M.R.O. 1—22,000—16-10-20.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 72		Press Mis.
122-123		
Dated 17 — 1.	19	1886

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 122. Read the following letter from the Superintendent of Marine, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 11th January 1866, No. 174.

I have the honor to forward the accompanying letter from Mr. John Cameron, late Chief Officer of the Baque *Harriett*, whose Captain was killed, on the 3rd September last, by a Malay sailor.

2. Mr. Cameron, being one of the principal witness against the murderer, has been detained here ever since; and he complains that he has thereby not only lost his situation as Chief Mate, for which he received a salary of 101 Rupees a month and a free mess, but missed the opportunity of taking command of the vessel, which would have increased his salary to Rupees 270 a month. He states that the allowance of 3 Rupees a day is inadequate to his support, and trusts that Government will compensate him for his loss of time and emolument, during the period he has been, and is still likely to be, detained here.

3. There can be no question that Mr. Cameron's case is a very hard one; yet I do not see how his appeal can be entertained, without opening a door for numberless similar applications. If compensation is admitted for loss of time and earnings, every witness sent from one District to another will have a claim. I cannot, therefore, support the petition, but I think, as Chief Officer of a ship, Mr. Cameron might be considered entitled to the first class boarding allowance sanctioned in the Government Notification of the 7th September 1863, which is (5) five Rupees a day, instead of (3) three Rupees, which he has hitherto received. I recommend, therefore, that subsistence at this rate be granted to him, from the date on which he was obliged to leave his ship as a witness.

From Mr. J. CAMERON, late Chief Officer of the Barque *Harriett*, to the Superintendent of Marine, Madras; dated Madras, 5th January 1866.

I was the Chief Officer of the Barque *Harriett*, on board of which Captain M. L. Goularte was murdered by Sidden, and was present and witnessed the outrage committed. By reason of my having so witnessed the murder of my Captain, I was detained at Madras by the judicial authorities here, as a witness against Sidden, and am still so detained, and am likely to be so detained for a further period of perhaps a month.

2. My salary, as Chief Officer, was 45 Dollars, or 101 Rupees per month, besides a free Mess.

3. All this time I have been out of employ, and have received no compensation, other than three Rupees a day—a sum which just suffices to cover my Hotel expenses.

4. The murder of Captain Goularte left the Barque *Harriett* without a Commander, and had the ends of justice not required my detention at Madras, I should have been appointed Master of the *Harriett*, and my salary, as such, would have been 120 Dollars, or 270 Rupees, per month, and this rate of salary I would have drawn from the 3rd of September 1865.

5. Calculating that my detention will extend to a period of five months, at the above rate of salary, I would, in five months, have earned 600 Dollars, or 1350 Rupees. This sum I shall, by the time my services shall be dispensed with, have actually lost; and I beg also strongly to call your attention to the fact that I have lost the chance of being permanently appointed to the command of the *Harriett*.

6. I would also press upon your attention the fact that when my services shall no longer be required by the judicial authorities, I may not be able to find employment immediately; and

considering that my position will then be owing to no fault of mine, I would ask whether I am not in fairness entitled to some *bonus* for the time I may be obliged to remain on shore at Madras waiting for employment; for you will admit that, under present circumstances, I can hardly undertake to engage myself to any Shipowner, Agent, or Captain, and unless I can state with certainty when I shall be at liberty, no Shipowner, Agent, or Captain is likely to engage my services.

7. I would also call your attention to the fact that a person in my position, late a Chief Officer, and competent to take command of a Ship, cannot find employment ashore, and, further, I would respectfully ask you to remember that the late bad weather and accidents amongst the shipping have deprived so many Chief Officers and Ship Masters of employment, and that there being so many others looking for a like employ, the opportunity for early employment is the less likely to present itself to me.

8. As I have mentioned, the sum allowed me is barely sufficient to cover my Hotel expenses; and for absolutely necessaries, *i. e.*, paying servants, washerman, and for articles of clothing, I have been forced to incur liabilities; and even if allowance, at the rate I have mentioned, for five months be made me, I hardly think that I shall be able to liquidate all the debts I have been forced to incur.

9. To convince you how inadequate is the amount allowed me, I need only inform you that an Apprentice who belonged to the ship *York*, and who has, like me, been detained in Madras, is drawing a like allowance of 3 Rupees a day. I am sure that you will agree with me that the expenses of a person in my position are certain to be more than an Apprentice's, and that time is of more value to me than to the Apprentice.

10. Under all these circumstances, I have to request that you will be so good as to lay my case before the Government of Madras, and to procure me, over and above my allowance of 3 Rupees a day, an allowance of 125 Dollars a month for five months, that having been what, besides my keep, I would have earned, had I not been detained at Madras, and also to procure me a fair *bonus* to cover any expense I may be put to while detained looking out for employ, after my services shall have been dispensed with.

11. A fair amount might be arrived at, by giving me the allowance of 3 Rupees a day over and above the allowance of 125 Dollars a month, during the period of my detention at Madras, or as long as may appear to you a reasonable time for enabling me to find myself an adequate berth—my position being remembered—or by agreeing to pay me a lump sum, such as may appear to you reasonable, to cover my expenditure for a reasonable time, within which it may appear to you that I ought to be able to find employment, and to compensate me for loss of time and pay.

12. Awaiting an early favorable answer, I have the honor to be, &c.

No. 123. ORDER THEREON, 17th January 1866, No. 72.

The Governor in Council approves and sanctions the recommendation of the Superintendent of Marine, that Mr. Cameron, late Chief Mate of the *Harriett*, be allowed subsistence allowance at Rupees 5 per diem for the period he has been, and may be, detained in Madras as a witness.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Superintendent of Marine.
„ Commissioner of Police.
„ Accountant General.
„ Examiner of Claims.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the Supt of Marine.

(Here enter 11th January 1866. 17)

Order thereon 17th January 1866. 72.

The Governor in Council approves and sanctions the recommendation of the Superintendent of Marine, that Mr. Cameron late Chief Mate of the Harriett be allowed subsistence allowance at Rs. 5 per diem for the period he has been and may be detained in Madras as a witness.

To
The Supt of Marine
" Commr of Police
" Accountant General
" Examiner of Claims.

desp 22/1

C. Boutrel

Judicial 1866. Department.

No. 72

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Ext. 637.
No 3157.
Dated 17 January 1866.

Press No. 2755, G. M.—14-11-65—500.

122-123