

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

44

Press
~~Mis~~

Dated

25-1-

1858.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 26th January 1858.

No.14 Read the following letter from Colonel J. C. BOULDERSON, Commissioner of Police; to T. PYCROFT Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated 21st January 1858, No. 8.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward for the information of Government 2 letters,* one signed by the Emigrant Passengers (all inhabitants of the United Kingdom) saved from the ship "Helen" of Boston which is reported to have been destroyed by fire off the Cape of Good Hope on the 7th of December last, the other from Mr. Franklin, the Secretary of the Marine Board, reporting that the Emigrants above alluded to had been brought on to Madras on the Sweedish Ship "Thor" Captain Westman, and that he had sent them to the Sailors' Home; he states also that he has taken charge of the Sailors and he requests me to provide for the Emigrants.

The letter sent to me by the Emigrants includes the names of sixteen persons; there are however three others not included in this letter, the total number being 19. The expense of keeping them at the Sailors' Home at 12 Annas each per day will amount to Rupees 14-4 per diem, *vide* Memorandum by the Superintendent hereunto annexed.

Will you do me the favor to obtain the orders of Government regarding the disposal of these unfortunate persons, the whole of whom, I find, are without the means of providing subsistence for themselves.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrison are apparently of superior birth to the others, all of whom seem to me to be of labouring or servant class. It is desirable that early orders should be received regarding their disposal and present maintenance, because a Bill of Rupees 14-4 is being incurred daily at the Sailors' Home on their account.

(Signed) J. C. BOULDERSON,

Commissioner of Police.

From the Secretary Marine Board; to the Commissioner of Police, dated 20th January 1858, No. 250.

SIR,

I have the honor by desire of the Marine Board to inform you that the Sweedish Ship "Thor," Captain Westman, laden with coals for Madras, fell in with the American Ship "Helen" while on fire off the Cape, latitude 37° 50' south, and longitude 34° 12' east. The Helen was bound from London to Melbourne, had a cargo of sundries, among which were coals and a large quantity of spirits, and carried a few passengers. On the 7th December last, in the position above indicated, smoke was observed to issue from the hold about one o'clock in the morning. All hands rushed on deck, when by order of the Captain the hatches were battened down and the decks flooded to prevent their ignition. On the next morning the "Thor" hove in sight, and the Captain of the Helen, apparently under the impression that his vessel could not be saved, although no flames had been seen, abandoned her, and proceeded with the whole of his crew and passengers to the Sweedish vessel, which received in all (43) forty three souls.

2. Two days subsequently the Captain of the Helen, his two mates, a cabin passenger, the steward and five seamen were transferred to a French ship bound to Trincamolee; and later in the voyage, on the 4th January, the "Undaunted" Steamer, bound from Australia to Calcutta with horses, relieved them of ten more sailors.

3. The remainder landed here consisting of ten men, six females and three boys, second class Emigrant passengers, and four sailors belonging to the Helen. As they were in great distress, having saved little more than the clothes in which they were dressed when they rushed on deck on the morning the fire was discovered, for the Captain fearing an explosion of the spirits refused to permit the hatches to be opened, I have for the present sent them to the Sailors' Home; but I am to request you will take charge of all who are not sailors, the instructions of Government not allowing the Marine Department to incur any expenses except on account of seafaring persons.

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 26th January 1858.

4. The four sailors will speedily be provided with ships, and it may be advisable, as few opportunities occur of obtaining passage to Australia by sailing ships from Madras, for the Government to dispatch the Emigrants to Melbourne, the settlement to which they were bound, by the P. and O. and Australian Steamers *vid* Galle. The Board are endeavouring to procure a vessel to touch here on her way from Calcutta, for the purpose of conveying five Military Convicts to Swan River, but it is quite uncertain when one may be obtained.

5. The Board presume that the Government will come forward in this case, and forward these unfortunate people on to their destination; and it is not improbable that the Board of Trade may be able to recover the expenses so incurred from the owners of the Helen, or perhaps from the Underwriters of the freight and passage money.

(Signed) J. J. FRANKLIN,
Secretary.

To the Commissioner of Police.

SIR,

We humbly beg to call your attention to the following statement, relative to our position. The ship "Helen" of Boston, the property of Cunningham and Company, Boston, and Chartered by Lidgett and Son, 9 Billiter Street, City, London, sailed from London Docks on Wednesday 7th October, bound for Melbourne with a general cargo, and 20 passengers, Capt. West of Boston, Commander.

On the morning of the 7th of December about 2 o'clock A. M. in latitude $41^{\circ} 52'$ south, and longitude $29^{\circ} 4'$ east, the second Officer whose watch it was on deck discovered smoke issuing from the forehold, and gave the alarm of fire to the Captain, who hurried the passengers on deck, most of them coming up nearly naked. The hatches were at once closed down not allowing any one to return, to *save anything*. Orders were given for the boats to be got ready, and the number appointed for each boat. The sea was running very high with a half a gale of wind blowing, we were at this time upwards of 500 miles from the Cape of Good Hope with a head wind. The Captain bore away in the direction of Algoa Bay, hoping to make or fall in with some ship. About 30 hours passed in fear expecting the fire bursting out every moment. The passengers alone worked the pumps all the time to keep the decks wet. On the morning of the 8th a sail was seen which proved to be the Swedish ship, Thor, Gefle, with great exertion and difficulty all got safely on board. On the 11th we fell in with a French Barque from Nantes bound to Ceylon, on which the Captain and 9 men went.

On the 4th January 1858 the Steam ship "Undaunted" Capt. Franklyn with horses from Melbourne to Calcutta came up to us, taking away ten more of the crew and supplied us with provisions and water which we were almost out of, and on very small allowance.

The Captain's Lady Mrs. Franklyn kindly sent the females a change of linen which was a great luxury. We arrived in the roads on Saturday 16th January, and are now through your kindness enjoying the comforts of the Sailors' Home, waiting your kind assistance in forwarding us to our destination.

The following are the names of the Passengers.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrison	2	J. A. Atkinson	1
Mrs. Simmons	1	J. Thorne	1
" Bennett	1	B. Donnelly	1
" Langley	1	N. Barnett	1
" Brooks and two boys	3	J. Alderton	1
" Catherine Smith	1	J. Otto Langy	1
		A. Langley	1

MEMO:

The expense on account of the shipwrecked Passengers of the late ship Helen, 19 in number, at 12 Annas per day each, total Rupees 14-4, not including the seamen.

(Signed) C. FRANKS,
Superintendent.

Madras Home, }
20th January 1858.)

Fort Saint George Marine Consultation, 26th January 1858.

No. 15

ORDER THEREON, No. 44; dated 25th January 1858.

1. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council resolves to instruct the Marine Board to arrange for the conveyance to Melbourne, at the Government expense in the first instance, by the Peninsular and Oriental and Australian Steamers *vid* Galle, of the Emigrants who were saved from the Ship "Helen" while on fire off the Cape and brought to Madras on the Swedish Ship "Thor." The Board will report, for sanction, and eventual recovery, if possible, through the Board of Trade, the expenses that may be incurred for the provision of passage for the parties and indispensable necessities for the voyage.

2. Government sanction the payment of the expense of maintaining the 19 Emigrants at the Sailors' Home at the rate of twelve annas each, or Rupees (14-4) fourteen and Annas four per diem for the whole, which will be charged in a Contingent Bill and passed by the Civil Auditor under this authority.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

I suppose that this is the
only thing that can be done
in the circumstances

3
Marine Department

No 44

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
under date 25th January 1858

Read letter from the
Commissioner of Police.

(Dated 27th Aug 1858 - No 8.)

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ment in Council resolves
to instruct the Marine
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Italian Steamers via Galles,
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Board of Trade, the ex-
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of passage for the parties
and indispensable neces-
saries for the voyage.

2. Good sanction
the payment of the ex-
penses of maintaining the
19 Emigrants at the Sailors'
Home at the rate of ^{£100 per annum each} per
-piece (14-4-0) Fourteen and
four pence per diem for
the whole -
which will be charged
in a Contingent Bill &
passed by the Civil Au-
ditors under this authority.

JF

To the Commissioner of Police. Disp'd 25th Jan'y.
" Marine Board - Disp'd 25th Jan'y.
" Asst General
" Civil Auditor } 14 Copies: A & D.
" Sub Treasurer. } Disp'd 26th

Subscribed: 26th 2
Marine 1858 & 1859

Received by to 22nd of April
7th 13 of 1858.
Refused to 27th October
23rd 5 of 1858.

Charles M. M. of 1858

1854

22nd of 1858

Further from Marine Board of 15th March 1858
Further ~~P. 11~~ N^o 279

14-15

C 22nd of 1858