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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 675-676 Press / Mis.

50-52

Dated 25-10- 18

676

50-52

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 50. Read the following letter from Assistant Surgeon H. E. BUSTEED, M. D., Acting Assay Master, to the Mint Master ; dated Madras, 15th October 1867, No. 98.

In accordance with the Government Order, dated 8th October, directing me to submit through you such suggestions as I may have to offer in regard to the measures to be taken for introducing the Chloride process of assay into this Mint, I beg to observe as follows :

The chief difference of any importance between the establishment recommended by me and that suggested by the Calcutta Assay Master is that, while I (adopting Dr. Shaw's views) made the increase of salaries immediate, he makes them prospective.

Acting on this principle, I now beg to submit a modified estimate* of establishment, which will be seen to differ but little practically from that suggested by the Calcutta Assay Master, and which will, I think, fairly meet the end in view.

* Vide Appendix A.

2. The cost of the present establishment, it will be seen, is Rupees 484½ monthly, while that of the one with which I propose to *start* the new process will be Rupees 491½ ; to this there will, after two years' work and experience, be a monthly increase of Rupees 30, and after six years a monthly increase of Rupees 80. In general terms, the cost of the establishment some years hence, at its highest contemplated point, will be Rupees 591½.

3. The only additional Assistant that I estimated for is a Laboratory Apprentice ; for the reasons urged in my letter of the 7th March, I think it essential that there should be some one training up in the office to succeed to the two higher posts. The Calcutta Assay Master, I observe, says nothing about a prospective increment to the apprentice's pay, but I very much doubt that the class of lad which I think ought to be in the Laboratory can be had in Madras for a *fixed* salary of Rupees 25 ; without a trifling yearly increase, it is highly probable that he would seek more remunerative employment, after we had the trouble of teaching him, and he was just about to become useful.

4. The present Maistry Fireman gets Rupees 28 monthly, but he is old and infirm, and is desirous of getting his pension. His successor's pay under the proposed arrangement, will only be Rupees 15, as the furnace work will be very much diminished.

5. Since my letter of the 7th March last, recommending the introduction, I have taken every opportunity in my power of employing the subordinates at the Chloride process, confirming our results by our ordinary routine of cupellation assays ; and I am glad to say that all have shown considerable aptitude for the delicate manipulation—indeed, two or three of the seniors are already so familiar with the laboratory work that I anticipate very little trouble in the complete introduction. The chief precaution necessary will be to advance slowly—sudden changes are not judicious, especially where one is working much with Native Agency. I propose then first to report the public silver (ingots for coinage) by the Chloride process, and then gradually, when greater dexterity and quickness are attained, the coins and the merchants' bullion, till finally (probably in six months) we will be able to dispense altogether with the old dry method.

6. I still adhere to my former suggestion (which I observe is also urged by the Calcutta Assay Master) that some suitable person should be sent up from here to the Calcutta Mint. I again recommend that Mr. John Duarte, the present Manager of the Assay Office, be deputed, I cannot say to "learn" the mode of Assay which prevails there, because he has learned it already, but to see it worked on a large scale : it is an opportunity which it would be injudicious not to avail ourselves of.

7. Owing to Mr. Duarte's knowledge of the process already, I think five or six weeks stay at the Calcutta Mint would be ample opportunity for him, and that his absence from his duties here need not exceed two months in all. I think in January next, on the opening of the Calcutta Mint after the Christmas holidays, would be the best time for him to commence his stay there. Should Government be pleased to concur in my views on this point, I beg that leave of absence on full pay

for two months, with a free passage by the first opportunity in January (and free return passage also), be granted him.

8. I anticipate little or no increase of expense on the score of apparatus, as we are already very fairly provided.

APPENDIX A.

Assay Office.

Present Scale.				Proposed Scale.				Increase per month.		
	RS.	A.	P.		RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
1 Head Accountant and Manager	200	0	0	1st Assistant and Head Accountant	a200	0	0			
1 Deputy do.	70	0	0	2nd do. and Deputy do.	b 70	0	0			
1 Writer	30	0	0	Head Writer	30	0	0			
1 Do.	25	0	0	2nd do.	25	0	0			
1 Do.	14	0	0	3rd do.	14	0	0			
1 Moochie	12	0	0	Moochie	12	0	0			
3 Peons, 7 Rupees each	21	0	0	3 Peons, 7 Rupees each	21	0	0			
1 Superintendent of Musters	30	0	0	Head Weighing man, or Superintendent of Musters	c 35	0	0			
1 Assistant do.	15	0	0	Assistant do.	15	0	0			
1 Head Fireman	28	0	0	Apprentice	d 25	0	0			
1 First Assistant	10	0	0	1 Laboratory man and Fireman	15	0	0			
1 Second do.	8	0	0	2nd do.	8	0	0			
1 Third do.	7	0	0	3rd do.	7	0	0			
1 Flattening man	10	0	0	Hammerman	10	0	0			
1 Sweeper	3	8	0	Sweeper	3	8	0			
1 Scavenger	1	0	0	Scavenger	1	0	0			
Total...	484	8	0	Total...	491	8	0	7	0	0

a.—Rising by increase of *Rupees* 10 *monthly every second year to* 250 *Rupees.*

b.—Rising as above *to* 100 *Rupees.*

c.—This man's work will be much increased ; he is, moreover, an old and hard working servant—hence, the suggested *increase of* 5 *Rupees.*

d.—Rising by increase of *Rupees* 5 *monthly every year to* 45 *Rupees.*

(Signed) H. E. BUSTEED,
Acting Assay Master.

Submitted to Government for sanction, in accordance with Order in the Financial Department, No. 454, 8th October 1867.

(Signed) J. CARPENDALE,
Mint Master.

15*th October* 1867.

No 51. ORDER THEREON, 28th October 1867, No 475.

The Governor in Council resolves to sanction the establishment proposed by the Officiating Assay Master for introducing the Chloride process of assay in the Mint at Madras, and directs that the process be carried out in the manner suggested by Dr. Busteed in the 5th paragraph of the foregoing letter.

2. It is observed that the additional cost of the establishment for the present will not exceed seven Rupees per mensem, while the ultimate increase, in consequence of annual increments to the salaries of the Head Accountant and Manager, Deputy Accountant, and Apprentice, will be Rupees 107, and the aggregate cost of the whole office establishment will be eventually raised from Rupees 484½ to Rupees 591½ per mensem.

	RS.
Present	484½
Proposed...	491½
Rupees...	7

3. The Governor in Council approves of Dr. Busteed's proposition to send Mr. Duarte, the Manager of his Office, to Calcutta, in January next, to observe the working of the Chloride process of assay on an extended scale in the Mint there. Mr. Duarte will draw his full salary during his absence from Madras, and will be provided with a free passage to and from Calcutta.

4. A copy of these Proceedings will be transmitted to the Government of India, in reference to their Secretary's letter, dated the 17th ultimo, No. 2586.

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

No. 52. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, dated Fort Saint George, 28th October 1867, No. 476.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 17th ultimo, No. 2586, forwarding copy of a letter from the Officiating Assay Master of the Calcutta Mint, on the advisability of introducing the Chloride process of assay in the Madras Mint, and requesting that this Government may be moved to carry out that Officer's recommendations, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to enclose copy of a letter from the Officiating Assay Master of the Madras Mint, and of the Orders passed thereon, sanctioning the establishment necessary for introducing the Chloride process of assay, and directing that the process be carried out in the manner suggested in the 5th paragraph of Dr. Busteed's letter.

Proceedings, dated 28th October 1867, Nos. 50 & 51.

2. As shown in paragraph 2 of the Orders of this Government, the additional cost of the establishment for the present will not exceed seven Rupees per mensem, to be increased eventually, by annual increments to certain servants specified, to Rupees 107, when the aggregate cost of the whole Office Establishment will be raised from Rupees 484½ to Rupees 591½ per mensem.

3. It will be seen that this Government has approved of Dr. Busteed's proposition to send the Manager of his Office to Calcutta, in January next, in order that he may have an opportunity of observing the working of the Chloride process of assay on an extended scale in the Mint there.

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

Exd. J. H. Burns.

dated 31/10

51.

Financial Department.

No. 476

To

The Secretary to the Government
of India,
Financial Department.

Sir,

I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th ultimo, No 2586, forwarding copy of a letter from the Offg Assay Master of the Calcutta Mint, on the advisability of introducing the Chloride process of Assay in the Madras Mint, and requesting that this Government may be moved to carry out that officer's recommendations, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to enclose copy of a letter from the Offg

Rec'd 28th October by Nos 50-51.

Offg Assay Master of the Madras Mint, and of the orders passed thereon, sanctioning the establishment necessary for introducing the Chloride process of Assay, and directing that the process be carried out in the manner suggested in the 5th paragraph of Dr Busteed's letter.

2. As shown in paragraph 2 of the Orders of this Government the additional cost of the establishment for the present will not exceed Seven Rupees per mensem, to be increased eventually, by annual increments to certain servants specified, to Rs 107, when the aggregate cost of the whole Office Establishment will be raised from Rs 484½ to Rs 591½ per mensem.

3. It will be seen that this Government has approved of Dr Busteed's proposition to send the Manager of this Office to Calcutta, in January next, in order that he may have an opportunity of observing the working of the Chloride process on an extended scale in the Mint there.

Lt Col Yeatman
28 Oct 67

7x

Financial 1868 Depart.t

No 1076

To

Secy. for Ind. of India

Fin.l Depart.t

Dated 28th October 68

H. No 625

Fin.l Let. to Engd 21st March 1868 No 7

Replied to 7th May No 51 of 1868

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