

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Marine* DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 142

Press  
~~Mis.~~

Dated 8. 4.

1858

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Handwritten signature/initials*

*Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 9th April 1858.*

No. 7. From J. T. MACLAGAN, Esq., Acting Secretary Marine Board; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated 30th March 1858, No. 1287.

SIR,

I have the honor by desire of the Marine Board to forward a letter from the Acting Master Attendant representing the difficulty under which the Port labors for want of efficient Divers, stating that he had prevailed on the two Divers, employed on pay of Rupees 17½ monthly, who had absconded, to return to their work, and requesting that the Board would apply to Government, for authority to promise them Pension, or Smart-money, in case of injury; and Pensions for their wives and families, in the event of death, while in the execution of their duty.

2. The question of obtaining Divers for the recovery of Anchors and Chains was submitted to Government in the Board's letters of 4th May, and 8th October 1857, and on the 24th October Government were pleased to resolve, that application be made to the Honorable Court of Directors for a Diving Bell or other Apparatus suitable for an open roadstead.

3. In the mean time until the orders of the Honorable Court are received, the Board have instructed me to solicit the authority of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, to promise the Divers a Pension or grant of Smart-money, in cases of injury, and of Pensions to the Widows and Children in the event of death, caused in the execution of their duty.

From J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Acting Master Attendant; to J. T. MACLAGAN, Esq., Acting Secretary Marine Board, dated 16th March 1858, No. 192.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to bring to the notice of the Marine Board, for eventual submission to Government, the difficulty under which the Port labours for want of efficient Divers, who are required for the recovery of Anchors, Chains and other property lost in the Roads.

2. I am aware that the Board have already represented to Government the difficulty of engaging men for this service, in consequence of the Sharks abounding in and around the Anchorage; and their disinclination to force men to dive after the lamentable accidents which have occurred. They at the same time recommended that application should be made for a Diving Bell, and suggested that Messrs. Saunders and Mitchell, the Contractors for the contemplated Pier, might have, among the persons to be employed in its erection, some one capable of managing the Machine.

3. In the mean while the Port has remained without the means of recovering lost Articles, the Divers formerly in the pay of Government having absconded or refused to work. In this state of things I have considered it advisable to send for them, and endeavour to prevail on them to resume their duties which they already done. They were both this morning engaged in examining the bottom of the Steamer "Indomitable," which had been on shore on the Pulicat Shoal.

4. I now desire to bring before the Board the fact that these men have never been considered entitled to any compensation for injuries inflicted while in the performance of their dangerous duties, nor are there wives or children pensioned in the event of their losing their lives when so employed.

5. I have therefore to solicit that the Board will be pleased to apply to Government for authority to promise them pension or Smart-money in case of injury; and pension for their wives and families in the event of their death; such injury or death befalling them while in the execution of their duty. Their wages are 17½ Rupees a month, and I would suggest that the same proportion of pension and Smart-money should be adopted as obtain in the Honorable Company's Native Army.

P. S.—With reference to the statement in the 3rd para: that the "Indomitable" had been ashore on the Pulicat Shoal, I should add, lest it might be supposed that the want of a light caused the accident, that the Commander has assured me that the Madras light was clearly visible.

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 9th April 1858.

No. 8. ORDER THEREON, No. 142; dated 8th April 1858.

The Governor in Council resolves to bring the foregoing letter to the notice of the Honorable the Court of Directors and to press upon their attention the urgent need of the Diving Bell applied for in the Despatch from this Department, dated 28th October last, No. 28. He will also recommend to the favorable consideration of the Honorable Court the present proposition of the Marine Board to grant Pension or Smart-money to Divers in case of injuries, and Pensions to their widows and children in the event of death, when such may occur in the exercise of their profession in the service of Government.

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

These pensions cannot be given  
without the sanction of the Supreme  
Council of Directors.

The question is which is best

to pay for the service which the men are  
to be engaged in, or to give them a  
pension for the service which they have  
done at their own expense. It is  
impossible to give a pension to the  
men at the present time, and it is  
better to show how important  
the service is.

J. A.

Marine Dept

No 111  
From the Acting Secretary Marine Board  
Dated 20<sup>th</sup> March 1858  
For Orders.

I would apply for both.  
the premiums - the Marine  
Risk.

At  
W. G. W. M.

favorable consideration  
of the Honble Court the  
proposition of proposed grant of pen-  
sion or grant money  
to divers in case of  
injuries, and of pension  
to their widows and  
children

Can 29<sup>th</sup> October 1857  
" 12<sup>th</sup> Aug 1857 36437

Replied 1<sup>st</sup> September  
Can 22<sup>nd</sup> 1858

Marine - 1858 Department

From  
The Acting Secretary  
The Chief Secretary  
& Government  
London 25<sup>th</sup> June

Dated 20<sup>th</sup>  
June 1858

No 111

Enclosure

Submits a letter from  
the Chief Secretary of the Admiralty  
for the Admiralty dated 20<sup>th</sup> June 1858  
in relation to the proposed grant of pen-  
sion or grant money to divers in case of  
injuries, and of pension to their widows and  
children. The letter is dated 20<sup>th</sup> June 1858  
and is signed by the Chief Secretary.

Can 29<sup>th</sup>  
" 12<sup>th</sup>  
" 31<sup>st</sup>  
" 31<sup>st</sup>  
" 31<sup>st</sup>

Marine Department

No 1112

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation  
under date 8 April 1858

Read letter from the  
Marine Board:

Dated 20<sup>th</sup> March 1858. No 1107,

The Governor in C<sup>o</sup>  
resolved to bring the fore-  
going letter to the notice  
of the Honble the Court of  
Directors and to press up-  
on their attention the ur-  
gent need of the living  
Belt applied for in the  
Despatch from this De-  
partment dated 28 Feb.  
per last No 28. He will  
also recommend to the  
favorable consideration  
of the Honble Court the  
proposed grant of pen-  
sion or grant money  
to divers in case of  
injuries, and of pensions  
to their widows and  
children

present proposition of  
the Marine Board to

W  
G  
W

children in the event of  
death, caused in the ex-  
ecution of their duty, when  
such may occur, in  
the execution of their duty.

profession in the service  
of Government

BZ

To the Marine Board, Sept 12<sup>th</sup>

Exo 22 April 1858  
Marine 1858 Sept 1858  
Cong 24th 1858

No 112

Replies 1st of September  
No 22 of 1858

Exhorted mind of Lord  
April  
2/18 1858

Resolved to recommend  
to the favorable consideration  
of the Honorable Board the  
present proposition of the  
Marine Board to grant  
pensions or small money  
to Divines in case of in-  
juries and provided to  
their Widows & Children  
in the event of death  
also the urgent need of  
the Dining Hall applied  
for