M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 28

(2) Date of repair 6. 11. 37

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 287-88 Press / Mis.

Dated 15 7 1871.

28-30 15/16

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 28. Read the following letter from R. H. HOLLINGBERY, Esq., Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Simla, 21st June 1871, No. 1427 :—

From Comptroller-General, No. 1704, dated 22nd February 1871.
To Assay Master, Calcutta, No. 1577, dated 18th March 1871.
From do., No. 105, 25th March 1871.

With reference to Financial Department's Resolution, No. 600, dated 31st January last, sanctioning the abolition of the Bullion Depôt at Madras, I am desired to forward copy of the correspondence noted on the margin, and to say that the Government of India cannot, without undue expense, arrange for the final assay of bullion in Madras, with a view to its acceptance for coinage; but, if the Local Government thinks it desirable, the experiment can be tried for a year of accepting on behalf of the Currency Department from responsible parties all bullion to which the Assayers' reports are attached. The price to be fixed would be at the rate fixed by the Currency Act, less ten per cent., which would be retained and paid only on the receipt of the assay report from the Mints of Bombay or Calcutta. I am to add that no foreign coin could be received.

From the Comptroller-General of Accounts, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, dated Calcutta, 22nd February 1871, No. 1704.

In compliance with the orders of Government, No. 600, dated the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to submit a draft order for the abolition of the separate Bullion Depôt at Madras.

2. It is not stated in the papers referred to me whether the present Chemical Examiner is a duly qualified Assayer. Such is no doubt the case, but it is perhaps desirable that the Commissioner of Paper Currency should be officially certified of the fact, as the bullion to be admitted as Currency reserve is to be accepted on his certificate.

3. As regards the provision of office accommodation, I would refer to my letter, No. 1705, of this day's date, on the subject of the future arrangements for the Madras Paper Currency Office.

4. The Chemical Examiner may perhaps be requested to state what, if any, additional assistance he will require to enable him to undertake the duties.

Proceedings of the Government of India in the Financial Department, dated Fort Willam, the 18th March 1871, No. 1577.

Read again—

Financial Resolution, No. 600, dated 31st January 1871, abolishing the Bullion Depôt at Madras.

Read—

Letter from Comptroller-General, No. 1704, dated 22nd February 1871, submitting, with remarks, a draft Order carrying out the details of the above measure.

ORDER.—Ordered that the papers read be sent to the Assay Master, Calcutta Mint, for report upon the best arrangements to be made for assaying bullion received at Madras.

(Signed) R. H. HOLLINGBERY,
Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

From the Assay Master, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, dated Calcutta Mint, 25th March 1871, No. 105.

In compliance with the orders of Government, No. 1577, dated the 18th March, directing me to report on the best arrangements to be made for assaying bullion at Madras, I have the honour to submit the following remarks.

With reference to the proposal that assays should be made there by the Chemical Examiner to Government, I beg to state that that gentleman is not a qualified assayer ; even if he were, he can have no practical acquaintance with the chloride process as sanctioned for the Indian Mints, and which it would take him at least six months to acquire thoroughly.

It would be then necessary to furnish him with a complete apparatus, and to entertain a small permanent establishment of trained assistants.

Further, to insure accurate results, there must be an efficient system of taking assay musters, involving, in the case of coins, a certain amount of pre-melting as well as some mechanism for the cutting and examining of bar silver.

The usual test of bullion, prior to its receipt by Government, as to its brittleness, or fitness for coinage purposes, would have to be dispensed with, as this can only be made after the bullion is melted and cast into ingots.

Unless the foregoing conditions could be fulfilled, the Madras Currency Department might hold in its reserve bullion of whose actual value it was inadequately informed, and trouble would possibly arise by disparity of assay, when such bullion came subsequently to be dealt with in one of the Mints.

Further, this would practically be to maintain a bullion depôt at Madras without any of the safeguards of a properly-organized establishment.

The best arrangement I think would be that Government should issue a Notification, stating that after a certain date, say twelve months, Madras will cease to be a port for the receipt of bullion.

Any that may arrive there in the interval could be sent either here, or by rail to Bombay, for assay and final disposal, and it would only be necessary for Government to put in force the power conferred by paragraph 6, Clause 28 of the new Coinage Act of 1870, and by extending the period for which assay certificates shall run, to give full time for the completion of the transaction, say twenty days.

It is possible to suggest a plan for taking musters at Madras, on which assay reports could be made either here or at Bombay ; but, as this would be attended with both risk and uncertainty, it seems preferable that the bullion should be at once made over to a Mint, which in most instances would be its ultimate destination.

No. 29. ORDER THEREON, 15th July 1871, No. 287.

Resolved that a copy of the Notification published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, under date the 30th May last, for the receipt and assay of bullion by the Chemical Examiner, be transmitted to the Government of India with the request that the system therein sketched may be tried for a year from its commencement, and should it be found after that period that the expense of a final assay at Madras is disproportionate to the advantages gained by the merchants in having the assay performed on the spot, the Government will be prepared to adopt the suggestions contained in the letter from the Government of India above recorded.

2. In the meantime, copy of these Proceedings will be furnished to the Chamber of Commence for their opinion on the suggestions referred to.

3. The Government believe that Dr. King holds a certificate of qualification as an Assayer, and they observe that the establishment attached to the late Assay Department is still retained, and that Dr. King has all the trained assistance he needs in conducting the assay.

4. He will be requested to state whether the Government rightly assume that he holds a certificate of qualification as an Assayer.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Chemical Examiner, in charge of the Assay Department.
,, Chairman, Chamber of Commerce.

Exd. J. Wright.

Govt. of Madras,

1871

FINANCIAL.

To

THE CHEMICAL EXAMINER,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated July, 15*th*.

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 15th July 1871, *No.* 287.

JULY.

Nos. 28—30.

Directing that copy of the Notification published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, for the receipt and assay of bullion by the Chemical Examiner, be transmitted to the Government of India with a request that the system therein sketched may be tried for a year, and furnishing a copy of these Proceedings to the Chamber of Commence for their opinion on certain suggestions.

51

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

No. 288.

FROM

W. HUDLESTON, ESQ.,
Acting Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

With copy of Proceedings of Government, dated 15th July 1871, No. 287.

With reference to Mr. Assistant-Secretary Hollingbery's letter, dated the 21st June last, No. 1427, I am directed to transmit copy of the Notification published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* on the 30th May last, for the receipt and assay of bullion by the Chemical Examiner, as sanctioned by the Government of India on 31st January 1871, and to state that this Government would wish that the system therein sketched may be tried for one year. Should it be found after that period that the expense of a final assay at Madras is disproportionate to the advantages gained by the merchants in having the assay performed on the spot, this Government will be prepared to adopt the suggestions contained in the letter under reference.

2. In the meantime, the Chamber of Commence at Madras will be requested to favour this Government with their opinion on the suggestions referred to, and, on the receipt of their reply, the Government of India will be again addressed on the subject.

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

FORT ST. GEORGE,
15*th July* 1871.

Acting Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. Wright.

1871.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

From

The Ag. Chief Secretary to Government,

Fort St. George,

To

The Secretary to the Govt. of India,

Financial Department.

Dated 15th July 1871.

Recd. No. 288.

Enclosure.

Transmitting copy of the Notification published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* for the receipt and assay of bullion by the Chemical Examiner as sanctioned by the Government of India on 31st January 1871, and requesting that the system therein sketched may be tried for one year.

No. 1427.

17

To.

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

Financial Deptt Sir,

With reference to Financial Department's Resolution No. 600 dated 31st January last, sanctioning the abolition of the Bullion Depôt at Madras, I am desired to forward copy of the † Correspondence noted on the margin and to say that the Government of India cannot, without undue expense, arrange for the final assay of Bullion in Madras, with a view to its acceptance for Coinage. But, if the local Government thinks it desirable, the experiment can be tried for a year of accepting on behalf of the Currency Department from responsible parties all bullion to which the Assayers' reports are attached. The price to be fixed would be at the rate fixed by the Currency Act less 10 per cent, which would be retained and paid only on the receipt of the Assay report from the Mints of Bombay or Calcutta. I am to add that no foreign Coin could be received.

† From Comptroller General No. 1704 dated 22d Feby 1871
To Assay Master Calcutta No. 1377 dated 18th March 1871
From Do No. 105 dated 25th " "

I have the honor to be
Sir
your most obedient Servant

Simla
The 21st June 1871

21/6

Actg Secy to the Govt of India

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

No. 1704

From

The Comptroller General of Accounts

To.

R. B. Chapman Esqre
Offg Secy to the Government of India
Financial Department.

Sir,

In compliance with the orders of Government No. 600 dated the 31st Ultimo, I have the honor to submit a draft order for the abolition of the separate Bullion Depôt at Madras.

2 It is not stated in the papers referred to me whether the present Chemical Examiner is a duly qualified Assayer, such is no doubt the case, but it is perhaps desirable that the Commissioner of Paper Currency should be officially certified of the fact, as the bullion to be admitted as Currency Reserve is to be accepted on his certificate.

3 As regards the provision of office accommodation

Financial Dept. Separate Establishments
Bullion Depôt Madras
No. 1427.

Financial 1871 Separate Establishments
Bullion Depôt Madras
No. 1427.

Comptroller General's Office Nos. 67-5.
Currency Dept 1870.
" — 30th May 1871 — No. 28-30.
" — 25th January 1870 — " — 70-72.
" — 14th September 1870 — " — 20-24.
" — 11th January 1871 — " — 21-30
" — 24th April 1871 — " — 67-85.
" — 19th June 1871 — " — 85-97.

Sent in.
Draw the Order
Copy of the
Letter to Calcutta

Financial
Bullion
No. 291
Dated 28th June 1871.

Financial, with reference to correspondence on the subject of the recent seizure of bullion in transit.

accommodation. I would refer to my letter No 1705 of this days date on the subject of the future arrangements for the Madras Paper Currency Office.

4 The Chemical Examiner may perhaps be requested to state what, if any, additional apistance he will require to enable him to undertake the duties.

I have &c
W. E. F. Harrison
Comptroller General.

No 1577

Government of India
Financial Department
Fort William
The 18th March 1871.

Read Again.

Financial Resolution No 800 dated 31st January 1871 abolishing the Bullion Depot at Madras.

Read -

Letter from Comptroller General No 1704 dated 22d February 1871, submitting with remarks, a Draft Order carrying out the details of the above measure.

Ordered that the papers read be sent Order

sent to the Assay Master, Calcutta Mint, for report upon the best arrangements to be made for Apaying bullion received at Madras.

By R. H. Hollingbery
Apt Secy to the Govt of India

Her Majesty's Apay Office
Calcutta Mint
March 25th 1871.

No 105

From
The Apay Master

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

Sir,

In compliance with the Order of Government, No 1577, dated the 18th March, directing me to report on the best arrangements to be made for Apaying bullion at Madras, I have the honor to submit the following remarks.

With reference to the proposal that Apays should be made there, by the Chemical Examiner to Government, I beg to state that that Gentleman is not a qualified Apayer - even

if

if he were, he can have no practical ac-
=quaintance with the Chloride process, as
sanctioned for the Indian Mints, and which
it would take him at least six months
to acquire thoroughly.

It would be then necessary to furnish
him with a complete apparatus, and to
entain a small permanent Establishment
of trained Assistants.

Further, to insure accurate results, there
must be an efficient system of taking assay
Masters, involving, in the case of Coins, a
certain amount of premelting, as well as
some machanism for the cutting and
examining of bar Silver.

The usual test of bullion,
prior to its receipt by Government, as
to its brittleness, or fitness for Coinage
purposes, would have to be dispensed
with, as this can only be made after the
bullion is melted and cast into ingots.

Unless the foregoing conditions could
be fulfilled, the Madras Currency Department
might hold in its reserve, bullion of whose
actual value it was inadequately informed;
and

and trouble would possibly arise by
disparity of assay, when such bullion came
subsequently to be dealt with in one of the
Mints.

Further, this would practically
be to maintain a bullion depôt at Madras,
without any of the safeguards of a properly
organized Establishment.

The best arrangement I think would
be, that Government should issue a Notifi-
=cation, stating that after a certain date,
say 12 Months, Madras will cease to be a
port for the receipt of bullion.

Any that may arrive there in
the interval could be sent either here,
or by rail to Bombay for Assay and
final disposal - and it would only be
necessary for Government to put in force
the power conferred by para: 6, clause 28,
of the new Coinage Act of 1870, and by ex-
=tending the period for which Assay Certificates
shall run, to give full time for the completion
of the transaction - say 20 days.

It

It is possible to suggest a plan for taking musters at Madras, on which Apay reports could be made either here or at Bombay; but as this would be attended with both risk and uncertainty, it seems preferable that the bullion should be at once made over to a Mint, which in most instances would be its ultimate destination.

I have &c.

(S) J. F. Skekleton
Surgeon Major
Apay Master.

(True Copies)

Inwalling.
Registrar
Financial Department.

W.R. 21/6

Rs Paid 291/71

5 7

Financial Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read the following
Letter from the Assistant
Secretary Govt. of India Fint.
Department d/ 21st June /71
No. 1427.

Order thereon. 15 July 1871 No. 287

Resolved that a
Copy of the Notification publi-
-lished in the Fort Saint
George Gazette under date
the 30th May last for the re
-ceipt and assay of bullion
by the Chemical Examiner be
transmitted to the Government
of India with the ~~intimation~~ request
that the ~~experiment~~ system therein sketched may
from the commencement
tried for a year, and should
it be found after that period

That

that the expense of a final assay at Madras is dis-
=proportionate to the ad-
=vantages gained by the Merchants in having the assay performed on the spot, the Government will be prepared to adopt the suggestions contained in the letter from the Government of India above recorded.

2. In the mean time copy of these Proceedings will be furnished to the Chamber of Commerce for their opinion on the Suggestions referred to.

3. The Government believe that Dr. King holds a Certificate of qualification as an Assayer, and they observe that the Establish-
=ment attached to the late Assay Department is still retained and that Dr. King has all the trained assistance he needs in conducting the Assay.

4 ~~Dr. King~~ He will be requested to state whether he holds a certificate of qualification as an Assayer.

To The Chemical Examiner
in charge of the Assay ~~Office~~ Dept.
The Chairman, Chamber of Commerce

Dated 22 Oct 1880

Govt. of {1871} Madras.

Financial

To the Chemical Examiner

Dated July 15.
Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 15 July, 1871, No. 287.

Nos. 28-30.

Directing that copy of the Notification published in the Fort Saint George Gazette, for the receipt and Assay Bullion by the Chemical Examiner be transmitted to the Govt. of India with a request that the system therein sketched may be tried for 1 year and furnishing a copy of these Proc. to the Chemical Examiner Chamber of Commerce for their opinion on certain suggestions.

dest'd 24/7 with 23 Articles
by 28/7 & 1 Mint Articles from No 208
with the Notification

Financial Department.

No. 288.

To

The Secretary to Government
of India.

Financial Department.

Sir,

With reference to Mr. Assistant Secretary Hollingberry's letter dated the 21st ult. June last No. 1427, I am directed to transmit Copy of the Notification published in the Fort Saint George Gazette on the 30th May last, for the receipt and assay of bullion by assay-masters by Rule of Proc. No. 31 dated 7th the Chemical Examiner and to this Govt. with request to state that the experimental system sketched in the Notification may be tried for one year from

with copy of Proc. of Govt. dy 15 July 71 No. 287

Should it be found after that period that the expense of a final Assay at Madras, is disproportionate to

to the advantages gained by the Merchants in having the assay performed on the spot, this Government will be prepared to adopt the suggestions contained in the letter under reference.

2. In the mean time the Chamber of Commerce at Madras will be requested to favor this Government with their opinion on the suggestion referred to, and on the receipt of their reply the Government of India will be again addressed on the subject.

V.B

Fort St George
15th July 1871

18 , *Department.*

No.

To

The Secretary to the
Government of

Department

Dated 187 .

187 .

Financial DEPARTMENT.

From

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort Saint George,

To

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

Dated July 15. 1871.

Read.

No. 288.
Enclosure.

Nos. 28 & 30.

Transmitting copy of the Notification published in the Fort Saint George Gazette for the receipt and Assay of Bullion by the Chemical Examiner as sanctioned by the Govt. of India on 31 Jan. 71, and requesting that the system therein sketched may be tried for one year.