

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

385

Press
Mis.

Dated

1-11

1860

Not to be folded or roughly handled

22/12

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
1st November 1860.*

No. 1. Read the following letter from Colonel J. C. BOULDERSON, Commissioner of Police, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 15th October 1860, No. 119.

1. Early in the month of September last, I had the honor to receive a letter from the Accountant General, No. 1,125, of date 7th of that month, in which that Officer requests me to inform him whether the Commissariat, Ordnance, and other Departments of Government pay the Boat Tax under the provisions of Act XXVIII of 1858, and in the same letter he says.

“At present the receipts from the Boat Tax are below the expenses, and as it was never intended, I presume, that this should be the case, the Tax will either have been raised, or the Government should contribute its share towards the cost of the Marine Police.”

2. On the 3rd of October, the Accountant General again addressed me on the same subject, and he informed me, in reply to my letter bearing date 22nd September 1860, that he considered it necessary that I should bring to the notice of Government, that the receipt of the Madras Marine Police Force did not cover the expenditure, and to request instructions as to the manner in which the deficiency should be made up, viz., whether the excess of expenditure should be borne by the Government, or whether it should be met by an increase of the present charge of Peon hire, which would fall on the Mercantile community.

3. As the following extract from my letter to the Accountant General, of date 22nd September, in reply to his first letter to me on the subject, will, I think, put the subject clearly before the Government, I take the liberty of quoting it, instead of writing a fresh letter on the subject, and request you will favor me, in due course, with the instructions which the Accountant General has desired me to ask for.

1. “I have the honor to state that the Ordnance and Commissariat Departments, and indeed all other Departments of Government, pay the established Boat

Extract. “charge of 3 Annas for every Boat employed by them, either to land or ship goods, under the Provisions of Section 2 of Act 28 of 1858; the Government may therefore be considered to contribute their fair share of the Tax which is raised for the maintenance of a Marine Police Force at this Port. The sum, however, which is obtained by the levy thereof, is certainly, as you most justly observe, “below the expenses,” and of course it becomes a matter for consideration whether such excess of expenditure above receipts shall be borne by the Government, or whether it shall be met by raising the Tax to a higher rate per Boat. Now this subject is under consideration, it is necessary to call your attention to the fact, that the strength of the Madras Marine Police Force has never yet been permanently raised to the full number sanctioned, by about 25 men, and to inform you that it has been my earnest endeavour to work the department with as few men as I

3 Annas per Boat.

possibly could, because I found that the figure at which the Tax was fixed was not high enough, by about $\frac{1}{4}$ th or $\frac{1}{3}$ th, to cover the whole cost of the Force. Mr. Superintendent Ansell, writing to me on this subject, says,—“I would suggest that one Anna more should be added to the present charge, when the full complement of Peons, (viz., 150) might be maintained,” much greater security and protection would then be afforded to property, than it is possible now to render, as the whole of the Peons are afloat the greater part of the day.”

2. “In order to come to a right understanding on this question, it is necessary to refer to the correspondence which took place between the Government and its Officers on one side, and the Chamber of Commerce on the other, before the Government was induced to direct its Solicitor to prepare a draft of a proposed Marine Police Act, for submission to the Government of India.”

3. “If you refer to paragraph 3 of the Chamber’s letter to the Chief Secretary, of date 30th July 1856, you will find that the Chamber proposed that the Tax should be raised from 3 to 4 Annas per trip, per Boat employed to carry cargo, provided the sum which at that time

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"was supposed to be sufficient to cover the cost of the protection asked for, viz., 1,000 Rupees per mensem, was not realized, upon the understanding that the Tax should be reduced to 3 Annas again whenever the revenue derived therefrom should exceed the estimated amount, and in paragraph 5 of the same letter the Chamber adds, "In strict justice the Merchants ought not to be called upon to meet more than the cost of watching Peons, as they considered it the duty of Government to maintain an efficient

"It is by no means clear that the Government can perform this duty so well as it can be done by the parties interested in the protection of their own property, but if the Mercantile Community of Madras desires it, His Honor in Council will not object to sanction the organization of the proposed Marine Police force on condition that the merchants shall consent to bear the whole expence of the Establishment."

4. "You will find that the Government on the 24th July 1856, resolved to address the Governments of Calcutta and Bombay, to ascertain whether any charge was made at either of those Ports for such duties, as it was proposed a Marine Police Force should perform at Madras, and in the 13th paragraph of the Proceedings of Government, under date 31st March 1857, you will find that this Government say, "in forwarding the above to the Government of

From Secretary to Government of Bengal, September 1st and 5th 1860.

"India, it will be pointed out to that authority that although the establishment of a Marine Police Force is required partly to secure the trade of the Town, yet that it would, in protection of life and property, and the suppression of crime, at the same time produce such public benefit as comes more particularly within the duty of Government to provide." In Bengal it is observed there exists two distinct forces, maintained respectively at a monthly cost of Rupees 1,010, and Rupees 1,269. The one is established at Calcutta itself, under the superintendence of the Chief Magistrate, the other as the patrol of the River to Saugor and is worked by the Magistrate of the 24th Pargunnahs. In Bombay

From Government of Bombay 13th August 1856. "also there is a Water Police for the security of life and property in the Harbour, and the monthly expenditure for it is Rupees 1,129.

"In none of these instances is any portion of the expense borne by the Mercantile communities of Calcutta and Bombay, while the Merchants of Madras, far less numerous and less wealthy, have here through the Chamber of Commerce, collectively declared their willingness to meet what will certainly be a very large proportion and possibly the whole of the expenditure by the payment of a fee to be levied on every Boat load of traffic."

5. "It would seem therefore that the condition under which the Madras Government at first consented to sanction the organization of the Force, viz., that the Merchants shall consent to bear the whole expenses of the Department, was in a great measure, if not wholly, abandoned."

No. 2.

ORDER THEREON, 1st November 1860, No. 385.

At the instance of the Accountant General, the Commissioner of Police requests instructions as to the manner in which the deficiency in the receipts from the Boat Tax under Act XXVIII, 1858, is to be made up; viz., whether the excess of expenditure should be borne by the Government, or whether it should be met by an increase of the present charge of P. on hire, which would fall on the Mercantile community.

2. This excess for the year 1859, according to the account furnished by the Commissioner of Police with his report of 26th July last, is Rupees 2,905-7-11. The expenditure for that period having been Rupees 29,873-0-11 and the collections Rupees 26,967-9-0. Against this deficit may however be set the sum saved in Ordnance Lascars which, it seems from the Acting Prin-

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cipal Commissary's letter of 11th January, amounted for eleven months of the year to Rupees 175-3-4, thus reducing the actual deficiency to Rupees 2,730-4-7.

3. There can be no doubt that this excess Rupees 2,905-7-11 must be borne by Government. The charge on the Merchants is already at the maximum rate allowed by the Act. The Government are bound to afford due protection in return for the fees levied under that enactment, and as shewn by Colonel Boulderson the Marine Force is not now at the full sanctioned strength, but is on as low a scale as is consistent with efficiency.

4. It will be seen further from the papers quoted by the Commissioner of Police, that the condition originally required by the Government of India* that the Mercantile community should bear the whole expenses of the Marine Police

* 24th July 1855.

was eventually in some measure departed from, before the Draft Bill which afterwards became Act XXVIII, 1858, was laid before the Legislative Council. In Extract Minutes Consultation, 31st March 1857, Marine Department, No. 129, forwarded to the Legislative Council, it was pointed

Paragraph 13.

	per mensem	Rs.
Bengal.		1,010.
Calcutta River.....		1,269.
Hooghly do.		2,279.
Bombay Water Police.....		1,129.

out that "although the Establishment of a Marine Police Force is required, partly to secure the trade of the town, yet it would, in the benefit as comes more particularly within the duty of Government to provide." Such protection it was further noted was in Bengal and Bombay afforded by expensive Establishments, whose entire cost was borne by the State. At the close of the same Extract the payments by the Mercantile community would, it was stated, be a very large proportion (as they have been) and possibly the whole of the expense on account of the Police.

5. Moreover the Act came into operation on the 1st October 1858, the past year 1859, being the first in which it has been in force throughout, and for which the Government have full accounts. It remains to be seen what will be the financial result of its working in future years.

6. Lastly, the whole system will not improbably be extensively modified on the completion of the Screw Pile Pier, when the communication between the shipping and the shore will be put on an entirely new footing, and the measures necessary for the protection of goods in transit and on landing will have to be adapted to the altered state of things.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge

Con 12th August 1856 37-19 4/20
 " 14th " " 1855 " 2 43.
 " 29th July 1856 " 6 214
 " 31st March 1857 " 18 214
 " 2^d Sept^r 1866 " 15-16.

Marine 1860 Dept
 From
 Colonel J. C. Boulton
 Comd'g Prisoner of War
 To
 J. Dyer Esq^r
 Chief Secretary to Government
 North S. George

Dated 16th
 Rec^d 16th October, 1860.

No 114.
 No 363.

Given Extract from a letter
 from the Accountant General
 to his address, requesting
 to bring to the notice of the
 Government that the receipt
 of the Marine Prisoner of War
 do not cover the expenses
 & to request instructions
 as to the manner in which
 the deficiency should be
 made up - Solicits to be
 favored with the instructions
 requested by the Ac-
 -countant General -

1231 "

Marine Department.

Proc^g of Genl

From Com of Police
15 Dec 1860

Order thereon 1 November 1860. No. 385

At the instance of
the Secty Genl, the Com-
missioner of Police re-
quests instructions as
to the manner in which
the deficiency in the
receipts from the boat
tax under Act XXVIII
1858 is to be made up,
viz. whether the excess
of expenditure should
be borne by the Govt.,
or whether it should
be met by an increase
of the present charge
of Port hire, which would
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2.- This excess for the year 1859, according to the account furnished by the Comr. of Police with his report of 26th July last is Rs. 2,905-7-11. The expenditure for that period having been Rs. 29,873-11-11 and the collections Rs. 26,967-9-11. Against this deficit may however be set the embezzled in ordnance lascars which it seems from the Acting Principal Commissary's letter of 11th Jan'y, amounted for eleven months of the year to Rs. 175-3-4. thus reducing the actual deficiency to Rs. 2730-4-7.

3.- There can be no doubt that this excess Rs. 2,905-7-11 ~~or Rs. 2730-4-7~~ must be borne by Govt. The charge on the Merchants is already at the maximum rate allowed

by

24 July 1855.-

not to be printed
Subsequently 20 Nov 1855
the Govt. of India required
only that the proposed tax
should be Rs. 1000 per
month, as it was
probable that that
was probably under
the circumstances that
the Government would
suppose to be a full
charge.

by the Act. The Govt. are bound to afford due protection in return for the fees levied under that enactment, and as shown by Colonel Boulderson the Marine force is not now at the full sanctioned strength, but is on as low a scale as is consistent with efficiency.

4. It will be seen further from the papers quoted by the Commissioner of Police, that the condition originally required by the Govt. of India that the Mercantile Community should bear the whole expenses of the Marine Police was eventually in some measure departed from, before the Draft bill which afterwards became Act XXVIII-1858 was laid before the Legislative Council. In Stat. 31st March 1857. Marine Department No. 129 forwarded

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24 July 1855.-

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the Govt of India required
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draft bill should be
revised and approved
by the Govt of India
and that the bill should
be passed by the
Legislative Council
and the House of
Assembly.

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5. Moreover the Act
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past year 1859 being
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It remains to be seen
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-nancial result of its
working in future years.

6. Lastly the whole
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-vably be extensively
modified on the com-
-pletion of the Screw-
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^{communication}
~~intercourse~~ between the
Shipping and the shore
will be put on an en-
-tirely new footing and
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have to be adopted to the
altered state of things.

JR

Necessary for the protection
of goods in transit & on
landing & will

Act sent with copy of GB's letter
Commissioners of Police.

11/2/59

Seq-
forwarded to the ~~Govt.~~
~~Police Council~~
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Para 13.

Bengal - per M.	Rs.
Calcutta River -	Rs. 1,010.
Hooghly - do -	1,269
Bombay Water -	2,279
Police -	1,129

entire

Maui 1860. Report
No 385.

Proceedings of Govt.

Dated 1 Nov 1860.

Deciding that the
deficiency in the receipts from
the boat tax under Act
XXVIII 1858 cannot be met
by an increase of the present
charge of four pence as
suggested by the Com^r =
= motion of Stage and
that the ^{order of} supersede the
over receipts will be
2905-7-11 incl. do
borne by Government.