

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
from 30th July to 5th August 1859.*

No. 30. Read the following letter from J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine ;
to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated
Madras, 25th July 1859, No. 2922.

I have the honor to inform you that some little time back, I received a Petition which the Paumben Pilots had addressed to the Government Head Pilot at that Station, praying to be relieved from the duty of conveying the Mails between the Island of Ramisseram and the coast of India. They observe that when engaged in piloting Vessels through the Channels, they are obliged to hire men for the Service, paying for the same themselves; and that this payment sometimes amounts to from one to two Rupees the trip.

2. The Pilots have, I think, much reason in their appeal. There are thirteen of them licensed, after careful examination, to pilot Vessels through the Paumben Channels, for which a certain payment is made; three fourths of which are credited to Government and the remainder paid to the Pilot as his share. No mention is made in his Certificate of competency, of his being bound to convey the Mails at his own expense to and from the Island, and although it has been enforced as a customary arrangement it ought not, I submit, to be continued for that reason. The Officer in charge of operations has been asked under whose orders this duty was first imposed on them, but he can afford no information on the subject. They were originally Government Servants on monthly salaries, and were then very properly the carriers of the Government Mail. In the year 1848, the system was changed, their salaries ceased, and they were paid Pilotage for those Vessels they actually carried through.

3. Under these circumstances, I do not think that they ought to be expected to undertake the conveyance of the Mails; the more especially as the Pilot whose turn it is to carry them has to pay for the Service if he happen to be then employed in his legitimate occupation of Piloting. I therefore beg to recommend that the Post Master General be directed to make his own arrangements for this Service.

No. 31. ORDER THEREON, 5th August 1859, No. 364.

Resolved that the foregoing letter be communicated to the Post Master General, and he be requested, in reference to the representations of the Superintendent of Marine, to arrange for the conveyance of the Mails between Ramisseram and the continent otherwise than through the Agency of the Paumben Pilots, which can no longer be afforded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

N^o. 364 - 5 August 1859.

Resolved that the foregoing
letter be communicated to the
Post Master General, & he be
requested, in reference to the re-
presentations of the Superintend-
ent of Marine, to arrange for
the conveyance of the Mails be-
tween Ramiseram & the conti-
nent otherwise than thro' the
agency of the Pambem Pi-
lots, which can no longer
be afforded. J.P.

The Post Master General. }
" Superintendent of Marine. } Secy. G^o