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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
from 13th to 19th August 1859.*

No. 8. Read the following letter from Commander F. W. HOPKINS, Indian Navy, Commanding Her Majesty's Steamer "Dalhousie," to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 11th August 1859, No. 147.

I have the honor to report the arrival of Her Majesty's Steamer "Dalhousie," Indian Navy, from Rangoon the 1st, Vizag the 7th, Cocanada the 8th, and Masulipatam the 9th Instant, and in doing so most respectfully beg you will bring the following to the notice of the Honorable the Governor in Council here, that on the late trip to the Northern Ports and Rangoon to conform with the Government Regulations regarding the time of stoppage at the different Ports has caused a very considerable and which appears an unnecessary detention; I obeyed the Government orders, as no discretionary power seems left to the Commanders of the Vessels. The "Dalhousie" from her small carrying capacity has usually as many Government Troops and Stores in on leaving Madras as she can convey, and on my knowing from the Master Attendant at the Ports that there is no Troops or Stores or Passengers to embark, a stay of 4 instead of 8 hours, at some of the Ports, may prove quite sufficient. Whilst remaining to allow 8 hours of day-light causes a very considerable detention, particularly when a Vessel arrives in the evening or afternoon as in such cases the Vessel is delayed all night and some time next morning, and if Troops and Passengers are to embark, a much longer stay than 8 hours may be necessary at the Ports, and if Government allowed Commanders of Ships to use their discretion as to the time of leaving, they judging from the work to be done of landing and shipping Troops or Stores, I respectfully beg to state that I believe the measure would benefit the interests of Government, and if the Authorities at Madras communicated to the Departments on the Coast before the Vessels leave, what number of Troops, Passengers, or Stores she can take on board, it will be a means of preventing great disappointment and Stores being sent off at the risk of their loss, when it is impossible to receive such on board.

2. With reference to the time of stoppage at Masulipatam from the shoal water; a Vessel has to anchor a considerable distance from the shore; and it sometimes takes 6 or 8 hours to reach the Cantonment there or send reports to the Civil and Military Authorities.

Further, I beg to state that on my last trip up the Coast, a considerable quantity of Government Stores were sent off at Masulipatam in heavy rains, lest the Stores should be lost or Boats sunk, I took them on board but had no place to store them in, except the Troop decks, to the exclusion of room required by the Troops, and although about 80 men less were said to have embarked at Madras than intended, yet the Natives were much crowded, as when Europeans and Natives embark together, the Europeans occupy one Troop deck to the exclusion of the Natives. I had on board parties as per margin and embarked at Vizagapatam in addition.* I most respectfully beg to point out the necessity of the Quarter Master General's Department being requested to arrange for all Europeans or all Natives to be embarked in a Vessel when it is possible to do so, or a suitable number of each for the two Troop decks: 200 Natives or 100 Europeans for main Troop deck and 80 Europeans or 110 Natives for the other, all told

including Women and Children; when Troops are sick, a much less number should be sent. The size of the Troop decks are fore hold 39-6 feet x 29, after deck 29 feet x 26 feet. On the late trip to Rangoon, I experienced bad weather during the whole of the passage, and it was necessary that the Troops should have room below decks from the Sea washing over the Ship on the upper deck.

Europeans.
Public Passengers.—11 Men.
6 Women.
10 Children.
Private Passengers.—7 Men.
6 Women.
5 Children.
—
Total...45

Natives.
Public, Her Majesty's Indian Army.
102 Natives.—Non-Commissioned Rank
and File.
13 Natives.—Private.
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Total...115 Natives.

* 89 Natives.

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3. I further beg to report that it was necessary for me to coal at some of the Northern Ports and Mr. Franklin wished me to do so at Bimlipatam, I went there and from a heavy surf and bad weather, I was delayed 48 hours for 60 tons and 3 Boats were swamped in coming off with coal; I most respectfully beg to state that Coconada is the best place for the Steamers to coal at on this Coast as the water is smooth and the Ship and Boats don't get damaged as at Madras or other Ports. At Madras and at Bimlipatam a number of the glass scuttles of the Ship got broken by the Boats in the heavy swell, although every precaution was taken and Fenders out and glass scuttles to fit were not procurable when I was last in Calcutta, much time would be saved by coaling Ships at Coconada and coal could be supplied, I believe, as cheap there as at Madras and I beg the consideration of Government to allow the "Dalhousie" to fill up with coal there when practicable to do so; as if she is employed in the Rangoon line it is necessary to coal at one of the Northern Ports; when I take Troops a space in the fore coal hold has to be kept to stow baggage in.

No. 9.

ORDER THEREON, 15th August 1859, No. 391.

Resolved that the above letter be forwarded to the Superintendent of Marine for his remarks.

2. Resolved also that Commander Hopkins and the Commanding Officers of all other Vessels of the Indian Navy, in the service of the Madras Government, be directed to forward all their reports or applications relative to the packet service between Madras and Rangoon to Government, through the Superintendent of Marine, who in transmitting them to Government, will accompany them with any observations or explanation which he may deem called for.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Order thereon 15 August 59 No. 391.

Resolved that the above letter be forwarded to the Sup^t of Marine for his remarks.

Resolved also that Commander Hopkins and the Com^d Officers of all other vessels of the Indian Navy in the service of the Madras Govt be directed to forward all their reports or applications relative to the packet service between Madras & Rangoon to the Sup^t of Marine - who in transmitting them to Govt will accompany them with any observations or explanation which he may deem called for

Sup^t of Marine (with 2 lists)

who will communicate

para 2 of the above order

to all Com^d Officers of Steamers

of the Indian Navy in the service of the

Madras Govt

(Signed 19th)

Commander
Lieut. Col. H. H. "Bathurst"

My dear Sir,

Your most obedient servant

The

I have the honor to be

in
able to report to you
place in the last field
date when I have
-fury to read at me of the
in the morning and it is
do so, as if the
and there when
the "Bathurst" to fill up with
-action of government to allow
at all times & I beg the