

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	479	Press
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Dated	7-4-15	1864

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

7th April 1864.

No. 77. Read the following letter from Lieutenant Colonel J. CARPENDALE, R. E., Mint Master; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Mint, 23rd March 1864, No. 521.

In reference to Order of Government, as per margin, communicating paragraph 8 of a letter from the Advocate General on the subject of the theft in the Mint, for which two workmen were tried and convicted, I have the honor to state

No. 359, 14th March 1864.

that the Advocate General has misapprehended Mr. Christian's evidence as relates to the system of search which prevails in the Mint. The search is of two kinds—*full search* and *half search*; the former is thorough, including the mouth, and is applied to all workmen in the Coinage Departments without reference to age: the latter is not exactly a mere form, but it permits I must allow the possibility of theft if among those who have the privilege of being half searched there is a dishonest person, as with Chengleroye the men who were convicted. The half search men in the Coinage Department are those in situations of responsibility, and who have earned in the Mint a character of respectability; they are the Conicopolies, the weighing men, the Shroffs, the Gollahs, or Watchmen, and the head Assorters. In my opinion half search is wrong in principle; men should either be trusted entirely, or the search be so thorough that theft would be impossible; but as the system has prevailed since the organization of the Mint in 1841, I do not at present recommend any change further than that secured by my Diary Order of the 8th February 1864, No. 404, of which a copy is enclosed.

2. The Advocate General is also in error in his impression that the system of check is less perfect in this Mint than in those of London and Calcutta. In the Laminating room the Silver bars gain an indefinite weight in the process of annealing by the oxidation of the Copper alloy which is in them, and in a subsequent operation in the same room (laminating) they lose an indefinite weight by small chips and Silver dust that fly off in the repeated passage of the bars through the Mill, and which is for the most part recovered at the end of each month from the sweepings of the room, but never can be entirely recovered; and although from experience it is known with tolerable accuracy what should be the gain in weight *per cent* or *per mille* each day after allowing for the loss in laminating, in no Mint can the possible abstraction of a small portion of the coinage of a day in this particular Department be entirely prevented except by search.

3. In the London Mint the system of search is adopted at the gate of the premises on any day on which the Superintendent of the laminating or other Department suspects, by reason of the deficiency being greater than he calculates on, that there has been any dishonesty.

No. 404.

MEMORANDUM.

In consequence of the conviction in the High Court of Chengleroyen, Head Assorter, and Moonesawmy a Cutter in the Silver Laminating room, on a charge of stealing Silver Disks, and which has resulted in their being sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment with hard labor, and considering the respectable and trusted position of one, and the long service of the other on whom suspicion had never fallen, the Mint Master feels it requisite to enforce more strictly than appears to be the practice, the diary Order of the 19th September 1859, which is hereafter re-published: and in accordance with that order a more strict search than at present exists shall be made of all turbands and head cloths or kerchief. It is not sufficient to merely feel a turband loosely—all turbands or head cloths shall be taken off and shaken. This order applies especially to all persons employed in the Silver melting room, Laminating room, Cleaning room, and Stamping room; and the only exceptions to the rules are the Deputy Superintendents. Men who have made-up turbands must leave them at the gate. This order will have effect from Thursday next.

(Signed) J. CARPENDALE,

Mint Master.

MINT, 8th February 1864.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
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No. 254.

Notice is hereby given that from the 1st proximo no servant will be allowed to enter the Mint gate with any heavy clothing. All persons employed in the Mint are to be clad in as simple and light a manner as possible. Heavy turbands and all cummerbunds must be left at the gate if brought to the Mint.

MINT, 19th September 1859.

(Signed) C. A. ORR,
Mint Master.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) J. CARPENDALE,
Mint Master.

No. 77A.

ORDER THEREON, 7th April 1864, No. 479.

To be recorded.

(True Extract.)

NOT,
Secretary.

Exd. R. H. Leo.

Judicial

1864 Depart.

From

Mint Master

To The Chief Secretary
to Government.

Dated 23rd March 1864,
Recd. 24th March 1864,
Enclor. one

N^o. 521 N^o. 580

With reference to
order of Govt N^o. 359 that
that the Adv. Genl. has
misapprehended Mr.
Christians evidence and
explains the system of
search in the Mint also
the check in regard to

in reply
7 April 1864,
To be recorded 7/4

No. 14th March 1864 N^o. 152-153

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