

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. *85*

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated *26. 2.*

18 *57*

Not to be folded or roughly handled

N^o 586.

Madras Marine Board
10th February 1857

From

J. J. Franklin Esq^r

Secretary Marine Board.

To

T. Poycroft Esq^r

Chief Secretary to Government

Fort Saint George.

Sir, dated 10th Feb 1857, N^o 586

With reference to the
order of Government of the 5th instant
N^o 58 forwarding for report correspondence
in the subject of vessels belonging to the
Madras Presidency being allowed to
trade without being registered under
Act X of 1841, I have the honor by
leave of the Marine Board to inform
you that it has been customary for a
large number of native craft to navigate
without being regularly registered.
Many enter even at Madras with
merely a port clearance.

2

The Board have had the
subject under consideration, and think
that all vessels should be registered
either

either under the Act 17 and 18 Vic
cap 104, or under Acts 2 of 1841 and
21 of 1850, and they will communicate
with the Registrar of Shipping to
that effect.

3 At present the burden
of Country Craft is so ill defined that
it frequently happens that two vessels
of similar capacity will pay very
different amounts of port dues, owing
to the loose mode in which the burden
is ascertained. At present therefore
the law presses unfairly on the honest
trader, who represents his vessel truly
and pays due in the full amount of
her tonnage, while another sailing with
a port clearance in which perhaps no
more than half his vessel's tonnage is
inserted, escapes with a payment which
reduces his dues to half the authorized
claim.

Yours truly
John Smith

Andros
Marine Board Office
10th February 1857

Wm. H. H. H.
Secretary

Ex 297

March 10th 1877

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217⁴
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[illegible]