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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	Press / Mis.
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Dated 8-2-	18 69.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

6-10-37

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

No. 343.

FROM

R. A. DALYELL, ESQ.,
Acting Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
HOME DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

Referring to the Orders of the Government of India, dated the 30th June last, No. 1569, I am directed to transmit a copy of the Proceedings of this Government, which contain the measures proposed by the Mint Master, and approved of by the Governor in Council, for the closing of the Madras Mint, and for the disposal of the machinery and stores.

2. The establishment necessary for the Bullion Depôt, Paper Currency Office, and the Stamp Department, is also specified in the Proceedings.

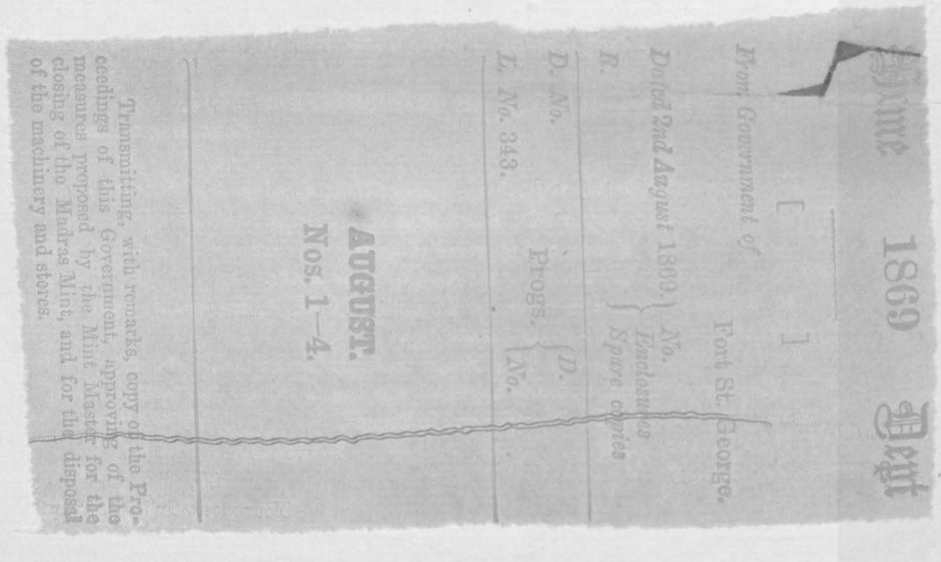
3. It will be seen that the Mint Master considers it absolutely necessary that an Assistant Assay Master should be immediately appointed, and I am to request that the matter may receive the early consideration of the Governor General in Council.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
2nd August 1869.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Actg. Secy. to Govt.

Rcd J. Wright



No 59 dated 10th March 1869

From The Government of India

To The Secretary of State for India

In forwarding the papers noted in the subjoined list relative to the abolition of the Madras Mint, we have the honor to observe that this subject was considered on two previous occasions when the Court of Directors hesitated to abolish the Madras Mint, chiefly from fear lest the Coining power of Calcutta & Bombay should prove insufficient for the supply of the Madras Presidency. This consideration has no longer any force, the power of the Mints at Bombay and Calcutta having been doubled in 1864 & 1865. There can be no doubt now that, with the rapidly extending Railway Communication the Coinage wants of Madras could be fully and promptly supplied by the other two Presidencies.

2. The expense needlessly incurred by the retention of the Madras Mint, is at least £10,000 a year. The local calculations which bring out an apparently different result, are based upon a fallacious estimate of profit from the Coinage of Copper In Madras, as indeed elsewhere, the Coinage of Copper of late years, has altogether exceeded the demand. The Mint profit on Copper coined but not cir=culated is of course wholly ficticious. The receipts from the Silver Coinage must also be excluded, for they ~~for they~~ would have been reaped at other Mints had there been no Mint at Madras.

3. It is shewn in the Memorandum annexed to the letter to the Mint Master Calcutta, No 2169 of 31st August 1868, and in his reply dated 30th Decr. 1868, that the additional Coinage of Silver to supply Madras would but imperceptibly, if at

all, increase the charges of the Calcutta Mint. so that almost the whole present charge for this Coinage in the Madras Mint is an unnecessary expense.

4 There is reason to believe that Silver Coined at the other Mints already finds its way in large quantities into the Madras Presidency in the ordinary course of trade and that the Coinage wants of that Presidency would be to a large extent supplied in this way were there no Mint. Indeed the importation of bullion into the Madras Presidency has fallen off consider=ably since the export trade has resumed its normal proportions after the inflation which followed in the Cotton trade upon the American War. There is no reason to anticipate any Considerable revival of such importations.

5. In order to reduce these importations as much as possible, we propose to ask your Grace to draw, so far as may be

economical

economical, more largely than heretofore on Madras. At present Madras provides annually about £400.000 for your bills and remits to Calcutta and Bombay about £700.000. If your drafts on Madras could be increased to about £1.000.000/ annually it would be very convenient to us in other respects, and would probably operate to a very great extent to prevent bullion importation.

6 Any bullion which notwithstanding these measures, may be imported into that Presidency, could be sufficiently provided for by the Establishment of a bullion depôt whence it could be despatched in due course to Calcutta or Bombay. It is not at all likely that its value would exceed the value of specie remittances now made, so that there would be no expense not incurred under the present arrangement. —

7 With the large and rapidly increasing trade of Rangoon, no inconvenience is felt there from the absence even of a bullion depot, and we incline to think that no such depôt will be permanently required at Madras. —

8 We are however of opinion that on the foregoing considerations a bullion depôt should be for the present substituted for the Madras Mint, and that this may be done with perfect convenience and safety. —

9 The Assay Master might have charge of both the bullion depot and the Department for the Issue of Paper Currency. He could take the latter duty as he would be relieved of his present assays of the alligations for the daily coinage, and of the pyx coins, and it would not be necessary to increase his fixed salary of Rupees 1500 monthly at all at first, though perhaps, if the permanent retention of the Bullion Depôt be deemed expedient, it might be desirable eventually to convert it into a progressive pay of Rupees 1500 rising to Rs. 1800 monthly. —

The

10 The miscellaneous work which is done at the Madras Mint can be separately pro= =vided for, the greater part, if not the whole of it, might be transferred to the Public Works work= =shop at Madras which would then prove & remunerative. It is not fully so at present.—

11 It would be desirable on financial grounds that your Grace should, if you approve of the measures herein proposed, communicate & your decision to us by telegraph.—

Financial No. 134

India office
London 20th May 1869.

To

His Excellency the Right Honorable the
Governor General of India in Council

My Lord,

1 I have considered in Council, your Financial letter dated the 10th March last No. 89, recommending that the Madras Mint be abolished, and that a Bullion Depôt be temporarily established in lieu thereof.—

your

9/4

2 You appear to have fully and carefully considered this question, and as you are of opinion that a saving of £ 10,000 per annum will be effected by the abolition of the Madras Mint, and that the Mints at Calcutta and Bombay are fully capable of executing the coinage for the whole of India, I sanction the measures which you propose.—

3 In regard to the establishment of a Bullion Depôt at Madras, great care must be taken that adequate provision is made to guard against any possibility of inconvenience arising to Merchants and others from & unnecessary delay in the exchange of Bullion for Coin.—

4 The question of increasing the & drawings on Madras will be replied to & separately.—

5 A copy of the telegram which was sent to you on the 17th Instant is forwarded herewith.—

I have &c.

(Signed) Argyll

No

No. 1569

4. Ordered that a copy of the foregoing be communicated to the Government of Madras with a request that measures may be taken for closing the Madras Mint, and that the Government of India may be favored with suggestions for the disposal of the Machinery and Stores of the Mint.—

2. Also that copies of the above papers be sent to the Mint Master Calcutta, with a request that he will report as to the disposal of the Madras Mint machinery and stores, and on the appointment of a Commissioner of Paper Currency to succeed Coll. Carpendale.—

Financial Departt.
Simla.
The 30 June 1869

W. Grey Secy.

A. Pratt Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Rec'd 8th July 1869
" 2nd " "
" 24th " "

Rec'd 8th July 1869
Financial Dept.
Simla Secretariat

Copies 30/6

5

Forwarded, with reference to G. C., dated the 2nd Ultimo No. 250, to Colonel Carpendale, Mint Master, Madras, on leave, for the submission of a further report on the closing of the Mint, and the disposal of the plant, machinery, &c., and for such observations as he may desire to offer.

Fort Saint George
14th July 1869

R. Ellis
Chief Secretary

To Colonel Carpendale on leave,
Neilgherry Hills. with Nos. to 250.

Desp. 14/7

No. 203. Coonoor July 21st 1869.

From Colonel L. Cadenhead R. E.
Mint Master

To the Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George.

13

Sir, 1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your docket of the 14th inst. forwarding Communication from the Government of India No. 1569 of 30th June, which conveys the Approval of the Secretary of State to the Abolition of the Madras Mint, and in which you call on me for a further Report on the closing of the Establishment, and for the disposal of the Stores and Machinery and Various I desire to offer.

Stores 2. All Stores except Copper for Coinage, will I believe be taken over by the Public Works Department and the Grand Arsenal as suggested in my letter No. 79 of 26th May last. The Slip Copper for Coinage which is ready packed and amounts to about 418,000 lbs I beg leave to recommend should be transferred to the Calcutta Mint, and the remainder of the Slip Copper be deposited in the Arsenal Madras for gradual Sale.
All Copper seized on hand, Scrap

Metal of all kinds, old tools, and sundry articles, had best be sold by auction at the Mint Gate.

Pig iron, Coke, and the large stock of foundry patterns, might with advantage be made over to the Public Works Department at Chapparah.

3. The several Machines belonging to the Workshops would be best disposed of by transfer to the D. P. W. Machinery,

The Ordnance Department have applied for a Steam Engine to work the Barrel making Machinery, and a Laminating Mill for rolling tin, but the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines has since informed me that he does not require the last named Machinery as some is being sent from England for his Department.

The Steam engine which he requires can be supplied - the other Steam engines had best remain as they are until required by other departments, or until Opportunity offers for their sale at fair rates. As regards the Coinage Machinery, I regret I am unable to suggest any satisfactory mode of disposing of it - the Calcutta and Bombay Mints have I think more Machinery than they require, and

as it is not adapted for any other purpose than Coining, I would recommend that it should be left standing.

4. All Coinage dies had best be immediately defaced. The Medal dies with our Stamping Press might be retained under charge of the Assay Master

5. In my letter quoted above, I informed Government that the cost of the establishment would be discharged on the 31st May. since then the Die Cutting Room establishment, and other Workmen who are finishing certain jobs, have been dismissed with the exception of what may be necessary for the Bullion depôt, namely:-

1. Acctt & Record Keeper on Rs.	100.0.0
1. Writer	30.0.0
1 Peon	7.0.0
2. Coolies for preserving Records	14.0.0
6 " for keeping the Coinage Machinery clean.	42.0.0
It will also be necessary to continue the Superintendent of the Mint Gate -	100.0.0
8 Sollahs or Watching Peons	89.0.0
Sweeper & Scavenger -	
For the Bullion depôt	
1. Melter	14.0.0
	396 0.0

		Rs. a. p.
1.	Asstt. Duftry	10. 8. 0
3.	Jemadarnen at Rs 9.	27. 0. 0
1.	Chickildar	8. 0. 0
3.	Coolies.	21. 0. 0
4.	Gollahs.	32. 0. 0
1.	Treasurer.	140. 0. 0
1.	Deputy Treasurer.	40. 0. 0

396
278. 8. 0
Rs 674 8

The two last named individuals hold the same positions in the Paper Currency Department on Rs 60 each; those small salaries having been granted on account of their holding the same office in the Mint. Less than their present incomes of Rs 200, and 100 respectively would be unsuitable considering the responsibility of their duties in the Paper Currency Department.

Paper Currency Office.

6. This Office has hitherto derived considerable aid from the Mint establishment. In consequence of the abolition of the Mint it will be necessary to increase the Paper Currency Office by two clerks one on 60 Rs, the other on 40 Rs a month, and it may prove necessary to increase the number of Gollahs, as in this respect also the Mint had assisted the Paper Currency Department.

Mint & Paper Department

7. Whether His Grace the Secretary of State, or the Government of India, notice the circumstance that in the Madras Presidency all paper yielding a revenue of 1 penny to 1 anna of duties is stamped in the Dept, and under, is stamped in the Dept, and the orders of Government regarding this department are therefore required. I may observe that it would be unsafe to execute the Stamping in any premises less Carefully guarded than the Mint is now. Whenever it may be decided to locate the department it will be necessary to maintain, in addition to the existing establishment,

one engine turner on Rs	50. 0. 0
	30. 0. 0
one file.	
one Jemadar & pair of bullocks.	

The engine turning Lathe used in use and a suitable supply of tools for repairing damages to the bi-colored and engraving Plates should also be retained. Workmen as required can be procured in the Market or obtained on application from the D. P. D.

I beg to draw the attention of Government to the great inconvenience which may arise

your leaving such important
interests as a Bullion Shop,
Assay Office, and Public Money
department, with only one Officer
on the premises, who may
any day be incapacitated by
illness for duty. The immediate
appointment of an Assistant
Assay Master, is, I consider,
an absolute necessity.
The documents which accompanied
your docket are herewith returned

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most Obedt. Servt.

H Grenfell
Dpt. Master.

Dept. Gazette Dec. No. 382

Financial Department

No. 343.

To

The Secretary to the Government
of India.
Home Department

Sir,

Referring to the Orders of the Government of India dated the 30th June last No 1569, I am directed to transmit a copy of the Proceedings of this Government, which contain the measures proposed by the Mint Master, and approved of by the Governor in Council, for the closing of the Madras Mint, and for the disposal of the machinery and stores.

2.

Fin. & Com. 1869 Dept.
Original No. 2 dated 2 July 1869
From The Mint Master
To The Chief Secretary
to Government
Rec'd 2 July 1869

No. 330 Dated 2 July 1869.

Submitted to Council, Called for in Communication from Govt. of India No. 1569 of 30th June, Consequent the withdrawal of the Mint Master from the abolition of the Madras Mint and the disposal of the Machinery and Stores.

Copy of the Proceedings of Council and for the disposal of the Machinery and Stores and Buildings.

The documents noted in accompanied the docket are herewith returned.

H. W. Elliott
Offg Mint Master

Fin. & Com. 1869 Dept.
No. 2 dated 10-7-69
From Govt. Madras
No. 714

2
2-8-69

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R 20/7
2.

2. The establishment necessary for the Bullion Depôt – Paper Currency Office and the Stamp Department is also specified in the Proceedings.

3. It will be seen that the Mint Master considers it absolutely necessary that an Assistant Assay Master should be immediately appointed, and I am to request that the matter may receive the early consideration of the Governor General in Council.

Fort St. Henry
2 Sept. 64

186 . Department.

No.

To

The Secretary to the
Government of

Department

Dated 186 .

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2.8.69.

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1-6-27 II

Date

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