

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 25

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated 14 - 1 -

18 58.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 3. From JOHN J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Secretary Marine Board; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 4th January 1858, No. 25.

SIR,

I have the honor by desire of the Marine Board to acknowledge receipt of Extract Minutes of Consultation of the 7th December last, on the subject of the Port Boat for Tuticoreen, purchased at Cocanada in April 1855, at their recommendation, for 600 Rupees.

2 The Right Honorable the Governor in Council desires to be informed why and under whose charge it was kept at Cocanada for two years : why it was not examined and repaired previous to its being sent to its destination : what means were employed by the Master Attendant at Tuticoreen in supplying the what of Port Boat during this long delay : whether a new and efficient Boat could not be built for 1000 Rupees ; and if so whether it would not be better to construct one or purchase the long Boat of some wrecked Vessel for the purpose, in lieu of repairing the one in question at a cost including original outlay of 1,020 Rupees.

3. The Board regret that the purchase of the Boat "Laura" should have proved so unfortunate. They endeavoured to arrange for building one at Tuticoreen, but the Master Attendant there reported that he had not the means of doing so. They then attempted to have one constructed at Cocanada, but were again disappointed, the Master Attendant there representing that in consequence of the scarcity of teak no builder would undertake the work. He however represented that there were three good Boats on sale there, and the Board recommend the purchase of that best suited for the purpose.

4. It was intended that she should be towed down to Paumben by the "Hugh Lindsay" at the end of April 1855, but that Vessel having proved very leaky, the Board considered it advisable to send her to Calcutta, and that opportunity was lost ; and it further appears that no favorable opportunity occurred of sending the Boat down till the early part of the year 1857, the Commander of the "Berenice" having refused to take it in 1855, when instructed to do so by the Board.

5. On the 3rd of February 1857 the Government, in Extract Minutes of Consultation of that date, No. 133, requested that no further delay might take place in dispatching her from Cocanada. On the 6th the Board wrote to the Master Attendant at that Port directing him to send the Boat down under the charge of a tindal and native crew, and giving him full powers in the matter, as the Boat was required with the least possible delay. He reported that he was unable to do so. It was then arranged that the "Coromandel" should tow the steam dredge and the Boat down, but unfortunately she broke down just as she had completed towing the transport "Statesman" to Rangoon on the 16th March ; and the consequent delay prevented the accomplishment of the design as intended. Again similar instructions were given on her expected return from Rangoon in June, but the mutiny rendered it necessary that she should proceed thence to Calcutta with troops. Finally the Manila in July took the Boat on board and conveyed it to Paumben.

6. The Government will perceive that many attempts were made to procure the transfer of the Boat from Cocanada to the Port for which it was destined, but that unexpected circumstances arose to frustrate the Board's intentions.

7. While at Cocanada it was under the care of the Master Attendant of the Port, and the Board were not aware that it was in need of repair. No instructions were given to have it examined prior to its dispatch, as it had not been in use : and as the Master Attendant had charge of it and did not report it to be in want of repairs, notwithstanding he was directed to send it down under sail, it was to be inferred that it was in good order and not in need of outlay.

8. With respect to the mode in which the Master Attendant at Tuticoreen supplied the want of a Boat during this long delay, the Board will inquire. They believe that its loss was most felt during the examination of the pearl Banks, and that he probably proceeded out in one of the Coast Boats, a method which I myself adopted when employed on that service.

9. Finally as regards the construction of a new Boat, fully efficient for the service required, for 1,000 Rupees, the Board have already shewn that both at Tuticoreen and at Cocanada the

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

Masters Attendant failed to effect so desirable an object. A new Boat would have been preferred if obtainable, and the "Laura" was only purchased when it was found that a Boat could not be built. Boats belonging to English Vessels are not so lasting as those built of teak, and long Boats are generally heavy unhandy craft, not very well suited for Port Boats unless manned with a strong crew.

10. Under all circumstances therefore the Board, while regretting the disappointments which have occasioned so much delay, and admitting that the Boat "Laura" ought to have been in better condition when delivered over at Tuticoreen, although her actual state could only have been ascertained by taking off the Copper and cutting into her planking, beg to recommend that the repairs may be sanctioned as the best mode of speedily supplying Tuticoreen with which the Port stands so much in need of.

(Signed) J. J. FRANKLIN,
Secretary.

No. 4.

ORDER THEREON, No. 25; dated 14th January 1858.

Under the explanation now afforded, the Government sanction the Estimate submitted with the Marine Board's letter of the 23rd November last, for the repair of the Port Boat of Tuticoreen, amounting, after deducting the value of the old Copper, to Rupees (420-11-0) Four hundred and twenty and Annas eleven.

4 N
No. 25

Under the explanation

now afforded, the Govd sanction
the Estimate submitted with the
Marine Board's letter of the 23rd Novem-
ber last for the repair of the Port
Boat of Tuticoreen, amounting,
after deducting the value of the
old Copper, to Rupees (420-11-0)
Four hundred and twenty and
Annas eleven.

W. Fort St George - 2
13 January 1858 - 3

J. J. Franklin
(To E. and C. B. B. B.)

To the Marine Board }
" Asst. General }
" Civil Auditor }

Dispd 21st