

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	86	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	11 3	1859.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 15th March 1859.

No. 9. From J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 23rd February 1859, No. 807.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit for the information of Government copy of an application made by the Collector of South Arcot in October last for a set of Signal Flags for use at the Port of Porto Novo. It was therein represented that since the abolition of the Staff, which took place under the orders of Government conveyed in Extract Minutes Consultation of the 13th August 1850, No. 278, much inconvenience had been experienced by the Trading Community from the inability to make Signals to the Shipping, and more particularly of late by the Porto Novo Iron Company. In reply to a reference as to the mode in which he proposed to display the Fags, there being no Flag Staff, the Collector observed that a moderate sized Staff would be required near the Custom House, the probable outlay for which would be about (280) Two hundred and Eighty Rupees. This communication is also transcribed and submitted. On its receipt an Estimate was called for, and I now beg to place the proposition before Government in a complete shape, and in consideration of the increasing Trade consequent on the extension of the Iron Company's Operations, to recommend that the charges should be incurred, notwithstanding that Vessels resorting to the Port are exempt from dues, it not having been brought under the provisions of Act XXII of 1855.

2. The cost of the Flag Staff is considerably in excess of what was expected, as on examining the locality, the District Engineer discovered that the small Staff he originally had in view to erect near the Sea Custom House, would not have been visible from the Shipping. He was therefore obliged to select a site on a Sand hill, where it is necessary that a foundation of Concrete for the lower end of the Mast has to be made.

Estimate of the expense of establishing a Flag Staff at Porto Novo.	
Flag Staff with foundation complete as per Estimate of	
the District Engineer, South Arcot...	Rupees 600
Set of Signal Flags and Code...	„ 140
Pay of a Lascar to hoist Flags per month...	„ 4

From G. N. TAYLOR, Esq., Acting Collector of South Arcot; to the Superintendent of Marine, dated 30th October 1858, No. 178.

SIR,

Since the abolition of the Flag Staff Establishment at Porto Novo, which took place in 1850, the Trading Community and more particularly the Agents of the East India Iron Company whose principal foundry is fixed at that Station have experienced the greatest difficulty for want of means of communication between the shore and the Sea. The River which intervenes affords the greatest facility for building new Vessels as well as for repairing old ones. A great number of square rigged Vessels and other Craft owned by Natives usually resort to that Port. In past years English Vessels frequently touched there for Iron, &c., and I am informed that they are expected to come in more regularly for the future

2. Under these circumstances I have the honor to forward an Indent for a set of Signal Flags, and to request that you will be good enough to sanction its being supplied to that Port at an early date, to be made use of and kept in charge of the Superintendent of Sea Customs there.

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 15th March 1859.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

Indent on the Superintendent of Marine for the following Articles required for the use of the Port of Porto Novo.

Description of Article.	Quantity on hand.	Supply required.	Date of last supply.	Remarks.
Signal Flags.....	„	1 complete set...	„	These Flags are required for communication between the shore and the sea.

SOUTH ARCOT,
COLLECTOR'S CUTCHERRY,
CUDDALORE,
The 30th October 1858.

(Signed) G. N. TAYLOR,
Acting Collector.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) J. B. CROWTHER,
Assistant Supt. of Marine.

From JOHN RATLIFF, Esq., Acting Collector of South Arcot; to J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine, dated 16th December 1858, No. 201.

SIR,

I have the honor to supply the information required in your letter of the 5th Ultimo.

2. The Superintendent of Sea Customs at Porto Novo states in his reply to the inquiries made from this Office that no less than 336 large Craft and 68 square rigged Vessels have resorted to that Port during the past two Official years, and that most of their Commanders know how to signalize, I am therefore of opinion that although the Chimney of the Iron Works there may serve as a beacon to Ships making the Roadstead, still their Commanders having no means of communicating with the shore it would seem desirable that a Flag Staff of moderate size should be erected at the Jetty near the Custom House, and which according to a rough Estimate of the District Engineer, will cost about Rupees 280.

3. As to the former Establishment of course when the Flag Staff was dispensed with in August 1850, the situation of Syrang on 4 Rupees a month, the only Establishment then entertained, was also abolished.

No. 10.

ORDER THEREON, No. 86; dated 11th March 1859.

In the foregoing letter the Superintendent of Marine states that, on receiving an application for a set of Signal Flags from the Collector of South Arcot, setting forth that they were required to serve as the means of communication between sea and shore at Porto Novo, he called on that functionary to explain in what manner it was proposed to make use of the Flags indented for, as there was no Staff at that port. This reference; and the subsequent correspondence led to the proposition, now submitted, for erecting a Flag Staff at Porto Novo.

2. The Flag Staff formerly standing at Porto Novo was dismantled under the orders of Government in 1850, in consequence of its having ceased to be employed for signalling purposes, and even failing to serve as a beacon to Ships—a tall Chimney, raised in the Works of the Iron Company, being a more conspicuous object.

3. The Collector of South Arcot considers the absence of the means of communicating with the Ships lying off the Harbour, as a great inconvenience to the Shipping Community of the Port, and gives details of the number of Vessels which resorted to the Port during the past two Official

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 15th March 1859.

years. Under these circumstances, the Superintendent submits the project for the consideration of Government, and solicits sanction to an Estimate of the cost of the Work appended to his letter—*viz*: Rupees 600 for the Flag Staff and Rupees 140 for a set of Signal Flags and Code—Total Rupees (740), seven hundred and forty which is sanctioned accordingly.

Application can be made for the entertainment of a Lascar when the Flag Staff has been erected.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation.
Dated 11 March 1859.

Read letter from the Super-
intendent of Marine —

Enter N^o 807 d/23 Feby. 59.

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Ex. Min. Cons. No. 278
4/13 Aug. 1850.

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J.P.

To the Capt. of Marine
Arch General
Civil Auditor
P. W. Dep. Secy } Dispt. W. P.
11/10/50

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