

15

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

No. 7. From J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Secretary Marine Board ; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 8th October 1857, No. 3493.

SIR,

1. Referring to the Board's letter of the 4th May last,* No. 1721, and the order therein, I have the honor by their desire to suggest that an application to the Honorable Court of Directors be made on the subject, as it is not unlikely that Messrs. Saunders and Mitchell, the Contractors for the erection of the Madras Pier, may intend to employ a Diving Bell on the work they are about to undertake.

* *Recommending in consequence of the numerous painful accidents to the Divers employed in recovering Anchors in the Madras Roads, the substitution of an Anchor Boat with a Diving Bell attached.*

2 Even should this not be the case, more complete data can be obtained in England regarding the Apparatus best suited for the purpose, than in India, where nothing of the kind, the Board believe, has ever been attempted, with the exception of the experiments made by Colonel, now General Monteith at Paumben, which were not successful. The Board believe that considerable improvements have been effected within the last year or two in Diving Bells, and before entering more into the matter they think that all the information should be obtained that is possible.

3. Their suggestion therefore now is that the Honorable Court be solicited to obtain from well informed parties a description of a Diving Bell, or other Apparatus suitable for an open Roadstead, and that one of such description be sent out with some one engaged for a year, capable of working it and of teaching the Natives its use. As soon as the description and weight of the machine is made known to the Board, they will submit a Plan and Estimate of the Vessel required, with the establishment they would propose to render it available.

4. In England the Diving Helmet has in a great measure superseded the Bell, but this would not answer the purpose in the Madras Roads, as there would still be no protection against the Sharks.

(Signed) J. J. FRANKLIN.

Secretary.

No. 8. ORDER THEREON, No. 460 ; dated 24th October 1857.

Resolved that the foregoing letter be brought to the early notice of the Honorable the Court of Directors in continuation of paras : 4 and 5 of Despatch, dated 24th October, No. 26 of 1857, with the recommendation of Government that, as suggested by the Marine Board, a Diving Bell or other Apparatus suitable to an open Roadstead, be sent out with some one, engaged for a year, capable of working it, and teaching the Natives its use.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

Bell

Marine Department

N^o 460

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date 24 October 1837.

Read the following letter
from the Secretary
Marine Board.

(Here enter 8th Oct. 1837 N^o 3493)

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The Marine Board. Decr 31st 1844

A. P. M. 1844

Revised September 1858.

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No. 460.

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24 Oct 57.

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