

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Home DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	298	Press
		Mis.
Dated	4-7-	1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 9. Read the following letter from C. W. READE, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 24th June 1859, No. 556.

I have the honor to report to Government that on the occasion of the Steamer "Sydney's" late visit here on her way to Rangoon on the 22nd Instant, the lives of 5 Europeans were sacrificed by drowning when coming on shore from that Vessel.

2. The Sydney had anchored nearly one mile beyond the usual anchorage ground and in about 10 fathoms water in place of in 7 fathoms, and though the accident might have happened quite irrespective of this, still the additional distance the Boatmen had to row with a high wind and heavy sea necessarily tended to make them very tired ere they reached the Bar and thus at a spot where there best energies and skill were needed, their physical strength appears to have failed and the Boat was upset, and one Serjeant (Carter) his wife, two other women of his family and a young boy were drowned as well as one of the Boatmen.

3. An infant of 6 months old was saved by one of the Lascars at the risk of his life and this man's services have been brought to my notice by the Master Attendant in view to some reward from Government. I have made the man a present myself, but of course he would highly value any such recognition of his services by the state and the grant of 15 or 20 Rupees would stimulate others to similar exertions on any future occasion.

4. My particular object in bringing the matter thus prominently before Government is, that some instructions may be given to the Commanders of Government Vessels to anchor within a reasonable distance. There was no possible cause why the "Sydney" should not have occupied the usual anchorage ground though I believe the Captain was new to the Port, and this may have accounted for the position he took up, still while a Vessel can with safety anchor a mile or so nearer to the shore, she ought I think to do so for the sake of passengers who cannot with equal safety cross a high Sea in a Mussoolah Boat, nor can the Cargo be landed without much risk. As it was, some Stores of Government have been partially damaged while many cases destined for this place have gone on to Rangoon from inability to land them because Boats sufficient could not be induced to go off to so great a distance in such rough weather.

5. I would therefore suggest that all Government Vessels be directed through the Superintendent of Marine to anchor within 7 fathoms which they can always do in all ordinary weather with perfect safety.

No. 10.

ORDER THEREON, 4th July 1859, No. 298.

Resolved that the above letter be referred to the Superintendent of Marine for his remarks. He will also, on the return of the "Sydney" to Madras, call upon the Commanding Officer, under authority of Government, for explanation why he did not bring his Vessel to anchor within the usual anchorage ground.

A reward of thirty Rupees is to be given to the Lascar, who saved the Infant's life, together with a written Testimonial of the approbation with which his conduct has been regarded by the Government.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Order thereon 14 July 1859 to 290.

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[Signature]

To the Cmt of Madras
- Dept of Marine
- Acct General
- Civil Auditor } *[Signature]*

