

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	114	Press
		~~Mis.~~
Dated	17. 3	1858

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 19th March 1858.

No. 9. From C. W. READE, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 6th March 1858, No. 39.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge an Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, No. 265, dated the 18th February 1858, communicated to me through the Chief Engineer and conveying the sanction of Government for an expenditure of Rupees 440 to build a residence for a Signalman to be attached to the Flag Staff newly re-erected on the Dolphin's nose contiguous to the Town of Vizagapatam.

2. No correspondence on the subject of this Flag Staff has passed between my own and any other Office, and I am therefore quite ignorant as to how or at whose instance the project originated, or what has been its cost, but my attention was recently attracted to the matter, and on asking the Commander of the Steamer "Manilla" with whom I was conversing, he stated that a Flag Staff on such a spot was perfectly useless for Vessels at Sea, while I can safely affirm it to be as useless for purposes on shore.

3. Captain Burn and others inform me that the elevation of the Hill is so great that the thin Flag Staff is not visible to Vessels till close in shore, while Ships coming from the North would sight the present Flag Staff in the Town nearly as soon. Captain Burn expressed great surprise that a Flag Staff had been erected on such a locality, and added the observation that what really was wanted was a white column or tower as a land mark.

4. The only use of a Flag Staff on this Hill as far as I can understand is to give early intimation to the Town of the approach of any Vessel from the Southward. The position necessarily commands an extensive Sea view which the town itself of course does not enjoy, but since a Flag Staff on such a point is of no practical use whatever to the Shipping, and is simply convenient for the public in the manner described, it seems to me very questionable, how far Government were necessitated to undertake so expensive a work without any corresponding advantage, either to itself or to the community.

5. But it is not only the cost of the Flag Staff; there is now a house to be built for the Signal man, then there is his salary and that of an Assistant to be kept up as a permanent charge on the public Treasury in addition to the Flag Staff Establishment in the town which could not possibly be dispensed with.

6. I am also informed that the Dolphin's nose would not prove an eligible locality for a Light House any more than for the site of a Flag Staff, and if it were otherwise, the extent of the Shipping and trade at the Port is not and is never likely to be such as to necessitate any outlay for one or the other.

7. I submit that the sanction now given in the Proceedings of Government under acknowledgment should be cancelled, as I regard the expenditure already incurred for this Flag Staff as thrown away, while thus to incur the expense of two Establishments to look after the 2 Flag Staffs would be a still further and unnecessary waste of public money.

8. On receipt of the Government Minutes of Consultation, I at once addressed the District Engineer requesting him to stay the work, copy of my letter I enclose for the information of Government.

9. There is now to be built at this Port a new Custom House including a Master Attendant's Office but the work was placed in abeyance under the General orders of last year in the Public Works Department, and I would observe that from the contemplated site of this new Building, the Flag Staff on the Dolphin's nose is not even visible, nor could a Custom House be erected any where near to the landing place, so as to render it visible.

Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 21st May 1856.

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 19th March 1858.

From C. W. READE, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam; to Lieutenant J. VERTUE, Acting District Engineer, Vizagapatam, dated 26th February 1858, No. 61.

SIR,

Adverting to the Minutes of Consultation of Government, No. 265, dated the 15th Instant, I beg you will be good enough to keep in abeyance the instructions therein conveyed for the immediate Building of a House for the Signal man attached to the Flag Staff on the Dolphin's Nose.

2. I am doubtful whether the Flag Staff in question is required, and I purpose reporting the same to Government, until further orders are received therefore I request the work now sanctioned may not be proceeded with.

No. 10.

ORDER THEREON, No. 114; dated 17th March 1858.

Ordered that the foregoing letter be referred to the Marine Board for any remarks they may have to make on the subjects to which it relates. They will explain on what grounds the erection of a Flag Staff at Vizagapatam on the present site was recommended, and state whether under the circumstances now represented it should be abandoned.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No 114-

Ordered that the foregoing letter be referred to the Marine Board for any remarks they may have to make on the subjects to which it relates. They will explain on what grounds the erection of a Flag Staff at Vizagapatam on the present site was recommended, and state whether, under the circumstances now represented, it should be abandoned.

Fort St George,
17th March, 1858.

J.P.

To the Marine Board, Sep. 22nd 58

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