

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 315

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated 18.8.1858

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 24th August 1858.

No. 3. From Captain R. W. MEPPEN, Master Attendant, Vizagapatam; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated 20th July 1858.

SIR,

Understanding that a Master Attendant will be shortly appointed to the Port of Calingapatam on a salary of Rupees 400 per mensem, I beg most respectfully to solicit your kind patronage in my behalf by recommending me to Government to that post. I have been Master Attendant for the Port of Vizagapatam and Bimlipatam for the last six years and by the enclosures submitted for perusal you will perceive that I have given Government as also Owners and Commanders of Vessels satisfaction in the performance of the duties I had been called upon to undertake. Desirous of avoiding profession, I shall merely say that if through the medium of your kind interest, I succeeded to the situation I aspire to, I hope and trust to, render Government every satisfaction in my power.

No. 4. ORDER THEREON, No. 315; dated 18th August 1858.

Mr. Meppen will be informed that Government have no present intention of appointing a Master Attendant to the Port of Calingapatam.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,

Chief Secretary.

Not to be printed

TESTIMONIALS.

No. 1050

Captain MEPPEN,
SIR,

I have the honor by desire of the Marine Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date pointing out several inaccuracies in Lieutenant Fell's sailing instructions for the Coromandel Coast published for general information by this Department and to return you their thanks for the important Service you have thus rendered.

The necessary corrections will be immediately made and the directions republished in an amended shape.

Madras
Marine Board Office,
1st July 1851.

I have &c.
(Signed) J. J. Franklin,
Secy. Marine Board.

Waltair 18th Dec. 1852.

Captain Meppen,
Master Attendant.

SIR,

Pray accept my best thanks for your services and kind co-operation in assisting to get the "NILE" from the unfortunate position in which she was placed on the night of the 13th December, your presence on board was of great value in giving instructions to the boatmen as from our ignorance of the language we should have been at a great loss otherwise.

Believe me &c.

(Signed) E. N. Nisbet,
Commanding Ship "Nile."

Madras 15th Dec. 1853.

My dear Captain Meppen,

I am very much obliged to you for having so promptly given me the sad intelligence of the "ALFRED's" disaster and for your zealous exertions in rendering her assistance.

Believe me &c.

(Signed) C. Biden,

Master Attendant.

No. 327

Vizagapatam District,
Vizianagaram,
Coltr's. Circ. Cutcherry,
23rd Dec. 1853.

From

A. Robertson, Esq.

Collector.

To

Captain R. W. Meppen,

Master Attendant.

Vizagapatam.

Sir,

I have much satisfaction in annexing an Extract from a letter from Mr. Mackenzie in which he particularly mentions the services rendered by you on board the Ship "Alfred." I this day forward a copy of the same to the Marine Board.

I have &c.

(Signed) A. Robertson,

Collector

Extract from a Letter from Mr. McKenzie Agent of the Ship
"Alfred" dated 20th Dec. 1853.

"I am under great obligations also to Captain Meppen, Master Attendant of Vizagapatam, who proceeded on board the "Alfred" as soon as he heard of her misfortune, and re-

"mained on board night and day until her departure—Captain Voss and his Officers received great assistance from him in Superintending and directing the labors of the Lascars and Coolies—Captain Meppen also as you are aware most readily volunteered to go on the Ship to Coringa when it seemed very doubtful that she could be kept afloat so far."

(Signed) John McKenzie,
Agent for the Ship "Alfred"

(True Extract)

(Signed) A. Robertson,

Collector.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

No. 18.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation dated 23rd January 1854.

Read the following letter from the Secretary Marine Board.
Here enter 3rd January 1854.

No. 13.

"The Right Honorable the Governor in Council desires that the Marine Board will convey the expression of his approbation to the Master Attendant at Vizagapatam and the other Public Servants who rendered such good Service in the case of the Ship "Alfred."

(Signed) H. C. Montgomery,

Chief Secretary.

To

The Marine Board,

True Copy.

(Signed) J. J. Franklin,

Secy. Marine Board.

True Copies:

(Signed) A. Robertson,

Collector.

To

The Master Attendant,

Vizagapatam.

For his information,

Extract from a letter from the Collector of Vizagapatam to the Secretary to the Marine Board dated 29th January 1855.

Para 2. The trade of this province has of late considerably increased and with the construction of new roads and the opening up of passes leading to the Nagpore country, it must be expected still further to increase, leading to the resort of more vessels to the several Ports at which Mr. Meppen is Master Attendant. Hitherto, it is true his continuous duty has not been onerous, but in this as in many other situations, the skill which is at his command should be considered at least equally with the extent of duty to be performed. Taking this view of the case I would beg to recall the attention of the Marine Board to the valuable assistance rendered by Mr. Meppen to several vessels of a large class during the time he has held the Office of Master Attendant. In the case of the "Nile," the particulars of which are well known to the Board, he received the thanks of those whom he so well assisted. When the "Alfred" was in such a state that it was feared she could scarcely be kept afloat, if she were to set sail for Coringa, Mr. Meppen applied for my permission to proceed with the vessel that the Commander might have the benefit of his aid on board, and of his acquaintance with the Coast. He afforded assistance also to the "Carnatic" and by his promptitude and decision there can be little doubt, saved the "Coldstream" from a danger of which those on board seemed to have no apprehension.

3. On such a Coast as this the like services may be required at any moment and I am satisfied would be immediately rendered. I beg leave to request that the Marine Board will be pleased to recommend to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council that Mr. Meppen's salary as Master Attendant at the Ports of Vizagapatam and Bimlipatam may be increased from Rupees 105 to Rupees 200 per mensem.

4. Taking the main point on which my recommendation is founded, I have not adverted to incidental expences attendant on the offices held by Mr. Meppen as well as to other matters which will readily suggest themselves to the Marine Board.

I have &c.

(Signed) A. Robertson,
Collector.

True Copies.

(Signed) Charles Reade,
Collector.

No. 129.

From
The Secretary Marine Board,
To
The Collector of Vizagapatam.

SIR,

1. I have the honor by desire of the Marine Board to forward the accompanying copy of a letter they addressed to Government on the subject of Mr. Meppen's conduct in carrying safely to Cocanada the French vessel "Madras" after she had struck on the Santapilly Rocks and had become so leaky that it was doubtful whether she could have been kept afloat.

2. The order of Government on the report follows, and I am to request that you will be good enough to make both known to Mr. Meppen, with the expression of the Board's satisfaction at finding that he was able and willing to render such important aid to a vessel in such perilous circumstances as was the "Madras."

Madras
Marine Board Office,
11th January 1858.

I have &c.

(Signed) J. J. Franklin,
Secretary.

True Copy
(Signed) Charles Reade,
Collector.

To the Master Attendant,

For his information.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

No. 8.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 5th Jan. 1858.

Read the following letter from J. J. Franklin Esq. Secretary Marine Board to T. Pycroft Esq. Chief Secretary to Government Fort Saint George dated 30th December 1857, No. 4641.

SIR,

1. I have the honor by desire of the Marine Board to report that in the evening of the 13th instant about sunset the French Ship "Madras" of about 1000 Tons struck on the Santapilly rocks. The weather was very fine and the water so smooth that there was no ripple over the danger, yet the vessel was injured so severely that it was with the utmost difficulty she could be kept afloat.

2. In this state she reached Bimlipatam where boats and coolies were immediately sent to her assistance by Mr. Mackenzie of the Firm of Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co. The Master Attendant at Vizagapatam was then sent for, and on his arrival finding that the vessel could not be kept afloat much longer offered to carry her to Cocanada which he did successfully arriving there at 10 P. M. on the 17th instant. The vessel then had 5 feet water in the hold with 4 Pumps constantly at work and two gangs bailing, but as she is near the shore and in smooth water she may yet be saved.

3. The Board desire me to add that the Master Attendant at Vizagapatam desires much credit for his readiness to undertake a difficult task and for the manner in which he executed it; and they are about to express to him their sentiments on the occasion.

(Signed) J. J. Franklin,

Secretary

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council agrees with the Marine Board that much Credit is due to Mr. R. W. Meppen Master Attendant at Vizagapatam for his exertions for saving the French Ship "Madras" as reported in the above letter. The Board will convey to Mr. Meppen the approbation with which the Government regard his conduct on the occasion.

True Extract and Copy.

(Signed) T. Pycroft,

Chief Secretary

To the President and Members Marine Board,

True Copy.

(Signed) J. J. Franklin,

Secretary.

True Copy.

(Signed) Charles Reade,

Collector

To the Master Attendant,

For information, Vizagapatam.

5
ract from a Memorandum from the Agent to the Governor dated 10th March 1858.

No. 133.

1. The Agent to the Governor has very great pleasure in conveying to the Master Attendant his entire approval and satisfaction at the arrangements made for the landing and re-embarking of the Right Honorable the Governor.

2. It was left entirely to the Master Attendant, in the absence of the Agent to do all that was necessary without any particular instructions, the more credit is therefore due to that Officer for the completeness of the arrangements which he both originated and so well carried out.

Vizagapatam,
Govt. Agents Office,
10th March 1858. }

(Signed) Charles Reade,
Agent to the Govr.

To the Master Attendant,

Vizagapatam.

True Copy
Charles Reade

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Mr Meppin will be informed
that Govt. have no present intention
of appointing a Master Attendant
to the Port of Calcutta.

Fort St George
18th Aug^r 58

[Signature]

Copy to Mr R W Meppin - Dispd. 21st

M/50/8
In No 272