

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. *132-33* Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated *H*
25 March 18 *58*

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 8. From J. T. MACLAGAN, Esq., Acting Secretary Marine Board; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 15th March 1858, No. 1174.

SIR,

Mr. and Mrs. Bennet.
" " Langley.
Mrs. Brooks and 2 Sons.
Mr. B. Donnelly.
" J. Thorne.
" J. Alderton.
" N. Barnett.
R. Langley } Boys.
A. Langley }

I have the honor by desire of the Marine Board to inform you that in pursuance of the instructions conveyed in Extract Minutes of Consultation of the 25th January last, No. 44, they embarked the Emigrants named in the margin on board the Steam Transport "Thebes" for Galle on the 1st Ultimo, and that they addressed the Master Attendant at that Port by the same opportunity with a request that he would arrange for their further passage thence to Melbourne in the first "Australian" Company's Steamer as Second Class Passengers, and endeavour to obtain some reduction in the rate, £25, in consideration of the peculiar circumstances of their case.

2. A Bill herewith forwarded amounting to £312-10, has been submitted for their onward passage from Galle, the parties having re-embarked on the 13th Ultimo, and I am directed to solicit that the Government will be pleased to sanction the amount and request the Government of Ceylon to cause payment to be made, debiting this Presidency accordingly.

3. It will be perceived on perusal of the letter from the Agent to the "Australian" Company, copy of which is attached to the Bill and marked C, that he was about to refer the subject of the refund of any portion of the passage money to the Directors of the Company in England.

4. In addition to the charges actually incurred on account of these Emigrants, I am to inform you that a claim has been made by the Commander of the Swedish Ship "Thor," which Vessel brought them here for compensation for feeding them from the time they were received on board to the date of their landing.

5. On the 8th of December, 43 persons in all were received from the burning Ship "Helen" on board the "Thor." On the 11th ten of these including the Commander and Officers were transferred to a French Vessel, and on the 4th of January ten Men, Sailors, were taken on board the Steamer "Undaunted" bound to Calcutta. There were therefore, as stated in the application from the Commander of the "Thor" herewith forwarded, 43 persons for 3 days 33 for 24 days, and 23 for 13 days, the Vessel having arrived at Madras on the 16th January.

6. The Emigrants took with them no board the "Thor" sufficient provisions for the first three weeks. After this a Cask of Beef and one of Pork with Biscuit was given to them, and a further supply was obtained from the "Undaunted" on payment, as appears from a receipted Bill which has been produced.

7. The demand made is £100, not as compensation for the trouble taken in providing for so large an addition to the numbers on board the "Thor," but as a re-imbursement for the expenses actually incurred. These however can hardly have amounted to half the amount named: yet in consideration of the circumstances and as an inducement to others to render assistance to parties in like distress the Board would suggest that the claim be admitted.

7. I am further to add the deposition taken by the Board of two of the most respectable and intelligent of the Emigrants regarding the circumstances connected with the fire, and their subsequent proceedings in order that it may be sent with the other papers to the Board of Trade.

8. In conclusion I am to submit a Memo: of the entire expenses incurred on their accounts, observing that the Emigrants carried with them sufficient money subscribed by benevolent individuals at Madras to support them during their stay at Galle while awaiting the "Australian" Steamer, and that those who have not been mentioned in the 1st para: have preferred to remain at Madras.

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

From Mr. E. E. WESTMAN, Commander Swedish Ship "Thor"; to the Secretary of the Marine Board, Madras, dated 22nd January 1858.

SIR,

I have the honor to bring to your notice the following circumstances under which the Crew and Passengers of the American Ship "Helen," bound from London to Melbourne, were brought on to Madras in the Swedish Ship "Thor" under my command.

On the 7th December 1857, the American Ship "Helen" caught fire and on the following day I received on board forty three persons from that Vessel, the circumstances connected with this accident are explained in a letter from Captain West, Master of the "Helen," to General Cass, the Foreign Secretary of State to the United States of America, a copy of which letter I have the honor to enclose.

Of the Crew and Passengers received on board my Ship forty three persons remained for three days, thirty three for twenty seven days and twenty three persons for thirty-nine days. The larger number of these persons are British Subjects proceeding as Emigrants to Australia.

I have no desire to ask for any compensation for the personal trouble or discomfort my Ship's Company have been exposed to by having so large a number of persons on my Ship, but I have the honor to request you will obtain the sanction of Government to repay to me the expenses my Owners have been subjected to, which I cannot estimate at less than (one hundred) £100 Sterling.

From Mr. THOMAS F. WEST; to the Honorable General CASS, Secretary of State, Washington, United States, on board the "Thor" of Gefle, Sweden, dated Madras, 8th December 1857.

HONORED SIR,

It is my painful duty to inform you that I have been compelled by dire necessity to abandon my Ship the "Helen" of Boston, United States, at Sea, in consequence of her Cargo taking fire on the morning of the 7th Instant at half past two A. M., she was on a voyage with general Cargo and twenty Passengers from London to Melbourne, Australia, is an American Ship owned by Messrs: A. Cunningham and Sons, Boston, and had on board myself Master, two Officers, and a Crew of seventeen hands with two Cooks and one Steward, with 20 Passengers, all of which have been received in the kindest manner by Captain Westman (who has but little accommodation beyond what is required for his own Crew) on board his Ship the "Thor" of Gefle, Sweden, he has put himself and Crew to much inconvenience to accommodate us all, and his conduct has been such as to demand some mark of the approbation of our Government for his kindness to a Crew of her Citizen, placed in such extreme peril and which under such circumstances is usually accorded. My Ship was abandoned at noon on Tuesday the 8th December Instant, in Latitude 37°50' South and Longitude 34°12' East during a Gale of wind and in a heavy Sea, but happily we were safely conveyed in our Boats from the one Ship to the other. Trusting that this recommendation will meet with your usual kind consideration and attention.

Depositions made by Mr. George Harrison and Mr. Thorne, passengers by the American Ship "Ellen" bound from London to Melbourne.

We left England on the 7th October and touched no where on our passage, on the 7th December near the Cape at 2 A. M., we were awakened by a cry of fire from the Captain and Mate, who called out for every one to come on Deck if they wished to save their lives. We accordingly all rushed up, some but half clothed when the hatches were immediately closed and battened down. Smoke was entering our teeth from the fore part, and on coming on Deck we noticed smoke rising from the fore hatch, even after it had been battened down. Shortly after we came on Deck the Captain cut a scuttle in the Deck a little before the part in which we were berthed but no smoke issued. A quantity of Acids was stowed in a house on deck which the Captain then ordered to be thrown over board, together with a portion of provisions stowed there, other pro-

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

visions were then put into the boats with the intention of abandoning the Vessel. Parties were told off for each boat but on the suggestion of the Carpenter the Captain decided to remain by the Ship, and we commenced flooding the Decks with water. This was about 12 o'clock noon.

During this time the Captain was in a highly nervous state of mind, and was scarcely able to give coherent orders, the Chief Mate was cool and collected. The Captain was a sober man and very attentive to his duties.

During the afternoon the smoke increased from the fore part of the Ship but no flames were seen even to the time of our quitting the Ship. There was a large tank holding several hundred gallons of fresh water stowed in the hold about midships, and when we first pumped up this water it was warm but not hot. There was a larger quantity of Spirits in Casks, and some Oil in drums in the hold with between 2 and 300 Tons of Coals. The Decks were not very hot but warm, it was cold weather.

We stood to the North East till next morning when at $\frac{1}{2}$ past four we discovered the Swedish Ship "Thor" which we came up with about an hour afterwards. After hailing and arranging to be taken on board we all left the "Helen" in our own boats on the same afternoon and were received on board the "Thor." We took on board sufficient provisions for three weeks during which time we drew nothing from the "Thor" but water.

On the 11th we fell in with a French Ship from Nantes bound to Trincomalee when the Captain, his two Mates, the Cabin passenger, Steward and 5 Seamen left in her, the Captain taking the greater part of the delicacies, such as Hams, Cheeses, Wines, Brandy and Sardines. He was asked to leave some of the Wine for medical purposes but refused, although it had been put on board expressly for that purpose.

After we were all on board the "Thor," the Captain Westman of this Vessel asked the Captain of the "Helen" if he wished to send the boat back to the burning Ship. The latter said no and directed her to be cut away. We complained of the plight in which we were left when he said that he had a draft for £3,000 and that we should not be losers for he would share it with us.

On the morning after we left the "Helen" the Cabin passenger, Mr. Roupell, asked us if we had any objection to sign a document certifying to the Captain's having made strenuous endeavours to save the Ship.

He said that the Captain had offered the Captain of the "Thor" £1000 to stop by the vessel for 24 hours, and likewise £500 to carry us to the Mauritius, both which offers had been refused. We know that these offers were never made although the Captain of the "Thor" signed a Document to the effect that he would not remain by the Ship.

Thinking that it would be better for our interests we signed the Certificate which Mr. Roupell asked for, and when he left the Ship with the Captain and Mates, no money was left with us, nor was any arrangements made for assisting us to proceed to our destination from the place at which we might land.

We also signed a Certificate testifying to the good conduct of the Mates during this trying occasion. This they well deserved.

During our passage in the "Thor" we were very short of water, after the first three weeks the Captain gave us a Cask of Beef and one of Pork with Biscuits, at first almost uneatable. Butter was then supplied but we had nothing else. Our meals were two a day. Breakfast, Tea and Biscuits, and dinner, the same, with a little Pork or Beef, we had no Sugar or Coffee.

On the 4th of January we spoke the Steamer "Undaunted" Captain Franklin bound to Calcutta with horses from Sydney. She relieved us of ten Sailors, and supplied us with two Casks of water, a bag of Peas, a bag of Rice, a barrel of Flour and one Sheep which the Captain of the "Thor" said he had purchased and paid for. After this we had an ample supply of water, and lived well.

On the 16th January we arrived at Madras.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
under date 25 March 1858

Read the following
letter from the Marine
Board.

(Dated 15 March 1858. No. 1174)

1. The R. & the Gov. in Council sanctions the Bill of the Superintendent of the E. & A. Royal Mail Company for Pass. money for conveying 13 of the Emigrants referred to from Galle to Melbourne, amounting to £312-10-0 or Rupees (3,125) Three thousand one hundred & twenty-five - and he will request the Gov. of Ceylon to make the payment and debit the amount to this Presidency.

2. The Governor in Council

H
H
W M

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

The "Helen" was owned by Messrs: Cunningham and Sons of Boston, Chartered in by John Ledgett and Sons, Billiter Street, London, from whom we engaged our passage.

The "Helen" had a mail bag on board for Sydney, and one for Melbourne. These were hanging up in the Cabin. Before Mr. Donnelly left the ship he asked Mr. Roupell, who it is believed was the Supercargo, whether they should not be taken at the same time the Crew left. The reply was the mail be d——d. They were small bags which could be carried by hand.

Taken before me this 26th January 1858.

(Signed) JOHN J. FRANKLIN,
Justice of the Peace for the Town of Madras.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. T. MACLAGAN,
Acting Secretary.

MEMO: OF EXPENCES incurred on account of "Helen's" Emigrants.

Claim for compensation by Commander of the Ship "Thor" £100 or Rs. 1,000	0	0
Commissary General for provision supplied to the "Thebes".....	8	14
Boat hire for conveying them to the "Thebes".....	1	8
Passage money Bill from Galle to Melbourne, £312-10-0.....	3,125	0
Company's Rupees.....	4,135	6

No. 9. ORDER THEREON, No. 132; dated 25th March 1858.

1. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council sanctions the Bill of the Superintendent of the European and Australian Royal Mail Company for passage money for conveying 13 of the Emigrants referred to from Galle to Melbourne, amounting to £312-10-0 or Rupees (3,125) three thousand one hundred and twenty five, and he will request the Government of Ceylon to make the payment and debit the amount to this Presidency.

2. The Governor in Council also sanctions, on the recommendation of the Marine Board, the disbursement of one thousand Rupees claimed by Captain Westman, Commander of the Swedish Ship "Thor," on account of the expenses incurred in providing for the Emigrants on board of that Vessel, and also the charges for Boat hire and for provisions supplied by the Commissary General on their account to the Steam Transport "Thebes," amounting to Rupees (10-6-7) ten, annas six and pice seven.

3. The Commissioner of Police will report the amount of the expenses incurred in subsisting the Emigrants at the Sailors' Home in order that the whole disbursement on their account may be brought to the notice of the Honorable the Court of Directors, to whom the matter will be specially reported.

Ordered that the following letter be Despatched.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 10. To THE COLONIAL SECRETARY AT COLOMBO, dated 25th March 1858, No. 133.
SIR,

In forwarding to you the accompanying Extract from a letter from the Marine Board reporting the provisions of a passage to Melbourne for certain Emigrants on board the E. and A. Royal Mail Company's Steamer "European," at a cost of (£ 312-10-0) Pounds three hundred and twelve and Shillings ten, I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to request that the Government of Ceylon will be so good as to arrange for the payment of the Bill of the Superintendent of the Company for the above amount, debiting the same to this Presidency.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

Council also sanction, on
the recommendation of
the Marine Board, the
disbursement of One thou-
sand Rupees claimed by
Captain Westman, Com-
mander of the Swedish
Ship "Thor", on account
of the expenses incurred
in providing for the Emi-
grants on board of that
Vessel, and also the
charges for Boat hire &
for provisions supplied
by the Commissary General
on their account to the
Steam Transport "Thebes",
amounting to Rupees 10,000
Ten, Annas six and Pice
seven.

3. The Commissioner
of Police will report the
amount of the expenses in-
curred in subsisting the
Emigrants at the Sailors
Home, in order that the
whole

whole disbursement on
then account may be
brought to the notice of
the Hon'ble the Court of
Directors. & how the matter
will be specially reported.

Ordered that the fol-
lowing letter be des-
patched:

To The Colonial Secretary
at Colombo.

JP

To the Marine Board with a Bill
"to the General
" Civil Auditor
" Comr. of Police.

Disptd 21st

Dep. 21st

Marine Department

No 133.

To The Colonial Secretary
at Colombo

Sir,
In forwarding to you
the accompanying Ex-
tract from a letter from
the Marine Board re-
porting the provision of
a Passage to Melbourne
for certain Emigrants on
board the C. & S. Royal
Mail Company's Steamer
"European" at a cost of
£ (312-10-0) Pounds three
hundred and twelve
and Shillings ten, I am
directed by the R. & C.
the Governor in Council
to request that the Gov.
of Ceylon will be so
good as to arrange
for the payment of the
Bill of the Superintendants
of the Company for the
above

Dated 15th March 1858. No 1174.
para 1 to 8.

H
W M

Marine Board to the Colonial Secretary
No 133. 1858.

In C. & S. Royal
Marine 1858 September

No 132

Marine Board to the Colonial Secretary

No 133. 1858

Further letter from the Marine Board of 15th March 1858.

8849

Thomas L. & Co.
292 of 131 2nd 13 of 1853.
Replied to 2/27th October
28th 5 of 1858

to Geo 30 March
Marine 1853 28th 13th

28th 13th

to the Colonial Secy at
Colonial Secy
28th 13th March 1858

Replied 16th April 1858
28th 14th

8-10