

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	15	Press ~~Misr~~
Dated	8-1-	1861.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
8th January 1861.*

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 24th December 1860, No. 5,976.

I had the honor in my letter marginally noted to report the arrival of the Crew of the Chittagong vessel "Abbas," abandoned in a water-logged state after the Cyclone of the 17th and 18th ultimo. I suggested that being destitute

they should be supported here until an opportunity occurred of sending them back to Calcutta, a course to which Government assented.

2. On the arrival of the P. and O. Steamer "Singapore" I addressed the Commander of that vessel with a view to obtain for these men a free passage, and sent them alongside with the accompanying letter. Twelve of the men had reached the Ship's deck when they were ordered out again by the Commander himself, or I must presume by some one under his instructions, and the letter in its present state was thrown into the boat after them.

3. This is such a gratuitous insult not to myself merely, but to the Madras Government, for the letter was written in my official capacity, that I trust the circumstances may at once be brought to the notice of the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, in order that the Commander of the "Singapore," Captain Robert Curling, may be called upon to apologize for his most uncourteous—to use the mildest term—proceeding. The conveying, free of cost from one port to another, of ship-wrecked seamen is a matter of ordinary occurrence among sailors. The same people were brought to Madras free of charge even for food, and had I asked of Captain Curling anything unusual there might have been some grounds for his refusal, but none for the manner in which the official letter was returned. My request was, however, one which I am happy to say few sailors would have hesitated a moment in complying with, and his conduct I submit requires at once to be brought to the notice of the Directors of the Company he serves under.

From J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine, to the Commander of the P. and O. Steamer "Singapore," dated 19th December 1860, No. 5,904.

I have the honor to inform you that the Nacodah and Crew (numbering in all 36 souls) of a Chittagong vessel called the "Abbas" which was abandoned in a water-logged state after the Cyclone of the 16th, 17th and 18th of last month, were brought to Madras in a state of destitution and have been supplied with food here at the expense of Government pending the occurrence of an opportunity for sending them to Calcutta. Under the circumstances of their distress I trust you will not refuse to give them a deck passage to Calcutta free of charge. Mr. Franck has been applied to on the subject but states that he has not the power to grant my request. They are therefore sent alongside with this letter in the hope that you will permit them to work their passage.

2. Each man has been given sufficient money to provide himself with food for six days.

No. 27. ORDER THEREON, 8th January 1861, No. 15.

Resolved that a copy of the above letter and of its enclosure, be forwarded to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, in view to a representation being made by him to the Directors of the P. and O. Steam Company, relative to the conduct of Captain R. Curling, on the occasion reported by the Superintendent of Marine.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

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Marine Public Department

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Extract from the Proceedings of Government

Read the following letter

From
The Superintendent
of Marine

Here enter 24th Decr 1860, No 5976

Order thereon. 8 Jan^y 1861 No 15

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J.P.

Sup^t of Marine dept^l 11th 1861

of 11/11/61

Memorandum to the
Jan 22 of 1864.

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No 15.

Proceedings of Govt

Jan 8 1864

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