

Public Works (1899) Department.

G.O., No. 472 W

DATED 14th Feb 1899.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Indian Compt Act, 1870

Pro: Secy Dept Commencing
Induction of the Govt of India prescribing certain
rules for the guidance of officers employed to Cash
Coin under the ——— Communicated to the
Comm: Engineer for Ry: & the Engineer, P.W. Accounts.

Recd. 7. 2. } 1899.
Regd. 7. 2. }

Spare copies 10

G.O., No. 166, 1st February 1899.

B No. 472 W 9/14.2.99
Communicated
to the Cons. Engineer
for Railways and the
Examiner, P. W. Accounts.

Pur
 6.2.99. Cont
 8/2/99
 e Act, 1870.

Indian Coinage Act, 1870.

Communicating to the departments of the Secretariat and to the Secretary and Treasurer, Bank of Madras, resolution of the Government of India prescribing certain rules for the guidance of officers empowered to cut coin under the —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper:—

G.O., No. 204, Financial, dated 21st March 1891.

ABSTRACT.—Communicating notification of the Government of India authorizing certain officers to cut or break silver coin under section 16 of the Indian Coinage Act, 1870, in supersession of certain previous notifications.

READ—also the following paper:—

Resolution of the Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department (Accounts and Finance—Mint), dated Calcutta, 17th January 1899, No. 217-A.

Read—

Notification by the Government of India, in the Department of Finance and Commerce, No. 664, dated the 13th February 1891.

Resolution.—The Governor-General in Council has had under consideration the question of laying down rules for the systematic examination of counterfeit coin by the Mint Masters of the Calcutta and Bombay Mints. Under sections 16 and 17 of the Indian Coinage Act, 1870, and under clause 2 (1) of the notification read above, any counterfeit coin tendered to an officer empowered by that notification to cut or break coin is to be cut or broken, and the broken pieces are to be returned to the tenderer. In practice, however, such coins, after being broken, are sent, in accordance with article 581 of the Civil Account Code, to the Mint at Calcutta or Bombay, when this can be done with the consent of the tenderer. The practice has certain advantages, and the rules appended to this resolution are accordingly prescribed for the guidance of officers empowered to cut coin under the Indian Coinage Act, 1870. The High Courts of the several Provinces will be moved to issue orders providing that counterfeit coins, which come before the courts under sections 517, 523 and 524 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, shall be disposed of in similar fashion.

ENCLOSURE.

Rules.

Treasury Officers.

1. When it can be done with the consent of the tenderer, counterfeit coins tendered to Treasury Officers and others authorized to cut or break them under the provisions of section 16 of Act XXIII of 1870 should be sent to the Mint at Calcutta or Bombay. If the tenderer, however, does not consent to the counterfeit coin being sent to the Mint, unless the broken pieces are afterwards returned to him, the coin should not be sent at all. It is, however, open to a Government officer, to whom such a coin is tendered in cases in which the tenderer is otherwise unwilling to part with it, to purchase it from him at a suitable price, not in any case exceeding its nominal value, charging its cost to Government. This course should only be followed when from the excellence of the execution, or for any other special cause, it seems desirable that the coin should be acquired as a specimen, and the officer purchasing the same should, when forwarding it to the Mint, state at the same time the grounds upon which its purchase was considered desirable.

2. Treasury Officers should, as soon as possible, after the end of each quarter, submit to the Accountant-General a return in Form No. 77 of the Civil Account Code showing the working during the past quarter of the rules for cutting and breaking coin. These returns should be consolidated by the Accountant-General concerned for each Province, and a copy of the consolidated return should be furnished by him to the Mint Master, Calcutta or Bombay.

Mint Master.

3. When counterfeit coins are received at the Mint under rule 1, or under any orders which may be issued by the High Courts for the disposal of coins received in the course of criminal investigations, the Mint Master should cause them to be examined and assayed, if necessary. If they present any special features of importance, or if it appears from the number received at the Mint, or recorded in the quarterly returns furnished by Treasuries, that counterfeit coins on an unusually large scale are being produced in any province or locality, or are being imported into any particular district or districts, or that fraudulent tampering with the coinage is prevalent anywhere to an unusual extent, he will submit a special report regarding the same to the Government of India through the Comptroller and Auditor General.

4. The Mint Master should keep a classified record of all counterfeit coins received by him, and should include it in his annual administration report embodying therein the statistics of counterfeit coins cut and broken which he obtains from the consolidated returns furnished to him by the provincial accounts officers.

Railways.

5. Railways in India are under Civil Account Code, article 590A, entitled to send out (fraudulently reduced) coins to the Mints and to receive credit for their market value. This rule applies only to fraudulently-reduced coin and not to counterfeit coin. As regards the latter, Railways are merely in the position of private tenderers and are not entitled to receive credit from the Mint for the market value, or to have the coins assayed and reported on by the Assay Master.

6. When, however, any unusually large amount of counterfeit coins is tendered to Railway officers, or the existence of such coins in circulation in large quantities in any locality is otherwise brought to their notice, a special report on the subject should be submitted for the information of the Government of India.

Order.—Ordered, that this resolution be communicated to the several Local Governments and Administrations; to the Home and the Public Works Departments; to the Comptroller and Auditor General; to the Mint Masters, Calcutta and Bombay; and to all Accountants-General and Comptrollers.

Ordered also, that the resolution be published in the *Gazette of India* vide C.N. 1421/99

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. A. ROBERTSON,
Offg. Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

ORDER—No. 166, Financial, dated 1st February 1899.

Communicated to the departments of the Secretariat and to the Secretary and Treasurer, Bank of Madras.

2. Orders will issue in the Judicial Department with reference to the last sentence of the foregoing resolution.

(True Extract.)

A. Edgington
for Chief Secretary.

To the Departments of the Secretariat.
" Secretary and Treasurer, Bank of Madras.
Copy to the Accountant-General.

Exd. P. Seetharam.