

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
26th February 1861.*

No. 47. Read the following letter from J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 11th February 1861, No. 417.

I have the honor to forward for the consideration and orders of Government the accompanying correspondence, from which the Government will gather that Captain Meppen, the Master Attendant at Vizagapatam, has been and still is the owner of a half-share of a business carried on in the town of Vizagapatam by his brother Mr. G. Meppen. His son, who is stated in pencil on the letter addressed to me to be 17 years, seems to manage the business with his Uncle, and Captain Meppen does not ostensibly appear in it, but he is of course the real Partner.

2. It is to be regretted that this Officer who has so frequently been brought into prominent notice for his valuable assistance to vessels in distress should have infringed the rule laid down by Government against public Officers being concerned in private trade. He appears to consider that he has not done so, inasmuch as his interest in his brother's business was verbally made over to his son. I abstain, however, from comment or suggestion, pending the orders now solicited.

From E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam, to J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine, dated 1st February 1861, No. 86.

I have the honor to forward herewith for your information a letter from Captain Meppen the Master Attendant.

2. The circumstance that called forth this letter of explanation from him was my finding his name down in the public records as purchaser of a Stamp paper whereon to write a Deed of Settlement of partnership between his brother a Shopkeeper, and himself. As Master Attendant being bound not to trade, I thought some explanation was required to be given by him. The son, I believe, does attend the Shop, and Captain Meppen never goes there except as a customer, nevertheless the son as a minor cannot have any property, unless it should have been left to him distinct from his father; as it is, the property or share in the Shop is supposed to be a gift from his father and the father constitutes himself the guardian, but if the son were to die, then the share would revert to Captain Meppen not only as heir to his son, but as actual owner of the share; if the business happened to fail, I fancy that Captain Meppen would by the creditors be considered liable for half of the debts. However, be that as it may, it is for the Government to decide as to the propriety of the proceeding, otherwise, and if they disapprove, I trust you will obtain from them such orders as they may think proper, probably Captain Meppen would rather than give up his appointment as Master Attendant, withdraw from the Shop, or if still allowed to keep on the interest of his son in the Shop, the Government might perhaps think proper to remove him to another District as Master Attendant. He himself however thinks that he has in no way contravened the Orders he received when appointed, and the Government may perhaps take the same view of the case, and render thereby no further notice necessary in the matter.

From Captain R. W. MEPPEN, Master Attendant, to E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam, dated 25th January 1861, No. 18.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, and in reply beg to state that, I am aware that trading is interdicted to any one holding a Government employ. The half share of the Shop in question in which my brother is the sole manager, and was so for several years, and is so at present, belongs to my son, and I am his guardian, and I do not think Government would have any objections to a father being a guardian to his son until he comes of age. To prove that I avoided breaking the Rules of Government, Mr. McMurry your present Sherestadar offered his share of the Barque "Amelia" to me, I refused on the ground that I was

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
26th February 1861.*

prohibited from trading. My brother Mr. G. Meppen also offered me the share of Mr. McMurry in June last, I refused on the same ground, but if you are of opinion that the half share my son holds in the Shop with my brother is contrary to the Rules of Government, I respectfully beg leave to request that you will bring the case before Government for decision.

The Agreement between my brother and son expires as soon as my son comes of age. I also beg to add, that I never interfere with the working of the Shop or even in the purchasing or selling of goods. I left the whole matter for my son to decide when he is of age, and he is now working in the Shop and looking after his own interests therein.

From Captain R. W. MEPPEN, Master Attendant, Vizagapatam, to J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine, dated 2nd February 1861, No. 29.

I beg to enclose a letter addressed to E. G. R. Fane, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam for your perusal, as I have asked the same to be put before Government for decision.

In the year 1847, I had a share in the Shop of my elder brother Mr. J. P. Meppen, now deceased; after his death, the business was carried on by another brother of mine, Mr. G. Meppen. In 1852, when I was appointed Master Attendant at this Port, I desired my brother to transfer my share of the Shop to my son, this was done verbally, the business was carried on until the month of May last, when my brother entered into another adventure in the purchasing of a share in the Barque "Amelia." I wrote to him stating that he should not have done so as it would cause a failure and damage the interest of my son's share, he seemed dissatisfied with my advice and unknown to my son or myself, sent a notice in one of the Madras Journals dissolving the interest of my son. I wrote to my brother stating, I would like to have the accounts of my son settled, and as they were not brought up, and he not being able to do so, he changed his mind and cancelled the former notice; I then thought it just and right to have my brother to enter into an Agreement with my son, and myself as his guardian, this was brought to the notice of Mr. Fane, who very properly called for an explanation and desired me to desist from trading as it was contrary to the Orders of Government, but as I did not traffic myself nor even interfered with the working of the Shop, I requested that the case may be brought before Government; my son is now in the Shop and looking after the business; if I was aware that by being a guardian to my son till he comes of age was a fault and contrary to the Orders of Government, I would have asked some other person to be his guardian; further to prove that my son had an interest in the Shop from the time above mentioned, my brother had to renew his license for selling Spirits in which my son's name also appeared at the Collector's Office; when Mr. Fane wrote to me, I tried to get some one else to be my son's guardian but could not succeed.

I therefore respectfully beg to bring the case to your kind consideration, and disposal, and if you are of opinion that I should not be my son's guardian, I will feel obliged by your granting me privilege leave for 2 months to enable me to close my son's interest in the Shop.

No. 48.

ORDER THEREON, 26th February 1861, No. 66.

Resolved that the Superintendent of Marine be instructed to inform Mr. Meppen, Master Attendant at Vizagapatam, that the Government regard his connection with his brother's Shop, although only as the guardian of his son, as clearly coming within the Rule which prohibits Public Officers from being concerned in Trade.

2. They have no doubt, however, that Captain Meppen, by the arrangements he made, really believed that he had complied with the Orders of Government. They will permit him to give up all connection with the Shop, and continue in his present situation, or, if he so elects, will transfer him to a similar appointment elsewhere.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

I imagine that there can hardly be much doubt as to Capt. Meppen's connection with his brother's Shop, and he admits that he knows that he is not allowed to trade - The fact will say what should be done in his case - Whether he is to be required to withdraw from the concern directly and indirectly or not - see ENC 20 Nov 1848, a share he removed to some other port - I presume that one of these two courses will be necessary. It is annoying that this matter should have turned up, just as

the first man about to be removed
Capt M. to the Secretary of State for
some months of favor for his zealous
discharge of his M. A's duties -

The papers accompanying in a
separate packet - It will be for
you to say what shall ^{now} be done
in this matter also -

13.2.61

Yr

I should permit Capt M.
to give up all his work here
like the hope & continue in
his present situation or should
allow him to be dismissed

might elect
apptd elsewhere as he ~~desires~~
I believe Capt M. by the
discharge meant he would really
believe that he had something
watered out or diss - I would
not therefore set this aside
than we have decided to do
in the matter of persons moving
him to the personal possession
here of the Secy of State for his
greatest benefit in the situation
of a late high work well

Marine.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

Read letter from the
Suptt. of Marine - Inter 11th Febr. b. N^o 417.

Order - 26th February 1811. No 66.

Resolved that the
Superintendent of
Marine be instruct-
ed to intimate ^{form} ~~to~~
the Master Attew-
dant at Vinagapa-
tam, that the Govt.
regard his connec-
tion with his bro-
ther's shop, altho'
only as the guardi-
an of his son, as
clearly coming within the
rule, prohibiting
Public Officers from
being concerned
in

Mr Meppen

W. H. M.

W. H. M.

in Grade.

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JF

The Supt. of Marine,
Collector of Tiragapataw } Dec 26. 2. 61.

Captain. Hepper.

Maine 1857. Depart.

No. 65.

Proceedings of Government

24th February 1857.

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