

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Marine* DEPARTMENT.

|          |     |       |
|----------|-----|-------|
| G.O. No. | 296 | Press |
|          |     | Mis.  |
| Dated    | 2 7 | 1859  |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

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No. 5. Read the following letter from Mr. R. H. FORESTER, Acting Master, Indian Navy; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 14th June 1859.

In reply to Extract from Proceedings of Government, dated 1st June 1859, I beg to state that I declined to sign the receipts for Coal furnished by the Superintendent of Marine for the following reasons:

1st. The bunkers of the Vessel were by order of Government, carefully measured previous to her departure from England and therefore the quantity of Coal on board can be ascertained to a few lbs.

2nd. Mr. Ward, the Chief Engineer (who has had 20 years practical experience in the Indian Navy) agreed with me in the belief that the quantity stated in the receipts had not been received on board.

3rd. The quantity of Coal expended during the trip (every pound of which is carefully weighed before being put on the fires) confirmed the previous opinion entertained by Mr. Ward and myself.

4th. Coals are shipped with great irregularity; a boat said to contain a certain number of bags of a specified weight is often found to have a considerable deficit and many bags are received short of weight as can be proved by the boat notes on the back of which are noted the contents of the boat with the initials of the receiving Officer.

5th. Further in event of my granting receipts for more Coal than the Chief Engineer can account for the Government of Bombay debit the amount deficient to the Commander of the Vessel.

These reasons I assigned to Mr. Franklin who in the presence of Lieutenant Fraser now Commanding the Vessel, threatened to make me sign the receipts, this attempt at Coercion, I considered unjust and consequently refused to sign the Documents pending reference to higher authority.

Under these circumstances I respectfully submit the case for the consideration of Government and at the same time beg to point out that while the Superintendent of Marine in his letter to Government would lead them to suppose that this is a solitary instance of a dispute having arisen of the quantity of the Coal supplied to the "Coromandel," on the contrary during the period the Vessel was commanded by Captain Campbell and Lieutenant Stradling precisely similar disputes constantly arose as also many complaints of the careless manner in which Coal was put on board.

I beg most respectfully to add that if the Government of Madras are pleased to authorize me to sign receipts for the quantity of Coals stated to have been supplied by the Superintendent of Marine, I am willing to do so.

No. 6. ORDER THEREON, 2nd July 1859, No. 296.

Resolved that a copy of the above letter be furnished to the Superintendent of Marine in reference to his letter of the 14th May last, No. 1,929, and that he be requested to state what plan he would suggest for obviating all doubts in respect to the quantity of Coals supplied to the Steamers of the Indian Navy.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,  
Chief Secretary.

Exd. A. P. W. Begbie.

Order thereon No. 246 d/2 July/59.

Resolved that a copy of the above letter be furnished to the Superintendent of Ellavine in reference to his letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> May last No. 1929 - & that he be requested to state what plans he would suggest for obviating all doubts in respect to the quantity of coals supplied to the Steamers of the Indian Navy.

*[Signature]*

The Superintendent of { Dispt. of Ellavine.

by Captain Campbell and Stewart  
showing precisely similar dis-  
positions constantly wrote on also many  
complaints of the serious manner  
in which soldiers put on disease.  
They most respectfully re-  
quest that if the Government ex-  
cuses one measure to authorize  
me to give receipts for the quantity  
of goods sent to have been out.  
I am by the Superintendent of