

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	442	Press Mis.
Dated	9. 9. 1859	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
from 3rd to 9th September 1859.*

No. 16. Read the following letter from J. B. CROWTHER, Esq., Assistant Superintendent of Marine; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 29th August 1859, No. 3415.

No. 321, dated August 15th, 1859. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Proceedings of the Madras Government marginally noted and beg to submit the following remarks thereon.

2. With reference to Commander Hopkins' proposal that the Commanders of the packet Steamers should be permitted to use their own discretion in the time of their staying at the several Ports, I am instructed by the Superintendent to observe, that such an arrangement would be highly inconvenient to the public, and only lead to occurrences similar to that which gave rise to the complaint against Lieutenant Fraser, when he refused to remain at Cocanada for passengers, who were actually on their way to his Vessel, and had been waiting there three days, expressly to embark on her. I submit that packets to be useful should be regular to their movements.

3. With regard to the parties embarked on the "Dalhousie" at the time in question, I have to point out that the numbers* sent by her on that trip, were within those which Commander Hopkins admits the Vessel's, troop decks, can accommodate. He states that his main troop deck can hold 200 Natives, there were 204, and a space by his own shewing capable of accommodating 80 Europeans, was left for 45 details of that class, of which number also 15 were children. Captain Hopkins' suggestion about all Europeans or all Natives being embarked on the Vessel, may be very good when practicable, but the proportions given by him to be sent when both embark, so as to suit the space in the respective troop decks, appear faulty, for instance the main one is stated to have room for 200 Natives or 100 Europeans, and the other for 80 Europeans or 110 Natives.

4. Respecting the coaling of the "Dalhousie," Commander Hopkins enquired if such could be completed at Vizagapatam, he was informed that it could not, but that coal was procurable at Bimlipatam, and the Superintendent was glad of an opportunity for expending what was there, as it had been purchased from Arbuthnot and Co., long since, but was not used, owing to the misunderstanding which arose, when so much required, and has been on hand since. As godown rent is paid for this coal, it is of some moment that it should be expended whenever opportunity offers, but at the same time I have to observe that Cocanada is by far the best coaling station of the two, and a regular Dépôt is established there.

No. 17. ORDER THEREON, 9th September 1859, No. 442.

Resolved that copy of Mr. Crowther's letter be furnished Commander Hopkins, and that he be informed, through the Superintendent of Marine, that Government cannot allow officers in command of Steamers on the Madras and Burmah line to deviate from the rules which have been laid down for regulating the times of stoppage at the several Ports of call. Cocanada should be used as a coaling station as far as possible—and the stock of coal at Bimlipatam, be expended on opportunity offering during the fine season, if it cannot be removed to the Dépôt at Cocanada.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Resolved that copy of Mr. Crowther's letter be furnished Commander Hopkins, & that he be informed, thro' the Superintendent of Marine, that Govt. cannot allow officers in command of Steamers on the Madras & Burmah line to deviate from the rules which have been laid down ~~for~~ for regulating the times of stoppage at the several ports of call. Cocanada should be used as a Coaling station as far as possible - & the stock of Coal ^{at Bimlipatana} be expended on opportunity offering during the fine season, if it cannot be removed to the depot at Cocanada.

Fort St. George {
9th September 1859.

J.P.

The Superintendent of Marine. } Sept. 13th