

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<i>60-2</i>	Press ~~Mis~~
Dated	<i>23 3</i>	<i>1859.</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 28th March 1859.

No. 1. From J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 28th February 1859, No. 793.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Extract Minutes of Consultation of the 12th Instant, No. 48, recording a very able report on the bar of Cochin by Lieutenant Taylor, I. N., and in compliance with the instructions conveyed in the third para: of the Resolution thereon, to state, that the Collector of Malabar was requested on the 27th July 1858, to communicate to the Cochin Chamber of Commerce, the readiness of Government to entertain favorably the proposition for affording them assistance in establishing a Steam Tug at that Port, provided they had just sufficient control over it to ensure its being of advantage to the public. The Chamber, however, were so averse to any interference at all, that they at once abandoned the project.

Nos. 1, 2 and 3. 2. The correspondence that passed on the occasion is herewith submitted, and it will shew, that no undue interference was intended; but it appears to me unreasonable of the Cochin Chamber to expect, that the Government would put an end to the present system of Pilotage by giving over to them the Pilot Fees, without retaining any power or control over the system to be introduced. It would be placing a Monopoly in the hands of private individuals, which might fail to be of benefit to the Port. If, therefore, the Chamber wish to be entirely free from Government supervision, they should establish their Tug with private funds, without soliciting assistance from the State. Their charges would then be regulated by the demand, and as Vessels would still be able to proceed in and out under the licensed Pilot, Commanders would have the option of selecting between the two modes; with or without Steam. If the Tug were not kept up in a state of efficiency, or if the charge for towing were disproportionately high, they would adopt the latter mode, and be no worse off than they are now, but if the licensed Pilotage were abolished, they would necessarily be dependent on the owners of the Tug, or submit to the less skilful Pilotage of boatmen, or fishermen.

(No. 1.)

From JOHN J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Secretary, Marine Board; to the Acting Collector of Malabar, dated 27th July 1858, No. 2978.

SIR,

1. On the 1st of June last, your Predecessor, Mr. Robinson, submitted a letter to Government, representing that the Chamber of Commerce at Cochin had offered to purchase a Steam Tug at their own expense, and to employ her for towing Vessels in and out of the inner harbour, provided the Government would afford them some assistance towards her maintenance.

2. Mr. Robinson, in supporting the measure, suggested that the present licensed Pilot should be appointed Master of the Tug at 70 to 100 Rupees a month, and that the Pilot Fees should be made over to the Chamber, to be appropriated to the part payment of her current expenses.

3. The Marine Board, fully satisfied of the great advantages the Port would derive from the Establishment of a Steam Tug, have recommended that assistance be given in its maintenance, and the Government have taken a favorable view of the question, as will be gathered from Extract Minutes of Consultation, 17th Instant, No. 272, copy of which has been forwarded to you. Before, however, finally deciding on the extent of the assistance to be granted, there are many points to be arranged, and they would be glad if you would ascertain and communicate the views of the Chamber, to whom it should be explained, that the Board wish to interfere as little as possible with the management of the Tug; but if the Government afford aid, they must have a voice in her control.

4. The following are the points for the consideration of the Chamber, and the Board will be glad to receive their propositions thereon.

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1st. Under whose orders is the Tug to be placed? Probably the Chamber will be best able to manage their own property to advantage, but some guarantee should be obtained for her being kept in an efficient state, and for her not being sent elsewhere without due notice.

2ndly. As the present licensed Pilot will be deprived of the greater part of his emoluments by the arrangements now in contemplation, it is proposed that he shall be appointed Master of the Tug. Who is to be the judge of his conduct in case of complaint, and in whom will be vested the power of removing him?

3rd. Assuming that Government grant the Pilot Fees (which of course can only be those leviable on the Vessels towed in or out by the Tug,) under what circumstances do the Chamber consider their right to them would be forfeited?

4th. In the event of the Commander of a Vessel declining to avail himself of the services of the Tug, how is it proposed to furnish him with a Pilot?

5th. What charge is proposed to be made for towing a Vessel, in, or out?

6th. In the event of the Tug being used to rake over the bar, what charge will be demanded for her use for days so employed?

5. The Board would moreover require to be informed of the size and power of the Tug which the Chamber contemplate purchasing, and the monthly expense they calculate for her maintenance, exhibiting separately the cost of fuel, and that of her establishment.

6. Having thus enumerated the different points requiring consideration before the Government can be expected to afford pecuniary aid to the scheme, I am directed to request you will have the goodness, in communication with the Chamber, to offer such suggestions as may occur to you as likely to facilitate the proposed arrangements, and to assure its members, that the Board view with much pleasure their anxiety for the welfare of the Port of Cochin, and will most gladly co-operate in carrying out their project to a successful result.

(No. 2.)

From P. GRANT, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar; to J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine, dated Madras, 2nd September 1858, No. 2550.

SIR,

On receipt of your letter, dated 27th July, I addressed the Chamber of Commerce at Cochin, forwarding, at the same time, a copy of your communication requesting information in connection with the Establishment of a Steam Tug at Cochin, and stating that if Government afforded aid in her maintenance, they must have a voice in her control.

* Dated 30th August 1858.

2. The reply* of the Chamber of Commerce (copy of which is forwarded) was received yesterday, and I regret to find that they have abandoned the project for the present, as Government are disinclined to render assistance without reserving a right of control.

3. Under these circumstances it is unnecessary for me to make any further remarks on the subject, but I trust the project which has been so abruptly cut short, and which promised so great benefits to Cochin, and, indirectly to this Coast, may be again ere long revived.

From P. LESLIE, Esq., Secretary Cochin Chamber of Commerce; to P. GRANT, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, dated Calicut, 30th August 1858.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter, No. 2222, dated Calicut, 12th August, enclosing copy of a communication, No. 2978, dated Madras, 27th July, from the Secretary of the Marine Board, putting certain questions, concerning a Steam Tug for this Port, proposed to be purchased by this Chamber, and to inform you, that these papers were laid by me before an ordinary meeting of the Chamber, on the 24th Instant.

I am desired, in reply, to state, that this Chamber feels indebted both to your predecessor W. Robinson, Esq., and yourself, for your advocacy in the matter, but that the Chamber entertained the project of purchasing the Steamer, under the distinct understanding, that the management and control of it, should be left altogether in their hands, and that Government should have no

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right of interference whatever; and therefore, asked as aid from Government, merely the right of Pilotage, which the several Members of the Chamber were quite ready to bind themselves to carry out, in as efficient a way as at present existing.

The Chamber hears with regret that Government will not give any assistance without reserving to itself the right of control, and consequently is obliged to abandon the project for the present.

(No. 3.)

From J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine; to the Collector of Malabar, dated 9th September 1858, No. 3666.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 2nd Instant, No. 2550, giving cover to one from the Chamber of Commerce at Cochin, intimating, that, as Government were not disposed to yield assistance in establishing a Steam Tug at that Port, without reserving to themselves the right of control, they were obliged to abandon the project for the present.

2. I can only regret with you, that the Chamber have come to this determination. The degree of control which was intended would have been but just sufficient to ensure the interests of the Port, and the late Marine Board specially pointed out in their letter of the 27th July, No. 2978, that they wished to interfere as little as possible, with the management of the Tug, believing that the proprietors could best attend to their own interests. I consider, however, that it is but reasonable, that the Government, prior to affording assistance, should require of the Chamber an explanation of the details of their project, and that before abolishing the present system of Pilotage, they should be satisfied, as far as can be, that the system to be introduced is likely to be permanent, and to meet the general requirements of the Port. I may observe that these are the sentiments of your predecessor, Mr. Robinson, with whom I had a long conference on the subject, before the dispatch of the letter of the 27th July.

3. The Chamber think differently; yet I hope that they may at a future time reconsider the question. Should that period arrive, I shall be most ready and willing to co-operate with them.

No. 2.

ORDER THEREON, No. 102; dated 23rd March 1859.

Resolved that a copy of the above letter, and of its enclosures, be forwarded to Lieutenant Taylor, I. N., and that he be requested to favor Government with any suggestions that may occur to him, as to the arrangements, whereby the proposal of the Cochin Chamber of Commerce, for the Establishment of a Steam Tug, may be met by Government with due regard to the interests of the Mercantile and Shipping Community, generally, frequenting that Port.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,

Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

Memo

For, I presume, will not be disposed
to give up the pilotage fees, and
put the piloting at Cochin wholly
in the hands of the Charter of Com.
since then -

It would now seem, either
that the Cochin merchants be
convinced that they must be left to do
a thing for themselves - or that port
must work over on the public account.

It will be seen from de la Haye's
report 24 Jan. 1859 218 -
that a steam dredge which may be

used as a bag would be of great
use in keeping clear the beer.

J.P.

I am not much surprised at
the lukewarm Chamber of Commerce
being alarmed at the letter from
the Finance Board. I think the
letter has occasioned the fear among
some people. I think the best way
would be to ask Dr Taylor to
make some suggestions on the
subject. Being a practical man

I having the competence of Whistler
he and my wife ~~the~~ the mother
interfactory course

A. G.

W. H. Hall

11/14

No 102.

11/14

Resolved that a copy of the
 above letter, & of its enclosures,
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 lor, I. N., & that he be requested
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 gard to the interests of the merchan-
 tile & Shipping Community, gene-
 rally frequenting that Port.

By G. B. George & ally, frequenting that Port.
 23rd March 1859.
 To Lt. Taylor I. N. Comd. Am.
 " Superintendent of
 " Marine.
 " Cochin Chamber of
 " Commerce.

Disf. 25th 19th Cop