

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	295	Press Mis.
3-4 Dated	2. 7	1859

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
from 2nd to 8th July 1859.*

No. 3. Read the following letter from P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Malabar; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Calicut, 14th June 1859, No. 51.

As requested by the Chamber of Commerce of Cochin, I have the honor to transmit a letter to your address from that body.

2. With regard to the remarks of the Chamber on the Light House, I believe the Government are so well informed of what took place, that it is unnecessary for me to enter into the subject.

3. As to the Anchor and Sailing Boats, I was not aware, until the receipt of the Chamber's letter, that they had proved useless, or that the former had been refused to take an Anchor to a Ship in distress. I shall now call on the Master Attendant for his explanation of the case.

4. The Boat House did fall down lately, and the case is just now under the examination of the District Engineer, to whose notice it was immediately brought.

5. The Screw moorings were handed over to Captain Taylor on his requisition, in accordance with the verbal directions of the Chief Secretary, given to him on the occasion of Lord Harris' visit to Cochin in November last.

6. The Iron Buoys were at their moorings when I reached Cochin in April last; but before I left one of them had broken away, and was found on the Coast to the Northwards. I concluded that it had again been put in position, for it was under the charge of Captain Castor, the Master Attendant, in whose zeal I have perfect confidence.

7. I have called for a report on the subject, and anticipate to receive a satisfactory explanation.

8. With regard to the deepening of the Bar, so important an improvement to the harbour, the first great step will be, the maintenance of a Steam Dredge, as proposed by Captain Taylor, a question which has, by direction of Government, been, a second time, brought to the notice of the Cochin Chamber of Commerce, before whom it now lies.

From Mr. C. E. MIRUS, Chairman; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Cochin, 11th June 1859.

I have the honor to inform you, that at a general meeting of this Chamber, held on the 1st Instant, it was resolved to call the attention of Government to the amount of money, which has during the last five years been expended on suggested improvements at this Port, which the Chamber regrets to say have all proved total failures: while the one great improvement and desideratum, *vis*; the deepening of our Bar, has been kept in abeyance.

In bringing this matter to the notice of Government, the sole object of this Chamber is, to shew that the really large expenditure allowed for improvements here, has not actually benefited the Port, and that therefore no returns in increase of Port dues, &c., can be justly expected, the Chamber being at the same time afraid, that, this large amount standing to the Debit of the Port, will prove an obstacle to grants in future, for real improvements urgently required.

1. In making the above statement. I refer more particularly to the erection of a Light House costing a sum of Rupees 7000, of which there is now not one stone left standing. A few hundred Rupees expended upon the old Light House, at the time, (which was suggested) would have been sufficient for all wants.

2. The Building of an Anchor Boat and a sailing Boat for the Master Attendant's use, both of which have proved but of little service, the latter of none, whilst the former, when most wanted to render assistance, in taking off an Anchor to a Ship in distress, has not been available and been refused. The only profit to shew, against the Anchor Boat and full Crew, is a few Anchors picked up in the roads, which could as well, and at much less expense, have been taken up by two common Cargo Boats, and to shew, that this Boat seems not to be intended for giving assistance to Vessels in distress, it was hauled up a few weeks ago, upon the approach of bad weather, into a new Boat House, which unfortunately tumbled down, the very next day after the Boat was in it, entailing upon Government another loss of Rupees 500.

1009

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
from 2nd to 8th July 1859.

3. There are also the Iron Buoys and Screw Moorings, the latter seem to have been altogether a mistake, as no attempt was ever made, to lay them down and eventually they were handed over to Lieutenant Taylor. The Iron Buoys were got for a specific purpose, and would be of real advantage, were the original intention carried out, and the Buoys kept at their moorings, during the monsoon, inasmuch as they would be a safe guide to any Vessel, obliged to run into the inner harbour from stress of weather or other causes, at a time when the Pilot cannot cross the Bar. The Buoys have in spite of this intention been removed this year on shore.

I would also refer to an experiment of Captain Selby's to deepen the Bar by narrowing the Channel at the mouth of the river, which cost about Rupees 1,000, this experiment was at the time pronounced by all conversant with the nature of our sands impracticable and absurd.

It is of course not in the power of the Chamber to enter fully into all the details of money thus expended, not having any returns before it on the subject, but the Chamber thinks that Rupees 16,000 is a low estimate, if the increased monthly pay of the Master Attendant's establishment, necessary for the up-keep of the Boats, be brought into consideration, which sum would have gone far indeed, to provide for the Port, a dredging Machine, and other means to make the passage over the Bar safer and more easy to large Ships.

This Chamber in conclusion begs to repeat, that, the sole object of their addressing the Government on this subject, is, to prevent misunderstandings, as to the benefits this Port may have derived from previous outlays, which might stand in the way of further sums being granted for future urgent improvements, and the Chamber further begs to state that they do not wish to attach blame to any particular Department, being well aware, that, all the above plans for improvements, made during the last five years, have emanated from, and have been sanctioned on the representation of various officials.

No. 4.

ORDER THEREON, 2nd July 1859, No. 295.

The Government will await the receipt of the further explanation to be afforded by the Collector on the points referred to in paras. 3, 4, and 7, of his letter.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. A. P. W. Begbie.

Malabar Collector's Office,
Calicut, 14 June 1859.

N^o 51
1859 From

To P. Grant Esqre,
Collector of Malabar,
T. Pycroft Esqre,
Chief Secretary
to Government,
Fort St. George.

Sir,

As requested by the Chamber
of Commerce of Cochin, I have the
honor to transmit a letter to your
address from that body.

dated 11 June
1859.

With regard to the remarks
of the Chamber on the Light House,
I believe the Government are so well
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it is unnecessary for me to enter
into the subject.

As to the Anchor & Sailing
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It is an old story
as is that of Capt.
Selby's attempt to
deepen the bar
attended to by the
Chamber. The
high Commission was
sent, but the work
fell down in many
details after wards.
The whole appears
to have been fully
done.

they had proved useless, or that the former had been refused to take an anchor to a ship in distress. I shall now call on the Master Attendant for his explanation of the case.

4 The Boat house did fall down lately, and the case is just now under the examination of the District Engineer, to whose notice it was immediately brought.

5 The Screw moorings were handed over to Captain Taylor on his requisition, in accordance with the verbal directions of the Chief Secretary, given to him on the occasion of Lord Harris' visit to Cochin in November last.

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8 With regard to the deepening of the Bar, so important an improvement to the harbour, the first great step will be, the maintenance of a Steam Dredge, as proposed by Captain Taylor: a question which has, by direction of Government, been, a second time, brought to the notice of the Cochin Chamber of Commerce, before

My opinion of the
Coast is a very
good plan of
the bar is
to be used
by Lord Harris

& by reason of
unsatisfactory
proceedings of
Chamber of
first occasion

before which it now lies.

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

Phaul
Collector.

To

J. Pycroft Esq.,
Chief Secretary
to Government,
Fort St. George.

Edw. H.

Order thereon 2^d July 1859 No 295.

The first will await the receipt
of the further explanation to be
afforded by the Collector ~~unpermitted~~
on the points referred to in para.

W
H

W
H

3-4 & 7 of his letter.

Collector of Malabar - Sir J. D. S.
Copy of letter to the Collector of
Malabar - with order of the Govt.

Please see present order ad locum -
These Collectors must not
be allowed to incur any
expense for the purpose of
laying out their own money.

J. D. S.

19-7-05

Proc. of Land & Sea

Marine 1859 Report

From Mr. Collector
of Whaler
to Mr. Chief Secretary
of the Government
dated 14 June 1859
No. 316-339-519-
Answered

No. 51
1859

Inc. 1
No. 1009/19
of Land & Sea, with
his remarks on letter
from the Hon. Secy
of Commerce, broken
on the subject of
the Indemnity
of that Port.

With an order
J.P.

22 June 1859