M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 10.

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(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 85	Press / Mis.
51-52.	
Dated 18-2-	1868.

51-52 6/7

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No 51. Read the following letter from Mr. T. E. SCRIVEN, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Madras, 12th February 1868.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the Order of Government, No. 66, dated the 10th instant, on my letter of the 30th December last, addressed to the Right Honorable the Governor.

2. I beg most respectfully to solicit a re-consideration of my case, and although Government may be unable to bestow on me an appointment in the Assay Department of the Madras Mint, I humbly hope that a small remuneration may be given me for my past services.

3. In my letter I avoided asking a remuneration for my services because I firmly believed that there would be no barrier to His Lordship conferring on me the appointment I sought, as the Civil salary of the Assistant Assay Master is Rupees 350, which sum is only 50 Rupees more than what I drew at the Mint, and the pay I now draw as Assistant to the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

4. I ventured to apply for the appointment because when the Government of India first proposed that the Calcutta system of assaying should be introduced into the Madras Mint, I was considered fit to proceed to Calcutta, and on my return arrangements were completed to begin the work, and although more than ten years have elapsed the old system has not been set aside. The readiness on my part to meet the wishes of Government has been without the smallest recompense.

5. I have served Government upwards of twenty years, and in all that period I have never been able, at any time, to avail myself of the privilege allowed to its servants of a month's leave in each year. Whenever the work in the Mint required my presence, I have attended extra hours, and during the authorized holidays, and even when ill-health required some respite from labor I had to attend to duty. I have attended to processes in coinage acknowledged to be deleterious, and which from the nature of the appointment I held I could have avoided ; and simply because I was not in immediate charge of any working department, but at the Head of the Mint Office establishment, I was precluded from drawing extra pay similar to Superintendents and others. Had I been allowed to claim extra salary for extra hours attendance I should have drawn in the aggregate a large sum of money amounting to some thousands of Rupees, as others have had the good fortune to do, but my sole aim in the Mint was to devise means to increase the outturn of work in every department, and to save expenditure to Government ; and I now humbly appeal to His Lordship in Council for a gratuity for my past services.

6. In my letter to His Lordship I have offered to improve the weighing machines which are constructed at the Mint for the Salt Department, as well as the presses for bi-colored stamps for the Stamp Department ; and as this has been overlooked, I beg leave to offer the following explanation.

7. From the time of Colonel Bell, Mint Master (1856), various experiments were made to construct a balance to weigh salt. In 1859-60 a machine made at Bombay was sent to the Mint in order that it might be adopted as a pattern, and a large number of machines were made up with some of the parts modified, and on a larger scale, and supplied to the several salt dôpots ; and after repeated trials, the machines were found to be perfectly useless, as I have before stated ; and it was not till the combined efforts of the mechanical establishment at the Mint had failed, and it was declared that nothing more could be done towards perfecting these machines, that I thought it my duty to see if I could discover the defects and save Government the heavy loss which must have followed the condemnation of these machines.

8. With Colonel Carpendale's permission I have done as much as I could to make these machines useful ; but from the style of their construction, I do not consider them adapted for the salt department :—1st. From the steel working parts being exposed to the injurious effects of salt. 2nd. The machines are not easily portable. 3rd. From unavoidable complication in their construction, they are easily liable to derangement. 4th. The constant expenditure to keep them in order, and which can only be done by Artificers specially trained.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
18th February 1868.

9. In regard to the presses for bi-colored stamps, I beg to state that the arrangements in it have been made up after the most careful consideration of the nature and skill of the men who were to work them. They are so simple that the ordinary workmen of the Mint can with ease fit and keep them in order.

10. In the press originally designed, the mode of giving the impression was quite different to what it is at present; the rollers or cylinders now used for working I substituted at the suggestion of the late Colonel Temple, Superintendent of Stamps; the rollers are much simpler but not so effective.

11. It is possible to make up cheap and suitable salt balances, and to correct the stamping presses so as to obtain a larger outturn of work from them and at reduced expenditure.

12. It was my intention while I was at the Mint to have proposed the construction of a revolving press to be put in motion by steam, with from four to six sets of plates and capable of turning out 10,000 sheets or 30,000 stamps daily. A press of this description complete could be made up at the Mint for about 2500 Rupees, but an Engineer with a high salary will be required, as it is in Calcutta, to supervise the work.

13. Begging that I may be pardoned for thus taking up the time of Government. I remain, &c.

No. 52. ORDER THEREON, 18th February 1868, No. 85.

The Government decline to comply with Mr. Scriven's application for a gratuity.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To Mr. T. E. Scriven, Madras.

Exd. T. Cartledge.

X 5

To

The Honorable R. V. Ellis
Chief Secretary to
Government
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the order of Government No. 66 dated the 10th Instant on my letter of the 20th December last addressed to the Right Honorable the Governor.

I beg most respectfully to solicit a reconsideration of my case, and although Government may be unable to bestow on me an appointment in the Agency Department of the Madras Mint, I humbly hope that a small remuneration may be given me for my past services.

In my letter I avoided asking a remuneration for my services because I firmly believed

believed that there would be no barrier to his Lordship conferring on me the appointment I sought, as the civil salary of the Assistant Assayer at Madras is Rupees 350, which sum is only 50 Rupees more than what I drew at the Mint, and the pay I now draw as Assistant to the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

I ventured to apply for the appointment because when the Government of India first proposed that the Calcutta system of assaying should be introduced into the Madras Mint, I was considered fit to proceed to Calcutta, and on my return arrangements were completed to begin the work, and although more than ten years have elapsed the old system has not been set aside. The readiness on my part to meet the wishes of Government has been without the smallest recompense.

I have served Government upwards of twenty years, and in all that

period

period I have never been able, at any time, to avail myself of the privilege allowed to its servants of a months leave in each year. Whenever the work in the Mint required my presence I have attended extra hours, and during the authorized holidays, and even when ill health required some respite from labour I had to attend to duty. I have attended to processes in coinage acknowledged to be deleterious, and which from the nature of the appointment I held I could have avoided, and simply because I was not in immediate charge of any working department, but at the head of the Mint office establishment I was precluded from drawing extra pay similar to Superintendents and others. Had I been allowed to claim extra salary for extra hours attendance I should have drawn in the aggregate a large sum of

money

money amounting to some thousands of Rupees as others have had the good fortune to do, but my sole aim in the Mint was to devise means to increase the outturn of work in every department and to save expenditure to Government, and I now humbly appeal to his Lordship in Council for a gratuity for my past services.

In my letter to his Lordship I have offered to improve the weighing machines which are constructed at the Mint for the salt department, as well as the presses for bicolored stamps for the stamp department, and as this has been overlooked I beg leave to offer the following explanation.

From the time of Colonel Bell Mint Master (1856) various ex=periments were made to construct a balance to weigh salt. In 1859/60 a machine made at Bombay was sent to the mint in order that it might be adopted as a pattern, and a large number of machines were made up with some of the parts mo=dified, and on a larger scale, and supplied to the several salt depôts, and after repeated trials, the machines were found to be perfectly useless as I have before stated; and it was not till the combined efforts of the me=chanical establishment at the mint had failed and it was declared that nothing more could be done towards perfecting these machines that I thought it my duty to see if I could discover the defects and save Government the heavy loss which must have followed the condemnation of these machines.

With Colonel Carpendale's permission I have done as much as I could to make these machines useful, but from the

the style of their construction I do not consider them adapted for the salt depart=ment. 1st From the steel working parts being exposed to the injurious effects of salt. 2nd The machines are not easily portable. 3d From unavoidable compli=cation in their construction they are easily liable to derangement. 4th The constant expenditure to keep them in order, and which can only be done by artificers specially trained.

In regard to the presses for bicolored stamps I beg to state that the arrangements in it have been made up after the most careful consideration of the nature and skill of the men who were to work them. They are so simple that the ordinary workmen of the mint can with ease fit and keep them in order.

In the press originally de=signed the mode of giving the impression was

was quite different to what it is at present, the rollers or cylinders now used for working I substituted at the suggestion of the late Colonel Temple Superintendent of stamps, the rollers are much simpler but not so effective.

It is possible to make up cheap and suitable salt balances, and to correct the stamping presses so as to obtain a larger outturn of work from them and at reduced expenditure.

It was my intention while I was at the mint to have proposed the construc=tion of a revolving press to be put in motion by steam, with from four to six sets of plates and capable of turning out 10,000 sheets or 20,000 stamps daily. A press of this description complete could be made up at the mint for about 2,500 Rupees but an Engineer with a

U. S.

a high salary will be required as it is in Calcutta to supervise the work.

Begging that I may be pardoned for thus taking up the time of Government.

I remain
Sir,
Your obedient & humble Servant
J. E. Scriven

Madras
12th February
1868

Pro. of Govt.
Financial 1868 Dept.

From
Lt. J. E. Scriven

Dated 12 & Feby. 1868
Rec'd 13 Feby. 1868

No. 74

Under certain circumstances I consider it my duty to bring to notice, that I am a public servant.

Beg to remain Sir

Pro. 10th Feby 68 21-22

Leg 1868 No 85

The Government declines to comply with Mr Scriven's application for a gratuity.

To Mr J. E. Scriven.
Madras dept 22/2 10-13

57.52.