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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Dated 27-2-1879 —197—.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

10th February 1879, No. 221.

Copper Coins.

Read the following paper :—

No. 41. *Proceedings of the Government of India, Financial Department, dated Fort William, 17th January* 1879, *No.* 207 (*Mint and Currency*):

READ again—

(1) Resolution, No. 3733, dated 12th December 1873, to withdraw from circulation all copper coin issued before Act XXI of 1835 came into force, which finds its way to the Government Treasuries or, on Government account, to the Presidency Banks and their Branches.

Read the following papers :—

(2) A letter from the Government of Fort St. George, submitting a proposal made by the Accountant-General, Madras, that some date be fixed, by notification or otherwise, after which "uncurrent copper coin of the old mintage shall not be received by the Government." The Government of Madras considers that sufficient notice should be given to the public, and the coins duly called in before they are declared illegal.

(3) A telegram to the Accountant-General, Madras, No. 1493, dated 25th February 1878, forbidding the withdrawal of copper coins of British Mints, in good condition, of whatever date.

(4) A circular, No. 19, dated 1st March 1878, issued by the Accountant-General, Madras, to give effect to the instructions recited in paragraph (3).

(5) A letter from the Comptroller-General, No. 2382, dated 15th March, asking for copy of the orders justifying the circular by the Accountant-General, Madras, recited in paragraph (4).

(6) (*a*) A letter from the Accountant-General, Madras (enclosing one from the Secretary and Treasurer of the Bank of Madras), reporting that copper coins, bearing on one side the device of a pair of scales, and certain four-pie pieces, are not readily received by the public; and repeating his suggestion, recited in paragraph (2), that copper coin which is not legal tender under the Indian Coinage Act, 1870, should cease to be received in the public treasuries.

(*b*) A further letter from the same Officer, calling attention to the foregoing letter, and pointing out that the Comptroller-General, in clause 4 of his circular, No. 21, of the 6th March 1878, has already forbidden the receipt at public treasuries of any copper coin which is not legal tender under the Indian Coinage Act, 1870.

(*c*) A further letter from the same Officer, calling attention to his letters hereinbefore recited, and submitting, as a specimen, a report from the Treasury Officer of Madura, to the effect that there is uncurrent copper coin (chiefly, it would appear, the aforesaid scale coins) to the value of Rupees 800-4-0 in his treasury, which the public refuse to receive.

(7) A letter from the Accountant-General, Bombay, No. 1757-R, dated 8th May, inquiring whether the orders upon which the circular instruction by the Accountant-General, Madras, recited in paragraph 4, was issued, are applicable to the Bombay Presidency.

(8) A demi-official letter to the Mint Master, Calcutta, No. 921, dated 24th July 1878, and his reply, containing particulars of the copper coins issued from time to time by the Bengal Mints.

(9) A demi-official letter to the Mint Master, Bombay, No. 922, dated 24th July 1878, and his reply, containing particulars of the copper coinage of the Bombay Mints.

(10) A demi-official to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, No. 923, dated 24th July 1878, and replies by the Accountant-General, Madras, containing details of the copper coinage of the Madras Mints.

(11) A demi-official letter to the Mint Master, Bombay, No. 47, dated 1st October, and his reply, showing the loss incurred by withdrawing copper coins.

Read again—

(12) Letter to the Comptroller-General, No. 2205, dated 16th August 1878, authorizing the receipt for full value from Mysore of Rupees 9,043 worth of copper coins of British coinage prior to 1835.

Read—

(13) Letter from the Accountant-General, Madras, No. 172-N, dated 24th September, inviting attention to his letters recited in paragraph (6), and observing that, pending orders upon those letters, he will not move the said copper coin from Mysore.

RESOLUTION.—The Governor-General in Council is not prepared to call in any copper coin, the produce of British Mints, however old its date. Such a copper coin may not unreasonably be regarded as a metallic token equivalent to a promise on the part of British Government to accept the coin at the value placed on it when it was originally issued.

2. Any copper coin, which can be recognised as the produce of a British Mint, should, therefore, be received freely as legal tender against the Government, or by the Presidency Banks in payment of Government dues—

(1) if it bears the designation of any existing legal-tender copper coin, or multiple, or subdivision thereof—then at its nominal value;

(2) if it bears some obsolete designation, such as "cash," "dabs," or "falooss"—then at the rate of a-quarter-of-an-anna for every hundred grains troy of its weight.

3. But His Excellency in Council is pleased to resolve, in supersession of all previous orders to the contrary, that, for the present, as an experimental measure, no copper coin coined before Act XXI of 1835 came into force shall be re-issued either by the Presidency Banks or from any Government Treasury. The Comptroller-General should keep himself informed of the operation of these orders, and report if the quantity of copper coin withdrawn under them becomes inconveniently great. Meanwhile all such coins, which come into the *ex-officio* possession of any Government Officer or of the Presidency Banks, should be returned into store at the nearest depôt or sub-depôt, established under Resolution, No. 884, dated 11th June 1878.

4. The Comptroller-General will issue such orders as he may think fit for the effectual destruction of all such copper coins received at such depôts and sub-depôts; determining, in consultation with the Mint Masters, whether their destruction can be safely entrusted to the local officers, or whether the coin must be carried to the nearest Mint and there destroyed. In either case, the metal should be sold as old copper.

5. The Comptroller-General will also report, for the approval of the Government of India, the measures which he proposes to adopt for passing through the public accounts the cost of withdrawing such obsolete coins.

6. The Comptroller-General will also report annually the amount and particulars of copper coin of the coinages before 1835 withdrawn under these orders.

7. For the convenience of the Banks and Treasury Officers in giving effect to these orders, it is observed that only the following copper coins will henceforth be re-issued from any Presidency Bank or Government Office:—

(1) Double-pice or Half-an-anna.
(2) Pice or A-quarter-of-an-anna.
(3) Half-pice or One-eighth-of-an-anna.
(4) Pie or One-twelfth-of-an-anna.

The coins to be thus re-issued are of two descriptions:

1*st*.—The device upon the obverse of those coined under Acts passed before Act XIII of 1862 is the armorial bearings of the East India Company with a year of the Christian era. Upon the reverse is a laurel wreath

surrounding the designation of the coin in English and (except the older half-pice, which only bear the date 1853) Persian, and the words "East India Company" in English.

2*nd*.—The device upon the obverse of those coined under Act XIII of 1862 and later Acts is the effigy, name, and title of the reigning sovereign. Upon the reverse is a laurel wreath surrounding the designation of the coin in English over the word "India" and a year of the Christian era.

Ordered that this Resolution be distributed for information and guidance as follows:—

1.—To the several Departments of the Government of India.
2.—To the several Local Governments and Administrations.
3.—To the Comptroller-General, and to the several Accountants-General and Deputy Accountants-General in independent charge.
4.—To the several Chiefs of Departments administered by the Government of India in the Financial Department.
5.—To the Presidency Banks.

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

No. 42. ORDER THEREON, 10th February 1879, No. 221.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue and to all Collectors of Districts for information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
" all Collectors of Districts.
" the Revenue Department.
" the Directors of the Bank of Madras.
" the Accountant-General.

Exd. J. Wright.

1163

Revenue 1879 Depts

No 1656

Calcutta 1870 Edition.

FINANCIAL.

To

The BOARD of REVENUE,

&c, &c, &c.

Dated Fort William, the

Read 12

Ans. 22 February

(G.O., 16th February 1879, No. 122.)

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 11-12.

Mis Gl 27 Febry/79 No 782.

Copper Coins.—Communicating Resolution of the Government of India on the subject of the below copper coins.

Mr Waterfield

Copies sent to Bd Rev. 27/2/79.

Rupee Letter, Bombay, Madras, Bengal, Punjab, N.W.P., Oudh, Central Provinces, Burma, Assam, Coorg, Ajmere, Berar, Mysore, Hyderabad, Kashmir, Sikkim, Baroda, Cochin, Travancore, Rajputana, Central India, Bombay Political, Madras Political, Bengal Political, Punjab Political, Foreign Office, Calcutta.

27/2/79.

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