

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
for the month of January 1860.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 17. From J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 30th November 1859, No. 4721.

I have the honor to inform you that the Master Attendant has lately represented to me the inadequacy of his office accommodation, and has requested me to apply to Government for the restoration to his department of the rooms under his office and contiguous to that of the boat office, which, when the Master Attendant was Beach Magistrate and Superintendent of the Marine Police, were assigned for the accommodation of a party of this force. Mr. Dalrymple points out not only the convenience that would result to the mercantile public by locating the shipping office on the ground floor, but the advantage that would thereby be experienced by the subordinates in the other branches of his department who are now constantly interrupted by European and Native Crews thronging to the office seeking employment, discharge, or the settlement of some dispute with their Commanders. He further explains that the rooms in question were used as a Police Tannah and lock-up house at a time when there was no other Police office on the beach, but that now with a Marine Police office in Bentinck's buildings, and with the capacious quarters of the Town Police situated only a few yards from the south end of the Custom House, and which have much more space unoccupied on the ground story than that for which application is now made, there seems no reason why the latter should not be vacated.

2. In reference to the above I beg, in the first place, to observe that the Master Attendant's, Registrar of Shipping and Shipping Master's office establishments are now all contained in two rooms. When the Seamen's Register office was organized under Act XXVII of 1850, a small separate room was constructed in which the Shipping Master's business was transacted. The Master Attendant's duties, however, are such that he is often required to remain on the beach all night, as well as to repair to his office very early in the morning, remaining at his post until evening. To enable him to do this with any degree of comfort, it is necessary that he should be provided with a private room, and to this purpose that constructed as a shipping office has been put. It would be an unwise policy to deprive the chief executive officer on the beach of such accommodation.

3. In consequence of this close packing of the two establishments of the Master Attendant and Shipping Master, much inconvenience necessarily arises as represented by Mr. Dalrymple, and it would be very advisable that a separate office should be assigned to each, but in addition to this requirement, accommodation is needed for the Supervisor of boats, and for the Superintendent of the diving bell, who will be under the immediate orders of the Master Attendant. I would therefore strongly recommend the application for favorable consideration, believing that with so much unoccupied space in the Town Police building, distant but a few yards from the present Tannah, no serious inconvenience could result from the change.

4. It is but right before concluding to state that I have reason to believe the Commissioner of Police will object to any alteration in the position of this Tannah. I had an intention, as mentioned in the 3rd paragraph of my letter of the 3rd March last, No. 907, of applying for these rooms on establishing the line of steam packets between Madras, the Northern ports and Rangoon, but as the Commissioner then opposed it, the matter was not pressed and a godown in the Custom House was used instead.

5. Accompanying is a sketch of the several offices herein alluded to, which will serve as a guide in considering the subject.

P. S.—Since the above was written, a further necessity has arisen for increased accommodation for the Master Attendant in the authority passed for the appointment of a second Assistant to that Officer.

Referred for the remarks of the Commissioner of Police.

FORT SAINT GEORGE, }
2nd December 1859. }

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

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No. 18. From Colonel J. C. BOULDERSON, Commissioner of Police; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 5th January 1860, No. 3.

1. With reference to the Order of Government, dated 2nd ultimo, Marine Department, directing me to remark on the proposal contained in the letter of the Superintendent of Marine,* under date 30th November 1859, which accompanied it, I have the honor to submit the following observations for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

2. The Superintendent states that the Master Attendant has lately represented to him the inadequacy of his office accommodations and has requested him to apply to Government for the restoration to his department of certain rooms† in the lower story of the building which are now, and for many years have been, appropriated to the use of a department of the Madras Police.

3. In support of that proposition several arguments are urged by Mr. Dalrymple, the force of which is admitted by the Superintendent and among those I find the suggestion that the rooms in question were used as a Police office and Lock-up-house when there was no other Police office on the beach, but that now with a Marine Police office in Bentinck's buildings and with the capacious quarters of the Town Police Court situated only a few yards from the south end of the Custom House and which have much more space unoccupied on the ground story than that for which application is now made, there seems no reason why the latter should not be vacated.

4. With reference to this point, I may be permitted to remark, that both the Master Attendant and Mr. Franklin are under a misconception concerning it. There is no available space on the lower portion of the Town Police premises to which the Police detachment could be transferred, if they were turned out of their present quarters. Major Wilson, whom I have consulted on the subject, speaks positively as to that; he says, "the lower story is occupied as follows:"

- 1st.—By the Commissioner of Police daily in order to transact the Town business.
- 2nd.—As a Lock-up place.
- 3rd.—By a room for the writers to take their food.
- 4th.—By a room for the Constable on duty at the Town Police Court.
- 5th.—He says also that the Magistrates could not conduct their duties with any comfort, in the event of the Court House being used as a Police division station-house.

5. But even were the case otherwise, it seems to me that the proposed removal of the Detachment to that locality would be most injudicious, and that none of the advantages of convenience pleaded by the Master Attendant, and Superintendent of Marine, would at all compensate for the objections to the measure. The latter Officer, as he has stated, is well aware of my strong disapproval of the scheme, and likewise of my reason for offering opposition to it, viz., that the Police could not discharge their duty as efficiently as they now do, if they were removed from the Beach, for although the Town Police Court is close to the South wall of the Custom House yard, it is much retired from the North Beach road. The present Police Inspector Station of the Town Division is the best that could possibly be chosen, they are now always on the spot where there is the largest concourse of people, where the traffic is greatest, and were risk of robbery and breach of the peace is most likely to occur, whereas they would be quite out of the way, out of sight, as is obvious on a reference to the relative situation of the Custom House and Town Police Court, if the Station was moved into that building, instead of being ever at hand to watch what goes on in the neighbourhood of the former building and of the Mercantile Offices on the Beach, and to answer immediately any requisition for their service. There they would neither see nor hear any thing from their Station and would have to be fetched if wanted, thus becoming very much less protective to the public than they now are.

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6. My decided opinion therefore is, that the premises now occupied by a section of the force under my command, with an European Inspector, and the Senior Native Officer of the Division in charge of it, should on no account be given up to any other purpose, and I heartily trust the Government will on mature consideration adopt that view of the matter. If additional accommodation is really needed of the Master Attendant's Department, it might be obtained by adding a third story and the expence would be well incurred alternatively to the adoption of the highly inexpedient step recommended by the Master Attendant, and the Superintendent of Marine.

No. 19. ORDER THEREON, 17th January 1860, No. 29.

Before passing orders on the above letters, the Governor in Council wish to have an answer from the Commissioner of Police to the reference made to him in the Order of Government, Judicial Department, 13th September 1859, No. 1235, relative to the building proposed to be erected on the site of the four rice godowns on the North Beach.

2. Adverting to his communications with the Barrack Master and Chief Engineer in 1856, the Government would desire to know whether the party of the Town Police, now stationed in the Custom House, might not be accommodated in the new building, together with the Marine Police—or if not, whether the party of the Town Police will still be required on the beach, when the Marine Police are established in their new quarters.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Sist. / *Matinet.*
Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

Read the following letters -

From the Superintendent
of Larine ————— Enter 30 Novr. 1859 N^o 4721.
" the Commissioner
of Police ————— 5 Janry. 1860 " 3.

Order - 17 January 1860. No 29.

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erected on the site of the
four rice godowns on the
North Beach.

Received Jan 16

Recd of Govt 20 January -
Marine Dept
From
Colonel J. L. Mouldenham
Commissioner of Police
To
J. Pierpont Esq
Chief Secretary to Govt
Fort St George

Noted 5th Jan 1860
Recd
No. 5
Encls. one

With reference to the Order
of Government 2nd Oct 1859
Marine Dept states that
there is no available space
on the lower portion of the
Town Police premises to which
the Police Detachment could
be transferred, also states that
it is his decided opinion
that the premises now occu-
pied by a section of the Force
under his command, should
on no account be given up
to any other purpose and
trust the Government will
on mature consideration
adopt that view of the
matter.
With an Order.

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