

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Maritime DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. *251* Press
Mis. *7*

Dated *5 - 8 - 1861*

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
5th August 1861.*

No. 5. Read the following letter from J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine; to the Secretary to Government, Marine Department, Fort Saint George, dated 26th July 1861, No. 2,117.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Proceedings of Government of the 24th instant, No. 240, from which it appears that the Superintendent of the P. and O. Company was about to issue instructions to the Commanders of the Mail Steamers to hoist the Company's flag at the main when nearing the port of Madras from Calcutta, and at the fore when from Suez. He expresses a hope that the Madras Government will feel satisfied with this arrangement, but observes that if not he will be happy to adopt the plan first suggested.

2. The Superintendent's mode of distinguishing the Steamers will doubtless be an improvement on the present system of hoisting the number, but it will not be as efficient as the one proposed in my letter of the 13th ultimo, No. 1,694. Most Steamers fly a flag at the main or at the fore on entering a port, and the signal gun announcing the arrival of the Mail could not be fired until the vessel had approached near enough to render the flag perfectly distinct. This at the close of day would be inconvenient, whereas the pendants recommended could be made out at a much greater distance, and moreover, as they are not the description of flag ordinarily hoisted by Steamers, the distinction would be still more perfect.

3. With this explanation of the advantage of the pendant over the flag, I would solicit, as Captain Tronson has so obligingly offered to adopt the plan originally suggested, that the Supreme Government should be requested to beg of him to do so.

No. 6. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Fort Saint George, 5th August 1861, No. 251.

I am directed to transmit a copy of a letter, 26th ultimo, No. 2,117, which the Superintendent of Marine has addressed to Government, in reference to Captain Tronson's letter, received with Mr. Under Secretary Monteath's endorsement, 6th idem, No. 1,321.

2. Captain Tronson is inclined to the proposal that the Mail Steamers from Calcutta, when approaching port, should fly the P. and O. Company's flag at the main—and those from Suez at the fore, while the Company's vessels not carrying Mails should simply hoist their numbers. Mr. Franklin explains that most Steamers entering port, fly a flag at the main or fore, and that the signal guns, announcing the arrival of the Mail, could not be fired, until the vessel had approached near enough to render the flag perfectly distinct. This would be particularly inconvenient towards sunset. The suggestion communicated in Mr. Pycroft's letter, viz., that the Steamer bringing the English Mail should hoist the red pendant with white crosses at the main, and the Steamer from Calcutta the blue and yellow pendant, would be more efficient. Pendants are distinguishable at a greater distance, and are not the description of flag ordinarily hoisted by Steamers.

3. With this explanation, the Supreme Government are solicited to request the Superintendent of the P. and O. Company to adopt the pendant as the Mail signal, in preference to the flag.

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

95th

Marine. (2=

N^o 257.

Secretary to the Govt. of India.
Home Dept.

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Well

Y^{rs}

6"idem N^o 1321.

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Fort St. George. &
5th August 1861. E

J. D.

Mail Signals.

Harvie 18th Sept.

No 231.

The day is the good,
of which
some Sept.

23rd Sept 1881.