M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-6-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2928 Press ~~Mis.~~

525-526

Dated 28 - 11 - 1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 525. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st September 1863, No. 5,973.

Read again the following papers :—

Order of Government in the Revenue Department, No. 960, dated 4th June 1863, regarding certain Stamp frauds.

(In Cons. 5th June 1863, No. 3,458.)

Letter from the Mint Master, dated 19th June 1863, No. 48, reporting what precautions might be adopted to prevent forgery of Stamps.

(In Cons. 20th June 1863, No. 3,808.)

Letter from the same Officer, dated 24th June 1863, No. 52, stating that he has no data for estimating the value of machines for impressing bi-colored Stamps.

(In Cons. 25th June 1863, No. 3,955.)

Read also the following letter from the Officiating Superintendent of Stamps, Fort William, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated 28th July 1863, No. 872.

1. In reply to your letter of 9th July to my address, I have the honor to state, for the information of the Board of Revenue, that I have no means of ascertaining with accuracy what the cost of one of Bryan Donkin & Co.'s bi-color stamping machines would be.

2. It appears from an invoice of the first machine received in 1845, or eighteen years ago, that the total cost over the ship's side in Calcutta was £1,530-18-3, but it is probable that the cost would now be considerably reduced; and indeed I find from the invoice of the last machine we had that that machine together with a steam engine, shafting, &c., was charged in a lump sum of £1,560-5-6. The Engineer attached to this Office estimates the cost of the engine and shafting at £200, which would leave £1,360 as the probable cost of the Stamping Machine including freight and shipping charges.

3. I annex a Memorandum shewing the cost of the machine of 1845 in detail: the Board will, I trust, from these particulars be enabled to form a general estimate of the present probable cost.

4. The ordinary out-turn of work by a single machine is 1,000 sheets (which gives 3,000 stamps of the lower sizes, or 2,000 of the higher) per hour, or 6,000 sheets per day of ordinary office length, if the machine is kept printing off stamps of the same value all day long; but every change of value causes a loss of from twenty minutes to half an hour.

5. I presume the Board are aware that a proposal to manufacture stamps at this Office for the whole of India is now under consideration in the Financial Department of the Government of India, and the final decision of Government may be expected in a few days.

Memorandum.

	£.	s.	d.
Machine with four Plates complete...			
71 sets of value pieces			
Counter	1,490	13	0
Cutting Machine			
Grindstone			
Various implements for use with the Machine			
Stores	95	13	4
Packing Cases	13	17	8
Freight	3	17	9
Establishment and Shipping Charges	58	14	8
	1,662	16	5
Deduct drawback	131	18	2
Cost over the ship side in Calcutta	1,530	18	3

(Signed) W. L. HEELEY,
Officiating Superintendent of Stamps.

1. Ordered that the letter from the Superintendent of Stamps, Calcutta, be submitted for the consideration and orders of Government.

2. In the Order of Government, No. 960, dated 4th June 1863, above read, communicating the report of the Advocate General on certain cases of fraud tried at the High Court Sessions, the Board were directed to report, in communication with the Mint Master, what additional precautions besides the contemplated use of water-marked paper, could be adopted to prevent the forgery of stamps; and they accordingly beg to report as follows.

3. Colonel Orr is of opinion that numbering the Stamps consecutively, by means of machines, as Bank notes are numbered, as suggested by Government, might interpose an obstacle to the misappropriation of genuine Stamps, and in many ways facilitate their safe custody; but that it would not in the slightest degree prevent the forging of Stamps, since the forgery of false numbers would be by far the most easily executed part of the counterfeit.

4. As regards using a bi-colored Stamp as is done in Bengal, to which the Government have referred, Colonel Orr thinks that, combined with the use of water-marked paper, it will render successful forgery impossible; and he recommends that two machines be ordered out from England at once, so that no risk may be incurred of the supply of Stamps falling short, through failure of a machine; and that the machines be set up and worked at the Mint, the cost of doing which will be inconsiderable.

5. The Board have ascertained from the Officiating Superintendent of Stamps at Calcutta, that the last bi-color Stamping Machine received (one of Bryan Donkin and Company's), cost about 1,360 £ inclusive of freight and shipping charges. The *first* machine received at Calcutta was in 1845 or eighteen years ago, and it appears to have cost £1,490-13-0 exclusive of all other charges, as shewn in the Superintendent's Memorandum above printed.

6. "The ordinary out-turn of work by a single machine," the Superintendent states, "is 1,000 sheets, or 3,000 stamps of the lower sizes, or 2,000 stamps of the "higher, per hour; or 6,000 sheets per day of ordinary office length, if the machine "is kept printing off stamps of the same value all day long; but every change of "value causes a loss of from twenty minutes to half an hour."

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th November 1865.

7. Considering the increasing importance of the Stamp Revenue, and the effectual bar which bi-colored stamps would raise to the commission of forgeries, the Board would recommend the adoption of the system if the manufacturing of stamps be continued at this Presidency.

No. 526. ORDER THEREON, 28th November 1865, No. 2,928.

Separate Revenue, No. 26.
Stamps.

Recorded, with reference to G. O. dated 28th October 1864, and 6th May 1865, Nos. 1,996 and 937 respectively.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd S. T. Augustin.

No. 3,793.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd June 1863.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Mint Master, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 19th June 1863, No. 43:—

1. With reference to the Board's Proceedings of the 12th instant, communicating to me the Order of Government, No. 960 of the 4th idem, and requesting me to report what additional precautions may be adopted to prevent the forgery of stamps, and whether the use of machines to number the stamps consecutively as struck off would not be advisable, I have the honor to state that, after the fullest consideration of the subject, I can think of no means by which attempts more or less rough, to imitate the present description of stamp, may be prevented, so long as ordinary paper of all qualities, and some of it even of the most common sort, is allowed to be stamped.

2. Consecutive numbering, as Bank Notes are numbered, might interpose an obstacle to the misappropriation of genuine stamps, and in many ways facilitate their safe custody, but it would not, so far as I can see, in the slightest degree hinder their spurious production, since the forgery of false numbers would be by far the most easily executed part of the counterfeit. The discontinuance of stamping any other but water-marked paper, expressly manufactured solely for the Government, will, to the best of my belief, be the only effectual preventative, and if, in addition, a bi-colored impression, similar to that in use in Bengal, be adopted, successful forgery will be made impossible.

3. For the protection of so large a revenue as stamps are now yielding, it is manifestly necessary to take every precaution against their illicit fabrication, and as the cost of Machinery for impresing a bi-colored stamp will be comparatively trifling, the most advisable course is, I think, to order out two machines, with dies complete, from England at once. They may be set up and worked at the Mint at an inconsiderable expense, and if two be ordered there will be no risk of the supply of stamps falling short through failure of a machine.

The Board request the Mint Master to favor them with an estimate of the cost of the Machines, if he is in a position to frame one.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

To Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. Orr, R. E., Mint Master.

Exd. J. Wright.

Rec'd 23/7/63.

1863. Departments.

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 23rd June 1863.

Despatched

Received

No. 3,793.

Requesting the Mint Master to favor the Board with an estimate of the cost of the machine for impressing stamps.

No. 4,168.

From W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue,
To the SUPERINTENDENT OF STAMPS, Calcutta.

SIR,

1. I am directed by the Board of Revenue to request that you will be good enough to furnish them with a Memorandum of the cost of procuring from England one of Bryan Donkin and Company's Bi-color Stamping Machine, such as are used and most approved in your Office, for the manufacture of Stamps.

2. The Board will be glad to know the ordinary out-turn of work by a single Machine per day.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE,
Chepauk,
9th July 1863.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Rec'd 23/9/63.

1863. Department.

No.

From the Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

To the Superintendent of Stamps, Calcutta.

Dated 9th July 1863.

Despatched

Received

No. 4,168.

Requesting a Memorandum of the cost of procuring from England a Bryan Donkin and Company's Stamping Machine.

No. 5,973.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st September 1863.

Read again the following papers :—

Order of Government in the Revenue Department, No. 960, dated 4th June 1863, regarding certain Stamp frauds.

(In Cons. 5th June 1863, No. 3,458.)

Letter from the Mint Master dated 19th June 1863, No. 48, reporting what precautions might be adopted to prevent forgery of Stamps.

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Letter from the same Officer dated 24th June 1863, No. 52, stating that he has no data for estimating the value of Machines for impressing bi-colored Stamps.

(In Cons. 25th June 1863, No. 3,955.)

Read also the following letter from W. L. HEELEY, Esq., Officiating Superintendent of Stamps, Fort William, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated 28th July 1863, No. 872.

1. In reply to your letter of 9th July to my address, I have the honor to state, for the information of the Board of Revenue, that I have no means of ascertaining with accuracy what the cost of one of Bryan Donkin and Co.'s bi-color stamping Machines would be.

2. It appears from an invoice of the first Machine received in 1845, or 18 years ago, that the total cost over the ship's side in Calcutta was £1,530-18-3, but it is probable that the cost would now be considerably reduced; and indeed I find from the invoice of the last Machine we had that that Machine together with a Steam Engine, shafting, &c., was charged in a lump sum of £1,560-5-6. The Engineer attached to this Office estimates the cost of the Engine and shafting at £200, which would leave £1,360 as the probable cost of the Stamping Machine including freight and shipping charges.

3. I annex a Memorandum showing the cost of the Machine of 1845 in detail; the Board will I trust from these particulars be enabled to form a general estimate of the present probable cost.

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Enclosure No. 1.

Memorandum.

	£.	s.	d.
Machine with four Plates complete, 71 sets of value pieces, Counter, Cutting Machine, Grindstone	1,490	13	0
Various implements for use with the Machine	95	13	4
Stores	13	17	8
Packing Cases	3	17	9
Freight	58	14	8
Establishment and Shipping Charges	131	18	2
	1,662	16	5
Deduct drawback	131	18	2
Cost over the ship side in Calcutta	1,530	18	3

(Signed) W. L. HEELEY, Offg. Supt. of Stamps.

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2. In the Order of Government, No. 930, dated 4th June 1863, above read, communicating the report of the Advocate General on certain cases of fraud tried at the High Court Sessions, the Board were directed to report, in communication with the Mint Master, what additional precautions besides the contemplated use of water marked paper, could be adopted to prevent the forgery of stamps; and they accordingly beg to report as follows.

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7. Considering the increasing importance of the Stamp Revenue and the effectual bar which bi-colored stamps would raise to the commission of forgeries, the Board would recommend the adoption of the system if the manufacturing of stamps be continued at this Presidency.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to R. W. Norfor, Esq., Superintendent of Stamps.
" to G. J. Shaw, Esq., Officiating Mint Master.

Exd. J. Wright.

Submitting letters from the Mint Master and Superintendent of Stamps communicating certain precautions to prevent the forgery of stamps, and giving certain information regarding the bi-color stamping machine.

Dated 21st September 1863.

Received 28th September 1863.

No. 5,973

Rec'd 30 Oct.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

No. 2317

1863