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(1) Number of pages 1-18

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 161	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated 21 4	1871.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

A.P

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

No. 161.

FROM

W. HUDLESTON, ESQ.,

Acting Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

In acknowledging the receipt of Assistant Secretary Hollingbery's letter, No. 1417, of the 16th ultimo, in which the opinion of the Madras Government is requested on the subject of the arrangements which have been reported to the Government of India as having been made here for the custody of the coin and bullion of the Currency Department in consequence of the transfer of the management of that Department to the Account Department, I am directed to state that His Excellency the Governor in Council believes that the arrangements in question are perfectly satisfactory.

2. The whole of the coin and bullion is lodged in well-secured vaults, and the establishment, when the arrangements are completed, will be suitably accommodated in rooms well situated with reference to the Office of the Accountant-General and as respects the convenience of the public.

3. It would, no doubt, add to the completeness of the arrangements if the Assay Department could be located in the same building, but, unfortunately, no facilities for this exist, and, as there are obvious objections to the erection within the fortress of such furnaces as that Department requires for its operations, the Government are of opinion that such assays as are likely to be needed may safely be performed at the Medical College, which stands within a few hundred yards of the walls of the Fort, and contains the laboratory of the Chemical Examiner. When furnaces for conducting both assay and premelting operations have been built there, as they shortly will be, the Chemical Examiner will have all necessary appliances at his command for testing the quality of any quantity of bullion that is likely, for some time at least, to be tendered for coinage, and, as he will be within an easy distance of the Currency Office, there will be no difficulty, the Government think, in making arrangements for submitting to him musters of such parcels of precious metal as, having been tendered to that Department and lodged in its strong-room, require to be valued with the least possible delay.

4. Under these circumstances, the Government are of opinion that the arrangements which are being made for the accommodation of the Currency Department with its Bullion Reserve in the buildings in the Fort occupied by the Accountant-General, and for the transfer of the Assay Department to the Medical College, are, in all respects, the most suitable that can be at present adopted.

5. Should, however, imports of bullion increase to any considerable extent, it will then perhaps be necessary to transmit it, as received, to Bombay, for assay and coinage there.

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

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
21*st April* 1871.

Acting Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

1871.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

From

The Ag. Chief Secretary to Government,

Fort Saint George.

To

The Secretary to the Govt. of India,

Financial Department.

Dated 21st April 1871.

Recd. No. 161.

Enclosure.

Communicating the opinion of this Government as to the arrangements made consequent on the transfer of the Currency and Assay Departments to the Accountant-General and Chemical Examiner, respectively.

C 33

No. 1705.

Comptroller General's Office,
Central Accounts Branch,
Calcutta, the 22nd Feby 1871.

From

The Comptroller General of Accounts.

To

R. B. Chapman Esqre,
Offg Secretary to the Govt. of India
Financial Department.

Sir,

With reference to the concluding portion of the 10th paragraph of Resolution of Government No. 3168 of 31st August last, I have the honor to submit copy of a report, which I have received from the Accountant General, Madras, relative to the arrangements to be made for the custody of the coin and bullion of the Paper Currency Department at Madras.—

2. The proposal has been for some time before me, but without further enquiry, I had some hesitation in recommending it, since the effect of its adoption will be to remove the currency office from the town into the Fort. a change which would appear somewhat opposed to the convenience of the public.

3 On further enquiry however, I am satisfied that any inconvenience so occasioned will

will be very inconsiderable, while the plan offers many great and obvious advantages. I therefore on the whole recommend it for the sanction of Government.

4. It would appear from Mr. Sedwick's report that very ample accommodation is available on the lower floors of the accountant Generals office for the whole of the Paper Currency Establishment it is probable that room could also be found for the assay operations of the Chemical Examiner - if possible, it would be very advisable that this should be done, since the silver submitted to him for assay will require a secure place of deposit and will in all probability for the most part be transferred as soon as assayed to the Paper Currency Department - If the two offices are in the same building, one treasurer may suffice for both, - and indeed with the small amount of work - expected in the assay office, it may be doubted whether any special establishment need be maintained solely for its duties -

5. A special report upon this letter subject is submitted today to Government.

I have &c.

Sd/ C. F. Harrison.

Comptroller General -

No 3861.

3/53

Fort Saint George.
Accountant Generals Office,
24th September 1870.

From,

The Offg Accountant General,
to the Government of Madras.

To,

The Comptroller General of Accounts
Calcutta.

Sir,

In reply to your letter No 916 of the 7th instant,
I have now the honor to report as follows:—

2. Just before Mr Lushington went on leave, I brought to his notice a certain portion of the basement of this office which appeared to me admirably adapted for the purpose of a receptacle for Treasure if fitted with a door and filled in with masonry at the sides -

3. Mr Lushington examined this place, and, approving of the suggestion, invited Colt Orr of the Engineers to inspect it and give an opinion on its suitability as a Treasure room. -

4. That Officer said that it would suit admirably, but that for perfect protection against thieves it would be as well that ~~wood~~ iron plating should be screwed on to the roof and floor -

5 Accordingly, application has been made

made to Government for the conversion of this Vault into a Treasury, and, as it is capable of holding 60 lacks or more of Treasure, the chief difficulty connected with the transfer of the currency Commissioner's Department to this Office which consisted in discovering a means of safely disposing of the Currency reserve in a place convenient for the despatch of business, has been removed, — and I now see nothing to prevent the location of the whole currency reserve in this office within a couple of months time.

6. The currency reserve in coin now consists of Rs. 55,38,786 of which Rs. 54,30,646 is kept by Dr. Bellew in the Treasure vaults of the Mint, while there is what is called a coin balance of Rs. 108.140 under the charge of the Cashier, being intended for current use.-

7. I am of opinion that it will not be advisable to follow this system when the coin is all under this roof. I would advise rather that the strong room should hold the whole of the reserve, and that each day in the morning a sum sufficient to meet the requirements of the day, should be taken out in the presence of the Apistant in charge of the Currency Department, the balance being put back also in his presence after Office hours in the evening.

8. It seems to me that the Apistant Accountant Assistant General should be appointed Assistant Currency Commissioner, and have the General Superintendence of the Department under the supervision of the Accountant General himself.-

9. The long room on the basement floor which was formerly occupied by the Accountant General's printing establishment is admirably suited for the Currency Department. Nothing is necessary beyond Knocking a window into a door for the entry of the public and there is then ample room for the accommodation of those who come on Exchange business, for the 35 Clerks who will be transferred by Dr. Bellew, and for the records of the Department.

10. I have had an interview with the Engineer, officer appointed to prepare the estimate ordered to be made in the G. O. by. of which is annexed, and represented to him the necessity of getting the masonry work in the proposed Treasury Completed with as little delay as possible. The iron door and roof, and floor will take he says some time, but the masonry can be finished very soon and a temporary door put up.

11. I propose, should I receive your permission to do so to bring 2 iron safes now at the Mint to this Office, and place them in the Treasury room when the masonry is finished. These I am told will hold about half a lack of Rupees, and.

and we can keep the Currency Department work up with this supply, replenishing the safes from time to time from the reserve, which might remain till our strong room is completed under the custody of the Assay Master at the Mint.—

12 The long room as intended for the Currency Department can be got ready in 2 or 3 days time, and therefore if Government are pleased to telegraph approval of my proceedings and suggestions, I can have the Currency Exchange work in full train here at once.—

I have &c

Sd/ R. W. Lodwick
Offg Accountant General.

(True Copy)
Sd/ C. Gay.
Deputy Comptroller Genl.

(True Copies)

H Wadling
Registrar
Finl Department

14/3

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Financial Dept 125/71

№ 1417.

To

The Chief Secretary
to the Govt of
Fort St. George.

Fin. Dept.

Sir,

I am forwarding to you the correspondence noted in the Margin, regarding the best arrangement to be made for the custody of the Coin and Bullion of the Paper Currency Department at Madras in consequence of the transfer of the management of that Department to the Account Department. I have the honor to request, that the Government of India may be favored with the opinion of the Government of Madras on the subject.

Copy of a Letter from the Comptr Genl № 1705 D 22 Feby 1871 with enclosure

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

Fort William
The 16th March
1871

W. W. Williams
Asst Secy to the Govt of India

AHP 14/3

Accts 26/4

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Financial Department.

No. 161.

To

The Secretary to Government
of India.

Financial Department.

Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt of Assistant Secretary Hollingbery's letter No. 1417 of the 16th Ultimo, in which the opinion of the Madras Government is requested on the subject of the arrangements which have been reported to the Govt of India as having been made here for the custody of the Coin and bullion of the Currency Department in consequence of the transfer of the management of that Department to the Accounts Dept.

N. A/D.

I. O. S

Financial Dept
Coin - Arrangements for Custody of Bullion at Currency Office
Transfer of Management of Currency Department to Accountant General
Letter from Govt of India
dated 16th Feby 1871
No. 1417
Recd 23rd Feby 1871
Answered 1st March 1871
No. 161

Forwards copy of Govt. of India's proceedings regarding the arrangements for the custody of the coin & bullion of the Currency Department, & the Govt's decision of the matter referred to therein.

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Department, I am directed to state that His Excellency the Governor in Council believes that the arrangements in question are perfectly satisfactory.

The whole of the coin and bullion is lodged in well secured vaults, and the establishment, when the arrangements are completed, will be suitably accommodated in rooms well situated with reference to the Office of the Accountant General and as respects the convenience of the public.

It would no doubt add to the completeness of the arrangements if the Assay Department could be located in the

the same building, but unfortunately, no facilities for this exist, and, as there are obvious objections to the erection within the Fortress of such furnaces as that Department requires for its operations, the Govt. are of opinion that such assays, as are likely to be needed, may safely be performed at the Medical College, which stands within a few hundred yards of the Walls of the Fort, and contains the laboratory of the Chemical Examiner. When furnaces for conducting both Assay and smelting operations have been built, as they shortly will be, the Chemical Examiner will have all necessary appliances at

at his command for testing the quality of any quantity of bullion that is likely for some time at least, to be tendered for coinage, and as he will be within an easy distance of the Currency Office, there will be no difficulty, the Government think, in making arrangements for submitting to him musters of such parcels of precious metal as having been tendered to that Dept. and lodged in its strong room, require to be valued with the least possible delay

Under these circumstances, the Government are of opinion that the arrangements which

which are being made for the accommodation of the Currency Department with its Bullion Reserve in the buildings in the Fort occupied by the Account- and General and for the transfer of the Assay Depart. to the Medical College are in all respects the most suitable that can be at present adopted.

Should however the imports of Bullion increase to any considerable extent it will then perhaps be necessary to transmit it as received to Bombay for assay and coinage there.

Fort St. George
21 April 71

Accountant General dispd 26/4

26/6
Letter from No 25
Secretary to Govt
26

18 , Department.

No.

To

The Secretary to the
Government of

Department

Dated 187 .

1871

Financial DEPARTMENT.

From
The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort Saint George,

To
The Secretary to the Govt of India,
Financial Department.

Dated April 21. 1871.
Recd.

No. 161.
Enclosure.

Nos. 37. 38.

Comng. the opinion of this Govt. as to the arrangements made Consequent on the transfer of the Currency and Assay Depts. to the Accountant Genl. & Chemical Examiner, respectively.