

*Proceedings of the Madras Government Marine Department,
1st March 1861.*

No. 5. Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart., Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated London, 24th January 1861, No. 1.

The Collector of Customs and Shipping Master at Kurrachee, (Mr. Dalzell), under the impression that he was appointed to the latter Office under the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, applied to the Board of Trade for information as to the mode in which the fees, leviable under that Act for the business transacted by Shipping Masters, should be apportioned, and I now forward, for the information and guidance of the Marine Authorities of your Presidency a copy of a correspondence which has ensued between this Office and the Board of Trade on the question raised by Mr. Dalzell.

From JAMES BOOTH, Esq., to the Under Secretary of State, India Office, dated Whitehall, 30th November 1860.

I am directed by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade to transmit to you to be laid before the Secretary of State for India in Council the accompanying copy of a letter from the Collector of Customs and Shipping Master at Kurrachee, asking for information as to the application to his own use of the Fees received by him as Shipping Master.

As the appointment in question is made by the Government of Bombay under the provisions of the Act of India, No. 1 of 1859, and not (as supposed by the Shipping Master) under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, the question is one to be determined by the Government of India.

From P. M. DALZELL, Esq., Deputy Collector of Customs and Shipping Master, Kurrachee, to the Secretary to the Board of Trade, London, dated 22nd October 1860, No. 1,131.

May I solicit the favor of your informing me whether when a Collector of Customs is appointed to perform the duties of a Shipping Master under the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act of 1854, Part III, Section 128, the Fees provided for by the 125th Section of the same Act may not be applied by him to his own use, and what is the practice in like cases in other Ports of Her Majesty's Colonies.

2. As Deputy Collector of Customs at Kurrachee, I have been appointed by the Government of Bombay Shipping Master at this Port.

From T. G. BARING, Esq., to the Secretary, Board of Trade, Whitehall, dated India Office, 7th December 1860.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo.

Before disposing of the letter from the Shipping Master at Kurrachee, Sir Charles Wood would be glad to know what practice prevails in this country with respect to the remuneration of Shipping Masters and whether they receive the whole of the Fees which are chargeable under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, for business transacted by them, and any other and what salaries or additional remuneration.

Sir Charles Wood would also like to know what the practice is in Colonial Ports or elsewhere where Collectors of Customs are also Shipping Masters.

I am directed further to request that Sir Charles Wood may be favored with the views of the Board of Trade as to the source from which persons licensed under the 146th Section of the Act to engage or supply Seamen for Merchant Ships are remunerated, in view to the determination of a question raised by the Superintendent of Marine, Calcutta, on the corresponding Section (XVIII) of the India Act I of 1859, taken in connection with Section XX of the same Act.

Instructions on the point were solicited by the Superintendent from the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal in the following words,

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"With reference to Section XVIII of the Act (India Act I of 1859) I would observe that
"no remuneration appears to have been provided by the Act for the persons who receive licenses
"to engage or supply Seamen, and I would therefore request to be informed in what manner
"these persons should be paid, whether the remuneration for such services should be a matter of
"private arrangement between the licensed Agent and the person employing him, or whether all
"persons holding such licenses should be Government servants paid from the Funds of the Ship-
"ping Office, acting under the supervision of the Shipping Master."

From T. H. FANER, Esq., to the Under Secretary of State, India Office, dated Whitehall, 28th
December 1860.

I am directed by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant asking for information,

1. As to the mode of remunerating Shipping Masters in the United Kingdom and also in
the Colonies where Collectors of Customs are appointed to act as Shipping Masters.

2. As to the mode of remunerating Shipping Agents licensed under the 146th Section of
the Merchant Shipping Act to engage and supply Seamen for Merchant Vessels in the United
Kingdom.

In reply I am to acquaint you for the information of the Secretary of State for India in
Council as follows:

Shipping Masters are paid by Government out of the Mercantile Marine Fund a fixed
amount of remuneration for their services.

This fund is made up of monies received at the Shipping Offices and from various other
sources specified in Section 417 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, and is chargeable amongst
other things with the salaries and other expenses connected with the Shipping Offices as pro-
vided by Section 419 of the Act.

There are, it should be stated, two classes of Shipping Masters in the United Kingdom, viz.,
those appointed by Local Marine Boards at Ports where such Boards have been established
and those who are also Collectors of Customs.

Where the Shipping Masters are appointed by Local Marine Boards, their whole time is
occupied in the duties of the Shipping Office and their whole remuneration (with the exception
of small sums now paid to them in respect of the Naval Reserve) comes out of the Mercantile
Marine Fund.

Where they are Collectors of Customs they receive from the Mercantile Marine Fund a small
annual payment for their services as Shipping Masters in addition to their salaries as Collectors.

In the Colonies Shipping Masters whether Collectors of Customs or not are appointed by
the Local Legislatures or Governments who fix the amount of the Fees to be paid at the Shipping
Office and the amount of the Shipping Master's remuneration by allowing him to retain all or a
portion of the Fees taken or by giving him a fixed salary as they may think best.

As regards Licensed Shipping Agents,

They are appointed by the Board of Trade under certain conditions specified in their
Licenses. They cannot under the Act take money from the Seamen they engage for getting them
employment, but they are allowed to settle with the Master, Owner or other person employing
them the amount they are to receive from him for engaging either whole crews or as many
hands as may be required.

My Lords regret that your letter should from inadvertence have remained so long unanswered.

No. 6.

ORDER THEREON, 1st March 1861, No. 73.
Communicated to the Superintendent of Marine.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Marine.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

*Read Despatch from
the Secretary of
State*

*Letter 24 Jan'y. '61.
No. 1.*

Order - 1st March 1861. No. 73.

*Communicated
to the Suptt. of
Marine.*

[Signature]

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No 73.

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Communicate to the
Supt of Marine the papers
from the Secretary of State
for India on the subject
of the mode in which the
sea vessels under the
Merchant Shipping Act 1854
for the business transacted
by shipping officers should
be appointed

5-8-61.