

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 266

Press
~~Misc~~

Dated 10-7-1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 14th July 1857.

No. 11. From J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Secretary Marine Board; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 26th June 1857, No. 2235.

SIR,

I have the honor by desire of the Marine Board earnestly to solicit the attention of Government to their communication of the 4th December last, No. 3037, submitting a Report from the Master Attendant, respecting the accidents which had occurred to the Masulah Boats, and recommending that a more efficient Supervision should be exercised over the Boats of the Port and their Crews.

2. In the communication referred to the Board brought prominently to notice the fact that, although the Tonnage had increased from 278,386 Tons in 1848-49, to 492,148 Tons in 1855-56, the Boats during the same period had only increased from 149 to 172. This circumstance, it was observed, had

Inward and Outward. the effect of causing infringements of the Boat Act by inducing the Owners to load their Boats with more Cargo than they are legally allowed to carry, and thus augmenting the risk of accident. It was moreover shewn that the Boats and Boatmen required a more efficient and responsible Supervision than is now practicable with the Establishment under the orders of the Marine Department. The Boat Owners strive to keep their Crews in order and to their duties, but are unable to do so in consequence of the delays and losses occasioned by their attendance at a Police Court, to prosecute: the consequence being that they prefer to manage their men as best they can without appealing to Magisterial authority except in cases of a very gross nature.

3. The Board regret that as yet no steps have been taken to adopt any measures likely to improve the existing system which, however well it might have answered in years past, has now proved utterly unequal to the present increased and increasing trade of the Port. They believe that Madras now requires a Supervisor of Boats whose attention should be exclusively devoted to the duty of seeing that the Boats of the Port are kept in an efficient state as regards Repairs, Crews, Dunnage, and Fittings, and who should be vested with the powers of a public Prosecutor to bring forward before the proper Tribunals all those, whether Owners or Boatmen, who may in any way infringe the law. The Owners of Boats would then willingly bring to notice such of their men as failed in their duties, feeling that they would not be required to neglect their business by attendance at a Police Office; and the men knowing this would naturally be less prone to offend. It is clearly the interest of a Boat Owner to have his Crews in a state of proper subordination; but if one or two out of one Boat misbehave, it is manifestly to his advantage that he should submit to their misconduct, or perhaps even screen them, rather than be called away to prosecute, and meanwhile be deprived of the opportunity of looking after his other Boats.

4. To effect the object in view the Board propose that a Supervisor of Boats on a Salary of (150) One Hundred and Fifty Rupees a month, with two Peons at (7) Seven Rupees a month each, should be appointed, on whom should rest the responsibility of all plying Boats being in good Seaworthy order, and whose duty it should be to take cognizance of all delinquencies, and if necessary prosecute offending Parties. By no other means do they expect that the irregularities and difficulties now and for some time past attending the Landing and Shipping of Cargo, can be effectually remedied.

5. At present the Boat Overseer Veerasawmy is engaged to a certain extent in seeing to the efficiency of the Boats, but his duties are so numerous and varied on behalf of the Government that he can hardly be considered as a Servant of the Public, which the Supervisor should be; nor can he devote his exclusive attention to the duty, which the Board would wish to see the Supervisor confined to. They think however that his knowledge and influence point him out as the fittest person to be entrusted with the duties in question, and if the Government should be pleased to adopt the Board's suggestion they beg strongly to recommend Veerasawmy Naick for the appointment.

(Signed) J. J. FRANKLIN,

Secretary.

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 14th July 1857.

No. 12.

ORDER THEREON, No. 266; dated 10th July 1857.

The Board have been informed that in Extract Minutes Consultation, dated 31st March last, the Honorable Company's Solicitor was directed to submit a Draft of a Bill for the Establishment of a Marine Police, and a Draft of a Bill to amend Act No. IV of 1842, commonly called the "Madras Boat and Catamaran Act," in the latter case he was to consult with the Board, the Master Attendant, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Boat Owners themselves.

2. The Government resolve now to call upon Mr. Boyson to take the subject in hand as early as possible.

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to the N.C. Solicitor } Disp'd 13th
" " Marine Board }

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