M.R.O. 1—32,400—23-11-59.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 315-16 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 30-9. 1861

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department, 30th September 1861.

No. 74. Read the following letter from J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Marine Department, Fort Saint George, dated 14th September 1861, No. 2,579.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Proceedings of Government of the 10th instant, No. 290, communicating a letter from the Government of India on the subject of the contract entered into with Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie and Co., for the establishment of a steam packet line between Madras, the Northern Ports and Rangoon.

2. A comparison is therein drawn between the expense of keeping up a similar line with a vessel like the "Fire Queen," and that actually entered into; and the conclusion arrived at is that my negotiations have not been to the advantage of Government.

3. I trust that this Government will explain to the Supreme Government my share in the transactions referred to. It will be remembered that I was long in communication with Messrs. Dymes and Co. on the subject, and that finding their demands higher than was thought reasonable, I recommended that tenders should be invited, which was done, but that prior to their being opened, Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie and Co., accepted my offer of 3,000 Rupees subsidy and 30 Rupees a head for 125 men each way, European or Native. I suggested that this offer should be accepted, but it was considered more advisable, as tenders had already been invited, to await their result.

Proceedings of Government, 14th January 1860, No. 24.

Proceedings of 31st March 1860, No. 138.

4. The above named Firm were the only tenders, and their offers which were in three shapes were submitted on the 31st July, and laid before Government on the 7th of the following month. The most favorable tender was for a subsidy of 1,500 Rupees a trip more than had been previously agreed upon, and for a charge of 7½ Rupees more passage money than the original rate on Europeans. I therefore solicited permission to enter again into negotiations which was accorded. Hearing subsequently, however, that there was a likelihood of the Madras forces being withdrawn from Burmah, I addressed Government on the 2nd October suggesting whether under the circumstances it would not be as well to abandon the project. I was directed to continue my negotiations but to arrange for the employment of the Steamer as a transport if required.

Proceedings of 16th August 1860, No. 284.

Proceedings of 23rd October 1860, No. 370.

5. On the 16th November following I reported that Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie and Co., declined to reduce their offer, and in doing so, after explaining the conditions, I stated as follows: "The foregoing terms are higher than I would have entertained some months back, but "with the small prospect of increasing trade between Madras and Rangoon, now that preparations "are being made for reducing the number of our Regiments in Burmah, and the fact that no other "Steamers have offered or are likely to be offered for the service, I would recommend, as the "Government consider it desirable, that monthly steam communication with the opposite Coast "should be established for a year at least, that I "be authorized to conclude the arrangements "* * * *." The order thereon directed me to do so.

Proceedings 23rd November 1860, No. 406.

6. I should not have entered so minutely into the course of these proceedings had not the Government of India in the letter now communicated expressly pointed to myself as the person whose negotiations had not been advantageous to Government. I trust therefore that this explanation may be made known to them, as it will incontestibly shew that under all circumstances the terms were the best that could be procured.

terms of the Con-

tract

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
30th September 1861.

No. 75. . ORDER THEREON, 30th September 1861, No. 315.

In compliance with Mr. Franklin's request, a copy of his letter will be forwarded to the Government of India, but the Governor in Council would point out to him that that Government has expressly stated that in commenting on the terms of the contract in question, it was not with any intention of finding fault with the agreement, which, as correctly supposed, was the best obtainable. Further, in reporting the subject to the Secretary of State, this Government entered into the circumstances detailed in Mr. Franklin's letter, and a copy of that Despatch was duly transmitted to the Government of India on the 20th June last.

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

No. 76. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Marine Department, dated Fort Saint George, 30th September 1861, No. 316.

I am directed to transmit to you, for submission to the Government of India, copy of a letter, 14th instant, No. 2,579, in which the Superintendent of Marine enters into an explanation on the matter commented on in your letter of the 12th ultimo, No. 703.

2. The Governor in Council has pointed out to Mr. Franklin that the Government of India had expressly stated that in drawing attention to the terms of the Contract executed with Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie and Co., for the services of a Steamer to ply as a Mail and Passenger packet between Madras, the Northern Ports, and Rangoon, it was not with any intention of finding fault with the agreement, which, as correctly supposed, was certainly the best obtainable. It has been further explained to him that, in reporting the subject to the Secretary of State, this Government entered into the circumstances detailed in his letter, and that a copy of the Despatch was duly transmitted to the Government of India on the 20th June last. It is but just however, to the Superintendent, that his explanation should be laid before the Supreme Government.

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

Exd. F. Cattledge.

Marine Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read letter from the
Supt. Dt. of Marine — Inter 14th Sept. 61 No. 2579.

Order — 30th Sept. 1861 No. 315.

In compliance with
Mr. Franklin's re-
quest, a copy of his
letter will be for-
warded to the Govt.
of India — but the
Governor in Council
would point out to
him ~~that~~ that Govt.
had expressly sta-
ted that in com-
menting on the
terms of ~~the~~ Con-
tract

Contract in question,
it was not with any
intention of finding
fault with the agree-
ment, which, as ~~was~~
~~very~~ correctly Supposed,
~~ascertained~~,
was ~~doubtless~~ the best
obtainable. Further,
in reporting the sub-
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of State, ~~this~~ Govt. an-
~~tered into~~ the circum-
stances detailed in
Mr. Franklin's letter
— & a copy of that
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the 20th June last.

I.O.S

The Sub-Sec. of Marine. 1/10

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Service 1861. Department.

No. 315.

PROCEEDINGS of GOVERNMENT.

Dated 30th December 1861.

Marine.

No. 316.

To the Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Marine Dept.

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[4360] Madras—Printed at the Government Press.

Madras, the Northern Ports, & Rangoon, it was not with any intention of finding fault with the agreement, which, as ~~xxxx~~ supposed ~~xxxx~~ correctly ~~xxxxxx~~, was certainly the best obtainable. It has been further explained to him that, in reporting the subject to the Secretary of State, this Govt. entered into the circumstances detailed in his letter, & that a copy of the Despatch was duly transmitted to the Govt. of India on the 20th June last. It is but just however, to the Supt. that his explanations should be laid before the Sup. Govt.

Fort St George,
30th Septr 1861.

Marine 1861 Sept

No. 316.

To The Secy. to the
Govt. of India
Marine Dept.

Dated 30th Sept. 1861.

Received 7th Oct. 1861.

Transmitting with observations / to the Govt. of India the explanation submitted by Mr. Thwaites Supt. of Marine at Madras in reference to the remarks of that Govt. that the negociations for the establishment of a steam packet line between Madras, the Northern ports & Rangoon have not been to the advantage of Govt.

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