

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	261	Press Mis.
Dated	13 8	1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
from 11th to 17th June 1859.*

No. 12. Read the following letter from H. FORBES, Esq., Member of the Legislative Council; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government of Fort Saint George, dated Fort William the 3rd June 1859.

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 26th of April last, No. 152, conveying the wishes of Government that a Bill should be brought into the Legislative Council to amend Act XXII of 1855, by making it lawful for the Collector of Sea Customs at one Port, to collect Port-dues or fees which may have been evaded at another Port.

2. In accordance with the wish of Government I have prepared and brought in the Bill a copy of which I enclose, and which will, I hope, be read a second time on the 4th Instant.

3. The Government will perhaps allow me to state the doubts which I have felt, and which I still entertain, regarding the necessity for this measure.

4. Act XXII of 1855, has been in force for four years, and by the last published returns of the Trade of the Madras Presidency, I see that, during the year of which it treats, 8,575, Ships touched at its different Ports. During the time the Act has been in force therefore upwards of 34,000 Ships have been liable to Port-dues, and, as far as at present appears, but three instances of evasion are recorded, and these all occurred at the one Port of Cochin.

5. The evil which it is sought to remedy by Legislation has occurred therefore in the case of only one Ship out of every 11,400 which trade with the Madras Presidency, and, in my opinion, it is very questionable, whether so fractional an amount of evil calls for the interference of the Legislature.

6. As moreover the evasion is represented to have been practiced at only one Port out of the many on both sides of the Peninsula, it is difficult to repress a suspicion that inertness and inactivity on the part of the authorities at Cochin, have been more apparent than fraud on the part of the Masters of trading Vessels, whose interest it can hardly be to establish a character for dishonesty with the Government Servants of a Port which they are likely frequently to visit.

No. 13. ORDER THEREON, 13th June 1859, No. 261.

Resolved that the above letter and enclosure be furnished to the Superintendent of Marine, who will consider the Bill in communication with the Advocate General, and will also make any remarks that occur to him on perusal of Mr. Forbes' letter.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

File

Order thereon 13 June 1859. No. 261

Resolved that the above letter and
enclosure be ~~communicated~~ ^{presented} to the Super-
intendent of Marines who
will consider it till in
communication with
the Advocate Genl. and
will also make any
remarks that occur to
him on perusal of Mr
Foster's letter. Jp.

The Superintendent of Marines }
With Bill & Amescure. }
Advocate Genl. }
Jp.