

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

No. 16. From Commander F. W. HOPKINS, I. N., Commanding Her Majesty's Steamer "Dalhousie"; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 7th March 1859, No. 47.

SIR,

I most respectfully beg to bring the following to your notice for the information of Government, regarding the state of the Engines of Her Majesty's Steamer "Dalhousie," I. N.,

2. On the occasion of the Steamer being docked in Calcutta in October last, it was found in surveying the Machinery that the Pistons were defective and should have been taken out, the Engines required a thorough overhaul, and an extra injection Pipe fitted, this was recommended to be done by the Committee of Survey and the Survey Report sent to Commodore G. G. Wellesley C. B., R. N., Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy. The Vessel's service, being then emergently required by Government she was sent away without this being done and the Machinery had very little done to it, as it would have entailed a very considerable delay to have the work completed at Calcutta.

3. I need scarcely state to Government that the Vessel has been almost constantly under Steam since the date mentioned and both Pistons have been passing Steam to a considerable extent and during the late trip one Piston, in particular, has become in such a state that working the Engines is attended with a considerable risk and perhaps some very serious damage may occur to the Machinery.

4. From the above circumstances and the Vessel being under orders for a distant Station (Singapore) I most respectfully beg to request that a Committee of Survey may be ordered of competent practical Engineers to report to Government whether the Vessel should be run longer or not, without her Machinery being put properly to rights. I also beg to mention that from what I had done to the Vessel at Calcutta it takes a much longer time there than at Bombay where there are Government docks and a proper Engineer establishment. The Vessel will require to be docked to have her bottom cleaned and painted; in the middle or latter end of next month.

No. 17. ORDER THEREON, No. 77; dated 8th March 1859.

Resolved that the Engineers of the Steamer Australian be directed to examine and report on the state of the Machinery in Her Majesty's Steamer "Dalhousie," Indian Navy.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

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