M.R.O. 1—89,000—16-10-20.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1549 Press ~~Mis.~~

88-89

Dated 17.12.1861 ~~19~~ .

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, 17th December 1861.

No. 88. Read the following letter from J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Marine Department, Fort Saint George, dated 6th December 1861, No. 3,372.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Proceedings of Government of the 15th ultimo, No. 1,391, on the subject of the overcrowding of boats returning to the shore with coolies and batta lascars. The Advocate General states that the law in this respect is violated daily, and the constant risk to human life is very great indeed; and the Commissioner of Police, the Master Attendant, and myself are directed to arrange so as to check this evil.

2. That occasionally a few more men than a boat is by law permitted to carry were brought on shore, I was aware; but I was totally unprepared for the statement that the law was daily violated to the constant risk of human life. I have therefore been careful in my inquiries on this point and find that it is not the case. At times a boat will be overladen, although not so as to endanger life, when if it is a case requiring notice, the Supervisor of boats brings it before the Master Attendant who suspends the license for a term commensurate with the offence; but these are not cases of very frequent occurrence, and I think the control already exercised will be sufficient to prevent every serious infraction of the law.

3. The case alluded to in Mr. Sydney Smyth's letter is an exceptional one, and it is natural with the evidence of one of the witnesses to the effect that often 40 or 50 coolies are on board when a vessel, particularly a Steamer, is leaving, and only one boat alongside, that he should have brought it prominently to notice; but Government will be glad to learn that this is a very exaggerated statement. Steamers always have a number of boats alongside in which coolies can be sent on shore, and sailing vessels generally have sufficient, although as before stated it sometimes happens otherwise.

4. The shipping are supplied with coolies and batta lascars by dubashes whose duty it undoubtedly is to see that boats shall be sent to bring them on shore. I propose to make it known among the boatowners and boatmen, that on their bringing on shore such men for whom the dubash has failed to send boats, the full hire shall be enforced from the latter.

5. In conclusion I beg to add, that the Commissioner of Police is satisfied that Act IV of 1842, is not so systematically evaded as is supposed.

No. 89. ORDER THEREON, 17th December 1861, No. 1,549.

To be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

systematically enforced.

Order thereon No. 1549 – D/17th Decr 1861.

To be recorded

WM

JP