M.R.O. 1—82 400—22-11-80

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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## Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 430-31 Press Mis.

Dated 18. 12. 1860

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

## *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department, 18th December* 1860.

No. 26. Read the following letter from J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 13th December 1860, No. 5,832.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Order of Government of the 12th instant, No. 425, communicating letter from Commander Hopkins of the "Dalhousie" stating that he considered it highly imprudent to receive on board a quantity of gunpowder ready for dispatch to Cannanore for reasons previously assigned, which were that, the treasure proving more weighty than he anticipated, the vessel was already quite deep enough in her present state.

2. I regret that I should be obliged to remark officially on what appears to shew a want of due care for the interests of Government, the more particularly when it applies to one of the Officers of the Indian Navy. It has been my earnest endeavour, whatever may have been said to the contrary, to conciliate and to render their service on this side of India as little irksome as possible. In the present instance however it seems to me that I should be neglecting my duty if I did not lay before Government the facts connected with the refusal of Commander Hopkins to receive this gunpowder.

3. On the 3rd of the month a memorandum was furnished to Commander Hopkins in which was inserted all the stores, including the treasure, which he was required to receive. The gunpowder and cartridges were in weight about 15 tons, and as I informed him that it was of consequence they should be sent by this opportunity, as no other was likely to occur for many months. Carpenters and materials were sent from the shore at his own request, and a Magazine was built in which to stow that portion which could not be taken in the Ship's Magazine.

200 90-*lbs. barrels gunpowder.*
67 45-*lbs. do. do.*
143 *barrels Rifle ball cartridges.*

4. On the 10th, I learned that Commander Hopkins had decided not to take the combustibles on the plea of his vessel being too heavily laden, but while reading his letter communicating his determination, it came to my knowledge that Messrs. Griffiths and Co. were actually shipping under permission from him a large quantity of goods, said by one of their partners to be about three tons. Upon this I represented officially to Commander Hopkins what a serious inconvenience it would be to the Ordnance Department if the powder was not taken, and suggested that some of the private freight should be left behind rather than Government Stores. The result of my representation as well as that of the Government is known. The powder was finally refused and no early opportunity at present offers for its being sent by sea: indeed it may probably have to remain till next October, at which time and seldom at any other, a sailing vessel leaves Madras for the Malabar Coast.

5. But besides the fact of private stores having the preference over those belonging to Government, I would point out that the weight of the powder being no more than 15 tons, it was most unreasonable to object to it on this account. The weight of all the stores on board could not have exceeded 220 tons, and less than 15 hours' steaming would have lightened the vessel of coal of the same weight as the powder. She would have proceeded down the bay before the wind, so that her being a little deeper than usual for a few hours would not have in any way endangered her safety or checked her speed. There appears to me therefore no valid reason whatever for Commander Hopkins' refusal to receive the powder, and as the Government are not only much inconvenienced thereby, but will be put to considerable expense in sending it by a private vessel when one can be obtained, I conceive it to be my duty to submit the circumstances for the consideration of Government.

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No. 27. ORDER THEREON, 18th December 1860, No. 430.

Resolved, that a copy of the above letter be forwarded to the Government of Bombay.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
*Chief Secretary.*

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,*
*18th December* 1860.

No. 28. To the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, dated Fort Saint George, 18th December 1860, No. 431.

Under date 10th December 1860, No. 524, Commander Hopkins, Her Majesty's Steamer "Dalhousie," I. N., under orders to proceed to Bombay for repairs, touching at the intermediate Ports, reported to Government, that he was unable to take a consignment of Gunpowder and Cartridges intended for Cannanore, as there was a much greater weight of Treasure than he had anticipated, and the Vessel was quite deep enough in her present state.

2. This Government informed Commander Hopkins in answer to his letter that it was very desirable that the Gunpowder and Cartridges should be shipped on board the "Dalhousie" for Cannanore, if they could be taken without danger to his Vessel.

3. Commander Hopkins replied, that he deemed it highly imprudent to receive the Powder referred to on board, from the reasons already assigned by him to Government.

4. The Government did not think themselves justified in insisting upon the Powder being taken, in the face of this assertion. They have, however, since received the accompanying communication from the Superintendent of Marine, stating certain particulars in connection with Commander Hopkins' refusal to take on board the Powder. I am desired to request the attention of the Honorable the Governor of Bombay, to the conduct of Captain Hopkins as represented in this letter.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
*Chief Secretary.*

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Marine Departt.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

Read the following letter from the Superintendent of Marine.—

(Here enter 13th Decr. 1860, No. 5832.)

Order thereon 18th December 1860 No. 430.

Resolved that a copy of the above letter be forwarded to the Govt. of Bombay and that the following letter be despatched.—

No. 431.

To The Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Sir, Under date 10th Decr. 1860 No. 524 Commander Hopkins, H. M's. Steamer "Dalhousie"

"Dalhousie" I. N. under orders to proceed to Bombay for repairs touching at the intermediate Ports, reported to Government, that he was unable to take ~~any powder~~ a consignment of gunpowder & Cartridges intended for Cannanore, as there was so much greater weight of Treasure than he had anticipated, and the Vessel was quite deep enough in her present state.—

2.— His Government informed Commander Hopkins in answer to his letter, that it was very desirable that the gunpowder and Cartridges should be shipped on board the "Dalhousie" for Cannanore, if they could be taken without danger to his vessel.—

Commander

3. Commander Hopkins replied, that he deemed it highly imprudent to receive the Powder referred to on board, from the reasons already assigned by him to Govt.—

4.— The Govt. ~~have~~ since received the accompanying communication from the Superintendent of Marine, stating certain particulars in ~~connexion~~ connection with Commander Hopkins' refusal to take on board the Powder. I am desired to request the attention of the Honble the Governor of Bombay to the conduct of Captain Hopkins as represented in this letter.—

I did not think it necessary to participate in visiting upon the powder being taken in the first instance — Thy have powers

Fort St George
18 December 1860.

Copy & Sap 61
Marine —

Sap 61 Captain Hawkins letter to follow

11/6 JP

Dec 21

Marine 1860 Department

No. 430.

Proceedings of Government

Dated 18. Decr 1860

No. 431.

To

The Secretary to the Govt
of Bombay.

Dated 18 Decr 1860

Replied to 8th February
1861 No. 42.

20 to 28.

C 15 Decr
R 18 "