

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	617	Press Mis.
Dated	5. 12	1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled8
617

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

Read the following papers:—

No. 17. From Lieutenant Colonel G. W. Y. SIMPSON, Acting Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George, dated 10th November 1859, No. 289.

Adverting to my letter, No. 264, dated 17th October 1859, I have the honor to bring to the notice of Government, the present loss of two 68-pounder guns, while in course of transshipment from the "Saint Croix," to the "Diana," being part of the Ordnance intended for the river defences of Rangoon; the former vessel having brought out 5 guns of that calibre from England and the "Diana" having been engaged to proceed with stores to Rangoon.

2. On the 26th ultimo, the Acting Principal Commissary of Ordnance reported the loss of one of the pieces referred to, consequent on the breaking up of the raft alongside of the vessel, and a report since received from the Superintendent of Marine, in explanation of the first occurrence, brings to notice the loss of a second 68-pounder gun under similar circumstances, but, as in this latter instance, the raft broke outside the surf, where it had been anchored during the night, the recovery of the gun may be easily effected. But I fear that some time will elapse before steps can be taken for the recovery of the other gun, as the services of the Divers are not now available, and the Superintendent of Marine states, that no means have yet been prepared for working the Diving Bell, and that it cannot therefore be used.

3. I regret that the arrangements of the Ordnance Department for giving immediate effect to the Orders of Government in supplying Ordnance for Rangoon should be thus impeded; and from the untrustworthy character of the rafts supplied by the Marine Department, I apprehend some further delay before the required number of guns can be placed on board the "Diana."

4. Since writing the above, the Acting Principal Commissary of Ordnance has reported that the "Diana" sailed on the morning of the 6th instant, taking with her only 3 68-pounder guns, the other 3 guns will be forwarded by the earliest opportunity.

Referred to the Marine Department, for report on the subject of paragraph 3, and as to the probability of recovering the lost guns at an early date.

FORT SAINT GEORGE, }
12th November 1859. }

(Signed) R. HAMILTON, Lieut. Colonel,
Ag. Dy. Secy. to Government.

Referred to the Superintendent of Marine for explanation on the remarks in paragraph 3 of the above letter, and for report in reference to the Order of the 11th instant, No. 575.

FORT SAINT GEORGE, }
15th November 1859. }

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 18. From J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 1st December 1859, No. 4753.

I have the honor to return the letter from the Acting Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines of the 10th ultimo, No. 289, representing the loss of two 68-pounder guns while in course of shipment to the "Diana." In the Order thereon of the 15th idem, I am directed to report on the 3rd paragraph, wherein it is stated that these losses have been occasioned by the untrustworthy character of the rafts supplied, and what success has attended the efforts for their recovery.

2. "In paragraph 3 of the letter in question from Acting Inspector of Ordnance, he designates the rafts supplied by the Marine Department as of 'untrustworthy character' this description of the said rafts I am happy to inform you is at variance with the facts of the case. If the expression had run thus 'from the untrustworthy character of the weather,' it would have been strictly correct."

2. The Master Attendant was called upon for report on the subject, and in the margin are transcribed the two paragraphs of his reply bearing thereon. He states

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3. "These rafts were employed in carrying 68-pounder guns contrary to my wishes, when a strong current and a short chopping sea prevailed in the Madras roadstead and at a season of the year when no such operations, excepting in cases of emergency, should be attempted. The consequences were that on two different occasions the rafts broke up and the guns went down, one in 8 and the other in 3 fathoms water, and in neither case is blame to be attached to the Marine Department."

it will be seen, that the guns were sent off contrary to his wishes when a strong current and a short chopping sea prevailed.

3. I regret to say that neither of the guns

have as yet been recovered, owing to the late unfavorable state of the weather; but that with the present change to moderate winds and smooth water, there is great likelihood of their being raised in a day or two.

No. 19.

ORDER THEREON, 5th December 1859, No. 617.

Communicated to the Military Department.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Marine.
Proceedings of the Madras Govt.
Read letter from
the Inspector General
of Ordnance and
Magazines — *Enter 10th Nov. 1859,*
No. 289.
Read also this letter —

Order - 5th December 1859 No 617.
Communicated to
the Military Department.

J.P.

15th Apr 1860

The Mily. Dept. with No 575. } Sept 8th
" Superintendent of } 3rd
Marine.