M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1117 Press ~~Mis.~~

269-270

Dated 17 — 5 — ~~19~~ 1867

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th May 1867.

No. 269. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th May 1867, No. 2,790.

Read the following letters :—

From the Superintendent of Stamps, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd May 1867, No. 1,230, of Fusly 1276.

1. With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated the 29th ultimo, calling for a Draft Notification for publication in the "Fort Saint George" and District Gazettes, announcing the introduction of the Bi-color Stamp in the place of the present embossed Stamp, I have the honour to state that I have conferred with Colonel Carpendale as to the date from which the change is to be carried out, and have also personally observed the working of the new bi-color presses at the Mint. The men are not yet sufficiently familiar with their use, and far from being able to turn out 6,000 impressions in a day from each press, they give us but about 2,000 at present, or 6,000 from all the three presses which I found at work. This is exactly one-third of what is needed, viz., 18,000, to meet the present average requirements of this department. The indents for the first quarter, *i. e.*, for July, August, and September of the coming Fusly, have nearly all come in, and the supplies should be in the Collectorate Treasuries before the 1st of July; but, pending the intended adoption of the Bi-color Stamps, nothing has yet been done towards getting the supplies ready, and there are hardly fifty working days before us for doing this. With the present rate of working at the new presses, it is not probable that much more than a third of the full quarter's supply can be turned out before the 1st of July, and the sales are thus likely to be seriously impeded, to say nothing of the inconvenience that would be caused to the public. I expect the Collectors to send in Supplemental Indents for the ensuing quarter with reference to the requirements of the amended Schedule B, and this would greatly add to the embarrass ment.

* 17th April 1867, No. 904.

2. The Order* of Government sanctioning the introduction of the Bi-color Stamps was received only on the 25th ultimo. The men employed at the new presses at the Mint have, therefore, not had sufficient time to practice, and are consequently not up to the required mark. They will, doubtless, become more familiar hereafter, but the Mint Master thinks on further consideration that the present number of presses, and the establishment already sanctioned, will not be sufficient in any case to turn out the required quantity of work. He is of opinion that instead of three presses, *six at least* will be required to give out daily 18,000 Judicial Stamps, and that if our demands increase under the new Schedule, a larger number will be requisite. He proposes that he be allowed to go on working the three presses now available while others are being constructed ; and, in this way, he expects to be able to supply the quantity required in time for issue from the Collectorate Treasuries by the 1st of October.

3. But the demands of the coming quarter must be met first and at once, and these, as already stated, will be larger than usual owing to the new Act ; and as the matter will not brook delay, I am of opinion that it will be the safest course to keep to the present embossed Stamps in meeting the indents for the quarter commencing

1st July next, and to bring the Bi-color Stamps into use as regards all Judicial papers issued from this Office after the 1st of July next. Colonel Carpendale seems to think that we should work both the old and new presses side by side, but this would occasion great confusion, necessitate the employment of a double set of Counters, Workers, and Pressmen both in his and this Office, and the keeping of a double set of accounts; and, contrary to the principle on which the Stamp Department has been hitherto worked, also lead to our keeping on hand a large quantity of Judicial stamped paper which was not wanted for immediate use. I would, therefore, confine ourselves now to the use of the old presses for meeting the demands of the ensuing quarter; and, when that has been done, to bring the new presses into use. The men at the Mint might meanwhile practice occasionally at the latter, and the additional presses being also constructed, everything, it is hoped, will be in working order to admit of the change being satisfactorily carried out from and after the 1st of July. 18,000 rolls of water-marked paper, which I sent to the Mint last Friday, are now being impressed with the Bi-color Stamp, but, under the arrangement above proposed, they will be put by for the present and be brought into use after July.

4. The above remarks apply to Judicial Stamps only. The Bi-color Stamps are already in use in the case of private documents, although the change does not seem to be acceptable to the Mercantile community, owing chiefly to their printed forms of cheques, &c., not admitting of two stamps (the value and counterstamp) being impressed without either partially obliterating some of the printed matter, or covering the space intended for figures and names.

From the Mint Master, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 4th May 1867, No. 61.

1. The Superintendent of Stamps will have reported to the Board that it will not be practicable to supply him with the new Bi-colored Stamps in anything like a sufficient quantity to admit of his furnishing each Collectorate with the estimated quarter's supply prior to the 1st of July, and that he proposes the introduction of the new Judicial Stamps should be from the 1st of October next, but I think it desirable also to address you on the subject in order to avoid delay of reference. The Board are aware that the preparation of the Bi-colored stamping was only authorized to commence from the 15th of April, which, even if the Easter holidays had not intervened, and supposing the workmen to have attained the highest degree of skill, leaves too short a time for printing ten lacs of stamps, the estimated quarter supply, sufficiently quickly for them to be ready for issue in all the Provinces by the 1st July.

2. I am also disappointed to find that the daily out-turn of work at the Mint presses falls far short of what was expected, and that instead of each press being able to give two thousand impressions in a day, equivalent to six thousand stamps, they cannot print at present half as much, and on full consideration I have reluctantly come to the conclusion that one thousand impressions, equal to three thousand stamps, is the utmost the men will be able to do when they have attained greater skill from practice. This will necessitate six large presses instead of four, and an increased establishment; two more presses are this day put in hand, and I will hereafter address you more fully regarding the establishment.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th May 1867.

3. I regret that I did not obtain a few thousand sheets of paper to experiment on before proposing the establishment sanctioned as per margin, and thus practically ascertained the number of stamps our workmen would be capable of printing.

Government Order, Revenue Department, No. 904, 17th April 1867.

4. By going on with the Bi-colored stamping as fast as existing arrangements will admit, and bringing the new presses into use as ready, I doubt not that we shall be able to meet the demands in good time for transmission to all Collectorates prior to October 1st, and be able to keep up the supply afterwards provided those demands do not much exceed what we have been accustomed to 18,000 stamps a day, in consequence of a recent alteration in Schedule A. of the Stamp Act. Meanwhile, I assume that the usual quantity of embossed stamped Judicial paper will be required for the quarter commencing 1st July, and it is of the utmost importance that early orders should be received on this head, as there is less time than usual to do the work, and it will be necessary to engage extra hand temporarily for that work in order not to interrupt the Bi-colored stamping.

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1. Under the circumstances stated, the complete introduction of Bi-color Stamp from the 1st July next is impracticable; but the higher values from 5 and possibly even from 2 Rupees upwards might be impressed with these stamps, and issued from that date. These values are comparatively few in number, and it is especially in respect to them that the additional security afforded by these stamps is of importance. The lower denominations may till October be issued with the present embossed Stamps.

2. The Mint Master will have extra machines made up as soon as possible, and forward an application in the usual form for the necessary establishment.

No. 270. ORDER THEREON, 17th May 1867, No. 1,117.

Separate Revenue, No. 14.
Stamps.

The Board's instructions are approved.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No 1117.

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N.

17th May 1767.

[illegible]

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Rec. 1867. Department.
Pro. of Govt for May

No. 1212.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 6th May 1867.
Received 9
Pro. B. of Rev. dt 2d July 67
Col. No. 1716

No. 2,790.

Authorizing Superintendent of Stamps to defe
complete introduction of bi-colour Stamps til
October 1867, and to use present embossed Stamp
till that time for lower values, and desiring Min
Master to make up required extra machines fo
bi-colour stamp impressions, and to forward ar
application for necessary establishment.

Pro. of the Board of Rev
dt 30 July 67 C. No 2073

A. 269 & 270.