

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<i>4/4</i>	Press Mis.
Dated	<i>24/8/</i>	<i>1859.</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
from 20th to 26th August 1859.*

No. 7. Read the following letter from J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 12th August 1859, No. 3194.

I have the honor to inform you that the Collector of Sea Customs in anticipation of his vacating his office before long, has called my attention to the large outstanding balances remaining unadjusted at the end of each month, on account, of advances made to the Master Attendant for Boat hire for different Departments under the Orders of Government conveyed in letter from the Chief Secretary of the 14th October 1842, No. 321. He furnishes these amounts for the last official year as noted in the margin, and seeks an earlier adjustment.

	Rs.	A.	P.
May.....	20,083	9	9
June.....	23,613	2	11
July.....	21,244	4	6
August.....	13,003	9	5
September.....	14,650	14	9
October.....	17,235	8	4
November.....	12,568	1	6
December.....	14,300	11	3
January.....	12,629	12	9
February.....	15,806	11	0
March.....	16,428	10	3
April.....	18,559	2	3

2. The system authorized and in force is as follows. Boats are supplied to the different Departments upon indents on the Master Attendant, who draws advances from the Collector of Sea Customs from day to day for the disbursement of the hire. On the expiration of the month, the receipts for Boats are collected from the Departments, and a general statement for each, duly supported by vouchers, is drawn up and submitted to me as Superintendent of Marine for sanction. They are then submitted to Audit in the proper Departments, and finally being passed, the Collector of Sea Customs is relieved from further responsibility on their account.

3. It would at first appear that this system would not occasion any very great delay in the adjustment of the balances to the debit of the Collector of Sea Customs, but in practice it is found that some months are required before all the references can be satisfactorily answered. To obviate therefore the inconvenience to which the Collector of Sea Customs is put in consequence, he suggests that the Master Attendant's receipt should be a sufficient voucher for passing its amount in his Accounts, and I see no reason why such should not be the practice. The Collector merely makes the advance, knowing nothing of the employment of the Boats, whether according to regulation or not, the real responsibility being on the Master Attendant, who is the officer to explain any discrepancy. It would much simplify the system therefore if on the acknowledgment of the Master Attendant of an advance from the Collector, the latter officer should be relieved from further liability.

No. 8. ORDER THEREON, 24th August 1859, No. 414.

Ordered that the foregoing letter be referred to the Accountant General for his opinion on the change of system therein suggested with respect to the adjustment of advances made by the Collector of Sea Customs, to the Master Attendant for Boat hire.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

List

Order thereon. 24th August/59. N^o 414

Ordered that the foregoing letter be referred to the Accountant General for his opinion on the change of system therein suggested with respect to the adjustment of advances made by the Collector of Sea Customs to the Master Attendant for boat hire.

J. P.

To the Accountant General. Dated 20th