

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<i>150</i>	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	<i>21-4-1859</i>	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 29th April 1859.

No. 6. EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF CONSULTATION in the Military Department under date the 5th April 1859, No. 1320,

(Vide Military Consultation, 5th April 1859, Nos. 127 and 128.)

(Referring copy of a letter from the Superintendent of Marine in view to further orders being passed in respect to the procedure of the Chief Officer of the "Coromandel," in the case brought to notice.)

No. 7. ORDER THEREON, No. 150; dated 21st April 1859.

The Government think it unnecessary to consider the question referred to in para : 3 of the above order. The boat hire will be borne by Government.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 1320.

*Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, 5th April 1859.**Read letter from the Superintendent of Marine, Madras, 24th March 1859, No. 1263; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.*

I have the honor to represent the following circumstances, and to solicit that Government will be pleased to direct the Officers Commanding those Vessels of the Indian Navy which are placed at their disposal for transport service at this Presidency, to use their best endeavours to promote a more zealous discharge of their public duty than is here shewn, and to prevent as far as possible the inconvenience which must arise from Vessels employed as they are in moving Troops and Stores from port to port, being in no way subordinate to any authority save that of Government itself.

2. The "*Coromandel*" having returned to this port on the 8th instant, with a few Military Stores on board, which the Commander requested might be discharged, a boat was sent alongside to receive them with a service letter from the Principal Commissary of Ordnance, advising him of the purpose with which it was sent. On reaching the Vessel the letter was presented, but as it was addressed to the Commander who was on shore, the Chief Officer refused to open it and sent it back with the empty boat. The Principal Commissary of Ordnance naturally objects to pay the boat hire. He sent for his Stores on my informing him they were ready for discharge, and as the refusal to load the boat was no fault of his, he considers that the hire should more properly fall on the party who sent her back empty. Concurring with him, I advised the Chief Officer, who is now in command of the "*Coromandel*," to send the amount to me, hoping that this measure would tend to check occurrences of such a nature in future. His reply is herewith submitted and as he declines to pay the amount, I can only lay the matter before Government for their orders, and as another instance of the difficulties arising from there being no immediate supervision or control over the Vessels of the Indian Navy performing transport service in the Madras Presidency.

From the Acting Master Indian Navy, Commanding H. M.'s Steamer "Coromandel" 19th March 1859, No. 1; to the Superintendent of Marine, Madras.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1141 of 16th instant, and its accompaniment, and in reply beg to state, that as the letter which the Principal Commissary of Ordnance mentions, was addressed to the Commander who was then on shore, and not to the Commanding Officer of this Vessel, thereby not authorising him to unseal the same, and know its contents, he was unable to land the Stores; and I consider it very unreasonable that I should be called upon to pay the hire of the boat, which had to go ashore empty, when the same was caused by a mistake of the Ordnance Department, and I would suggest that in future all letters &c., for the delivery and receipt of Stores be addressed to the Commanding Officer.

The Governor in Council sanctions the disbursement of the boat hire for the boat sent to the "*Coromandel*" to receive Stores, and returned empty.

2. The Superintendent of Marine will intimate to Military Departments having to communicate with the Steamers of the Indian Navy such form of address as will ensure their letters being in future attended to by the Senior Officer on board.

3. The foregoing letter from the Superintendent will be referred to the Marine Department for further orders, in respect to the procedure of the Chief Officer of the "*Coromandel*," and for decision as to who is ultimately to bear the charge of the boat hire in question.

(True Extract and Copies.)

R. Marshall
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Superintendent of Marine.

,, Marine Department.

,, Military Auditor General.

,, Accountant General.

Exd. A. A. DeMonte.

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W. H. George, Esq.
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