

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <i>794</i>	Press <i>Mis.</i>
<i>142-144</i>	
Dated <i>20. 6. 1881</i>	<i>19</i>

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
20th June 1861.

Read the following papers :—

No. 142. From P. GRANT, Esq., Magistrate of Malabar; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Calicut, 3rd June 1861, No. 45.

* *Commander Captain Deacon.*

Nine European Sailors belonging to the British Ship "Clarendon" of London, who were imprisoned in the Jail at Cochin for obstinate refusal to work on board, will be released on the 11th instant, the date on which their sentence will expire.

2. These men were tried and sentenced to twelve weeks' imprisonment by Mr. Cullin and Captain Castor as Justices of the Peace; *Joint Magistrate and Master Attendant of Cochin.* and from a report received from those Officers, I find that they will leave the Jail without the

means of obtaining food or clothing, at the most inclement season of the year, at the height of the monsoon, when no employment is procurable, all the English Ships having left the Port.

3. The circumstances connected with their case, which I deem it well to place before Government, are briefly these :—

They refused to work. The gentlemen aforementioned, who were called upon to interfere, went on board and reasoned with them, but to no purpose. They were finally put in irons, and the vessel proceeded to sea, the Captain hoping that they would resume their duty.

4. After having sailed about twenty miles northwards, the Captain, finding the men still refractory, returned to Cochin, as the vessel without their services, was undermanned. The Captain, in this dilemma, had no other alternative than, at great expense of time and money, to supplement his crew with Lascars hired at Cochin.

The men in question had no cause of complaint against the Captain.

All these circumstances combined, led to their trial and imprisonment.

5. The feeling against them on the part of the community at Cochin is, I learn, so strong on account of their bad conduct, that they are not at all likely to receive private charity on their release from the Jail, when they will be let loose on the town without the least prospect of early employment, at a period when the Port is closed and they will not have the means of getting away. I solicit therefore the sanction of Government to provide these men, at the public expense, with the means necessary to enable them to proceed to Madras or Bombay. Under any circumstances, there will be some difficulty in getting them to a sea-port frequented by English ships at this season of the year.

Referred for the remarks of the Superintendent of Marine.

10th June 1861.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 143. From J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 12th June 1861, No. 1,683.

I have the honor to return the letter from the Collector of Malabar of the 3rd instant, No. 45, referred for my remarks on the 10th instant.

2. Mr. Grant represents that nine European Sailors of the British Ship "Clarendon" having no complaint against the Vessel or the Commander positively refused to do any more duty on board, and after every attempt had been made to induce them to alter their determination they were sentenced to twelve weeks' imprisonment and their places were taken by lascars at considerable loss to the owners. Their period of imprisonment has just expired, and as they are without the means of procuring food or clothes, and it is a time when the port is closed to all maritime work, the Collector requests permission to supply them with means at the public expense to enable them to find their way to Bombay or Madras.

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3. It is such a common practice for Sailors to refuse work for the express purpose of being sent to prison, and thus escaping from their conditions of agreement entered into in England with the view to obtaining a higher rate of wages for the return passage home in some other Vessel, that I think no indulgence should be shown to such men. No doubt the Sailors of the "Clarendon" thought that when their term of imprisonment was over their wants would be cared for, and if they are forwarded on to an active shipping port they will have achieved all they wished for. I think that the Government should not be required to provide for them. On the expiration of their term of imprisonment they will have been released, and it should be their business to provide for themselves.

No. 144. ORDER THEREON, 20th June 1861, No. 794.

Resolved that a copy of the above letter from the Superintendent of Marine be furnished to the Collector of Malabar, in reference to his communication of the 3rd instant, No. 45. The Government concur with Mr. Franklin and would afford no assistance to the Seamen in question unless under any extreme circumstances.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

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Comm
14-6-61

Order thereon 20 June 1861. No. 794.
Resolved that a copy of the
above letter from the Sup^t of Marine
be furnished to the Collector of
Malabar in reference to his
communication of the 3rd instant No. 45.

The Govt concur with Mr. Frank-
lin and would afford no
assistance to the Seamen in
question unless under any
extreme circumstances.

Let the Superintendent
Collector of Malabar
Superintendent of Marine
J.P.