M.R.O. 1—77,006—3-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 10

(2) Date of repair 20-9-40

(3) Initials of the Referencer

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1023	Press / Mis.
96-97.		96-97
Dated	13-5-	1897.

617

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Stamps.

No. 96. Read the following letter from J. A. BOURDILLON, Esq., Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, to the Hon. F. S. CHAPMAN, Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, dated Simla, 28th April 1875, No. 249 :—

With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter, No. 4980—211-R, dated 16th September 1874, I am directed to observe that in bygone years, when stamps easy of imitation were used, the numbering of stamps may have helped a Collector in distinguishing spurious from genuine stamps, but the public who might present spurious stamps in good faith could derive no such help from the numbering of genuine stamps. Again, it is more difficult to imitate the present elaborate stamps than to imitate numbers which might be affixed to the stamps; and if stamps are to be denied currency unless they have a genuine number, the genuineness of the number would seem to require proof before an otherwise genuine stamp could be admitted on a document.

2. The theft of a genuine stamped paper might, under certain fortuitous circumstances, be traced through a numbering of the stamps; but theft through a burglarious entrance into a Government store has not occurred in the Stamp Office in Calcutta, and for loss from any other theft the Treasurer or Storekeeper would be responsible. The power of declaring that lost stamps bearing certain numbers should not be received or used by the public could not be exercised save under great disadvantages, nor would such notice be effectual. The trouble and expense of numbering would be great, and any advantages from the expedient would be incommensurate. Moreover, the non-judicial impressed stamps bear a very small proportion to the judicial, and it is not necessary to retain for the former the numbering which is no longer practicable for the latter.

3. I am, accordingly, to request that, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the practice of numbering impressed stamps may be abandoned. This should liberate the establishment pointed out by the Government of Bombay, *viz.*, the clerks and others who are to be employed, some of them in affixing the numbers, others in counting and examining the paper which is given out for numbering, and the numbered paper which is received back.

Copy forwarded to the Government of Bengal with reference to that Government's letter, No. 2504, dated 10th December 1875, and to the Government of Madras for information.

Copy also to Accountant-General, Bombay, who will report if the establishment is not quickly dispensed with.

(By order, &c.)

(Signed) J. A. BOURDILLON,

Offg. Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
13*th May* 1875.

No. 97. ORDER THEREON, 13th May 1875, No. 1033.

Communicated to the Superintendent of Stamps, through the Board of Revenue, for information.

(True Extract.)

Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. J. Wright.

Govt. of {1875} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated May, 13th.

Issued

Read

Ack.

G.O., 13th May 1875, No. 1033.

MAY.
Nos. 96-97.

Impressed Stamps.—Letter from Government of India directing that the practice of numbering these stamps be abandoned, communicated, through the Board of Revenue, to the Superintendent of Stamps.

No 249

(5)

To

The Chief Secretary to the Government
of Bombay

Fin. Dept. Sir

With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 4980/211R dated 16th September 1874, I am directed to observe that in bygone years, when stamps easy of imitation were used, the numbering of stamps may have helped a collector in distinguishing spurious from genuine stamps but the public who might present spurious stamps in good faith could derive no such help from the numbering of genuine stamps. Again, it is more difficult to imitate the present elaborate stamps than to imitate numbers which might be affixed to the stamps; and if stamps are to be denied currency unless they have a genuine number, the genuineness of the number would seem to require proof before an otherwise genuine stamp could be admitted on a document.

2 The theft of a genuine stamped paper might under certain fortuitous circumstances be traced through a numbering of the stamps; but theft through a burglarious entrance into a

a Government store has not occurred in the Stamp office in Calcutta- and for loss from any other theft the Treasurer or Store keeper would be responsible- The power of declaring that lost stamps bearing certain numbers should not be received or used by the public could not be exercised save under great disadvantages, nor would such notice be effectual- The trouble and expense of numbering would be great and any advantages from the expedient would be incommensurate- Moreover the non-judicial impressed Stamps bear a very small proportion to the judicial, and it is not necessary to retain for the former the numbering which is no longer practicable for the latter-

3 I am, accordingly, to request that, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the practice of numbering impressed Stamps may be abandoned. This should liberate the establishment pointed out by the Government of Bombay viz the clerks and others who are to be employed, some of them in affixing the numbers, others in counting and examining the paper which

(7)

which is given out for numbering and the numbered paper which is received back-

Simla
The 28th April
1875

I have &c
Sd/ J. A. Bourdillon
Offg Undersecy to the Govt of India

Copy forwarded to the Government of Bengal with reference to that Government's letter No. 2504 dated 10th December 1874 and to the Government of Madras for information-

Copy also to Accountant Bombay General, who will report if the establishment is not quickly dispensed with-

By order &c

J. A. Bourdillon

Offg Undersecy to the Govt of India

26/4

Financial (1875) Dept.
(Stamps)

From
The Government
of India
Financial Department

Dated 28th April } 75
Recd. 10th May }

No 249

No 1117

Forwarding copy of a letter addressed to the Bombay Govt. directing discontinuance of the practice of unperforated impressed stamps.

Ootacamund. 13th May 1875. No 1033

With note

Govt. of {1815} Madras.

Financial

G.O. 13 January 1815 No. 1033

Nos. 96-7

Impressed Stamps.

Letter from Govt. of India directing that the practice of numbering these Stamps be abandoned, communicated, through the Board of Revenue, to the Superintendent of Stamps.

V