

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marion DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 130

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated

24-3

1888

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 30th March 1858.

No. 4. From J. W. DALRYMPLE, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India; to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated the 22nd January 1858, No. 120.

SIR,

I am directed to forward the accompanying copy of a letter, No. 2008, dated the 18th Ultimo, from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, and its enclosure, relative to a complaint made by the Marine Board at Madras, of the want of power in any authority at Madras, to control the internal economy of Vessels of the Indian Navy, placed at the disposal of the Government of Fort Saint George, and to request that the Right Honorable the Governor in Council will favour the Government of India with such observations as he may wish to offer on the subject.

2. You are requested at the same time to furnish a copy of the letter from the Marine Board, which has called forth the comments of the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy, together with a copy of the correspondence that has taken place between the Governments of Madras and Bombay.

From Colonel P. M. MELVILL, Secretary to Government of Bombay; to C. BEADON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, dated Bombay Castle, 18th December 1857, No. 2008.

SIR,

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to request that you will be pleased to submit to the Government of India, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy, No. 1401, dated 30th Ultimo, commenting on a letter from the Marine Board at Madras to the Madras Government.

The irregularity commented on, will no doubt, be corrected, when the amalgamation of the Bengal Marine with the Indian Navy is perfected.

Meanwhile, the Government of Fort Saint George has been informed, that it is the opinion of this Government, that the Vessels which carry the Pendant and belong to the Indian Navy must be subject, wherever they may be, to the orders of the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy, and the Rules and Regulations of their own service; that such Vessels can be at the disposal of the Madras Government only for such service as they may be specially required to perform; that the Madras Government may assign to them the duties which they are to execute and may direct their movements from place to place, but that it does not appear to this Government desirable that either the Government or the Marine Board at Madras should exercise any further; control over, or interference with, the interior economy or accounts or discipline of the Ships of the Indian Navy.

From Commodore G. G. WELLESLEY, C. B., R. N., Commander-in-Chief, Indian Navy; to the Right Honorable LORD ELPHINSTONE, G. C. H., Governor and President in Council, dated Bombay, the 30th November, No. 1401 of 1857.

MY LORD,

With regard to the letter, No. 316 of the 27th January last, from the Marine Board of Madras to the Chief Secretary to Government, which accompanied Secretary Colonel Melvill's letter, No. 1708 of the 24th Ultimo, I would observe, with reference to the 2nd and 3rd paras: that they relate to a subject on which I would earnestly request your Lordship in Council to obtain a clear and definite Notification from the Government of India; or, if need be, from the Hon'ble the Court of Directors.

2. It is not a question as to whether the Government of Madras is to interfere with "the internal arrangements, &c., of Vessels which belong to that Presidency," but whether the Vessels of the Indian Navy are, on being detached for temporary Service, to be so interfered with,—such a system cannot answer, and, if in the proposed amalgamation, which is yet I believe under consideration, it be intended to give such a power, it would in my opinion be much better the amalgamation should not take place,—I have used the expression "detached for temporary Service," because the Indian Navy forms one whole, and its Vessels are all liable to be ordered any where, that the exigencies of the Public Service require, and none of them can be considered

M. J. Doll
Lieut.

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 30th March 1858.

as belonging to one Presidency only, and not to another,—and the *Coromandel*, *Dalhousie*, and *Prince Arthur*, forming part of the Indian Navy, must be conformed to the general Regulations of the service.

3. Your Lordship in Council will observe that the Marine Board complain that "no power is vested in any authority at Madras to check the Accounts, expenditure of Stores or provisions, or in fact exercise any control except as regards the Service on which the Vessel is to be employed." These points I need not observe are also subject to fixed Rules laid down for the whole Indian Navy, and are checked and controlled by the Auditor General, and I cannot comprehend how the Officers are to keep accounts if at each Presidency these matters are interfered with, nor can I see the slightest necessity for such a proceeding. The Vessels of the Indian Navy have at various times been placed at the disposal of the Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Naval Forces in China, and elsewhere, and their expenses been charged to the British Government, but the Admiral never advocated a claim to interfere in these matters, but was satisfied that the vessels conformed to the Instructions and Regulations of the Indian Navy.

4. The Marine Board remark in the latter part of the 2nd para: that "it is doubtful whether he (the Officer Commanding) would not be bound to obey any orders received from the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy, however at variance with previous instructions from this Government. With regard to this control of the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy over the Vessels which are on duty at the other Presidencies, I would remark that by my Commission from the Hon'ble Court of Directors, I am placed in subordination to the Governor General of India, and the Governor in Council at Bombay, and to none other; and the commissions of the Officers of the Indian Navy direct them to obey the orders of the Governor in Council at Bombay, or their superior Officers, according to the Rules and discipline of War. I apprehend therefore that there can be no doubt as to whose orders should be obeyed.

5. The subject of this letter is one of deep importance to the discipline and efficiency of the Indian Navy. It is only fair to the Officers (especially those Commanding Vessels) that they should know under whose authority they are serving. Quite recently cases have occurred of the Vessels of the Indian Navy at Calcutta, acting under orders from the Supreme Government altering the established scale of pay and complements of the Vessels, and holding Courts Martial without any communication to the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy, of what has taken place. In the case of the *Coromandel*, although the Commander should according to Rule have sent into my Office a copy of all correspondence, not one line upon the subject of the qualities of the Vessel has been forwarded. I do not state this as a matter of complaint against any of the Officers, but simply as a fact, and which is deserving of consideration.

6. There are now three Screw Steam Ships belonging to the Indian Navy, which are placed at the disposal of the Madras Government, and it is essential that it should be known whether they are, while thus employed, to be considered as relieved from the Rules which govern the rest, for if such is to be the case, I must acknowledge that I do not rightly comprehend the position these Vessels and their Officers are to occupy.

No. 5. To the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, HOME DEPARTMENT, dated Fort Saint George, the 24th March 1858, No. 130.

SIR,

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Under Secretary Dalrymple's letter of the 22nd January, forwarding copy of a letter (18th December 1857,) from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay and its enclosure, relative to a complaint made by the Marine Board at Madras of the want of power in any authority there, to control the internal economy of Vessels of the Indian Navy placed at the disposal of the Government of Fort Saint George.

2. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council is requested to favor the Government of India with such observations as he may wish to offer on the subject, as also to furnish copy of the letter from the Marine Board which has called forth the comments of the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy, together with copy of the correspondence that has taken place between the Governments of Madras and Bombay.

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 30th March 1858.

3. In reply, I am desired to transmit a copy of the letter from the Marine Board to this Government, under date 27th January 1857, being that remarked upon by Commodore Wellesley. I am directed, also, to forward transcript of the correspondence on the subject between the Governments of Madras and Bombay and of the papers referred to in that correspondence, with a List A showing the connection of these several documents.

4. It will be seen from this that the Bombay Government have been assured by the Government of Madras that neither they nor the Marine Board at Madras ever contemplated any interference with the interior economy, or accounts, or discipline of any of the Ships belonging to the Indian Navy.

5. What the Marine Board and this Government have from time to time represented is, the embarrassment and obstruction to the Public Service which must result from this Presidency, with a Sea-board of fifteen hundred miles and an Army of 18,000 men, serving beyond Sea, being left dependent for the transport of men and Stores,—Civil and Military,—and for all the requirements of the Public Service, on Vessels over the interior economy or arrangements of which they could exercise no control and which were at any moment liable to be withdrawn from them, or detained from them for the exigencies of the other Governments. In proof that these representations have not been without cause, I am desirous to solicit attention to the accompanying precis of all the more material correspondence that has passed on the subject of the provision of Steamers for the service of this Government, from the time that application was first made by them for the employment of Steam Marine Agency. The precis will show, 1st, the delay that occurred in meeting that application:—2ndly, how imperfectly the application was met:—3rdly, how frequently the public service has since been embarrassed by the inadequacy or failure of the means at the command of Government for moving Troops and Stores by Steamer:—and, 4thly, what inconvenience has thereby been occasioned and expense involved.

6. In forwarding these papers the Government would respectfully repeat their opinion that the Vessels required for the service of this Presidency are not Vessels of War of Military discipline and equipment, but simple Transports, specially fitted up and adapted for the conveyance of Troops and Stores, with such power and strength of Machinery as will admit of their being employed as tugs. These should be manned by Officers and men appointed by the local Government, subject entirely to their orders, and not liable to be diverted from employment under them. Any other system will, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council feels assured, prove, as the present has done, most defective as well as most costly in its working.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

List A.

1. Letter from Govt of Madras to Government of Bombay
25th Sept^r 1854 N^o 403, with enclosures.
2. From Marine Board 29th January 1854 N^o 316.
3. Ec. Min. Coun. 14th March " " 104.
4. From Capt^l Campbell } 1st May " " 41.
Comd^r of Steamer Ceramander
5. Ec. Min. Coun. 12th June " " 237.
6. From Marine Board 14th April " " 1462.
7. Order thereon 29th April " " 160.
8. From Marine Board 14th Sept^r " " 3140.
9. Ec. Min. Coun. 25th Sept^r " " 402.
10. 2. From Government of Bombay to Government
of Madras 18th Dec^r 1854 N^o 2007.
The enclosure, being letter from the Com-
mander in Chief of the Indian Navy 30th
Nov^r 1854 N^o 1401, is already before the
Supreme Govt.
11. 3. To Government of Bombay 1st Feb^r 1858 N^o 53
with enclosures.
12. From Marine Board 14th January 1858 N^o 177.
13. From " " 23rd March 1855 " " 723.
14. To Court of Directors 13th April 1855 " 3.

/Signed/ J. G. Jones
Agent to Govt

M. J. Doll
Clerk

18.3.58.
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Memo.

This letter has remained unanswered longer than I could have desired because it was my wish to make the précis as complete as possible - which necessarily occupied much time - the correspondence being voluminous, running back many years and having to be searched out from the military as well as the Marine Dep^ts. The whole will now be reported to the Comd of Directors and copies of the précis sent to them. J.P.

In reply to Mr. [illegible] 18.3.58

Despatched to Mr. [illegible] 18.3.58

Dist. 27 for the Steamer
with Ind. as per annexed
List & 6 copies of the Precis.

Marine Dept. 1

No 130.

5.

To The Secretary to the Government
of India.

Home Depart.

Sir, I am directed by the
Right Honorable the Go.
vernour in Council to ac-
knowledge the receipt of
M^r. Under Secretary
Dalrymple's letter of the
22nd January forwarding
copy of a letter - 18th Dec^r
1857 - from the Secretary
to the Government of
Bombay and its enclosure,
relative to a complaint
made by the Marine
Board at Madras of
the want of power in
any authority there, to
control the internal eco-
nomy of vessels of the
Indian Navy placed
at the disposal of the
Govt.

H

W

W

8 March
23 "

Government of Fort St.
George.

2.— The Right Hon.
-orable the Governor in
Council is requested to
favor the Govt. of India
with such observations
as he may wish to offer
on the subject — as also
to furnish copy of the
letter from the Marine
Board which has called
forth the comments of
the Commander-in-Chief
of the Indian Navy,
together with copy of the
correspondence that has
taken place between the
Governments of Madras
and Bombay.

3.— In reply, I am de-
-sired to transmit a copy
of the letter from the
Marine Board to this
Government under date
24th Jan: 1854, bearing
that remarked upon by
Commodore

6. 2
Commodore Wellerley —
I am directed, also, to
forward transcript of
the correspondence on
the subject between the
Governments of Madras
and Bombay and of
the papers referred to
in that correspondence
with a list showing
the connection of these
several documents.

4.— It will be seen
from this that the
Bombay Government
have been assured by
the Government of Ma-
-dras that neither they
nor the Marine Board
at Madras ever con-
-templated any inter-
-ference with the in-
-terior economy, or ac-
-counts, or discipline
of any of the ships
belonging to the Indian
Navy.

5.— What the Marine
Board

Board and this Govern-
ment have from time
to time represented is,
the embarrassment and
obstruction to the public
service which must re-
sult from this Presiden-
cy, with a sea board of
~~fifteen hundred~~
~~nearly two thousand~~
miles and an army of
18 000 men, serving be-
yond sea, being left de-
pendent for the trans-
port of men and stores,
Civil and Military, and
for all the requirements
of the public service, on
refugees over the interior
economy, or arrange-
ments of which they
could exercise no control
and which were at any
moment liable to be with-
drawn from them, or
detained from them for
the exigencies of the other
Government. - In proof
that these representations
have

have not been without
cause, I am desirous to
solicit attention to the
accompanying précis
of all the more mate-
rial correspondence
that has passed on the
subject of the provision
of Steamers for the ser-
vice of this Government,
from the time that
application was first
made by them for the
employment of Steam
Marine Agency. - The
présis will show 1st,
the delay that occurred
in meeting that applica-
tion - 2^{dly}, how imperfect-
ly the application was
met - 3^{dly}, how frequent-
ly the public service has
since been embarrassed
by the inadequacy or fail-
ure of the means at the
command of Government
for moving troops and
Stores by Steamer, and

4th, what inconvenience
has therefore been occasion-
ed and expense involved-

6. - In forwarding these
papers the Government can
~~not but~~ ^{would} respectfully ~~express~~
~~present~~ ^{express} the opinion that
the vessels required for the
service of this Presidency
are not vessels of war
of military discipline
and equipment, but sim-
ple transports, specially
fitted up and adapted
for the conveyance of
troops and stores, - with
such power and strength
of Machinery as will
admit of their being em-
ployed as tugs - These
should be manned by
officers and men ap-
pointed by the Local
Government, - subject en-
tirely to their orders, and,
~~except in the most ex-~~
~~traneous emergency,~~ not liable
to be diverted from
employment

8.
employment under them.
Any other system will, the
Right Honorable the Go-
vernor in Council feels
assured, prove, as the
present has done, most
defective as well as most
costly in its working. -

Fort St George }
24 March 1858 - }

JF

H. D. Bell

