's pay it will relieve him, therefore, you should not tell any one. I received my pay and did not give it the same day but brought one Rupee the following day and gave it to Marriappen Moodely. Rungiah told me to give it to Marriappen. Mr. Phillips did not ask me himself.

Annasamy, Die Puncher.

No one asked me for anything, neither did I give anything.

Royapen, Filer.

No one asked me anything, neither did I give anything.

Royapen, Rim Filer.

No one asked me anything, neither did I give anything.

Mootoosamy, Filer.

No one asked me anything, neither did I give any one anything.

Sooboeroyen, Filer.

No one asked me anything, neither did I give any one anything.

Sabapathee, Filer.

No one asked me anything, neither did I give anything.

Iyasamy, Die Setter.

No one asked me anything, neither did I give anything.

Anthony, Chickledar.

No one asked me anything, neither did I give any one anything.

Vethagerry.

I was not asked to give anything, neither did I give anything.

Coomarasamy.

I did not give anything, neither did any one ask me anything.

Gopaul.

No one asked me anything, neither did I give anything.

Venkatapathee.

No one asked me anything, neither did I give anything.

Rungiah.

I did not give anything and no one asked me for anything.

Soonderum.

No one asked me anything neither did I give anything.

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27th October 1860.*

No. 57. Read the following letter from Major CHARLES A. ORR, Engineers, Mint Master, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 13th October 1860, No. 214.

Paragraph 1st. During a recent investigation into the cause of the loss of some Gold in the course of the manufacture of the two Bracelets ordered* by His Excellency the Governor for presentation to Vira Viranna and

Mudumbi Rungacharulu, an accusation of having abstracted it was brought against Mr. Phillips, the Superintendent of the Die Cutting and Engraving Department by one of the chief workmen, a man of the name of Thuchanamoorthy, employed on the articles, who declared that he had himself weighed and handed over the exact quantity missing.

2nd. Mr. Phillips acknowledges the original receipt of the Gold, and admits his responsibility for a true account of its disposal, but he denies Thuchanamoorthy's statement altogether, and charges him with the loss or appropriation of the metal during his, Mr. Phillips', absence in the General Hospital for medical treatment. The evidence I have been able to obtain throws no light on the subject, but it shows that Mr. Phillips, neglecting the most ordinary of the long established and well understood precautions that are enforced in every other operative Department of the Mint, left the Gold in the custody of the principal workmen, and that, even before absenting himself on the plea of ill-health, he omitted either to weigh over the Gold, as he ought in common prudence to have done, to some other responsible officer of the Mint, or to communicate with me as to its safe custody during his absence.

3rd. This is most reprehensible in an Officer of Mr. Phillips' experience, and is so suspicious when looked at in connection with his well known pecuniary embarrassments, and with the circumstance of his absenting himself till he heard of the loss having been discovered and an enquiry set on foot, as to leave no doubt that his retention in the Mint is undesirable, if not dangerous. I should therefore have certainly considered it my duty to request his removal, even if I had not the other grounds which I am about to specify for recommending his dismissal.

4th. The Government having noticed Mr. Phillips' name in a return, dated the 12th May 1856, of Clerks in public employ who had applied for the benefit of the Insolvent Court, called upon* the Mint Master to report what was the Insolvent's character, and whether the

place held by him in the Mint was one of responsibility, and a reference to the papers noted in the margin, will show that only on being assured of his good character as a workman, and in consideration of his continuing to take steps for satisfying his creditors and avoiding further embarrassments, did Government permit him to retain his employment in the Mint.

5th. Nothing seems to have occurred to show, that instead of pursuing this course and thereby extricating himself from the critical position in which he stood, Mr. Phillips had actually been getting deeper and deeper into difficulties, till his creditors found it necessary again to

Proceedings of Government, dated 22nd May 1856, No. 595.
Letter of Mint Master to Mint Committee, " 28th " " No. 24.
Proceedings of Government, " 13th June " No. 697.
Letter of Acting Mint Master to Mint Committee, " 20th " 1857, No. 54.
Proceedings of Government, " 3rd July " No. 884.

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arrest him on the 24th of June 1859, not long after I took charge of the Mint. The Statement

	Months.	Days.	Nature of the leave.
1859. { June,	0	7	In Jail.
{ July,	0	17	Privilege leave, Sec VII in Jail.
{ August & September, . .	2	10	Private affairs, Section VIII.
{ November & December, .	1	11	Sick leave, Section IV.
1860. { February,	0	26	Without leave, in Jail.
{ Sept. from 7th to 28th.	0	22	Sick in Hospital.
Total.	6	3	

in the margin will show how large a proportion of his time Mr. Phillips has since then been obliged to sacrifice, both with and without leave, either in Jail or within the shelter of his own house or the walls of the General Hospital, and I should certainly 'ere this have reported his case for the Orders of Government, had I not long been misled,

by the way he was spoken of by my predecessors, into believing that his place could not readily be filled in the Superintendence of the Die Cutting Department, and had I not had his repeated assurances that if granted a little time satisfactory arrangements would be made with his creditors without again having recourse to the Insolvent Court. He succeeded in making these arrangements last February by binding himself to give up half his salary, and being thus set free he has been pretty regular in his attendance and attentive to his duties, till the loss of the Gold last month, and his absence again in the General Hospital caused a close investigation into his proceedings, during which a letter was addressed to me by his principal accuser charging him with extorting money from his subordinates and workmen, and directly asserting that he had ordered the collection of 1½ days pay from each of them last month. As I have frequently had anonymous complaints of this nature against Mr. Phillips without being able to obtain any evidence of their truth, I directed a Committee of three Officers of the Mint to examine all the people employed in the Die Cutting Department, and the result is that, although mostly all, as was to be expected with Natives who have peculiar ideas of the necessity of silence on these points, deny that any money has been habitually given as bribes to Mr. Phillips himself; several deposed that a subscription of 1½ days pay was set on foot last month for the benefit of his family, which is stated to have been starving although only half his salary of Rupees 100 per mensem is allotted to his creditors, and some acknowledge having given money.

6th. Mr. Phillips disowns all knowledge of the matter, but as he relies chiefly on the circumstance of his having been absent in Hospital at the time the contributions were collected in his name in proof of his ignorance of them, although he acknowledges having been cognizant of his wife having on one occasion sent a demand through his son for assistance and having received Rupees 1-4, I think the Government, on perusing the accompanying record of the statements made before the Committee of Inquiry, will support me in the opinion that Mr. Phillips, whether knowingly or not, has placed himself in a position both unbecoming the character of an Officer holding a very respectable and responsible situation in the Mint, and totally incompatible with the maintenance of the influence which he ought to possess for the proper control of the important Department under his charge. Were there the smallest chance of his retrieving his position I might hesitate to suggest his removal from a post where I believe he is capable of making himself extremely useful, but as it is too evident that his embarrassments must inevitably become more and more overwhelming, and expose him to increasing temptations, I consider I have no alternative than to recommend his dismissal; and as this will incapacitate his making good the cost of the missing Gold, for which he admits his responsibility, I have to request authority to charge to the Bracelets, which have been at length completed, Rupees 142-8-0 the value of 9½ tolas of Gold lost through his direct agency or his neglect of ordinary precautions.

7th. I have communicated this letter to Mr. Phillips and have informed him that he may forward through me any defensive representation that he may have to offer. He has declined to

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Conicopoly, Rungiah, re-

Q.—You have stated that you did not give anything to Mr. Phillips and that no one asked you anything—how is it that you have received money from the people in the room for Mr. Phillips or his family?

A.—You asked me if I gave anything from my pay, I did not give any thing from my pay. Belivanderam gave me fifteen Annas to give it to Mr. Phillips' family; I went there and did not see Mrs. Phillips, I gave it to his son William.

Q.—You did not ask Belivanderam or any one else?

A.—I did not.

Q.—You did not receive any money in Mr. Phillips' name from any one?

A.—I did not, but Coomarasawmy said that Mr. Phillips' children were starving and that he had given a Rupee to Marriappen to give to them.

Rungiah.—(Continued.) 4th October.

Q.—Have you anything further to say about money being collected for Mr. Phillips or his family?

A.—Samy Maistry came and told me that Mr. Phillips' children were starving, together with Mooneapen—we have consulted to give them something, therefore speak to all the servants that they may also do so. I then told Samy you better speak yourself. Samy said whether you speak it or I speak it, it is just the same thing. I proposed this to Thachnamoorthee and a few others. Belivanderam only gave me fifteen Annas. Coomarasawmy said that he gave a Rupee to Marriappen. I do not know if any one else gave.

Q.—Does Mr. Phillips know that money was received for his family, or did you mention it to him?

A.—I am not aware that he knows it, nor did I tell him about it.

Samy, Head Engraver, re-

Q.—Did you speak to Rungiah or any one else about giving money to Mr. Phillips or his family?

A.—I did not speak myself but it was spoken amongst us in general to give some money as Mr. Phillips' sons were without food—some agreed to give and others would not. I did not trouble myself further about it.

Mr. Phillips, Superintendent.

Q.—In September last did you receive from the servants in your Department one and a half day's pay as a bribe.

A.—I did not.

Q.—Were you aware of any money being collected from the servants in your Department for your family, or did you hear about it?

A.—I was not aware of it, neither did I hear of it tell just now.

Q.—Did you at any time prior to September last receive any money from the servants in your Department as a bribe?

A.—No.

Thuchnamoorthee's letter read to Mr. Phillips.

No. 53. ORDER THEREON, 27th October 1860, No. 533.

Upon a consideration of all the circumstances brought to notice in the foregoing letter, the Government resolve that Mr. Phillips be permitted to resign the office of Superintendent of the Die Cutting and Engraving Department in the Mint; and direct that the sum of Rupees (142-8-0) one hundred and forty-two and Annas eight, being the value of the Gold which has disappeared, be charged to the account of the Bracelets referred to.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

and

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7th 14 of 1867.

7th 1830 P.M.

No. of the Madras Govt.

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Financial. No. 1867.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Read the following letter
from the Mint Master.

(Dated 13th October, 1860, No. 214)

Order thereon 27 October 1860. No. 533.

Upon a consideration
of all the circumstances brought
to notice in the foregoing
letter, the Government
resolve that Mr. Phillips be
permitted, ~~as desired by him,~~
to resign the office of
Superintendent of the Die
Cutting and Engraving
Department in the Mint,
and direct that the sum
of Rupees (22-5-0) One hundred
and forty two & Annas eight,
being the value of the gold
lost

Recd.
G.
M.

21 2
Which has to be disapp^{ed}
lost through his neglect, be
charged to the account of
the Bracelets referred to.

J.P.

To the Mint Master.
Secy General } Dep^y Secy
Civil Auditor }

D.P.H.