

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Home DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	61	Press Mis.
Dated	25-2-1861	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
25th February 1861.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 36. From J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 10th January 1861, No. 126.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Proceedings of Government of the 24th ultimo, No. 445, forwarding a Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, on the subject of the loss of the "Tullochgoram" at Vizagapatam in June last, and of the conduct of Captain Meppen the Master Attendant at that Port on the occasion, and requesting particulars of the case.

2. The only official report of the circumstances made to myself is contained in a letter from the Master Attendant, dated 18th June, copy of which is herewith forwarded. It appeared from this that the vessel had anchored in Vizagapatam roads in a leaky state and was engaged on the 16th and 17th of the month in landing cargo; but as notwithstanding this the leakage continued, she was run on shore at 10 P. M., on the last named day and broke up at 5 A. M. next morning. The crew, it is reported, were all saved, having, I presume, been brought on shore when the vessel was stranded.

3. Subsequently, I received from the Commander of the lost vessel a letter, dated the 2nd July, enclosing copy of a communication he had addressed to the Collector of the District, representing in terms precisely similar to those contained in his letter to Sir Charles Wood, the very great assistance he had received from Captain Meppen. The previous report, however, not leading me to suppose that the circumstances were such as to call forth any unwonted display of energy and courage, I awaited a communication from the Collector, and none having reached me, inferred that he did not consider it necessary to forward Captain Sellar's letter.

4. I will now request that Officer's opinion on the Commander's representation and forward it to Government with such remarks from myself as it may appear to require.

From Captain R. W. MEPPEN, Master Attendant, Vizagapatam, to the Superintendent of Marine, Madras, dated 18th June 1860, No. 182.

I have the honor to bring to your notice that the Barque "Tullochgoram," Captain Sellar, put into this Port from Cocanada on the evening of the 15th instant; she left that Port on the 13th instant, bound to the Mauritius, but on the 14th and 15th instant encountered heavy weather, and having sprung a leak and the pumps being choked, the Commander deemed it prudent to put into the nearest Port; a part of her cargo was landed on the 16th and 17th instant, but as I found the Ship could not be kept afloat longer, I desired the Commander to run her ashore, instead of allowing her to sink under anchor and foul the roadstead; at about 10 P. M. last night she was run on shore abreast the flag staff, and at 5 this morning broke up to pieces—no lives were lost.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. B. CROWTHER,
Assistant Superintendent of Marine.

No. 37. From J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 6th February 1861, No. 366.

In continuation of my letter of the 10th ultimo, No. 126, I have now the honor to report further on the service performed by Captain Meppen, Master Attendant at Vizagapatam, on the occasion of the wreck of the "Tullochgoram." Before doing so, however, I beg to express my regret at an error I unwittingly fell into in stating at the conclusion of the 3rd paragraph of the above cited letter that no report of the circumstances had reached me from the Collector of the District. On applying to him for particulars, he refers me to a communication from him dated the 6th July last, in which he states the circumstances, and recommends the Master Attendant for an increase of salary. The revision of the Marine Establishments at outports being under the consideration of Mr. Pelly the letter was unfortunately allowed to lie over pending the conclusion of his arrangements, and was thus lost sight of.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
25th February 1861.*

2. I now beg to forward the letter in question from which it will be seen that Captain Meppen's conduct on the occasion was exceedingly praiseworthy. He put off at a late hour of the night and succeeded in bringing from the Ship the Captain and Steward who, Mr. Fane states, must otherwise have perished. I likewise enclose copy of the Collector's letter in reply to my late application, in which he states that the surf was particularly high and dangerous at the time, and that before the Master Attendant himself put off four boats had fruitlessly attempted to reach the Ship.

3. There can be no doubt that Captain Meppen behaved with great intrepidity on the occasion, and that he is moreover deserving of much credit for the readiness and energy he invariably evinces whenever the situation of a vessel calls him into action. He has always been forward to render assistance to vessels in distress and the case of the "Tullochgoram" is only one of many which have been brought prominently to notice, and which are set forth in a pamphlet just received, which I beg to forward with a letter from Captain Meppen to Government.

4. I am directed to report what I would propose in reference to the recognition of this Officer's services. It will be seen that he desires to hold rank as a Lieutenant of the Indian Navy, and I see no objection to this being granted to him.

From E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam, to J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine, dated 6th July 1860, No. 678.

In submitting for your consideration copy of Captain Meppen's letter and printed Testimonials as requested by him, I have the honor to state that as the recorded opinions of my predecessors are already in your Office, all bearing witness to the prompt and efficient aid Mr. Meppen has on every occasion rendered to vessels in distress, I have now nothing to add but that I myself have also always found him zealous and attentive to his duty.

2. I beg herewith to refer you to the conduct of Captain Meppen at the Shipwreck of the "Tullochgoram," that lately occurred at this Port, he at a very late hour of the night pushed off to the stranded Ship, and succeeded in rescuing from the middle of the surf the Captain and Steward: without Captain Meppen's aid they certainly would have both perished. Captain Meppen afterwards, as was his duty, did all that could be done to save the Spars, &c., of the vessel for the benefit of those concerned.

3. As the salary of the Master Attendant at Cocanada has been recently raised to 350 Rupees, 150 more than what Captain Meppen at present receives, and as Captain Meppen's duties are quite as onerous as those of Cocanada, more particularly now that so many European vessels come for cargo to the Ports of Vizagapatam and Bimlipatam, I think that Captain Meppen's salary ought also to be augmented. I therefore, herewith beg to forward this my recommendation for the same.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. B. CROWTHER,
Assist. Superintendent of Marine.

From Captain R. W. MEPPEN, Master Attendant, Vizagapatam, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 22nd January 1861, No. 17.

I have the honor most respectfully to beg that you will be pleased to lay before His Excellency the Governor in Council, the accompanying printed copies of Testimonials, which I hold touching services rendered by me to ships and individuals found in circumstances of imminent peril (from stress of weather and other causes) on various occasions during the past nine years.

It would, I feel, be quite out of place in me to offer any comment upon the events which called forth the Testimonials in question, but in seeking to place them now before His Excellency in Council, and with especial reference to Captain Sellar's letter on page 14, and the letter of E. G. R. Fane, Esq., to the Superintendent of Marine on page 15, I would respectfully solicit at the hands of His Excellency in Council that the said services, which speak for themselves, may

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
25th February 1861.*

be favorably represented to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India (should they be deemed worthy of it) with a view to the rank of Lieutenant in the Indian Navy, being conferred on me.

It has ever been a rule with me, as I trust, it shall always continue to be, never to shrink from the performance of my duty, whether in the path of official requirement or otherwise, and however arduous, or beset with personal peril to myself the act may be, if the faintest hope can be cherished that my endeavours may result in saving either life or property, placed in jeopardy; and should my past hearty and willing exertions in so good a cause, be considered worthy of the honor which I have ventured most humbly to solicit at the hands of the Government which I have the honor to serve, my highest ambition will be gratified while such a reward could not fail to stimulate others, to pursue a like course with that which has hitherto been, and will always be, regarded by me as a sacred duty.

From E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam, to J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine, Madras, dated 24th January 1861, No. 57.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, No. 127, requesting to know what extraordinary service was rendered by the Master Attendant of this Port to the Captain and Crew of the "Tullochgoram," I beg to refer you to my letter dated the 6th July last, wherein I referred to the circumstance. It happened that at the time in question, I was at Vizagapatam. I recollect well that the surf was particularly high and dangerous from the boisterous state of the weather.

2. I did not myself go down to the beach, but I was informed by the Master Attendant that no less than four boats put off under his instructions, but all failed to reach the vessel and to give any assistance; the Master Attendant himself at last put off and succeeded in getting near enough to the vessel to save the two or three persons that still clung to its wreck. His exertions were certainly very praiseworthy, but have been already made known to you by me, and have been gratefully acknowledged by Captain Sellar the Commander of the ill-fated ship.

3. Captain Sellar's letter to me of the 26th June last, would have been forwarded along with my communication of the 6th July, but it was somehow mislaid, and was not found until a few weeks ago. As you say you have already a copy of the same, I do not now send you one.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. B. CROWTHER,
Assist. Superintendent of Marine.

ORDER THEREON, 25th February 1861, No. 61.

No. 38.

The Government resolve to forward the above papers to the Secretary of State, in reference to his Despatch of the 17th November last, No. 28, and to recommend Captain Meppen's request for favorable consideration.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

N^o 57

Vizagapatam Collector's
Office 24th January 1861.

From

C. G. R. Fane Esquire
Collector

To

J. J. Franklin Esquire
Superintendent of Marine
Madras.

Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt of
your letter of the 10th Instant N^o 127 requesting
to know what extraordinary services were rendered
by the Master Attendant of this port to
the Captain and crew of the "Tullochgarra".
I beg to refer you to my letter dated the 6th
July last, wherein I referred to the circumstances.
It happened that at the time in question,
I was at Vizagapatam. I recollect well that
the surf was particularly high and dangerous
from the boisterous state of the weather.
I did not myself go down
to the beach, but I was informed by the
Master Attendant that, no less than four
boats put off under his instructions, but all
failed to reach the vessel and to give any
assistance; the Master Attendant himself
at last put off and succeeded in getting
near

bottom of this
was mentioned
in his previous
letter.

near enough to the vessel to save the two or three persons that still hung to its wreck. His exertions were certainly very praiseworthy, but have been already made known to you by me, and have been gratefully acknowledged by Capt. Sellar the Commander of the ill fated ship.

3. Captain Sellar's letter to me of the 26th June last would have been forwarded along with my communication of the 6th July, but it was some how mislaid, and was not found until a few weeks ago. As you say you have already a copy of the same, I do not now send you one.

I have &c.
(Signed) C. G. P. Jones
Collector

(True Copy)
W. B. Mather
Asst. Supdt.

There was a thing
rumor about the
loss of the ship
concerning the
Finnish crew
reported in the
second letter

Madras
Marine Superintendent's Office
No. 366
6th February 1861

From
J. I. Franklin Esq.
Superintendent of Marine.
To
J. Pycroft Esq.
Chief Secretary to Government.
Fort Saint George.

Sir,
In continuation of my letter of the 10th ultimo No. 126, I have now the honor to report farther on the service performed by Captain Meppen Master Attendant at Vizagapatam on the occasion of the wreck of the "Tullochgoram". Before doing so, however, I beg to express my regret at an error I unwittingly fell into in stating at the conclusion of the 3^d para: of the above cited letter that no report of the circumstances had reached me from the Collector of the District. On applying to him for particulars he refers me to a communication from him dated the 6th July last in which he states the circumstances, and recommends the Master Attendant for an increase of salary. The revision of the Marine Establishments at outports being under the consideration of Mr. Pelly the letter was unfortunately allowed to lie over pending the conclusion of his arrangements, and was thus lost sight of.
2 I now beg to forward the letter in question from which it will be seen that Captain Meppen's conduct on the occasion

occasion was exceedingly praiseworthy. He put off at a late hour of the night and succeeded in bringing from the ship the Captain and Steward who, Mr. Fane states, must otherwise have perished. I likewise enclose copy of the Collector's letter in reply to my late application, in which he states that the surf was particularly high and dangerous at the time, and that before the Master Attendant himself put off four boats had fruitlessly attempted to reach the ship.

3 There can be no doubt that Captain Neppen behaved with great intrepidity on the occasion, and that he is moreover deserving of much credit for the readiness and energy he invariably evinces whenever the situation of a vessel calls him into action. He has always been forward to render assistance to vessels in distress and the case of the "Fullochgoram" is only one of many which have been brought prominently to notice, and which are set forth in a pamphlet just received which I beg to forward with a letter from Captain Neppen to Government.

4 I am directed to report what I would propose in reference to the recognition of this Officer's services. It will be seen that he desires to hold rank as a Lieutenant of the Indian Navy, and I see no objection to this being granted to him.

I

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant,

Franklin

Superintendent of Marine

Decr 1860 90 52 953-
 " 16th July — " — 39 840
 " 20th July — " — 182.

Thomas' 22nd to Aug. 23rd 20th July
 22. 6 of 1861. with Campbell.

Went Campbell from to
 the stone named 2 1/2

36 @ 38

c 14. 1220 "

Marine 1861 Department.

The Superintendent of Marine
 Madras.

The Chief Clerk to Govt.

Govt. Secy.

Date 6th February 1861.

No 35. No 366.

Encs 2003
 41 Campbell.

Report of the on the ex-
 -posed by the Captain of the
 -the of the vessel of the ship
 -and forward copy of a letter
 -received from the Captain of the
 -on the subject of a com-
 -plaint wherein it is set forth the as-
 -surance he had already received to visit
 -in relation to the vessel of the
 -Captain of the vessel of the
 -provisioning what should be allowed
 -in reference to the recognition of his
 -"I am sure that the vessel of the
 -provision to his vessel for work as a
 -provision of the vessel of the
 -provision to him.

With an Order.

Proceedings of the Madras Boat.

Good letters from the
 -of the Madras Boat.

Order - 25 February 1861. No. 61.

The boat. resolve to forward
 the above papers to the
 -of the State, in reference
 to his Dispatch of the 17th in
 Nov. last No 28 — 8 to re-
 commend Captain of the
 -provision for favora-
 -ble considerations.

The Supt. of Marine.
 " Collector of Madras.
 25 Feb 1861.