

N. 6

From

W. Knox Esq^{re}

Acting Collector of Ganjam.

To

J. I. Franklin Esq^{re}Secretary of the Marine Board
Madras.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 3^d ultimo I have the honor to report that I have called on all the principal European Firms in the District for their opinion on the working of the present boat rules. The general impression is that the rules themselves are satisfactory, but that they cannot be fully carried out as the Goemastahs of Sea Customs have not sufficient weight with the boatmen, this I have already pointed out to the Board in my letter proposing a better Establishment for the Sea Customs and you will see it also noticed in Colonel F. Cotton's able report on this District. Mess^{rs} Linares Vally & Co. complain of thefts committed by the boatmen, and I know this to be a constant source of annoyance and loss to merchants but I am almost powerless to check it. The

Goemastah

⁺ dated 22^d July 1856
N. 148 to the Board
Revenue.

Goomastah has not, as the Honorable Court apparently suppose he has, undefined control. I fully agree he could not be trusted with the power of punishing thefts or breach of the boat rules this is done by the Assistant Collector. The numerous other duties of myself and assistants prevent our visits to the outports being very frequent, and merchants will rather put up with the loss, than lose one or two days in having their complaints investigated. I submit herewith copy of a letter from my Assistant Mr. Davidson who has given dated 15th December 1856. much attention to the subject and I agree with him that the rules do not act injuriously to the boatmen.

2 Mr. Dawson agent for Messrs. Miller & Sons proposes to modify Rule VII and allow Tindals and crews of registered boats to work any boat belonging to the same owner when hands are required. This appears to me a judicious suggestion and worthy of the Board's consideration, the more so as it is in accordance with the wishes of the Honorable Court. I would go farther and allow a registered Tindal to employ say 2 unregistered men in every boats crew in cases of necessity or

or in heavy weather when more hands were required. He also wishes Rule IX to be altered and that the Collector or Master Attendant should fix, only the hours at which a boat should leave the shore the time for returning being left unregulated as boats are frequently detained unavoidably alongside the ship.

3 I cannot support this proposition it would open a door to much abuse and boats might land cargo at all hours of the night. Of course no penalty would be inflicted if it was shown that a boat was detained accidentally.

4 This gentleman also notices the want of a proper beach establishment.

5 With regard to the objection raised by the Honorable Court to the rule against taking off or landing cargo without permission, I confess I do not see how the duty of collecting Sea Custom dues or keeping any account of the imports and exports of the port can be carried on, without some such order, as it is, there is far too little supervision exercised, owing to the paucity of the establishments. Government is very much at the mercy of the Merchant.

This

This however will I hope soon be rectified
and the department be put on a proper
footing.

Ganjam District...
Collectors Circuit Cutcherry
Chicacole 10th January 1837.
G.D.

I have the
/Signed/ W. Knox
Acting Collector.

/True Copy/

Amtham
Secretary

From
Collection of Ganjam
to
The Secy. Marine Board
Decr 10th Jan 1837.
Extract: copy of
Mr Davidson's letter for-
-saking his opinion on
the marking system of
the new boat rules.

Rs. 1837/0
Rs. 1837/0

Copy of Q. 1. to the Revenue
Copy of Q. 2. to the Revenue
Copy of Q. 3. to the Revenue
Copy of Q. 4. to the Revenue
Copy of Q. 5. to the Revenue
Copy of Q. 6. to the Revenue
Copy of Q. 7. to the Revenue
Copy of Q. 8. to the Revenue
Copy of Q. 9. to the Revenue
Copy of Q. 10. to the Revenue

Marine Board. Aug 29th 24th
October 1837 of 1837-
Jan 24th

N. 2/

From R. Davidson, Esq., Acting Principal Assistant
Collector, Ganjam;

William Knox Esq.

Acting Collector of Sea Customs

Sir,

I have the honor to submit my
opinion on the points called for by you for the
information of the Secretary to the Marine
Board with reference to his letter N. 3029 of
the 3^d Instant.

1st

The Sea Custom Gosamastah ought
to have power to punish summarily on the spot
disobedience to orders when in accordance with
the Rules.

2nd

The Pay of the Sea Custom
Peons ought to be increased as Rupees 2 is
insufficient for their actual requirements and
they consequently commit the irregularities
of the boat men, with whom they are frequently
in league and are therefore afraid to bring
their misconduct to the immediate notice of
their superiors Rupees 3. 8. ought in my opinion
to be the amount of their salary. The Sea
Custom Gosamastah Pay is also on too low a scale
Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 being the average, and temptations
are

are great and opportunities frequent.

3^d. A Master Attendant ought to be appointed without delay as it is impossible that for some months in the year the Collector or his Assistant can give the personal supervision that the shipping interests of the Merchants are fairly entitled to; Flags are urgently required at Munsourcottah where a Government staff and Lascar are, but no set of signal flags. The obvious necessity for a Master Attendant will be explained by exemplifying Cases which occur not unfrequently. The Civil authorities are probably on Samachindry and perhaps two ships arrive in port, the boat men throw every obstacle in the way of shipments being made till the lay days are nearly up, the sea custom Gomastahs have no power to punish them but must either send them up to the Head of Police or the Magistrate, their services are consequently lost for some days, the boatmen sometimes leave in a body and go off fishing well knowing that rather than pay a heavy demurrage the merchants will reward them liberally, and they do so, and thus the boatmen gain their object and the rules are in

4X
a measure frustrated. This all arises from those on the spot not having power to punish or discipline, give the Samachindry power to inflict corporal punishment to the number of a dozen or 18 lashes, and fine a few rupees, and the rules in my opinion will be found to act admirably, fail to do this, and all but the boat men are lost by them. In my opinion power to this extent might with perfect safety be entrusted to the sea custom Gomastahs, and if not, make it worth while, and plenty of competent men will be forthcoming.

I am not aware of the rules as they now exist having been found irksome to the boatmen nor have complaints been made to me by Merchant shippers or others except in the point alluded to in para 3 and I am sorry to say they have been frequent.

Section XVI. is in my opinion an unnecessary restriction and I apprehend a boom would be conferred by removing it.

Gangam District
Pl. & Pl. Collectors office
on Circuit Rumbah
15th December 1856.
GEM.

I have V. V.
(signed) R. Davidson
Ag. Pl. & Pl. Collector.
(True copy,
(signed) H. H. H.
Ag. Collector
(True copy,
Wm. Franklin
Secretary

N^o 1405

From
J. I. Franklin Esq^{re}
Secretary Marine Board.

To
J. Pycroft Esq^{re}
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George.

Sir, dated 6 April 1855, N^o 1405

I have the honor by desire
of the Marine Board to inform you
that the 10th para of Extract Minutes
of Consultation of the 4th August last
N^o 229 referring to paras 30 to 33 of the
Honorable Courts Dispatch of the 20th
July previous N^o 8, has received their
careful consideration, and have directed
to offer the following remarks thereon.

When the Government on
the 5th February 1855, at the instance
of the Board, granted authority for
the introduction of the Boat Rules at
Gangam, Maseorcottah and Calicut.
they (the Board) felt it would be unwise
that the power vested in the Officer
charged with the Control of the boats,
should be entrusted to the low paid
functionaries

Marine Board to Esq^{re} 29/24
October 13/26 of 1857-

Jan 2 93-

No 2

1857.

Enclosed in a letter
from Esq^{re} Marine Board
dated 6 April 1857 N^o 1405.

From

W. H. P. Esq^{re} Collector
Edgar District

&

Col. G. G. G. G.

Dated 15 Dec 1855.

Officer certain
admission, relevant

Other (G. G. G. G.)

Where the (G. G. G. G.)
a clerk's attendance
in appointed to Gangam

Copy of 2^d Clause of Dec 1. to
the Revenue Officer 2^d May
1857 N^o 171

N^o 1857 D.
N^o 1857 D.

functionaries at those ports, who represented, in the absence of the Civil Servants of the District, the principal officers of Government. They therefore, in a letter dated the 9th February of that year, requested that, till better provision was made for conducting the marine duties which it was expected might shortly take place under the Harbours Conservancy Act, they under discussion, the Collector would confine himself to classifying the boats. In the last para. of their letter to Government of the 13th January 1855, N^o 73, they intimated their intention of doing so, and therefore the power which the Court feared would act detrimentally if vested in such officers, has actually not been given to them.

3 I have decided to forward the accompanying copy of a letter from the Acting Collector of Ganjam on this subject, with enclosure from his Assistant, who it appears has paid much attention to the working of the Rules. These papers serve to shew that they have not proved injurious to the boatmen.

N^o 1

N^o 2

4 In the second para. of the Acting Collector's letter he proposes to modify Rule 6, and allow registered tirdals and boatmen to work in any boat belonging to the same owner. Mr. Knox appears to have overlooked the fact of the Rule not requiring the crews to be registered for any particular boat. It was framed for the express purpose of allowing any registered tirdal or boatmen to work in any registered boat, for it was fully understood that at outports where the numbers were barely adequate to the demand, difficulty might arise in restricting them to any one boat. All that seemed necessary was that the men should be registered, a measure intended to secure boatmen, and not common coolies.

5 Mr. Knox also recommends that a registered tirdal should be permitted to employ two unregistered men in a boat in cases of necessity. The same Rule (N^o 6) provides also for this, for it lays down that no unregistered men shall be employed except in cases of emergency.

6 The Board consider that Mr.

Mr. Knox's objections to any alteration
of Rules 9 and 16 are perfectly reasonable.
They both provide for the due and
necessary regularity required in shipping
and landing transactions, and were the
control in this respect undefined, it
would result in loss to the State from
the evasion of the Customs dues, and loss
to the Merchants from the robbery of
the property.

7 With these observations the
Board respectfully submit their
opinion that the Rules do not require
modification.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Yours most Obedient,

Madras
Marine Board Office

6th April 1857.

Ex^o Bd

W. H. M. M.

Secretary.

Marine Department.

No 111

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
under date 2nd May 1857

Read the following
Letter from the Marine
Board.

Dated 6th April 1857. No 1405.

The foregoing let-
ter and the correspon-
dence therewith sub-
mitted will be brought
to the notice of the Lords
the Court of Directors in
reference to their re-
marks on the introduc-
tion at the Ports of Gan-
jam, Calingapatnam &
Mansoorcottah of the
Boat Regulations of 23rd
April 1857. Communi-
cated in paras 30 to 32

for

A
L
M

No. 65. 2nd Aug 57. 1858-18-229
" " 6th Feb 1858. 18-4-5
" " 14th Nov 58. 18-19-20.

Marine Letter to Comd^g of 241
Dated 26 of 1857
Para 2 & 3.

By to Com 5th May
Marine 1857. Report
from

The Hon^{ble} Marine Board
The Chief Secy of the
Fort St. George

Attest 6th
Frederick J. Child

No 1405.
2 30 Lines

Forwarded copies of the
from the Hon^{ble} Marine Board
and the Assistant Secy
on the working of the Board
Regulations of 23rd April 1857
at the Fort of Ganjam
Calingapatnam and
Mansoorcottah with the
Board's observations thereon
and state that the
Rules do not require
any explanation.

24-4-58
18 30 "

of their Marine Despatch
of the 30 April No 8 of 1856.

2. From the information afforded in the letters from the Acting Collector of Ganjam and the Marine Board, it does not appear to the Govd that the Rules in question have worked injuriously to the Boatmen, or require any modification. It will be pointed out to the Honble Court that the Govt. masters of Sea Customs have not, as would seem to be supposed by them, undefined control over the Boat owners, and that the power of punishing thefts or breach of the Boat rules is exercised by the Assistant Collector.

Para 1 of letter from Asst. Collector and his Assistant of Ganjam dated 21 May 1857 No 6. with the 2^d clause of para 1 of the Asst. Collector's letter.

Collector.

3. The proposition submitted in the Acting Assistant Collector's and his Assistant Mr Davidson's letter for the improvement of the Sea Customs House establishment in Ganjam will be referred to the Revenue Department for consideration.

May be our Honble Marine Bd have recommended an arrangement of the kind and their proposal will be considered separately —

4. Adverting to the Assistant Collector's remarks as to the necessity of having a Master Steward for the above mentioned Ports, the Govt desire that the Marine Board will report on the proposal, and if they approve of it, they will state where he should be stationed and what should be the extent of his charge and Establishment.

Establishment, as also the
Salary to be assigned
to him.

24 The Assistant Col.
lector ~~for~~ represents
that "Flags are urgently re-
quired at Moulsoncottah
where a Government Staff
and Salicars are, but no
set of Signal flags." The
Marine Board will
cause these flags to be
made up and supplied,
should they consider them
to be actually necessary
for the use of the Port.

25 The Board will
explain to the Acting Col.
lector the views taken by
them in paras 4 & 5 of their
letter, of the provisions
of para 6 of the Boat
Rules which ^{that Officer} ~~are~~ pro-
posed to modify.

J.P.

Copy to Marine Board.

Para 3 to Revenue Dept.

with the correspondence
therein referred to.

Dispt. 4.

Ad. H. C. 1857
Marine 1857

Marine de Mer le 26 of 1857

Mar 2 1857
Marine de Mer le 26 of 1857

Ad. H. C. 1857

Mar 2 1857

11/12

18-5/64