M.R.O. 1—32 400—22-11-30

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 379 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 17. 9. 1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

DAK 13/9/21

No. 11. From CAPTAIN C. BIDEN, Master Attendant; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 22nd August 1857.

Sir,

During an interview I had the honor of having with the Right Honorable the Governor this morning, His Lordship enquired about the working of the Boat Department, consequent on my replies, I was then desired to submit such observations as would tend to improve the system at present in operation.

I have therefere the honor to offer the following remarks. Since the Baot Act No. IV. of 1842 came into operation it has been customary for the several departments of Government to make requisition, through the Master Attendant, for such a number of Boats as they may require and the greatest inconvenience attending this duty is consequent on irregularity in the demand, as occasionally a large number of boats have been required considerably after noon, when they are all hired for the service of the Port. This irregularity would be obviated if such requisitions were made on the previous evening or early in the morning. His Lordship enquired whether any objection was made for the hire of boats to the Public Department, I replied generally not, but that both the Owners and their respective Crews had repeatedly complained of the hardship they had experienced in having, themselves, to load and unload their Boats when emplyed by the Ordnance Department, which had been enquired into and is now remedied, as it was the bounden duty of that Department as well as all others to provide a competent gang of Coolies for that occasionally very irksome duty. The only other grievance which I mentioned is the payment of Boat hire when earned in the service of Government and I suggested that a certain amount og money, from three to five thousand Rupees, should be advanced so that the demand, could within a few days, be complied with by the Master Attendant. In all respects I have found the Boatmen under the vigilant superintendence of the Boat Overseer very much on the alert and cheerful in the discharge of their duty.

(Signed) CHRISTOPHER BIDEN,
Master Attendant.

No. 12. From J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Secretary Marine Board; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George dated 7th September 1857, No. 3059.

Sir,

I have the honor by desire of the Marine Board to inform you, in reply to official Memo: of 20th Ultimo, that the the following is the course pursued with regard to payment for Boats engaged for the public service, excepting in the department of the Commissary General, who pays from his own Cash Chest all boat hire immediately the Master Attendant's Statements are presented, which is once in 15 days.

2. Requisitions by the different Public Departments are made on the Master Attendant for all Boats required. They are supplied at once, and twice a month a memorandum of the number engaged is sent to the Collector of Customs by the aforesaid Officer, exhibiting the hire due which is then drawn; and, as the Master Attendant informs them, immediately paid to the Boat Owners by Verasawmy Naick, Boat Overseer. The average time which elapses between the engagement of and payment for boats may therefore be set down as about fifteen days.

3. The Boat bills, or Memoranda of Boats employed, which are prepared for each month, are not submitted to this Board till some time later when all the necessary Certificates have been collected to support the charges. They are then examined, if correct, passed, and forwarded to the Collector of Customs in adjustment of the advances previously made.

(Signed) J. J. FRANKLIN,
Secretary.

consideration deem a fair average.
A.J.O. 10/9/57

No. 13. ORDER THEREON, No. 379; dated 17th September 1857.

Captain Biden reports that some inconvenience and annoyance are experienced by Owners and Crews of Massulah Boats by the insufficiency of the time allowed for notice, when Boats are taken up by the various Departments of Government, and further by the delay which is allowed to take place in disbursing the amount of the hire. A third complaint respecting the Boatmen being required to load the Boats was prevalent till lately, but has now ceased owing to the adoption of a better system in the Ordnance Office, where the evil had rise.

2. The Governor in Council is of opinion that the inconveniences now existing should at once be remedied. Heads of Departments will be directed to give invariably, twelve (12) hours' notice at least of any requisition for the use of Boats they may have to make; urgent cases being of course exceptional. The Accountant General will also arrange for placing at the disposal of the Master Attendant such monthly sum as Captain Biden may, on further consideration, deem a fair average.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

Marine Dept
No. 379
Ent. Dated 17th Sept. 1857

Read the following letters from the Master Attendant } here entered 22d Aug/57.
read also letters from the Secy. to the Marine Bd } here entered 7th Sept/57.

Captain Biden reports that some inconvenience & annoyance are experienced by owners & crews of Massulah Boats by the insufficiency of the time allowed for notice when boats are taken up by the various departments of Govt, and further by the delay which is allowed to take place in disbursing the amount of the hire. A third complaint was prevalent till lately, but has now ceased owing to the adoption of a better system in the Ordnance Office, where the evil had rise.

2. The G. in C. is of opinion that the inconveniences now existing should at once be remedied. Heads of departments will be directed to give invariably twelve (12) hours notice at least of any requisition for the use of boats they may have to make; urgent cases being of course exceptional. The Acct. Genl will also arrange for placing at the disposal of the Masters attendt such monthly sum as Captn Biden may on further consideration deem a fair average.

respecting the boatmen being required to load the boats.

P.T.O. 22/9/57

In Dft to Cons. 22 Sept
Marine 1857 Dept

No 379

Extract Minutes of Cons

8/17 Sept 57

In Ltr to Sup d/26 Dec
No 32 of 1857.

P 19 & 20.

Dispd 22 Dec

1 — 13

To the Marine Board
" Master Mast & Spar Makers
" Asst Surgeons
" Civil Auditor
" Civil Storekeeper
" Depot Com & Asst Comy
" Com & Mr General of the Army
" Supt Com of Clothing & Msgs
" Com & General
" Collectors & Surveyors