

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Marine* DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

77

Press

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Dated

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1887

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,  
2nd March 1861.*

No. 11. 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. 3.

A copy of a Despatch \* which I have this day addressed to the Government of India, and of enclosures thereto, relating to the course which the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade are desirous that Shipping Masters in India should pursue in certain cases connected with the transaction of their business under the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, is herewith forwarded to you for the information and guidance of the Shipping Masters in your Presidency.

*Marine Despatch to India, dated 24th January 1861, No. 10.*  
Paragraph 1. Herewith is transmitted a copy of a letter addressed to this Office by order of the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and of its accompaniments on the subject of the course pursued by the Shipping Master at Calcutta in not furnishing receipts for wages and effects of deceased Seamen paid and delivered to him under the provisions of Merchant Shipping Act 1854.  
Dated 5th January 1861.

2. You will observe that their Lordships are desirous that in future the Shipping Master at Calcutta should grant receipts in every case in which monies are paid to him on account of the wages and effects of deceased Seamen, and further that all Shipping Masters in India should render to the Board of Trade, a monthly statement of their accounts as regards the wages and effects in question.

3. You will issue such instructions as will secure strict compliance with their Lordships' requests as now conveyed to you by the Shipping Masters of your Presidency.

4. A copy of this Despatch and of its enclosures will be forwarded to the Governments of Fort Saint George and Bombay, for their information and guidance.

From T. H. FARRER, Esq., to the Under Secretary of State, India Office, dated Whitehall, 5th January 1861, No. 13,909.

I am directed by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade to transmit herewith copy of a letter and its enclosure received in this Department from the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, complaining that the Shipping Master at Calcutta refuses to give receipts for the wages and effects of deceased Seamen paid and delivered to him under the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act 1854; also, suggesting that to avoid the delay in settling with the relatives of deceased Seamen, which is caused by the accounts being transmitted only quarterly, the Shipping Masters in India should be directed to send in future monthly accounts of the wages of deceased Seamen to the Board of Trade.

With reference to the question of the refusal of the Shipping Master at Calcutta to give receipts for the wages and effects of deceased Seamen, my Lords suppose that the Shipping Master considers his endorsement on the articles of agreement a sufficient acknowledgment that he has received the wages and effects.

In many cases, however, the articles belong to inter-colonial Ships which do not return to this country, and for this as well as for other reasons it is desirable that the Shipping Master should give the receipts required.

My Lords desire me therefore to suggest that instructions should be given to the Shipping Master at Calcutta to grant receipts in every case in which monies are paid to him on account of wages and effects of deceased Seamen.

With reference to the suggestion respecting an alteration in the periods for sending Home accounts to this Department, it is to be observed that the Shipping Master at Bombay has always rendered his accounts monthly, and as it would undoubtedly be of advantage to the relatives of deceased Seamen if the other Shipping Masters did the same,—I am further to suggest that it would be desirable to instruct all the Shipping Masters in India to render monthly accounts of wages and effects to this Department.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,  
2nd March 1861.*

From C. W. HOWELL, Esq., Secretary, Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company,  
to the Secretary, Marine Department, Board of Trade, Whitehall, dated London, E. C.  
24th December 1860.

I have the honor to hand you enclosed Extract of a letter received from this Company's Agent at Calcutta on the subject of the method adopted in regard to the Estates of deceased Seamen at that Port, and with reference to his statement that no receipts are granted to the party paying the money, the Directors request to be informed whether the refusal of the Shipping Master to grant them is in accordance with the orders of the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, inasmuch as receipts are always given at Bombay and other Ports.

The Directors would likewise desire to draw the attention of their Lordships to the following circumstances, in the hope that their Lordships may be pleased to consider whether the Shipping Masters at Stations east of Suez should not be instructed to furnish accounts monthly in respect of the Estates of Servants of this Company:—

"That owing to the facility of communication, intelligence of the death of a Seaman, Engineer, or Steward, reaches the relatives in this country much sooner than in the case of a death on board a sailing Ship."

"That the amount due to the deceased is often comparatively large."

"That the widow or other relatives are in most cases in necessitous circumstances and that the early remittance of the balance of the Estate is a matter of much importance to them."

"That there is the greatest difficulty in making them believe that the Company are without power to expedite a settlement and that under the system of furnishing accounts quarterly adopted by the Shipping Masters, a lapse of many months may occur between the receipt of intelligence of a death (as in the case of one on a voyage from Calcutta to Suez) and the remittance of a balance."

Extract from a letter received from Captain TROUSON, the P. & O. Company's Agent at Calcutta, dated 8th November 1860.

"As regards an inventory and account sales and accounts current of deceased men, the new Marine Act here requires that their effects with balance of wages due, and whatever other money may be in the hands of 3rd parties belonging to them should be delivered up to the Shipping Master, who provides the proper forms in triplicate to be filled in under their different headings, but no receipt is granted by the Shipping Master to this Department, hence my inability to carry out your instructions as heretofore. The accounts from the Shipping Master go Home quarterly, and it is therefore not in my power to facilitate these matters."

No. 12.

ORDER THEREON, 2nd March 1861, No. 77.

Communicated to the Collector of Sea Customs, to the Collectors of Maritime Districts, to the Accountant General, and likewise to the Superintendent of Marine for communication to the Shipping Masters.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,  
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

*Marine!*

*Proceedings of the Madras Govt.*

*Read Despatches from  
the Secretary of State - Inter 24. Savvy '61  
No. 3.*

*Order - 2<sup>d</sup> March 1861. No. 77.*

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*The collector of Sea Customs. des<sup>d</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 61*  
*" Collector of South Coast. N. Canara. des<sup>d</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 61*  
*" Acct. Genl. des<sup>d</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 61*  
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