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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <u>45</u>	Press Mis.
<u>52-53</u>	
Dated <u>28-1-</u>	<u>1861</u>

*18/10 52-53 7/8*Not to be folded or roughly handled*126/2*

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
28th January 1861.*

No. 52. Read the following letter from Major C. A. ORR, Mint Master, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 23rd January 1861, No. 331.

Paragraph 1. Referring to the Resolutions* of Government under dates the 19th June and 9th July 1841, Nos. 244 and 2,621, under which the Mint Guard

* *Financial Department.*

1 *Native Officer.*

2 *Havildars.*

3 *Naigues.*

40 *Privates.*

2. The first intimation

† *Copy enclosed.*

I had of this change was conveyed in an Official† Memorandum from the Brigade Major, dated the 18th instant, and received on the following day when it was too late for me to protest, as I should have considered it my duty to have done, against a measure which is, I believe, full of danger to the safety not only of the large balance of Bullion and Cash which is always necessarily in the Cellars of the Establishment, but also to that of the buildings and the immense amount of public property which they contain.

3. My predecessors were of this opinion, for I find Colonel (then Captain) Smith thus writing under date the 13th February 1844, with reference to a Roll of Sentries he had furnished to the Town Major, "I am of opinion that the number therein specified cannot be permanently "diminished with safety, and the more so as on a former occasion when a somewhat smaller "number were posted, the Sentries having been previously reduced from 22 to 11, it was found "by the Mint Master that an extensive robbery which took place was greatly facilitated by the

"insufficiency of the guard externally and internally, on which occasion
‡ 13 *Sentries.* "they were fixed at their present numbers‡ and have remained so
"ever since."

4. Colonel F. Cotton's opinion may be gathered from this extract from a letter of his to the late Mint Committee of the 25th May 1857 on the subject of the position of the Guard Room. "It ought to be an airy room capable of containing 50 men within the Mint."

5. The idea of diminishing the Mint Guard also occurred to Sir Charles Trevelyan, who, desirous of effecting every possible Military reduction, on the 28th December 1859, addressed me in a note in these terms, "Be so good as to give me your opinion whether the guard at the "Mint can safely and properly be reduced, and if so, to what extent," to which I replied that, looking at the peculiar isolated situation of an Establishment containing so much precious and tempting property, and at the buildings being of so irregular a character as not to be easily watched or defended, I did not think it safe or proper to weaken the guard, unless the detached and defensible wall which Colonel Cotton proposed should be built around the Mint were completed, when fewer Sentries being required, and defence made more easy, the guard might without danger be diminished. As I heard nothing more of the subject at that time I conclude that my answer satisfied Sir Charles, and I presume that on fuller consideration, in communication with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, it was then determined not to make an experiment likely to be attended with so much risk.

6. The reduction, which it would thus appear has been already more than once thought of but on consideration pronounced unfeasible, has now been made, and as the rank and file allowed will give only 6 Sentries in three reliefs, instead of the 8 by day, and 9 by night, in the four reliefs which were thought necessary to permit of parties being detached as escorts with cash remittances to the Treasury and other such purposes, I am greatly at a loss what disposition to make for the security of the Bullion and the large stock of valuable dies that is always on hand, or for the preservation of the buildings by night from the accidental fires, that are apt to occur in spite of all precautions in an establishment having numerous furnaces in operation daily, and of which the Sentries on the roof have hitherto been able to give immediate and timely notice.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
28th January 1861.

7. The late disposition of the Sentries, reduced from 13 by day and night, to 8 by day and 9 by night since the establishment of a Police Tannah outside the Gate, was this:

By Day.		By Night.	
No. 1.	Outside Front Gate.	No. 1.	Between the Front gates.
" 2.	Inside Front Gate (Assay Office.)	" 2.	Inside the Front Gate (Assay Office.)
" 3.	East door of Treasury.	" 3.	East door of Treasury.
" 4.	West door of Treasury.	" 4.	West door of do.
" 5.	Outside Foundry Gate.	" 5.	Copper Coinage Room door.
" 6.	Outside South side.	" 6.	Top of Stamping & Laminating Room.
" 7.	Outside West side.	" 7.	Top of Copper Laminating Room.
" 8.	Outside North side.	" 8.	Top of Silver Melting Room.
		" 9.	Top of Die Multiplying Room.

and I have now placed them thus:

By Day.		By Night.	
No. 1.	Outside Front Gate.	No. 1.	Between Front Gates.
" 2.	Inside Front Gate (Assay Office.)	" 2.	Inside Front Gate (Assay Office.)
" 3.	East door of Treasury.	" 3.	East door of Treasury.
" 4.	West door of Treasury.	" 4.	West door of do.
" 5.	Outside North.	" 5.	Top of Copper Laminating Room.
" 6.	Outside South.	" 6.	Top of Die Multiplying Room.

leaving no men for escort duty and compelling the abandonment of two important posts by day and three at night.

8. Supported in my views by the recorded opinions of my predecessors, I cannot but fear that the immunity from serious depredations which has so long distinguished this Mint will no longer be possible, and I can therefore only hope that the matter will receive from Government the consideration which I believe it deserves.

No. 47.
MEMORANDUM.

The Major General Commanding the Division having lately visited the Mint, thinks that so large a Guard as that now furnished by the Troops in Garrison is not required; he therefore proposes reducing it from Monday morning next the 21st instant to 1 Native Officer, 1 Havildar, 2 Naigues, and 18 Privates.

BRIGADE OFFICE, CENTRE DIVISION,
FORT ST. GEORGE, 18th Jan. 1861.

To the Mint Master, Madras.

By order,
(Signed) C. ELLIOT,
Brigade Major, Centre Division.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR,
Mint Master.

No. 53.

ORDER THEREON, 28th January 1861, No. 45.
Ordered to be recorded. It is understood that the Mint Guard has been restored to its original strength.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

N^o 47.

Brigade Office Centre Division
Fort St. George, 18th January 1861.

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Officer, 1 Havildar, 2 Naigues,
and 18 Privates.

By Order
(Signed) C. Elliot
Brigade Major
Centre Division
Madras
To the Mint Master
(True Copy)
I have heard nothing of this matter
now but I am again writing Mr. A. Orr to increase
the Mint Guard to 13 men

No 331

Fort St George,
Mint, 23rd January 1861.

From

Major C. A. Oro

Mint Master

To

J. Pycroft Esq^r

Chief Secretary

to Government

Sir,

Referring to the Resoⁿ:
Paras 1.

Financial Department. Resolutions of Government under dates
the 19th June and 9th July 1841

Nos 244 and 2621, under which
the Mint Guard was established

of the strength noted in the
margin, I have the honor to

bring to the notice of Government
that, by order of the Major

General Commanding the Division,
the Guard daily furnished for the

protection of the Mint by the
Troops in Garrison has, from the

21st instant, been reduced from
that strength to a detail of 1

Native Officer, 1 Havildar, 2 Naigues,
and

1. Native Officer
2. Havildars
3. Naigues
40. Privates.

21/1/61
No 331

and 18 Privates.

2. The first intimation I had of this change was conveyed in an ^x Official Memorandum from the Brigade Major dated the 18th instant, and received on the following day when it was too late for me to protest, as I should have considered it my duty to have done, against a measure which is, I believe, full of danger to the safety not only of the large balance of Bullion and Cash which is always necessarily in the Cellars, of the Establishment, but also to that of the buildings and the immense amount of public property which they contain.

3. My Predecessors were of this opinion. for I find Colonel (then Captain) Smith thus writing under date the 13th February 1844, with reference to a Roll of Sentries he had furnished to the Town Major, "in my opinion" "that the number therein specified" cannot

^x Copy enc

^x 13 Sentries

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"cannot be permanently diminished
"with safety, and the more so as on
"a former occasion when a somewhat
"smaller number were posted, the
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"Mint Master that an extensive
"robbery which took place was greatly
"facilitated by the insufficiency of
"the guard externally and internally,
"on which occasion they were fixed
"at their present numbers and
"have remained so ever since."

4. Colonel Cotton's opinion may be gathered from this extract from a letter of his to the late Mint Committee of the 25th May 1857 on the subject of the position of the Guard Room - "It ought to be an
"airy room capable of containing
"50 Men within the Mint."

5. The idea of diminishing the Mint Guard also occurred to Sir Charles Trevelyan, who, desirous of effecting every possible

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"be reduced and if so to what extent,"
to which I replied that, looking at
the peculiar isolated situation of an
Establishment containing so much
precious and tempting property, and
at the Buildings, being of irregular
a character as not to be easily watched
or defended, I did not think it
safe or proper to weaken the Guard,
unless the detached and defensible
wall which Colonel Cotton proposed
should be built around the Mint
were completed, when fewer sentries
being required, and defence made
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stead of the 8 by day, and 9 by
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I am greatly at a loss what
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By Day

- N^o. 1. Outside Front Gate
- " 2. Inside Front Gate (Afsay Office)
- " 3. East door of Treasury
- " 4. West door of Treasury
- " 5. Outside Foundry Gate
- " 6. Outside South Side
- " 7. Outside West Side
- " 8. Outside North side

By Night

- N^o. 1. Between the Front Gates
- " 2. Inside the Front Gate (Afsay Office)
- " 3. East door of Treasury
- " 4. West door of do.
- " 5. Copper Coinage Room door
- " 6. Top of Stamping and Laminating Room
- " 7. Top of Copper Laminating Room
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8. Supported in my views by the recorded opinions of my predecessors I cannot but fear that the immunity from serious depredations which has so long distinguished this Mint will no longer be possible, and I can therefore only hope that the matter will receive from Government the consideration which I believe it deserves.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant

Charles B. B.

Mint Master

Order thereon 20 January 1861. Dec 45.

Ordered to be recorded. It is

Referred to the Committee
understood that the mint
and has been restored to its original strength

The steps must be taken by the
Major General to be made

Commit
25/1/61

J. B. B.

or the client's master,

ceus the condition
desired

ceus the condition
desired