

REPORT
OF THE
ADMINISTRATION OF THE MINT AT BOMBAY
AND CALCUTTA

FOR THE YEAR
1906-1907



CALCUTTA
SUPERINTENDENT GOVERNMENT PRINTING, INDIA
1908

Price Rupee One or 1s. 6d.

NICKEL COINAGE.

8. Experiments were undertaken last year in connection with the manufacture of a nickel one-anna piece with a view to obtain a coin distinctive in shape from any existing coin current in British India. As the design for a coin with a hole in the centre previously submitted was not approved of and the attempts to strike a coin with an eccentric hole having failed, all further efforts were directed to producing a coin with a waved or scalloped outline, the design for which was suggested by Captain McCormick, R.E. The principal difficulties met with were in the edging of the scalloped blanks and in the arrangements for feeding them correctly into the coining press. The economical manufacture of grooved dies without the introduction of special and costly plant, also taxed the ingenuity of the Engineering staff, to whom great credit is due for the way in which all the difficulties in connection with the coinage were successfully overcome. No nickel coins were, however, actually struck during the year under report. The one-anna nickel piece as finally approved by Government is coined from an alloy consisting of 25 parts of nickel and 75 parts of copper, the weight being 60 grains, or one-third that of a rupee.

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II.

STATEMENT of the BOMBAY MINT COINAGE for the year 1906-07.

METALS.	Tale of Pieces.	Nominal Value.	TOTAL.	
			Tale.	Value.
		<i>R a. p.</i>		<i>R a. p.</i>
Silver—				
Rupees	160,531,265	16,05,31,265 0 0		
Half-rupees	400,005	2,00,002 8 0		
Quarter-rupees	...			
Eighth-rupees	...			
British dollars	...			
			160,931,270	16,07,31,267 8 0
Nickel—				
One-anna	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>		
Copper and bronze	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>		
GRAND TOTAL	...		160,931,270	16,07,31,267 8 0

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1909

NICKEL.

8. Orders having been given for the coinage of nickel one-anna pieces, 37,256,000 pieces of the value of Rs 23,28,500 were struck during the year, the first issues to the public being made on the 1st August 1907. Specimens of the coins were previously distributed at the instance of the Comptroller General to various newspapers, the Chambers of Commerce and other representative public bodies in India. The general consensus of opinion was most favourable to the appearance and utility of the coin. Pyx trials were made at regular intervals by the Assay Master and in every way proved satisfactory.

The composition and weight of the new coin are given in paragraph 8 of last year's report. The coin has a waved edge with twelve scollops, its greatest diameter being 21 millimetres and its least diameter 19.8 millimetres. On the obverse the coin bears the effigy of His Majesty King Edward VII and the inscription "Edward VII King and Emperor" and on the reverse a design with AN I NA in the centre of an ornamental square, the value in Urdu, Nagri, Bengalee and Telegu on the four sides with the word "India" and the year of coinage within the square. The rim is not milled.

An obverse matrix and an obverse punch, with the waved edges uncut, were supplied by the Royal Mint in June 1907, from which the working dies for the obverse side of the coin were produced in this Mint, a matrix and a punch for the reverse dies having been received from the Calcutta Mint. Towards the end of October 1907, when the new coins had been in circulation for nearly three months, a second set of matrices and punches for both sides, with waved edges, and a set of special tools were received from the Royal Mint, but it has not been found necessary to take any of these matrices, punches or tools into use.

For the working of the Nickel Mint, which is capable of producing 2 lakhs of coins per day, the following additional establishment was sanctioned by the Secretary of State (*vide* Government of India, Finance Department letter No. 1818 Ex., dated 21st March 1907), the remainder of the operatives employed being on the temporary establishment.

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One second grade Engineer	250—20—350.
One Assistant Bullion Keeper	45.
Two Assistant Bullion Keepers	35 each.

Seven additional melting furnaces were also constructed during the year. The total nickel losses written off the books during the year amounted to 46 maunds giving a percentage of .597 per 100 maunds on the metal rolled.

II.

STATEMENT of the COINAGE of the BOMBAY MINT for the year 1907-08.

	Tale of Pieces.	Nominal Value.	TOTAL.	
			Tale.	Value.
Silver—		<i>R a. p.</i>		<i>R a. p.</i>
Rupees	107,927,893	10,79,27,893 0 0		
Half-rupees	1,855,687	9,27,843 8 0		
Quarter-rupees	...			
Eighth-rupees	...			
British dollars	1,945,726	44,15,021 0 0*		
			111,729,306	11,32,70,757 8 0
Nickel—				
One-anna	37,256,000	23,28,500 0 0	37,256,000	23,28,500 0 0
Bronze	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>		
GRAND TOTAL	...		148,985,306	11,55,99,257 8 0

* NOTE.—This figure represents the outturn value of the dollars in standard tolas.