

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

371

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated

18. 9.

1858

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 21st September 1858.

No. 10. From J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 9th September 1858, No. 3657.

SIR,

I have the honor to represent to you, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, that on the 30th Ultimo, the whole of the Madras Boatmen struck work, in consequence of some interference with their prejudices, which they attempted to prevent by thus stopping the trade of the Port. The Master Attendant was at Royapooram soon after daylight, and acting in a most energetic and determined manner, succeeded in quelling the spirit of opposition that had manifested itself. By 9 o'clock the Crews were again manning their Boats.

2. This is not the first time a strike of the Boatmen has occurred, and I bring it to the notice of Government with the view of shewing how much the community is likely to be inconvenienced, and the Shipping transactions of the Port impeded, so long as Madras does not possess a Pier to render them more independent of the Boatmen.

3. Had this strike happened on the morning of an embarkation, for instance, on Monday last when between 11 and 1200 persons were embarked on Board the transports "Statesman," "Blue Rock" and "India," the greatest confusion would have ensued. The Natives had marched in from Palavéram: the Europeans had come by Train from Arcot: and all would have had to wait indefinitely until the Boatmen had been brought to reason. Whereas had a Pier existed with its outer extremity clear of the surf, the embarkation could have been effected in Ships' Boats, as safely, if not as speedily, as in the Masolah Boats.

4. The inconvenience to Merchants is even more marked than that experienced by Government on such occasions. The shipment and discharge of all Cargo is of course arrested, and the Boatmen, feeling their power, naturally give full scope to their innate propensities for extortion and plunder, which have of late, if possible, increased.

5. Seeing that these very serious drawbacks to the prosperity of the Port would be almost entirely removed by the construction of the Pier so long under consideration, I would earnestly solicit that application be again made on the subject to the proper authorities in England, and that the Government would be pleased to urge on them the very great advantage that would follow the Establishment of a communication with the roads of this description.

No. 1 ORDER THEREON, No. 371; dated 18th September 1858.

ved that the foregoing communication be forwarded to the Honorable the Court of Directors with the strong recommendation of this Government that early measures may be adopted for the construction of a Pier at Madras.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

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No 371.

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Wd

Resolved that the foregoing communication be forwarded to the Honble the Comr of Directors with the strong recommendation of this Govt. that early measures may be adopted for the construction of a Pier at Madras.

For G. George, Esq
18 September/58.

JF

Copy to Supr. of Marine. (Sept 24)