

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

610

Press
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Dated

2. 12. 1859.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
for the month of December 1859.*

No. 7. Read the following letter from R. P. HARRISON, Esq., Accountant General; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 15th November 1859, No. 313.

1. Under the provisions of Act No. XXII of 1855, extended to this Presidency by Act No. VII of 1858, the port dues leviable at each port, are to form a fund out of which the charges for the maintenance, improvement and good government of the port are to be defrayed.

2. This fund is to consist of port dues, and all money, including salvage money, proceeds of waifs, and fines, received under the above Act, except receipts on account of pilotage.

3. The charges to be paid out of this fund, are the pay and allowances of all persons upon the establishment of the port, the cost of buoys, beacons, lights, and all other works maintained chiefly for the benefit of vessels being in, or entering, or leaving the port, or passing through the rivers or channels leading thereto, with the exception of expenses on account of pilotage.

4. When the fund of any port is found insufficient, for the time being, to bear its expenses, an advance is to be made out of the General Revenues of the State, and interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum has been ordered* to be charged on such advances, which interest is debitable to the port fund of the port and to be passed to the credit of the State.

* Letter from Under Secretary to the Government of India, to Chief Secretary to this Government, dated 9th November 1858, No. 1694, Home Department.

Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 1st December 1858, No. 474, Marine Department.

5. Sec: XLIV of the Act also prescribes that the account of the port fund of each port at which port-dues are levied, shall be kept by an Officer to be appointed for the purpose by the Local Government. From the Circular Order No. 1 of 1858 of the late Marine Board, published at page 687 of Vol. I of the Gazette of 1858, it appears that this duty has been assigned to the Conservators of the ports. According to this Circular, a certain portion of the cost of the Marine establishment of certain ports and the entire cost of Light House establishments are chargeable to the port fund. The Superintendent of Marine in his letter to this Office dated 15th July, 1858, No. 2338, states, "The reason why only a portion of the establishments is charged to the fund, is, that the Government benefits more or less by the services of these establishments, and should contribute towards their maintenance. This principle has been adopted at Calcutta, and has been followed in this Presidency under the authority of Government."

6. No instructions appear to have been given on the subject of regularly bringing to the account of the port fund, the expenditure on Marine works intended for the general improvement of the ports. This expenditure is made by the Officers of the Public Works Department and is charged in the books of the Chief Engineer against the General Revenues of the State.

7. It is essential that both this Office and the Collectors should be aware when the assets of a port fund are insufficient to meet its expenses, in order that the needful advances may be made and the prescribed interest charged. At present this information is not available, inasmuch as the expenditure chargeable to the port fund is now incurred by the Officers of the Public Works Department, without the cognizance of this Office or the Collectors. This Office, it is true, grants letters of credit to District Engineers on Collectors for the amount of sanctioned expenditure within the year on account of Public Works, and the Collector makes payment under these letters of credit, from time to time, on drafts of the District Engineer within the amount mentioned. But on what special works, the amount so drawn is expended is not known either to this Office or to Collectors, and the transactions never come before this Office in a clear and succinct form.

8. What therefore is now required is,

1st. That the Collectors should be informed what is the amount required by the District Engineer for expenditure on Marine works debitable to the port fund.

2nd. That this amount should be advanced from the Port Funds when there are any, and not from the General Revenues of the State.

3rd. That the Chief Engineer should exhibit such expenditure in his books to the debit of the Port Fund of the ports concerned, and not to "Public Works Extraordinary."

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
for the month of December 1859.

4th. That when advances are made (in the absence of any available port funds) out of the General Revenues of the State as explained at paragraph 4 herein, this Office should be advised thereof.

9. These can be accomplished by treating the port fund in the same way as local funds are now treated, except that the expenditure from the port fund will require the sanction of Government, while all disbursements from local funds are made under the responsibility of the Collector and District Engineer. In this case, the expenditure on port works will have to be excluded from the budget, and this can easily be done, as the port fund is under the control of the Local Government, and not under that of the Government of India.

10. It is also necessary that some distinction should be made between Marine works debitable to the port fund, and Marine works debitable to the State. In a statement of expenditure on Public Works in 1858-59, furnished by the Chief Engineer to the Superintendent of Marine, with a copy of which the latter Officer has furnished me, I observe entered in it, the expenditure of three sheds at Madras for the stowage of Government coal, &c. This appears to me to be purely a State work, and hence not chargeable against the Madras port fund. It is further not clear whether the expenditure on repairs of existing Marine works ought to be charged against the port fund.

11. I request that I may be favored with the orders of Government on these several points at an early date, as the information required is necessary to enable me to make the proper adjustment in the General Territorial Books for 1858-59, now under preparation.

No. 8. ORDER THEREON, 2nd December 1859, No. 610.

From the statement of receipts and disbursements and balances connected with port charges and dues at the various ports of the Presidency of Fort Saint George, under the operation of Acts XXII of 1855 and VII of 1858, from the 1st of May 1858 to the 30th April 1859, published, under Section 44 of the first named Act, in the Fort Saint George Gazette of the 14th June last, page 1203, it is observed that the total receipts for the year at all the fourteen ports at which dues are now leviable were Rupees 88,737-7-11, the disbursements were Rupees 44,863-12-11 and the surplus Rupees 43,874-11-0, of which Rupees 35,285-2-8 belonged to the port of Madras. The excess in the case of no other port amounted to Rupees 3,000, while in three there was a deficit, the receipts not being sufficient to cover the charges for which the port dues were meant to provide, i. e., cost of lights, proportion of establishment, &c.

2. It is clear from this, that with the single exception perhaps of Madras, no works of any consequence for the improvement of the ports at which port dues are leviable can be executed from the port funds, they must there as elsewhere be for the present, defrayed from the General Revenue. That the matter however may not be lost sight of, the Honorable the Governor in Council requests that for the future in sending up any projects of improvement connected with the ports entered in the Schedule annexed to Act VII of 1858, the Chief Engineer will state the surplus of the port funds' receipts above disbursements at the ports in question. This information he may obtain for the port of Madras from the Superintendent of Marine, and for ports in the Provinces through the District Engineer from the Collector. The Government will then determine in each case whether the cost of the work, or of any part of it, or the interest upon it, shall be met from the port fund, and will give orders accordingly.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd F. Cartledge.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Read the following letter
from the Accountant General.
(Here enter 15th Nov^r 1859 h: 313.)

Order thereon 2nd December 1859, No. 610.

From the Statement of
Receipts and Disbursements
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Port Charges and dues at the
various Ports of the Presi-
dency of Fort Saint George
under the operation of Acts
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2. - It is clear from the above that with the single exception perhaps of Madras, no works of any consequence for the improvement of the Ports at which Port dues are leviable can be executed from the port funds, they must there as elsewhere be for the present, defrayed from the general revenue. That the matter however may not be lost sight

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The undersigned
should be
responsible to the
that 5 per cent interest
may be charged on
provided for in the Act.

To the Accountant General.
" Department Public Works.
" Superintendent of Marine.

32 July 1840
J. J. J.
J. J. J.
J. J. J.

No Book to be
Marine 1859 before

No 611

Proceedings of 500th

of 1859

With reference to
the amount of
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of the funds independent
of the fund is not now
properly brought to an
account but request
that for the balance in
standing up any projects
of improvement some
be made with the ports
entirely in addition
announced

announced to that the
of 1858 the chief engineer
will state the value
of the Port funds receipt
of some disbursement at
the Port inspection
they will then determine
in each case whether
the cost of the work or
of any part of it or
the interest upon it shall
be met from the Port
fund

Fund it will make
Accordingly