

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. *290*

Press
Mis.

Dated *10. 9*

1861

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
10th September 1861.*

No. 29. Read the following letter from Captain J. G. REDDIE, Officiating Secretary Government of India; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government of Madras, dated Fort William, 12th August 1861, No. 703.

Marine Department.

With reference to Extract of Proceedings of the Madras Government, No. 192, dated 5th June last, to the Home Department, forwarding copy of an agreement executed with Messrs. MacKinnon, MacKenzie and Co., for the services of a Steamer to run as a Mail Packet between Madras and Rangoon, I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council to observe that the terms upon which the Contract has been concluded appear to be unusually high.

2nd. Upon comparing the terms of the arrangement with the monthly expenditure of a Government Steamer of the same size, it is found that the entire cost of keeping a Government vessel in Commission for the service would be but slightly in excess of the sum upon

	Tons burthen.	Horse power.	
The Steamer "Governor Higginson"...	599	160	which the present Contract has been concluded.
H. M. Steamer "Fire Queen"...	579	200	The total charges as per margin for Her M.'s Steamer "Fire Queen"
The voyage from Madras to the different Northern ports, Rangoon and back occupies nearly...		one month.	of a size and capacity similar to that of the "Governor Higginson"
The vessel would be under Steam while on the voyage to Rangoon and back		360 hours.	is Rupees 13,776 per mensem. If from this sum be deducted Rupees 7,500 for guaranteed freight and Rupees 4,500 for subsidy, the trifling margin of Rupees 1,776 only remains, showing the very small
The consumption of Coal is per hour...		one ton.	
Her monthly expenses for wear and tear and provisions		5,676	
The cost of 360 tons Coal		8,100	
The total expense of the "Fire Queen" per month..		13,776	
MEMORANDUM ("GOVERNOR HIGGINSON.")			
The Government to pay...		4,500	
And guarantee freight and passage per month...		7,500	
		Rs....12,000	
If taken up as a Transport...		14,975	
Estimate for coal		12,000	
		Rs....26,975	

advantage accruing to Government from this expensive Contract. If in addition the expenses of the "Fire Queen" be compared with the large sum of Rupees 26,975, the aggregate monthly cost of the "Governor Higginson," in the event of her being taken up as a transport, the disadvantage to Government of the Superintendent of Marine's negotiations will be still more apparent.

3rd. I am further desired to state that His Excellency in Council is pleased to draw attention to the terms of this Contract, not with any intention of finding fault with the agreement which was doubtless the best obtainable, but simply for information in any future case of the kind.

No. 30. ORDER THEREON, 10th September 1861, No. 290.

Communicated to the Superintendent of Marine.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

N^o 290- 10th Sept^r 1861.

Will communicated to
the Suptt. of Ma-
rine.

Wm

L. D. S.

The Suptt. of Marine. 10/9