M.R.O. 1—77,005—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 26

(2) Date of repair 17.10.39

(3) Initials of the Reference

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Finance DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 18 Press / Mis.

24-29

Dated 11-1- 18 11.

19/20

24 - 29

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
11th January 1871.

Read the following papers :—

No. 24. From the Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Simla, 14th October 1870, No. 4131.

I am directed to call your attention to this office letter, No. 1390, dated 20th June 1870, and to request that, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, you will be good enough to favour the Government of India with an early report on the expediency of abolishing the Bullion Depôt at Madras.

2. Now that the Currency Department is transferred to the Accountant-General, Madras Presidency, the Bullion Depôt has to be debited with the entire salary of the Assay Master; and in this way, the retention of the Depôt entails a considerable expense, while the Governor-General in Council, as at present advised, is inclined to believe that no practical inconvenience would result from closing it.

3. Thereby Madras would, indeed, cease to be a port for the importation of silver bullion on any large scale, and, at times, when the exchange on Madras is determined by bullion rates, the cost of laying down funds there would be increased by the small difference between the cost of remitting Rupees, and that of sending silver and paying the Mint charge for its conversion into Rupees. But the occasions of this small loss of any advantage in being able to coin a bullion remittance at Madras would be unfrequent, for Madras being connected with Calcutta by regular steam communication and with Bombay (as will soon be the case, by railway, specie can always be remitted at moderate and known cost, as is done in the large trade with Rangoon where no Bullion Depôt is required. Thus the considerable expense of the present Bullion Depôt at Madras is out of proportion to the advantage it is calculated to afford to the trade of Madras.

4. In the event of the Bullion Depôt being closed, the Currency Department could still buy silver bullion at the prescribed rate of 979 Rupees per 1000 tolas, selling it again at 990 Rupees per 1000 tolas, or else exchanging it at that rate with the Madras General Treasury, for coined Rupees out of any specie remittance which may be intended for Calcutta, provided arrangements could be made for official assays of silver by the Chemical Examiner to Government. I am to inquire whether such arrangements are feasible with sufficient securities for ensuring uniformity as to quality between the sample assayed, and the parcel of bullion from which the sample is taken. In this view, it would be matter for consideration whether the arrangement should be confined to bullion of particular descriptions ordinarily employed in commerce, or whether it would be practicable to receive foreign coins and miscellaneous kinds of silver, such silver being melted and cast into ingots before assay and purchase.

—

Referred to the Chamber of Commerce for such remarks as they may wish to offer.

Fort Saint George,
8th November 1870.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

No. 25. From the Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 23rd November 1870, No. 478.

The proposal of the Government of India to abolish the Bullion Depôt in this Presidency, which is explained in their letter to the Local Government of the 14th ultimo, is regarded by this Chamber as a natural consequence of the abolition of the Madras Mint; and, as the Chamber are not prepared to refute the argument that the Depôt does not pay its expenses, they offer no objection to the proposition of the Supreme Government being carried out, on the guarantees that the Currency Department will always buy silver bullion at the prescribed rate of 979 Rupees per 1000 tolas, and that the services of a competent Assayer shall always be at the disposal of the Local Government.

2. I beg to return, herewith, the original letter of the Government of India which you were directed to refer to the Chamber for an expression of their opinion.

Referred to the Chemical Examiner for report, whether he will be able to undertake the duties described in paragraph 4 of the letter from the Government of India, in addition to his duties as Chemical Examiner.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
28th November 1870.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

No. 26. From the Acting Chemical Examiner, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 29th November 1870, No. 327.

With reference to your Memorandum of 28th instant, forwarding letters to your address from Assistant Secretary to Government of India (No. 4131 of 14th ultimo), and from the Chairman, Madras Chamber of Commerce (No. 478 of 23rd instant), I have the honour to state that the Chemical Examiner will resume his duties, on return from furlough, in less than a month; and to suggest that it is desirable, if possible, to defer replying to the Government of India on the subject until Dr. Ogg has been consulted.

2. There is, of course, nothing in the duties of an Assay Master which a Chemical Examiner cannot efficiently perform; but it is doubtful whether Dr. Ogg would undertake the former in addition to the continually increasing work of the Chemical Examiner.

No. 27. No. 366.

MEMORANDUM.

The undersigned has the honour to forward to the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, the papers noted in the margin, relating to the closing of the Bullion Depôt at Madras, and to request that he will, in consultation with the Acting Chemical Examiner, favour Government with his opinion whether, in the event of the Depôt being

Government of India, dated 14th October 1870, No. 4131.
Chairman of Chamber of Commerce, dated 23rd November 1870, No. 478.
Chemical Examiner, dated 29th November 1870, No. 327.

closed, arrangements could be made for official assays of silver by the Chemical Examiner in addition to his other duties.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
24th December 1870.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department.

No. 28. From the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Fort Saint George, 4th January 1871, No. 1.

In returning the documents received with your Memorandum, No. 366, of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to report, for the information of Government, that Dr. King, the Acting Chemical Examiner, intimates that he is not aware of anything to prevent the assaying of coin or bullion being conducted by the Chemical Examiner, in addition to his ordinary duties, and that, personally, he is willing to undertake such work.

Letter from Government of India, No. 4131, of 14th October 1870.
Letter from Chamber of Commerce, Madras, of 23rd November 1870.
Letter from Chemical Examiner, No. 327, of 29th November 1870.

No. 29. ORDER THEREON, 11th January 1871, No. 18.

Resolved that the following letter be addressed to the Government of India:—

(Here enter No. 19, dated 11th January 1871.)

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

Erd. J. Wright.

Govt. of 1871 Madras.

FINANCIAL.

Dated January, 11th.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 11th January 1871, No. 18.

JANUARY.
Nos. 24—30.

Directing that a letter, addressed to the Government of India, on the expediency of abolishing the Bullion Depôt at Madras, be despatched.

1-6-27 11

Govt. of {1870} Madras.

Jail.

Dated Jan? 11.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 11 Jan? 1870, No. 19

Nos. 24. 30.

Directing that a letter addressed to the Govt. of India on the expediency of abolishing the Bullion Depot at Madras be despatched

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

No. 19.

FROM

J. I. MINCHIN, ESQ.,
Acting Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

In reply to Mr. Under Secretary Batten's letter, No. 3124, dated 6th September 1869, I am directed to forward the annexed copy of a report* from the Examiner of Claims which contains the information asked for in the letter under reply.

*No. 1424, dated 26th November 1869.

2. The order of the Court of Directors sanctioning the grant of gratuities to servants on the Government House Establishment is in these words :—"We authorize you at your discretion to grant to such of the servants of the Government House Establishment as after a lengthened service may be declared incapacitated for further duty a gratuity of six months' pay."

Letter to Fort Saint George, No. 13, dated 30th April 1856, paragraph 2.

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

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
7th January 1870.

Acting Chief Secretary.

No. 1424.

REPORT OF THE EXAMINER OF CLAIMS.

The undersigned has the honour to subjoin a list of the members of the Establishment of His Excellency the Governor who were paid from the lump sum sanctioned for the Government House Establishment, and to whom pensions were granted under the Despatch of the late Honourable Court of 30th April 1856, No. 13, Financial, and to state that no pensions have since 1st May 1861 been given to any member of the Government House Establishment, but gratuities have been granted under provisions of paragraph 2 of the Despatch above mentioned and debited to Superannuation, Retired, and Compassionate Allowances :—

Name.	Description of employment.	Amount of last salary.			Length of service.			Amount of pension.			Date of commencement of pension.
		RS.	A.	P.	Y.	M.	D.	RS.	A.	P.	
Veerasawmy	Head Cook.	30	0	0	29	4	0	10	0	0	1st July 1859.
Ponnapah...	Head Butler	120	0	0	39	0	0	40	0	0	Do.
Sabapathy...	Second do.	35	0	0	34	1	0	11	8	0	Do.
Mahomed Cassim ...	Dubash	20	0	0	32	1	0	6	8	0	Do.
Annamalay...	Assistant Butler ...	21	0	0	26	4	2	7	0	0	1st May 1861.

(Signed) W. DONALD,
Examiner of Claims.

26th November 1869.

To the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George.

Exd. J. Wright,

1870.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

From

The Actg. Chief Secy. to Government, Fort Saint George.

To

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

Dated 7th January 1870.

Recd. —— No. 19. Enclosure.

JANUARY.
Nos. 29–31.

Furnishing information asked for regarding the grant of pensions and gratuities to servants on the Government Horse Establishment.

7

9/

No. 361.

Memorandum.

The undersigned has the honor to forward to the Insp.r Genl Indian Medical Department, the papers noted in the margin, relating to the closing of the Bullion Depot at Madras, and to request that he will in consultation with the Acting Chemical Examiner favor Govt with his opinion whether in the event of the Depot being closed, arrangements could be made for official Assays of Silver by the Chemical Examiner in addition to his other duties.

To be returned
Govt of India
D/11th Octr pp. No 4431
Chairman of Chamber of Commerce D/23rd pp. No 472
Chemical Examiner
D/29th Novr pp. No 527

(Sigd) R. S. Ellis
Chief Secretary.

Fort St George.
24th Decr 1870.

To
The Inspector General
Indian Medical Department

No 327 6

To The

Chief Secretary to
Govt of Bengal

Sir,

With reference to your Memorandum of 28th inst. forwarding Letter* to your address from Asst. Secretary Govt. of India (No 431 of 14th ult.) and from the Chairman of Meds at Chambers of Commerce (No 478 of 2nd inst.) — I have the honor to state that the Chemical Examiner will resume his duties, on return from furlough, in less than a month; and to suggest that it is desirable, if possible, to defer replying to the Govt of India on the subject, until Dr Ess has been consulted.

2 There is, of course, nothing in the duties of an Assay Master which the Chemical Examiner cannot efficiently perform: but it is doubtful whether Dr Ess would undertake the former in addition to the continually increasing work of the Chemical Examiner.

I have the honor to be
Sir
your most Obt. servant.
Henry Hicks M.B., LRCP.
Actg. Chem. Exam.r

Medical College
Nov 29. 1870.

+ herewith returned.

4

Chamber of Commerce
Madras 23rd November 1870

From

The Chairman
Chamber of Commerce

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George

Sir.

The proposal of the Government of India to abolish the Bullion Depot in this Presidency, which is explained in their letter to the Local Government of the 14th ultimo, is regarded by this Chamber as a natural consequence of the abolition of the Madras Mint; and as the Chamber are not prepared to repute the argument that the Depot does not pay its expenses, they offer no objection to the proposition of the Supreme Government being carried out, on the guarantee that the Currency Department will always buy Silver bullion at the prescribed rate of 979 Rupees per 1000 Tolas, and that the services of a

competent

13/

Recd 25 Nov 1870 Copy
From
The Acting Chemical Examiner
Madras.
To
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St George.
No 4584
Dated 24th
Received 25th November 1870
Enclosure. Two copies
No 324
States that he cannot undertake to accept the duties of Examiner of Assayer at the Mint in addition to those of the Assayership to the Chemical Examiner without the grant of Rs 200 per mensem

competent assayer shall always be at the disposal of the Local Government.

I beg to return herewith the original letter of the Government of India which you were directed to refer to the Chambers for an expression of their opinion.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant

Bucephalus

No. 4131. 1

17/

To,

The Chief Secretary to the
Government of Fort St George

Financial Dept

Sir,

I am directed to call your attention to this Office letter No 1390 dated 20th June 1870, and to request that, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, you will be good enough to favor the Government of India with an early report on the expediency of abolishing the Bullion Depot at Madras.

2 Now that the Currency Department is transferred to the Accountant General Madras Presidency, the Bullion Depot has to be deluded with the entire salary of the Assay Master; and in this way, the retention of the Depot entails a considerable expense, while the Governor General in Council, as at present advised, is inclined to believe that no practical inconvenience would result from closing it.

I have the

5

Referred to the Chemical Examiner for report, whether he will be able to undertake the duties detailed in paragraph 6 of the letter from the Government of India in addition to his duties as Chemical Examiner

R.S. Ellis
Chief Secretary

Fort St George
25th November 1870
The Chemical Examiner
with letter No 4131 dated 25th Nov 1870

Reported.

Dated 6th Dec 1870
Received 8th Dec 1870
Entered 8th Dec 1870
From
The Chemical
Examiner to Govt
No 4228
Dated 7th Dec 1870
Rec'd 8th Dec 1870
25
3 Encls &c.
Forwarding in reply
Proposal of the Govt of India
that the duties of Chemical Examiner
to Govt be undertaken by
Assay Master &c.

3

thereby Madras would, indeed, cease to be a port for the importation of Silver bullion on any large scale, and at times when the exchange on Madras is determined by bullion rates, the cost of laying down funds there would be increased by the small difference between the cost of remitting rupees, and that of sending Silver and paying the Mint charge for its conversion into rupees. But the occasions of this small loss of any advantage in being able to coin a bullion remittance at Madras would be unfrequent for Madras being connected with Calcutta by regular Steam Communication and with Bombay (as will soon be the case) by Railway, Specie can always be remitted at Moderate and known cost, as is done in the large trade with Rangoon where no bullion depot is required. Thus the considerable expense of the present Bullion Depot at Madras is out of proportion to the advantage it is calculated to afford to the trade of Madras.

2

4

In the event of the bullion Depôt being closed, the Currency Department could still buy Silver bullion at the prescribed rate of 979 Rupees per 1000 tolas, selling it again at 990 Rupees per 1000 tolas or else exchanging it at that rate with the Madras General Treasury, for coined Rupees out of any Specie remittance which may be intended for Calcutta, provided arrangements could be made for official assays of Silver by the Chemical Examiner to Government. I am to enquire whether such arrangements are feasible with sufficient securities for ensuring uniformity as to quality between the sample Assayed, and the parcel of bullion from which the sample is taken. In this view, it would be matter for consideration whether the arrangement should be confined to bullion of particular descriptions ordinarily employed in commerce, or whether it would be practicable to receive foreign coins and Miscellaneous Kinds

of

of Silver - such Silver being melted and cast into ingots before Assay and purchase -

I have the honorable,
Sir,
Your Most obedient Servant,

Simla
The 14 October 1870

Asst Secy to the Govt of India

Financial Dept

No 3124

To

The Secretary to the
Government of Madras

Sir,

I am directed to request that with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, you will inform this Department whether pensions or gratuities are given on superannuation to persons employed on the establishment of His Excellency the Governor, whose pay is distinct from the sumptuary allowance of His Excellency, and if so, under what rules and from what sources such pensions or gratuities are granted. You are also requested to submit a list of such pensioners in the following form

Name	Description of employ	amount of last salary	Length of service	amount of pension	date of commencement

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

Simla
The 6 September
1865

Under Secy to the Govt of India

Appointment of Mr Clarke as Examiner in Assay Accounts in Mint

Mint Office
Calcutta

Mint Office
Calcutta
The 14th Oct 1870

Forwarded to the Accountant General for information.

By Order &c
Asst Secy to the Govt of India

Copy forwarded to the Examiner of Assay Accounts in the Mint for information.

By Order &c
Asst Secy to the Govt of India

No 1

Office of Insp.r General
I. M. D.
Fort Saint George 4th January 71

Sir

I am
The Inspector General I. M. D
Fort Saint George.

To
The Chief Secretary to Government
Financial Department
Fort Saint George.

Sir

In returning the documents received with your memorandum No 366 of the 24th Ultimo, I have the honor to report for the information of Government, that Dr King, the acting Chemical Examiner intimates that he is not aware of any thing to prevent the assaying of Coin or Bullion being conducted by the Chemical Examiner, in addition to his ordinary duties, and that personally he is willing to undertake such work.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedient Servant
W. Macleane
Inspector General I. M. D.

Letter from Govt of India No 2191 dated 17th October 1870.
Letter from Chamberlain & Co Commercial Master 23rd November 70
Letter from Chemical Examiner No 3270 29th November 70.

29th Rec'd

1424 3

Ft. St. G.

Return to Financial Consultn 9 Dec 1870

Report to the Chief Secretary Government Financial Department

Subject — Assay of Coin & Bullion

Sir

I have the honor to forward herewith a letter from Messrs Chamberlain & Co Bankers, requesting to be informed whether there is any objection to the assaying of Coin or Bullion being conducted by the Chemical Examiner, in addition to his ordinary duties, and whether he is willing to undertake such work.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedient Servant
H. King
Officiating Assistant Surgeon
Chemical Examiner

Fort St. George
Dated 29th Nov 1870
Rec'd 30th "

From
The Chemical Examiner
To the Inspector General of Hospitals
Fort St. George

No 3270
Dated 29th Nov 1870
Rec'd 30th "

DA & AG: Office
Recd 4 / 10 18 9
Ansd —/

Return to Financial Consultn 9 Dec 1870

Report to the Chief Secretary Government Financial Department

Subject — Assay of Coin & Bullion

Sir

I have the honor to forward herewith a letter from Messrs Chamberlain & Co Bankers, requesting to be informed whether there is any objection to the assaying of Coin or Bullion being conducted by the Chemical Examiner, in addition to his ordinary duties, and whether he is willing to undertake such work.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedient Servant
H. King
Officiating Assistant Surgeon
Chemical Examiner

Fort St. George
Dated 29th Nov 1870
Rec'd 30th "

From
The Chemical Examiner
To the Inspector General of Hospitals
Fort St. George

No 3270
Dated 29th Nov 1870
Rec'd 30th "

DA & AG: Office
Recd 4 / 10 18 9
Ansd —/

dept 13/

Financial Department

No. 19.

To

The Secretary to the Government
of India.
Financial Department

Sir,

In reply to Mr. Under Secretary Batten's letter No. 3124 dated 6th September 1864, I am directed to forward the annexed copy of a report No. 1424 dated 26th Nov. 1864 from the Examiner of Claims which contains the information asked for in the letter under reply.

2. The order of the Court of Directors sanctioning the grant of gratuities to Servants of the Government house establishment is in these words:—

"We authorize you at your discretion to grant to such of the Servants of the Government

Letter to Mr. St. George No. 13 dated 30th April 1856, Para 2

ment Stores Establish-
ment as after a lengthened
Service may be declared
incapacitated for further
duty a gratuity of six
months pay."

D.A.G.

Inst. to frame
7 Jany 70

No 1424 to follow 16

Posting Operations & Servants
in the Govt. Hindu Schools

(13)

186 . Département.

No.

To

The Secretary to the
Government of

Department

Dated 186 .

C 4/12
R 29/12

Financial 1869.
DEPARTMENT.

From
The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort Saint George,

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

Dated Jany. 7. 1870
Rcd.

No. 19
Enclosure.

29. 31

F. No. 134.

Furnishing ~~the Calcutta~~ with information asked for regarding the grant of pensions and gratuities to servants on the Govt. House Establishment.

Financial Department

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letters.

From the Asst. Secy. Govt. of India dated 14 Octr. 1870 No. 4131
From the Chairman, Chamber of Comce — 23 Novr.
From the Chemical Examiner — 29 — No. 327.
From the Asst. Secy. Govt. of India — 18 Decr. — No. 3695.
From the Insp. Genl. I. Mr. Deptt. — 4 Jany. 1871 No. 1.

Order thereon 18 Jany. 1871 No. 18.

Resolved that the following letter be addressed to the Govt. of India.

No. 19.

To
The Secy. to the Govt. of India
Financial Department

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 14th Octr. last on the expediency of abolishing the Bullion depot-

depôt at Madras.

2 The conditions attached to the abolition of the Bullion depôt, which involves the abolition of the office of Assay Master at Madras, are that the Currency Departt. should still buy silver bullion at the prescribed rate of 979 Rs. per 1000 tolas, selling it again at 990 Rs. per 1000 tolas or else exchanging it at that rate with the Madras General Treasury for coined Rupees out of any specie remittances which may be intended for Calcutta, and that arrangements be made for official assays of silver by the Chemical Examiner to Govt.

3 Your letter has been referred to the Madras Chamber of Commerce and

and it will be observed from the letter of the Chairman, copy enclosed, that the Chamber offer no objection to the abolition of the Bullion depôt on the conditions that the Currency Departt. will always buy silver bullion at the prescribed rate of 979 Rs. per 1000 tolas and that the services of a competent assayer shall always be at the disposal of the local Government.

4 As regards this latter condition the Govt. see no difficulty in assigning the duty of assaying coin or bullion to the Chemical Examiner, in addition to his ordinary duties. The present Chemical Examiner has stated his willingness to undertake this work.

Fort St. George
11 January 1871

26

Govt. of {18 } Madras.

To _____

Dated } 18 , No.
Recd.

Nos.

187.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

From

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort Saint George.

To

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

Dated Sault 11. 187.

Read.

No. 19.

Recd.

Nos. 24 & 30.

Addressing the Govt. of India
on the subject of the abolition
of the Bullion Depot at Madras.