M.R.O. 1—82,400—22-11-30.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 220 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 25-5-1859

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 20. Read the following letter from Lieutenant A. D. TAYLOR, Indian Navy, Commanding Her Majesty's Surveying Vessel "Bheema," Indian Navy; to T. PYCROFT, Esq, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Sedasheghur, 6th May 1859, No. 32.

In subsequently considering the permission kindly granted me by the Madras Government in Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 114, to proceed to Madras by Steamer from Bombay, it has occurred to me that the interests of navigation would be greatly advanced if I were ordered to visit in a Government Steamer Viziadroog, Goa, Sedashighur, Alipee, and perhaps Tuticorin in June and July, to settle at once the practicability of approaching those Ports during the S. W. Monsoon, and to note throughout the whole length of Coast the appearance of the land from the Sea at that season, the degree of shelter afforded, the best sites for Lighthouses, the set of currents, the prevailing direction of the Winds, the extent to which the land is obscured during rain, the prevailing height of clouds, and to test the holding ground of the Roadstead at Alipee and elsewhere; from which materials precise sailing instructions may be drawn up.

2. This will certainly have to be done at sometime, and the sooner the better for the interests of Navigation; I would respectfully suggest that my intimate acquaintance with the whole Coast, of which I have surveyed a great part, fits me for this duty for which I gladly volunteer my services. In an expedition purely of observation, materials more ample and complete may be collected than in many voyages where such collection is not the primary object and where other duties may prevent it.

3. The Steamer need not go further than Galle whence I can reach Madras by the regular Mail, but I would suggest that advantage be taken of her return to Bombay some 2 or 3 weeks later to again inspect all the Ports and to make similar observations on the Coast, weather, winds and currents, but as I go on to Madras it is necessary that some other Officer should take up this duty for the return voyage; I would therefore strongly recommend that Lieutenant Williams, who has been my companion on the greater part of the Coast survey, should accompany me from Bombay; his observations on returning will give a double value to the trip, which will be but a trifling expense to Government.

4. I am at present of opinion that a Ship bound from the Equator to Sedashighur should first try to make Cape Ramas, as Southerly currents along the Coast of Western India prevail during the South West Monsoon; that part of the Coast is bold and lofty, and free from dangers with deep water close to the shore, and on sighting it a Ship Master would be able easily to haul off his Vessel to the Southward into deep water; but I do not feel justified in pronouncing definitively except from actual experience which might hereafter be dearly bought by the loss both of life and property.

5. This appears to me of importance, as the Harbour of Beitkool is the natural outlet for the produce of the Country about Dharwar, and it will hereafter probably be one of the Chief points for the landing of Troops: and though to an Officer well acquainted with the Coast and in a well-ordered Steamer the task presents few difficulties, it would be far otherwise to one visiting the place for the first time, and in a sailing Vessel indifferently manned and encumbered with Troops and baggage.

6. The examination of Alipee is of very great importance with reference to the terminus of the Madras Railway. The construction of a Harbour at Beypore or Ponany will be a matter of enormous expense and of very doubtful efficiency; whereas, should the reported natural advantages of Alipee prove to be a fact, we have a perfectly safe foul weather Port ready made to our hands as stated in my report upon Cochin. My principal authority on this subject is Mr. Lewis of my Vessel, but I would wish to confirm his statement by my personal observation.

7. I deem it my duty to bring before Government the foregoing plan for remedying the deficiency of our knowledge of the Navigation of this West Coast; the value of the Charts now in course of publication will be greatly enhanced by copious and detailed accounts of all matters bearing upon the navigation of these waters during our stormy period; and a confidence will be given to Ship Masters, the absence of which may exercise a prejudicial influence upon the development of Trade.

No. 21. MINUTE BY THE HONORABLE THE PRESIDENT, *dated 21st May* 1859.

This proposal seems to me likely to be productive of much public benefit. We cannot too fully avail ourselves of Lieutenant Taylor's peculiar qualifications for the examination of the important and undeveloped Western Coast of India. Whatever may be done at Aleppy or elsewhere I am of opinion that the Boat Harbour at Beypoor should be constructed without delay.

(Signed) C. E. TREVELYAN.

No. 22. ORDER THEREON, 25th May 1859, No. 220.

Lieutenant Taylor's proposal that he should visit in a Government Steamer the Ports of Viziadroog, Goa, Sedashegur, Alipee and Tuticorin in the months of June and July, to settle at once several important questions in connection with those Ports, appears to Government to be highly advisable, and likely to be productive of much Public benefit. The Government cannot too fully avail themselves of Lieutenant Taylor's peculiar qualifications for the examination of the important and undeveloped Western Coast of India.

2. A copy of Lieutenant Taylor's letter will accordingly be forwarded to the Bombay Government and they will be requested to place at his disposal a Steamer for the purpose of his carrying out his proposed investigations.

3. The Steamer need not proceed further than Galle, but Lieutenant Taylor's suggestion that Lieutenant Williams should accompany him so far and make similar observations on his return voyage to Bombay, is a valuable one and will be urged on the Bombay Government.

4. The examination of the Harbour of Alipee will not however interfere with the construction of the Boat Harbour at Beypoor, which under the orders given in the Proceedings of Government, 9th May 1859, No. 255, Financial Railway Department, should be pushed on as vigorously as possible.

No. 23. TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, dated Fort Saint George, 25th May 1859, No. 221.

SIR,

Viziadroog.
Goa.
Sedashegur.
Aleppie.
Tuticorin.

I am directed to forward to you copy of a letter, 6th Instant, No. 32, in which Lieutenant A. D. Taylor, Indian Navy, Commanding the Survey Vessel the "Bheemah" proposes to visit certain Ports on the Western Coast in a Government Steamer in view to settling the question of the practicability of approaching those ports during the South West Monsoon, and to making various important observations.

2. Lieut. Taylor, it should be explained, has been authorized to take the "Bheemah" to Bombay this month, there to settle, as he stated, his Ship's accounts and afterwards to return to Madras to give in a report of the work on which he has been employed. Lieut. Taylor is desirous to turn to account his Voyage from Bombay to Galle *en route* to Madras, and proposes doing so in a Government Steamer to enable him "to note throughout the whole length of Coast, the appearance of the Land from the Sea at that season, (the South West Monsoon) the degree of shelter afforded, the best sites for Light Houses, the set of currents, the prevailing direction of the winds, the extent to which the Land is obscured during the rain, the prevailing height of clouds, and to test the holding ground of the Roadstead at Aleppie and elsewhere." From these materials, which Lieut. Taylor remarks, can be amply and completely collected best in an expedition of observation, precise sailing directions can be drawn up.

3. From Galle, Lieutenant Taylor will proceed to Madras by the Mail Steamer. He suggests, however, that advantage should in like manner be taken of the return of the Government Steamer to Bombay, two or three weeks later in the season, to inspect again all the Ports and make similar observations on the Coast, weather, winds, and currents. He has suggested Lieutenant Williams as the Officer to take up this duty, and as he has been his companion in the greater part of the Coast Survey, that he should, for this purpose, accompany him from Bombay.

4. The Madras Government, I am instructed to state, consider it highly advisable and likely to be productive of much public benefit that Lieutenant Taylor's proposal should be carried out. They consider that Officer's peculiar qualifications for the examination of the important and undeveloped Western Coast of India should be taken advantage of to the fullest extent. They likewise consider his suggestion that Lieutenant Williams should accompany him and make similar observations on the return Voyage, to be a valuable one.

5. In communicating the opinion of Government on Lieutenant Taylor's proposition, I am instructed to request that, with the sanction of the Government of Bombay, a Steamer may be placed at Lieutenant Taylor's disposal, to enable him to carry out his proposed investigations. I am also to solicit that Lieutenant Williams may be deputed to accompany the expedition and prosecute the objects of it after Lieutenant Taylor's departure as suggested. The Steamer need not proceed further than Galle.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. A. P. W. Begbie.

expense to Government.

4. I am at present of opinion that a ship bound from the equator to Sedashigur should first try to make Cape Ramas, as Southerly currents along the Coast of Western India prevail during the South West Monsoon, that part of the Coast is bold and lofty, and free from dangers with deep water close to the shore, and on sighting it a Ship Master would be able easily to haul off this vessel to the Southward into deep water, but I do not feel justified in pronouncing definitively except from actual experience which might hereafter be dearly bought by the loss both of life and property.

5. This appears to me of importance as the harbour of Beitkool is the natural outlet for the produce of the Country about Dharwar, and it will hereafter probably be one of the chief points for the landing of troops: and though to an Officer well acquainted with the Coast and in a well ordered steamer the task presents few difficulties, it would be far otherwise to one visiting the place for the first time, and in a sailing vessel indifferently manned and encumbered with troops and baggage.

6. The examination of Alipe is of very great importance with reference to the terminus of the Madras Railway: The construction of a harbour at Beypore or Ponnany will be a matter of enormous expense and of

very

very doubtful efficiency; whereas, should the reported natural advantages of Aliper prove to be a fact, we have a perfectly safe foul weather port ready made to our hands as stated in my report upon Cochin. My principal authority on this subject is Mr. Lewis of my vessel but I would wish to confirm his statement by my personal observation.

7. I deem it my duty to bring before Government the foregoing plan for remedying the deficiency of our knowledge of the Navigations of this West Coast; the value of the Charts now in course of publication will be greatly enhanced by copious and detailed accounts of all matters bearing upon the navigation of these waters during our stormy period; and a confidence will be given to Ship Masters, the absence of which may exercise a prejudicial influence upon the development of Trade.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant

A. B. Taylor
Lieut. I. N.

Comd. H. M. S. V. Rhemo I. N.
On special duty under the Government
of Bombay

This proposal seems to me likely to be productive of much public benefit. We cannot too fully avail ourselves of Lt Taylor's peculiar qualifications for the examination of the important & undeveloped Western coast of India. Whether may be done at Aleppy or elsewhere I am of opinion that the Boat Harbour at Beypoor should be constructed without delay. It is very desirable that Lt Taylor should report upon the Wellington Island harbour

certainly.

Is this ale boat is wanted at Bey? How?

Cons: 1 April 1859. Σ 114

Lieut Taylor

59.

Marine 1859 Dept.

From
Lieut A. D Taylor I.N.
Comg A.M.S.S. Sheema.
No 32.

Dated 6th May 1859
Rec'd

No 215.

Represents the extent to which the intricate of Navigation would be advanced if he was permitted to visit Vizadroog, Goa, Sedasheegur & certain other ports in June & July next.

20 of 23

c20 May

Secondly

Favourable

Marine.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

Read letter from Lieut. A. D. Taylor I. N. _____

" Minute by H. E. the President _____

Order thereon 25 May 1859 No. 220.

Entered 6th May 1859 No. 32.

21 d _____

Lieut Taylor's proposal that he should visit in a Govt Steamer the ports of Vizadroog, Goa, Sedasheegur Rajpore and Sutacoil in the months of June & July & settle at once several important questions in connection with those ports appears to be highly advisable, and likely to be productive of much public benefit - The precaution however of carefully ascertaining from Lieut Taylor peculiar qualifications for the examination of the important and undeveloped Western

Court of India -

2. A copy of Lieut Taylor's letter will accordingly be forwarded to the Bombay and they will be requested to place at his disposal a Steamer for the purpose of his carrying out his proposed arrangements -

3. The Steamer sent on such service further than Jaffa - but Lieut Taylor's suggestion, that Lieut Wilkinson should accompany him to examine and make observations on his return voyage to Bombay, is a valuable one and will be acted on by Bombay Govt -

4 - The examination of the harbour of Aripel will not however interfere with the construction of the boat harbour at Bushire upon which under the orders given in the Govt. of Govt. 9th May 1859 No. 255 - Fin. Dept., should be pushed on as vigorously as possible -

Lieut Taylor
Pwd -
Superintendent of Marine

Disp 25th

JP

39 Cop 240

Recd 27th ditto
Marine Dept Sec'l &c
1220
Rec'd by Government
9/25 May/52

Extract Bombay Marine

Recd 25th

8x

1

Marine.

No. 221

The Secretary to the Govt of Bombay.

Sir.

I am directed to forward to you copy of a letter, & Instant, No. 32, in which Lieut. A.D. Taylor, I.N., commanding the Survey Vessel the Bheemah proposes to ~~undertake~~ visit & certain ports on the Western Coast in a Govt Steamer. in view to settling the question of the practicability of approaching those ports during the S.W. Monsoon, & making various important observations.

Viziadroog
Goa
Sedasheger
Aleppie
Tuticorin

2. Lieut. Taylor, it should be explained, has been authorized to take the Bheemah to Bombay this month, there to settle, as he stated, his Ship's accounts & afterwards to

to return to Madras to give in a ~~final~~ report of the work on which he has been employed. Lieut. Taylor is desirous to turn to account his voyage from Bombay to Galle en route to Madras, & proposes doing so in a Govt. Str. to enable him to note, thro' out the whole length of coast, the appearance of the land from the sea at that season, (the S.W. Monsoon) the degree of shelter afforded, the best sites for Light Houses, the set of currents, the prevailing direction of the winds, the extent to which the land is obscured during the rain, the prevailing height of clouds, & to test the holding ground of the Roadstead at Alleppie & elsewhere." From these materials, which, Lt. Taylor remarks, can be amply & completely collected best

best in an expedition of observation, precise sailing directions can be drawn up.

3. From Galle, Lt. Taylor will proceed to Madras by the Mail Steamer. He suggests, however, that ~~a similar~~ in like manner advantage should be taken of the return of the Govt. Steamer to Bombay, two or three weeks later in the season, to inspect again all the ports & make similar observations on the Coast, weather, winds, & currents. He has suggested Lieut. Williams as the officer ~~who~~ to ~~should~~ take up this duty, & who, as before, has been his companion in the greater part of the Coast Survey, & should, for this proposed purpose, accompany him from Bombay.

4. I am instructed to state Govt. consider it highly advisable & likely to be productive

The Madras

productive of much public benefit that Lieut. Taylor's proposal should be carried out. They ~~feel~~ consider ~~the cannot too fully~~ that a- ~~vail themselves~~ of that officer's peculiar qualifications for the examination of the important & undeveloped Western Coast of India.* They likewise consider his suggestion that Lt. Williams should accompany him & make similar observations on the return voyage, to be a valuable one.

5. In communicating the opinion of Govt. on Lieut. Taylor's proposition, I am instructed to request that, with the sanction of the Govt. of Bombay, a Steamer may be placed at Lieut. Taylors disposal

* Should be taken as
- sanction of the H. to fullest
extent

disposal, to enable him to carry out his proposed investigations. I am also to solicit that Lieut. Williams may be deputed to accompany the expedition & prosecute the objects of it after Lt. Taylor's departure, as suggested. The Steamer need not proceed further than Galle.

Fort St George
25 May 1859

J.P.

19 Sept

Lieut. Light Bl. Corps
C.E.

Rec. 27th May
Marine 1859 Dept.

No 221.

To The Secy. to the Govt. of
Bombay

D/25. May /59.

Replied to by the Actg Secy
to Govt. Bombay dated
23d July No 362 of 1859