

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. *42*

Press
Mis.

Dated

3 2

1859

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 8th February 1859.

No. 6. EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF CONSULTATION in the Military Department under date the 24th January 1859, No. 313.

(Vide Diary, Military Consultation, 25th January 1859, Nos. 173 at 176.)

(Regarding the provision of Steam communication to the Straits regularly once every three months.)

No. 7. ORDER THEREON, No. 42; dated 3rd February 1859.

To be Recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 313.

*Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, 24th January 1859.**Read letter from the Adjutant General of the Army, Oolacamund, 27th December 1858, No. 2505; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.*

With reference to Extract from Minutes of Consultation dated 13th July 1858, No. 2513, stating that the Government will keep in view the recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief to provide for a Steamer being despatched to the Straits

Reporting that, in consequence of the non arrival every three months, I have the honor, by order of a Steamer from Madras, the Sick will proceed of His Excellency, in forwarding copy of a letter in a sailing Vessel &c. from the Officer Commanding the Troops in the

Straits, dated 5th ultimo, No. 517, to request you will be good enough to bring the subject again to the notice of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, in view to the Government of India being once more urged to abstain from again taking away the Steamer specially sent out from England for the service of the Madras Presidency, and thus putting it out of the power of the Madras Government to carry out the relief or bring away the Sick on Foreign Service.

The intimation via Galle of the despatch of Steamers to the Straits as asked for by Colonel McLeod, should be given by the Superintendent of Marine whenever practicable.

From the Officer Commanding Troops in the Straits, Singapore, 5th November 1858, No. 517; to the Adjutant General of the Army, Fort Saint George.

I have the honor to bring to your notice that three months have elapsed since a Steamer visited the Straits from Madras, I conclude as I have not heard further on the subject, that it has been found impracticable to despatch one as proposed in Minutes of Consultation, No. 2513 dated 13th July last.

There are many sick men at present here, for whose recovery the Medical Officer deems a removal to the Coast absolutely necessary, some of the cases in his opinion, not admitting of further delay taking place.

In the uncertainty therefore, which exists as to a Steamer being now sent, and a reference to Madras taking too long to meet the urgency of the case, I shall apply to the Local Government to provide a passage for the whole to the Coast in some Vessel.

I beg to suggest that intimation of the intended despatch of a Steamer from Madras should be communicated to me "via Galle" six weeks before their departure from Madras, so that all the Sick requiring to be sent across may be retained for her. If some arrangement of the sort is not made, a Steamer might arrive here just after a batch of sick men have sailed in some Vessel or other, and Government thereby be put to considerable expense to no purpose.

Referred to the Superintendent of Marine for his report as to the practicability of arrangements being made for maintaining a regular quarterly communication with the Straits Settlements by Steamer from Madras.

6th January 1859.

From the Superintendent of Marine, 13th January 1859, No. 115; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the order of Government marginally noted, directing me to report whether it would be practicable to maintain a regular quarterly communication with the Straits Settlements by Government Steamers, and to state that hitherto it has been found impossible to do so, as the

Vessels at the disposal of the Madras Government are insufficient for the transport required of this Presidency. They have never been permitted to be idle, and have always carried full allotments of Troops; yet notwithstanding, it has been found indispensable to engage private Vessels to aid in the movements of Troops.

2. The following Memo. will exhibit the employment of the Government Steamers during the last 7 or 8 months, as well as the private Vessels engaged for the carriage of Troops and Stores, omitting minor engagements for small parties.

Government Steamers.

May 19th "Coromandel" left for the Northern Ports and Calcutta.
 June 14th "Dalhousie" left for Bimlipatam.
 June 20th "Coromandel" arrived from Rangoon.
 June 22nd "Dalhousie" arrived from Northern Ports.
 June 23rd "Australian" arrived from Rangoon.
 June 26th Do. left for Tranquebar and Cuddalore.
 June 29th Do. returned from do.
 July 2nd "Coromandel" left for Calcutta.
 July 6th "Australian" for do.
 July 10th "Dalhousie" for Straits.
 July 29th "Coromandel" arrived from Calcutta and Port Blair.
 August 14th Do. left for Northern Ports.
 August 25th Do. arrived from do.
 August 26th "Dalhousie" do. do. Straits.
 August 31st Do. left for Calcutta whence she took B. Company Sappers and Miners to Cocanada. Took a Wing of the 31st from Bimlipatam to Rangoon and a Detachment of H. M.'s 29th thence to Calcutta.
 August 31st "Coromandel" left for Tranquebar, Negapatam and Autinkary.
 September 4th Do. returned from do. do.
 September 14th Do. left for Bimlipatam and Rangoon.
 October 8th Do. returned from do. do.
 October 15th Do. left for Negapatam, Vizagapatam and Rangoon.
 October 18th "Australian" arrived from Port Blair.
 October 30th Do. left for Masulipatam.
 November 7th Do. returned from do.
 November 12th Do. left for Malabar Coast.
 December 5th "Dalhousie" arrived from Rangoon.
 December 7th Do. left for Mangalore.

December 13th "Coromandel" arrived from Mangalore.
 December 20th Do. left for Calcutta.
 December 25th "Dalhousie" arrived from Malabar Coast.

Private Vessels.

June 9th "Malacca" to Masulipatam with 133 Tons of Stores.
 June 16th Steamer "Tweedside" to Calcutta with Troops.
 July 8th "Metaris" to Straits with 230 Tons of Stores.
 July 23rd "Empress" to Rangoon with 360 Tons of Stores.
 July 31st "Teak" to Masulipatam with 134 do. do.
 August 10th "York" to Rangoon with 377 Details.
 September 6th "Statesman" to Rangoon with do.
 September 7th "India" do. do.
 September 7th "Blue Rock" do. do.
 September 14th "Panama" to Masulipatam with 325 Tons of Stores.
 October 2nd Steamer "Italian" to Cannanore and Bombay.
 October 6th "Myrtle" to Straits with 413 Tons of Stores.
 October 20th "Teak" to Malabar Coast 210 do. do.
 October 23rd "Duke de Malakoff" to Masulipatam with 334 Tons of Stores.
 October 28th Steamer "Carthage" to Cocanada with Troops.
 November 6th "Avandhu" to Rangoon 200 Tons of Stores.
 November 25th "Gallant Neil" to Northern Ports 186 do. do.
 December 21st "Maida" to Rangoon with Details.

3. The foregoing Statement will shew how ill a Government Steamer could have been spared to proceed to the Straits empty for the purpose of bringing over 100 to 150 men, and although opportunities may occasionally occur of sending one to those Settlements, it will be impossible to ensure one quarterly until the Presidency is supplied with more Steamers.

4. To secure the greatest advantage from iron Steamers, they require to be docked every six or eight months to remove the barnacles and weeds which so rapidly attach themselves to their bottom, and which unless so removed seriously injure the iron plating. As this operation cannot be effected at Madras, the Vessels have to be sent to Calcutta for the purpose. The "Coromandel" is now there with this view and although she probably arrived at the beginning of the month, I have heard that no dock would be available for her till the 15th, thus throwing her out of employment for a week or two which is a serious matter when so few Steamers are at command. The docks employed are private property and the Government can only secure them in common with the general public. Vessels have consequently to wait till they are at liberty, and as this disadvantage is coupled with the payment of heavy charges, I beg to suggest whether it would not be advisable to submit to the Government of India the desirableness of building a dock at Calcutta without delay for the reception of iron Steamers, the number of which in the Indian Seas is yearly increasing.

5. I have now to report that the "Australian's" Boilers are in a very defective state and require thorough repair, if not renewal. She can still run for a short time with care and patching, but as she must be laid up before long, I would solicit that application be made for the "Sidney," which Vessel the Government of India in their letter of the 13th September 1858, No. 361, stated could be supplied for the service of this Presidency when needed.

Ordered that the letter from the Superintendent of Marine be communicated to the Commander-in-Chief.

2. The representation relative to the necessity of providing regular steam communication from the Straits to Madras for the conveyance of sick Troops, will be forwarded to the Government of India with the report of the Superintendent of Marine, shewing that the means at present at the disposal of this Government render it impossible to ensure such communication.

3. Whenever an opportunity offers for sending a Steamer to the Straits, the Superintendent of Marine is requested to give early prior intimation to the Authorities there, via Galle.

4. The Superintendent's suggestion as to the desirableness of building a dock at Calcutta without delay, for the reception of iron Steamers, will be submitted for the consideration of the Government of India; and as proposed in the concluding para. of his letter, application will be made to them for the services of the "Sydney."

To the Secy. to the Govt. of India, Home Dept. | Here enter 24th January 1859, No. 314.
 (True Extract and Copies.)

H. Marshall
 Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Adjutant General.
 „ Quarter Master General.
 „ Superintendent of Marine.
 „ Marine Department

Exd. A. A. DeMonte.

Warren. 1839. Sept 11.
During to Am. 8. 5. 1839.

General Winckler Comd'g the
Army in the Military Dept.
313.

4/24
1/29. 1839.

1839.
John C. Smith.

Communicated copy
of a letter from the 123rd
General of the Army in the
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- put of the enclosure.
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for a enclosure being
deposited at the
about every three months.
N^o 112.
To be recorded. 1839.