

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 397

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated 24-9.

1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

24/
17/9/87

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 29th September 1857.

No. 21. From J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Secretary Marine Board ; to E. MALTBY, Esq. Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 14th September 1857, No. 3138.

SIR,

I have the honor by desire of the Marine Board to lay before Government the accompanying copy of a letter received from the Master Attendant No. 87, dated 23rd August 1857, at Cocanada, representing the expense and labor he is put to in surveying Vessels for registry and soliciting that some compensation may be authorized on this account.

2. The Board notice by the 22nd para : of the Honorable Court's letter of the 17th June last, No. 13, communicated in Extract Minutes of Consultation of the 27th Ultimo, No. 337, that the subject has been under consideration and has been referred to the Board of Trade. They do not therefore ask Government to take any further steps in the matter until the result of that reference transpires, but they think it right that Government should know how hardly the want of some definite sanction regarding these Fees, bears on those Officers who do not exact payment for the service performed.

(Signed) J. J. FRANKLIN,

Secretary.

From H. THOMSON, Master Attendant at Cocanada ; to J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Secretary Marine Board, dated 23rd July 1857, No. 87.

SIR,

I have the honor to bring to your notice the following circumstances in connection with my duties as Surveyor of Shipping of this Port, and to request that you will bring it to the notice of the Marine Board in the hopes that some compensation may be allowed me for the pecuniary loss I sustain in having to go to measure Vessels for Registry, sometimes a distance of ten, twelve, fifteen and eighteen miles, and which very rarely can be performed in the course of one day.

The circumstances of the case are as follows :—

- 1st. Parties requiring a Register for their Vessels apply to the Registrar for a Certificate of Registry.
- 2nd. The Registrar issues an order to me as Surveyor of the Port to measure the Vessel and furnish him with the usual Certificate and any other information that he may require, requisite for him to grant the Certificate of Registry.
- 3rd. As soon as convenient after receiving the Registrar's order to measure the Vessel, &c., &c., I proceed either by land or water to where the Vessel is and it is generally the case that when I get to the Vessel I find there is no means for me to get on board and in the event of me getting on board when there I find there is no means for me to get down in the hold or along the Beams (when there is no between Decks) to allow me to measure the Vessel without I wait for some time till the Vessel is got ready for me to measure.

It is principally in native owned Vessels that this occurs, but as mostly all the Vessels I have to measure here are owned by Natives, this comes very hard on me, for instead of getting my work done in about an hour and a half, I am generally detained for three and four hours, and then the work is done with great risk from the inferior means knocked up to allow me to move about the Vessel's hold, to do my duty and measure the Vessel as it should be. On several occasions lately I have gone to Vessels and found not even a stage or ladder to get on board, after travelling about fifteen miles expressly to measure these Vessels. As I am not even allowed travelling allowance or even a Fee for measuring a Vessel (which duty in all other parts of the world is handsomely

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paid for,) and as my salary is so very inadequate for the duties I have to perform here, I hope the Board will take this case into consideration and solicit Government to sanction a Fee to be levied from the owner of the Vessel for this peculiar duty as early as convenient. This would entail no extra expense to the State and what the greater number of the Ship Owners are most willing to comply with.

I may here add that there are about ten or twelve new Vessels at and above Coringa which will be ready in a month or two for measurement, and which on an average will cost me about Rupees 7 each to go and measure them. I annex a Statement of expenses for the information of the Board.

		Rs.	A.	P.
By Boat and land.	By Boat from here to Coringa for 6 Lascars at 6 annas each per day, 2 days...	4	8	0
	Palkee hire and Bearer from Coringa to where the Vessel is lying on average for 9 Bearers with Batta for 1 day.....	2	8	0
	Batta to Government Lascars to assist to measure the Vessel for 2 days at 2 annas per day each.....	0	8	0
	Total...	7	8	0
By land.	Hire of Palkee with 12 Bearers, Masaulgee with Torch, Oil, &c., &c., to go where the Vessel is lying and back.....	7	2	0
	Batta for two Government Lascars to assist in measuring the Vessel 2 annas each.....	0	4	0
	Ferry, Boats, &c., &c.....	0	6	0
	Total...	7	12	0

There are other incidental expenses I am put to (which is not included in the above) in being absent from my house, and as other branches of the service are handsomely paid for travelling expenses (Department Public Works for instance,) I hope the Board will forgive me for trespassing on their valuable time in bringing this to their notice, and what I consider is a great hardship.

(Signed) H. THOMSON,
Master Attendant.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. J. FRANKLIN,
Secretary.

No. 22.

ORDER THEREON, No. 397; dated 24th September 1857.

The Marine Board will acquaint Mr. Thomson that the subject of allowing Fees in case of this nature is under the consideration of the Honorable Court, in communication with the Board of Trade.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

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Fort St. George, 24 September, 1857. J. J. Franklin

To the P. & M. of the Marine Board - Dispt. 29th

8/10/57 P. & M.