M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 22

(2) Date of repair 3-8-39

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 46 Press / Mis.

Dated 24—1— 1865.

67-69 11/12

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
24th January 1865.

Read the following papers :—

No. 67. From E. H. LUSHINGTON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India ; to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Fort William, the 13th December 1864, No. 3482. 3842

Financial Department.

In reply to your letter, No. 584, dated the 25th November 1864, I am desired to state, for the information of the Government of Madras, that, judging from the practice in the Calcutta Mint, the Governor General in Council is of opinion, that the work of assaying in the Madras Mint might be done by one officer; but whilst it is advisable that some arrangement should be made to supply the occasional absence of the Assay Master from duty, this should not be done by keeping a second highly paid officer for whom there is not full employment.

2. I am accordingly to request, that you will be good enough to move His Excellency the Governor in Council to favor this Government with his opinion on the feasibility of abolishing the appointment of Assistant Assay Master.

Referred to the Mint Master for report, in communication with the Assay Master.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

4th January 1865.

No. 68. From Lieutenant Colonel J. CARPENDALE, R. E., Mint Master, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Mint, 11th January 1865, No. 309.

I have the honor to return the letter as per margin, forwarded to me for report, in communication with the Assay Master, whose opinion on the subject is contained in the accompanying copy of a letter from him, No, 278, 6th instant.

No. 3842, 13th December 1864, from the Government of India.

2. I do not concur in the Assay Master's opinion that the undivided services of two officers are requisite in the Assay Department ; but I certainly consider, and as indeed is admitted by the Government of India, that provision for the immediate discharge of the duties of the Assay Office at all times is necessary ; neither can I disregard the weight which the Assay Master attaches to the large influx of Bullion at times, and the necessity, on other considerations, for his being provided with an Assistant of suitable attainments : and seeing that a thorough practical knowledge of this particular branch of Chemistry is confined to a limited number of Medical Officers in the service of Government, no other mode of attaining this object occurs to me than the continuance of the system, which, with slight interruption, has prevailed in Madras for some years ; viz., that the appointment should be held in conjunction with some other situation at the Presidency filled by Medical men, as in the case of the late Assistant Assay Master, Doctor A. Scott, who was also Chemical Examiner for several years, and again in the case of Doctor W. Aitken, who was for some time, and is now again Superintendent of the Lying-in-Hospital, and Officiating Assistant Assay Master.

3. It is not within my province to express an opinion whether it may be at all times feasible to obtain among the Medical Staff at the Presidency one duly qualified, and whose duties are not incompatible with the devotion of a portion of his time to the Assay Office ; but, whenever such a measure is practicable, I would certainly recommend it, in preference to debiting the Mint with the cost of an Officer exclusively for the duty of Assistant Assay Master, and which under the recent rules for regulating the salaries of Medical Officers, would be a considerable sum under the head of Military pay, in addition to the Staff salary of Rupees 350 referred to by the Assay Master.

4. I must observe, however, that the allowance at present drawn by Doctor Aitken, the Superintendent of the Lying-in-Hospital, for officiating as Assistant Assay Master, viz., 70 Rupees a month, is altogether inadequate and unsuitable, and I would propose that when the office is held in conjuction with another one, the remuneration for the supplemental duty of Assistant Assay Master should be 350 Rupees a month.

From G. J. SHAW, Esq., M. D., Assay Master ; to Lieutenant Colonel J. CARPENDALE, R. E., Mint Master ; dated 6th January 1865, No. 278.

In reply to your letter, No. 302, dated 5th instant, requesting my opinion as to the proposal to abolish the appointment of Assistant Assay Master, I have the honor to state that I consider it highly inexpedient to do so, for the following reasons :—

1st.—In the event of the Assay Master being absent from sickness or any other cause, most

serious inconvenience would be occasioned, were there no qualified officers to perform without delay his responsible duties, both as regards the coinage, and the valuation of Merchants' Bullion:

2nd.—The duties which have hitherto been assigned to the Assistant Assay Master in the Madras Mint could not be performed by the Assay Master without overtasking that officer's powers, and comprise those which are performed in the Calcutta Mint by a trained Superintendent of the Laboratory on a salary of Rupees 400 per mensem, in addition to the aid afforded by the Deputy Assay Master.

3rd.—Although the work in the Madras Mint fluctuates to a greater extent than in the other Mints, where the influx of Bullion is more steady, there is frequently sufficient work to keep two Officers constantly employed, and there are also duties connected with the testing of weights and measures, in addition to the work af Assaying, which require competent supervision, and which would greatly interfere with the proper duties of the Assay Master, had he no qualified and responsible assistant to undertake them.

4th.—The Staff salary attached to the office of Assistant Assay Master is only Rupees 350 per mensem, so that it is barely sufficient to secure the services of qualified officers of any standing, or who have not their means increased by holding additional appointments, which I regard as an objectionable arrangement, calculated to interfere with the due performance of the duties of the Assay Office. The only other Assistants in the Madras Establishment are Natives, upon very small wages, the highest being only 30 Rupees per mensem.

2. I trust, therefore, that you will concur with me as to the propriety of maintaining the Office of Assistant Assay Master, which, from my experience, is absolutely essential to the efficiency of the Assay Department of this Mint.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. CARPENDALE,
Mint Master.

No. 69. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, dated Fort Saint George, 24th January 1865, No. 46.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 13th ultimo, calling for the opinion of this Government as to the feasibility of abolishing the appointment of Assistant Assay Master, I am directed to submit, for the consideration of the Governor General in Council, the annexed copies of etters from the Mint Master, and Assay Master, submitting their views on the proposal.

2. It will be seen that both these officers deprecate the abolition of the appointment of Assistant Assay Master, on the ground that, in the absence of the Assay Master from sickness or any other cause, most serious inconvenience would be occasioned, if there were no qualified officer to perform, without delay, his responsible duties, both as regards the coinage and the valuation of Merchants' Bullion; the only other Assistants in the Madras establishment being Natives on very small wages.

3. The Mint Master differs from the Assay Master as to the inexpediency of allowing the Assistant Assay Mastership to be held by an Officer holding other appointments. The decision of this question must, of course, depend upon the nature of the duties attached to such appointments; and as regards the present incumbent, Dr. Aitkin, the Governor in Council is satisfied that it is impossible for him to attend at the Mint, without prejudice to his important duties as Superintendent of the Lying-in-Hospital, and Professor of Midwifery in the Medical College.

4. But His Excellency in Council agrees with Colonel Carpendale, and Dr. Shaw, that the Assay Master ought not to be left without an Assistant. It would be impossible to arrange, without prejudice to the Public service, that one of the other Medical officers holding an appointment at the Presidency shall invariably be an officer who understands Assaying; and unless this were done, serious inconvenience would inevitably result, whenever the Assay Master might be obliged suddenly to absent himself from his duties.

5. I am, therefore, directed to request that, in the event of the Supreme Government considering that Dr. Aitken would be too highly paid as Assistant Assay Master, if he were allowed to draw the present Military pay and allowances of his rank, in addition to the Staff salary of Rupees 350 per mensem, hitherto assigned to the Assistant Assay Mastership, another Officer may be appointed. The only officer available in this Presidency is Assistant Surgeon Busteed, Civil Surgeon of Cuddalore.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

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No. 278.

Fort St. George,
Assay Office.
6th January 1865.

From
G. I. Shaw Esqre M.D.
Assay Master

To Lieut. Colo. J. Carpendale R.E.
Mint Master

Sir,

In reply to your letter No. 302 dated 5th Instant, requesting my opinion as to the proposal to abolish the appointment of Assistant Assay Master, I have the honor to state, that I consider it highly inexpedient to do so for the following reasons.

1st In the event of the Assay Master being absent from sickness or any other cause, most serious inconvenience would be occasioned, were there no qualified Officers to perform without delay his responsible duties, both as regards the Coinage and the valuation of Merchants' Bullion.

2d The duties which have hitherto been assigned to the Assistant Assay Master in the Madras Mint could not be performed by the Assay Master without

without overtasking that Officer's powers, and comprised those which are performed in the Calcutta Mint by a trained Superintendent of the Laboratory on a salary of Rs. 400 per Mensem, in addition to the aid afforded by the Deputy Assay Master.

3d. Although the work in the Madras Mint fluctuates to a greater extent than in the other Mints, where the influx of Bullion is more steady, there is frequently sufficient work to keep two Officers constantly employed and there are also duties connected with the testing of Weights and Measures in addition to the work of assaying, which require competent supervision and which would greatly interfere with the proper duties of the Assay Master, had he no qualified and responsible Assistant to undertake them.

4th. The staff salary attached to the Office of Assistant Assay Master is only Rs. 350 per Mensem, so that it is barely sufficient to secure the services of qualified Officers of any standing or who have not their means increased by holding additional

appointments

appointments, which I regard, as an objectionable arrangement, calculated to interfere with the due performance of the duties of the Assay Office. The only other Assistants in the Madras Establishment are Natives, upon very small wages, the highest being only 30 Rs. per Mensem.

I trust therefore, that you will concur with me as to the propriety of maintaining the Office of Assistant Assay Master, which from my experience, is absolutely essential to the efficiency of the Assay department of this Mint.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your most obedient Servt.
(Signed) G. J. Shawlr. &
Assay Master

(True Copy)
J. Grimwade
Mint Master

No. 309.

Fort St. George,
Mint, 11th January 1865.

From

Lieut.-Colo. J. Carpendale R.E.
Mint Master

To The Chief Secretary
to Government.

Sir,

Para 1. I have the honor to return
the letter as per margin forwarded
No. 3842 13th Dec. 1864 from the Govt. of India. to me for report in communication
with the Assay Master whose opinion
on the subject is contained in the ac-
-companying Copy of a letter from
him No. 278 6th instant.

2. I do not concur in the Assay
Master's opinion that the undivided
services of two officers are requisite
in the Assay Department, but I
certainly consider, and as indeed is
admitted by the Government of
India, that provision for the
immediate discharge of the duties

of

F. S. No. 16

of the Afsay Office at all times is neceſsary; neither can I disregard the weight which the Afsay Master attaches to the large influx of bullion at times, and the neceſsity on other considerations for his being provided with an Afsistant of suitable attainments, and seeing that a thorough practical Knowledge of this particular branch of Chemistry is confined to a limited number of Medical Officers in the service of Government, no other mode of attaining this object occurs to me than the continuance of the system which with slight interruption has prevailed in Madras for some years; Viz.: that the Appointment should be held in conjunction with some other situation at the Presidency filled by Medical Men as in the case of the late Afsistant Afsay Master Doctor A Scott who was also Chemical Examiner for

for several years; and again in the case of Doctor W. Aitken who was for some time and is now again Superintendent of the Lying in Hospital and Officiating Afsistant Afsay Master.

3. It is not within my province to expreſs an opinion whether it may be at all times feasible to obtain among the Medical staff at the Presidency one duly qualified, and whose duties are not incompatible with the devotion of a portion of his time to the Afsay Office, but wherever such a measure is practicable, I would certainly recommend it in preference to debiting the Mint with the cost of an Officer esclusively for the duty of Afsistant Afsay Master and which under the recent rules for regulating the salaries of Medical Officers would be a considerable sum under the head of Military Pay in addition to the staff salary of Rs. 350 referred to by the Afsay Master.

I

4. I must observe however that the allowance at present drawn by Doctor Aitken the Superintendent of the Lying in Hospital for officiating as Assistant Assay Master, Viz.t 70 Rupees a Month, is altogether inadequate and unsuitable, and I would propose that when the Office is held in conjunction with another one the remuneration for the supplementab duty of Assistant Assay Master should be 350 Rupees a Month.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servt.,

J. Grandall
Mint Master

No. 3842.

To,
The Chief Secretary to the Government of
Madras.

Financial Deptt. Sir,

In reply to your letter No. 584 dated the 25th November 1864, I am desired to state for the information of the Government of Madras, that, judging from the practice in the Calcutta Mint, the Governor General in Council is of opinion, that the work of assaying in the Madras Mint might be done by one officer, but whilst it is advisable that some arrangement should be made to supply the occasional absence of the Assay Master from duty, this should not be done by keeping a second highly paid officer for whom there is not full employment.

2 I am accordingly to request, that you will be good enough to move His Excellency the Governor in Council to favor this Government with his opinion on the feasibility of abolishing the appointment of Assistant Assay Master.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant,

Fort William
The 13th December 1864.

Ed. H. Lushington
Secy. to the Govt of India.

x2 D.C. 12/12

Financial
1865 Departt.
Assay
The Mint Master
No 40 The Chief Secretary to Govt
to Govt
Mad. & Ports
Dated 11th January 1865
Rec'd 13th
No 399
Requests that the undivided services of two Officers is not necessary in the Assay Dept. but provision should be made for securing the services of one Officer duly qualified as Assistant with an Allowance of Rs. 350 instead of Rs. 570 per annum.

Rec'd 16th Jan'y 1865

21 Jan'y 1865 No 68

68

65-69

desp 25/

Financial Department.

No. 46

To

The Secretary to the Government
of India.

Financial Department.

Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 13th ultimo, calling for the opinion of this Govt as to the feasibility of abolishing the appointment of Assistant Assay Master, I am directed to submit, for the consideration of the Governor General in Council, the annexed Copies of letters from the Mint Master, and Assay Master, submitting their views on the proposal.

2. It will be seen that both these Officers deprecate the abolition of the appointment of Assistant Assay Master

Rs. 25th April 1863 - 42

Financial Dept.

From The Secretary to the Govt of India

To The Secretary to the Govt of Bombay

No 58 dated 13th April 1863

Received 15th do

Forwarding Copies of letters from the Mint Master and Assay Master, submitting their views on the proposal for abolishing the appointment of Assistant Assay Master.

Rs. 600

Fs. 16

Recd 13th Apl 1863

Read 25th do

Ans. 28th do

No. 46.

Master, on the ground that, in the absence of the Assay Master from sickness or any other cause, most serious inconvenience would be occasioned, if there were no qualified officer to perform, without delay, his responsible duties, both as regards the Coinage and the Valuation of Merchants' Bullion; the only other Assistants in the Madras Establishment being Natives on very small wages.

3. The Mint Master differs from the Assay Master as to the inexpediency of allowing the Assistant Assay Mastership to be held by an officer holding other appointments. The decision of this question must, of course, depend upon

upon the nature of the duties attached to such appointments; and as regards the present incumbent, Dr. Aitken, the Governor in Council is satisfied that it is impossible for him to attend at the Mint without prejudice to his important duties as Supt. of the Lying-in-Hospital and Professor of Midwifery in the Medical College.

4. That His Excellency in Council agrees with Colonel Carpendale and Dr. Shaw that the Assay Master ought not to be left without an Assistant. It would be impossible to arrange without prejudice to the public service, that the one of the other Medical

Officers

Officers holding an appointment at the Presidency shall invariably be an Officer who understands Assaying; and unless this were done, serious inconvenience would inevitably result whenever the Assay Master might be obliged suddenly to absent himself from his duties.

5. I am therefore directed to request that in the event of the Supreme Govt. considering that Dr. Aitken would be too highly paid as Assistant Assay Master, if he were allowed to draw the present Military pay and allowances of his rank, in addition to the staff salary of Rs. 350 per

mensem

mensem hitherto assigned to the Asstt. Assay Mastership, another Officer may be appointed. The only Officer available in this Presidency is Asstt. Surgeon Twaites, Civil Surgeon of Cuddalore.

Fort Saint George
24th January 1864

Rd. 28th 1/64
Hawkins
Ft. St. Geo.

Financial 1865. Department.

No. 46.

To
The Secretary to the
Govt of India

Dated 24th January 1865.

Certain proposals submitted for the consideration of the Government of India with reference to the proposed abolition of the Assistant Assay Mastership.

67 @ 69.