

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Marine*

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

*307.*

Press

~~Mis.~~

Dated

*23.*

*9.*

*1861.*

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,  
23rd September 1861.*

No. 58. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council in the Home Department, (Post Office), under date the 28th August 1861, No. 1,697.

Read a letter from the Government of Madras, No. 234, dated 17th July, forwarding copy of an Agreement entered into with Messrs. Mackinnon, Mackenzie and Company, for the establishment of a monthly communication between Madras, the Northern Ports and Rangoon, and recommending that the amount agreed to be paid as subsidy, *viz.*, Rupees 4,500 for each trip, should be transferred in the Budget Estimate for 1861-62 from the head of Marine to that of Post Office.

RESOLUTION.—The Governor General in Council is unable to agree with the Accountant General and the Government of Madras in the opinion expressed, that the entire amount of the subsidy paid to the Contractors Messrs. Mackinnon, Mackenzie and Company, should be charged to the Postal Department.

2. His Excellency in Council observes that the Postal Department was not in any way consulted in regard to the arrangement, and that it cannot be contended that the arrangement was, in point of fact, made wholly or chiefly with reference to Postal considerations. The arrangement provides for a Postal communication once a month between Madras and Rangoon by way of the Northern Ports. But there was already, and still is, Postal communication twice a month by way of Calcutta.

3. The Director General of the Post Office some time since represented that the whole subsidy paid for Steam communication between Kurrachee and Bombay was debited against the Post Office, and he remonstrated against its being so. He urged, in that case, that, if the question were merely whether the Postal communication between Sind and Bombay should once a fortnight be expedited by forty-eight hours, there could be little or no doubt that the Government would refuse to give a large subsidy for such an object, and that it could not be denied that the importance of having the means of rapidly moving Troops and Stores to and from Bombay and Kurrachee had had at least as much weight as consideration for the Post Office, in inducing the Government to conclude a Contract binding themselves to pay a subsidy to Steamers plying between those ports. General considerations of policy, and the desire to foster and facilitate the trade between Sind and Bombay, it was suggested, had all had their weight, and it was submitted that not more than one-half the subsidy should in fairness be charged against the Post Office.

4. The Governor General in Council is of opinion that there is much truth in what was thus urged by the Director General of the Post Office, and that his remarks apply as well to the Madras and Burmah case as to the Bombay and Kurrachee case. There appears to His Excellency in Council, moreover, to be a very obvious and strong objection to charging to the Post Office the whole expense of an arrangement which it is probable would not be sanctioned if it were supported solely on Postal grounds. His Excellency in Council considers that, in both the cases above referred to, the proper proportion of the subsidy to be charged to the Post Office is one-third, which is the proportion understood to be charged in the case of the subsidy given to the Burmah Steam Navigation Company for maintaining communication by Steam twice a month between Calcutta and Rangoon. The remaining two-thirds should be charged to the general revenues.

Ordered, that a copy of this Resolution be communicated to the Government of Madras for information, in reply to Mr. Chief Secretary Pycroft's letter No. 234, dated the 17th July.

Ordered, that a copy be communicated to the Government of Bombay.

Ordered, that a copy be communicated to the Financial Department, with a request that orders, in conformity with the view above expressed, may be issued to the Accountant General and the several local Accountants concerned.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,  
23rd September 1861.*

Ordered, that a copy be furnished to the Director General of the Post Office of India for information.

(Signed) W. GREY,  
*Secy. to the Govt. of India.*

No. 59.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd September 1861, No. 307.

Communicated to the Superintendent of Marine, and the Civil Paymaster.

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

Exd, F. Cartledge.

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RESOLUTION.—The Governor General in Council is unable to agree with the Accountant General and the Government of Madras in the opinion expressed, that the entire amount of the subsidy paid to the Contractors Messrs. Mackinnon, Mackenzie and Company, should be charged to the Postal Department.

2. His Excellency in Council observes that the Postal Department was not in any way consulted in regard to the arrangement, and that it cannot be intended that the arrangement was, in point of fact, made wholly or chiefly with reference to Postal considerations. The arrangement provides for a postal communication once a month between Madras and Rangoon by way of the Northern Ports. But there was already, and still is, Postal communication once a month by way of Calcutta.

3. The Director General of the Post Office some time since represented that the whole subsidy paid for Steam communication between Kurrachee and Bombay was debited against the Post Office, and he remonstrated against being so. He urged, in that case, that, if the question were merely whether the Postal communication between Sind and Bombay should be a fortnight be expedited by forty-eight hours, there could be little or no doubt that the Government would refuse to give a large subsidy for such object, and that it could not be denied that the importance of having the means of rapidly moving Troops and stores to and from Bombay and Kurrachee had at least as much weight as consideration for the Post Office, in inducing the Government to conclude a Contract binding themselves to pay subsidy to Steamers plying between those ports. General considerations of policy, and the desire to foster and facilitate the trade between Sind and Bombay, it was suggested, had all had their weight, and it was submitted that not more than one-half the subsidy should in fairness be charged against the Post Office.

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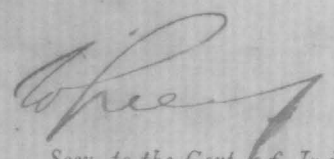
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Secy. to the Govt. of India.

The 17 July 44. On 234

Marine 1881 Sept 22

John

The debt to the Govt  
of India - Rs 8-1697

of 28th inst -  
 1861.  
 12th 1861

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Ms. B. 1. 6. 307-23. 2. 2. 1861.



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