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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

## Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 452 Press Mis.

67-68

Dated 23-9- 18 65.

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***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,*
*23rd September* 1865.

No. 67. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Financial Department, Simla, under date the 7th September 1865, No. 2253.

Read letter from Surgeon Major J. F. SHEKLETON, Assay Master, of the Calcutta Mint, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department; dated Calcutta, 26th August 1865, No. 45.

The tola and its decimal divisions having been recently adopted in recording the weight of Bullion brought to this Mint for coinage, and the Mint Master having expressed his readiness to make all calculations, in connection with the receipt and conversion of Bullion, decimally, as soon as Assay reports are recorded in a similar form, I beg to solicit the sanction of His Excellency the Governor General in Council, for its adoption, in supersession of the obsolete one of carats and carat grains for gold, and pennyweights and half pennyweights for silver, as at present in use.

2. The decimal form, or "touch" as it is technically called, is now universally employed by modern assayers to express the fineness of Bullion, and as nearly all imported silver is purchased in Europe on values so assigned, it is highly desirable that it should be adopted here, not only for its superior accuracy, but with a view to maintain uniformity of practice.

3. All Mint operations involving calculations will be thereby much facilitated, and the quality of the coinage more readily maintained in close proximity to the legal standard of fineness.

4. Before bringing the question to the notice of Government, I addressed a circular to the Bankers and principal importers of Bullion in this city, who have expressed themselves strongly and unanimously in favor of a decimal form of Assay reports.

5. It will be only requisite to alter the existing form of Assay certificates to the extent shown in the copy herewith enclosed, which I hope may meet with the approval of His Excellency the Governor General in Council.

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RESOLUTION.—The Governor General in Council is pleased to approve of the above suggestions.

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ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of the foregoing Resolution be sent to the Assay Master of the Calcutta Mint, in reply to his letter above adverted to, and to the Accountant General to the Government of India.

2. Also, that a copy of the Resolution, and of the letter from the Assay Master, Calcutta, be sent to the Governments of Madras and Bombay, for communication to the Assay Masters there.

(A true Extract).
(Signed) E. H. LUSHINGTON,
*Secretary to the Government of India.*

(A true Copy).
(Signed) J. E. COOKE,
*Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.*

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No. 68. ORDER THEREON, 23rd September 1865, No. 452.

Ordered that a copy of the foregoing Resolution, and of its enclosure, be furnished to the Mint Master, Assay Master, Accountant General, and Chamber of Commerce.

(True Extract).

*Acting Secretary to Government.*

To the Mint Master.
" Assay Master.
" Accountant General.
" Chamber of Commerce.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

H. M. Assay Office
Calcutta Mint
26th August 1865.

No. 45.

From,

The Assay Master.

To,

The Secretary to the Govt of India
Financial Department.

Sir,

The Tola & its decimal divisions having been recently adopted in accordance with the Weight of Bullion brought to this Mint for Coinage, and the Mint Master having expressed his readiness to make all Calculations in connexion with the Receipt and Conversion of Bullion, decimally, as soon as Assay reports are recorded in a similar form, I beg to solicit the sanction of His Excellency the Governor General in Council, for its adoption, in supercession of the obsolete one of Carat and Carat grains for Gold, and penny weights and halfpenny weights for Silver,

as

as at present in use.

The decimal form, or "Touch" as it is technically called, is now universally employed by Modern Assayers to express the fineness of Bullion, and as nearly all imported Silver is purchased in Europe on values so assigned, it is highly desirable that it should be adopted here, not only for its superior accuracy, but with a view to maintain uniformity of practice.

All Mint operations involving Calculations, will be thereby much facilitated, and the quality of the Coinage more readily maintained in close proximity to the legal standard of fineness.

Before bringing the question to the notice of Government, I addressed a Circular to the Bankers and principal importers of Bullion in this City, who have expressed themselves strongly and unanimously

in favor of a decimal form of Assay Reports.

It will be only requisite to alter the existing form of Assay Certificate to the extent shewn in the Copy hereunto enclosed, which I hope may meet with the approval of His Excellency the Governor General in Council

Not received in the Financial Depth.

Have &c
sd/ J. F. Shakleton
Surgeon Major
Assay Master

(A true Copy)

F. Cole

Asst Secretary to the Govt of Canada

P.K.&
7/9.

2253

5.2

№2253.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Financial Department, Simla, under date the 7th September 1865.-

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Read a Letter from the Assay Master of the Calcutta Mint, №45, dated 26th August 1865, suggesting that all calculations in connexion with the receipt and conversion of Bullion should be made decimally instead of as at present in Carats and Carat grains for Gold, and in penny weights and half penny weights for Silver; and proposing to make the requisite alterations in the existing forms of Assay Certificates.

Resolution

The Governor General in Council is pleased to approve of the above suggestions

Order.

Ordered, that a Copy of the foregoing Resolution be sent to the Assay Master of the Calcutta Mint, in reply to his letter above adverted to - and to the Accountant General

General to the Government of India.

Also, that a copy of the Resolution, and of the letter from the Assay Master Calcutta, be sent to the Governments of Madras and Bombay for communication to the Assay Masters there.

(A true Extract)
J. E. H. Lushington
Secy to the Govt of India

(A true Copy)
J. E. Cole
Asst Secy to the Govt of India

No 452 - 23d September 1868.

Ordered that a copy of the foregoing Resolution with its enclosure be furnished to the Mint Master, Assay Master, Accountant General & Chamber of Commerce

To Mint Master
Assay Master
Accountant General
Chamber of Commerce

Despd 26/9

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Financial Dept. Resolution
From
Secretary to Govt of India
Financial Dept.
No 2253.
Dated 22d September 1868.

Communicates Resolution directing the addition of Bromine to the Standard of Coinage
Calcutta Mint
To 456
Fort William 30th Sept 1868

Rec'd 7/9
Ans'd 7/9
Ack'd 8/9