

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	233	Press
		Mis.
Dated	26	18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
from 18th to 24th June 1859.*

No. 23. Read the following letter from Senior Lieutenant H. A. FRASER, *i. n.*, Commanding Her Majesty's Steamer "Coromandel," *i. n.*; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 13th June 1859, No. 27.

With reference and in reply to a letter from the Superintendent of Marine to your address, No. 2260 of 1859, I have the honor to state, that that Officer appears to have assumed, that on application for freight for Merchants Goods having been duly made on the "Coromandel," at Rangoon, I refused to sign the Bills of lading without reason.

Also with reference to the accompanying correspondence forwarded by the Superintendent of the Irrawaddy Flotilla, referred to me for explanation and herewith returned, that Officer is pleased to remark with reference to the same subject, that "the object of Government in placing" "the line of Steamers, is subjected to be thwarted by similar objections."

I respectfully beg to observe that the Regulations framed by the Superintendent of Marine at Madras, distinctly specify, that all applications for passage and freight at Rangoon, are to be registered by the Superintendent of the Irrawaddy Flotilla, and handed by him to the Commander of the Vessel on arrival, who shall then decide on the passengers and Cargo to be received. No such application for Cargo was made by the Superintendent of the Irrawaddy Flotilla during the whole period of the Vessels stay there, but five days after arrival, sundry packages were brought to the Vessel with shipping orders granted by the Superintendent of the Irrawaddy Flotilla, without any reference to me whatever, or any prior enquiry made, as to whether they could be received or not, there was then no space available for the safe stowage of goods, and therefore apart from the inattention to the Regulations, (which should be equally binding on the shipper and carrier) shewn by the applicants for freight, as well as by the Superintendent of the Irrawaddy Flotilla, I declined signing Bills of lading for the goods thus tendered on the eve of departure, contrary to the Regulations.

In conclusion, I can only express my regret to observe the readiness of the Superintendents of Marine at Madras, and of the Irrawaddy Flotilla at Rangoon, to impute blame to me, which is at least more justly due to the neglect of the latter functionary, in omitting to comply with the regulations prescribed for his guidance, as well as mine; and I cannot fail to remark, that although similar neglect and irregularity prevail throughout the Northern Ports, seriously enhancing the difficulties I have to contend with, and obstructing the Public Service; an evident predisposition exists on the part of the Superintendent of Marine at Madras to attach the sole blame to me rather than the culpable parties.

No. 24. ORDER THEREON, 24th June 1859, No. 280.

Resolved that a copy of the above letter be furnished to the Superintendent of Marine in reference to his communication under date the 9th Instant.

2. Under the explanation afforded by Lieutenant Fraser, it does not appear to Government that blame attaches to that Officer. The attention of the Superintendent of the Irrawaddy Flotilla at Rangoon and of the Masters Attendant at Vizagapatam, Masulipatam, and Cocanada, should be called to a careful observance of the course enjoined in No. 6 of the rules prescribed for regulating Steam communication between those Ports and Madras.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. A. P. W. Begbie.

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From Lieut. Fraser Comd^g M^t Steam Comander
13 July 1859 L.N.

Order thereon 24 June 1859 No 280.

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 and Munros

Sup of Marine

Lieut. Fraser } Dept 27
 Comd. A.M.S. Command

J.P.

No 2 sent 28 June
a Marine 1859 the first

No 200

No. of Marine 1859
7 No 288. 7 No 403.