

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
from 10th to 16th September 1859.*

No. 22. Read the following letter from E. FANE, Esq., Officiating Postmaster General; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, in the Public Department, Fort Saint George, dated 7th September 1859, No. 1998.

With reference to the Orders of Government, under date the 5th Ultimo, No. 364, I have the honor to furnish copy of letter* from the Inspecting
* No. 407, dated 31st August 1859. Postmaster of the Trichinopoly Division, which explains that the services of the Paumben Pilots are not availed of by this Department as represented.

I have directed the entertainment of the Establishment suggested by the Inspecting Postmaster however, with a view to obviating further reference on the subject.

From C. STUART, Esq., Inspecting Post Master, Trichinopoly Division; to the Officiating Postmaster General, Madras, dated Trichinopoly 31st August 1859, No. 407.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your docket, No. 1631 of the 17th Instant, forwarding copy of the Proceedings of the Madras Government, relative to the employment of the Paumben Pilots in the conveyance of the Mails to and from the Island of Ramaisweram.

In reply, I beg to state that the representations of the Pilots are not altogether correct; some time back (the records of my Office, do not shew when, although I have carefully looked through them) a Ferry Establishment, consisting of 2 boatmen, at 2 Rupees each per mensem, was entertained for the Paumben Channel and borne as a contingent charge. In April last, sanction of the Government of India was received for a revised Road Establishment, on the Dindigul and Paumben Line, in which is included, a Ferry Establishment on the Vygner River. This river, which intersects the road between Madura and Ramnad, not requiring such an Establishment permanently to be maintained on it, as it is only unfordable for 2 or 3 days in the depths of the monsoon, the boatmen were not employed, but those at the Paumben Channel were instead brought on the fixed Establishment, and have continued so ever since.

It will be recollected however, that the Establishment above referred to, was considered ample at the time when a Mail was despatched only on every alternate day from Paumben, but since the despatch of a daily Mail, that is from May last, and owing to the numerous expresses despatched by the Telegraph Department there, whenever an interruption in the Coast line occurs, the Establishment is found to be quite inadequate, and in consequence delays have arisen either in the transmission of the expresses or the ordinary Mails. Such being the case, I beg to propose the employment of 2 boats, and 4 boatmen at 4 Rupees each per mensem, which will secure a prompt and expeditious crossing of the Mails over the Channel at all seasons, the present and proposed scale of the Dundigul and Paumben Line road Establishment will therefore stand thus:

<i>Present Scale.</i>		<i>Proposed Scale.</i>	
54 Runners at 4 Rupees each.....Rs.	216-0-0	54 Runners at 4 Rupees each.....Rs.	216-0-0
2 Boatmen on the Vignar River, at 2 Rupees each..... „	4-0-0	4 Boatmen on the Paumben Channel at 4 Rupees each..... „	16-0-0
Total Rs...	220-0-0	Total Rs...	232-0-0

With respect to the higher rate of pay proposed for the boatmen, it is necessary for me to observe, that the present men, being dissatisfied with their small salary, have notified their intention to resign, and the Deputy Postmaster of Paumben informs me that others cannot be procured for less than 4 or 5 Rupees a month.

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It would not, I am of opinion, be advisable to enter into any stipulations with the Paumben Pilots for ferrying the Mails over the Channel, since according to their own statement, their services are not at all times available, and any arrangement of the nature alluded to, would, I fear, put it out of our power to check delays.

No. 23.

ORDER THEREON, 15th September 1859, No. 456.

Communicated to the Superintendent of Marine, in continuation of the Orders of the 27th Ultimo, No. 423.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 456 - 15 Sept. 1859

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Communicated to the Superintendent of Marine in continuation of the Orders of the 27th Ultimo. No. 423.

[Signature]

1859-8

The Superintendent of Marine. Sep 19th