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OFFICE _____

Q O No. 122 (SC)
(51-53)
Marine.

Dated 27-5-1869

SUBJECT

Further Papers.

* Twenty-six men.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
27th May 1869.*

are now on their way up to Cochin by the backwater. The natives of the island were kind to us, and no lives were lost.

(Signed) W. ROBERTSON,
Master of the late "Sarah Sands."

Taken before me on the 26th day of April 1869.

(Signed) J. CASTOR,
Master Attendant.

No. 52. From the Master Attendant of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 5th May 1869, No. 2872.
Administrative Department.

I have the honour, in continuation of my letter, No. 2746, of the 29th ultimo, to forward the correspondence marginally noted, in original, as well as to submit, for sanction, a bill for the passage and subsistence of the shipwrecked crew of the *Sarah Sands*, supported by the necessary vouchers and papers in form, for transmission to the Board of Trade.

2. In my letter above quoted, I recommended that a sum of (1000) one thousand Rupees should be paid to the islanders, by way of reward for the prompt assistance rendered to the shipwrecked crew, as suggested by Captain Castor.

3. It will be seen by the Master Attendant's letter accompanying this communication, that, to Malabar Co. the islanders are utterly destitute of funds, they will have to be subsisted, and their boat secured and protected from the heavy rains, till such time as the weather moderates.

4. On the return of islanders, Captain Castor recommends that a few moorahs of rice should be sent as a gift from the British Government to the headmen of the island, and as I quite agree with this suggestion, I respectfully recommend that the Collector of Malabar be requested to place himself in communication with the islanders, and take the necessary steps to ensure both the present of rice, as well as the grant of money being delivered to proper persons on the island, with an expression of thanks for the services rendered.

5. Trusting that Government will look favourably on the recommendation herein made, I have, &c.

From Captain J. CASTOR, Master Attendant of Cochin, to the Master Attendant of Madras: dated Cochin, 1st May 1869, No. 79.

I had the honour in my letter, No. 76, dated 23th April, to report of having sent on to Bombay by the steamer *Martaban* which was leaving this port, the shipwrecked crew of the *Sarah Sands*. This course has saved much needless expenditure which would otherwise have been incurred by the detention of the men at this port, as no employment can be found for them during the monsoon which is fast approaching.

2. I beg to submit a bill for the passage-money and one day's subsistence. The necessary papers for transmission to the Board of Trade are herewith forwarded.

3. The boat which conveyed the distressed seamen from the island of Kalpeni to Alleppey* was sent to Cochin at an expense of Rupees 40 for shelter during the rains; and an additional charge of Rupees will be incurred for hauling up on shore, and providing suitable covering to protect it from the weather† The boat can return to the island only in October.

* The expense of bringing the men from Alleppey by backwater to Cochin is not known as yet.
† If the five men are to be subsisted at the public expense, it will cost Rupees 19-6-0 per month, at two annas per day.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
27th May 1869.*

4. The question of remuneration to the owner of the boat, who so readily placed it at the disposal of the distressed mariners to enable them to gain this coast, I thought it expedient to reserve for after-consideration in the face of the more pressing matters that demanded immediate attention. The natives who came in charge of the boat appear to be under the impression that Rupees 1000 had been promised for the services of the boat and five men, while Captain Robertson, the Commander, states that no promise was made of any definite sum.

5. I enclose the declarations of Captain Robertson, one from one of the crew who acted as Interpreter, one from the Chief Officer, and that of the two headmen; and without reference to their conflicting statements, I am respectfully of opinion that every encouragement should be held out to the natives of these islands, which are situated in the track of ships from Europe to India, to secure hospitality and kindly treatment to seamen who may be thrown on their isolated reefs and rocks by the dangers of navigation. As such disasters are by no means uncommon, it would be the wisest policy to impress upon the natives that the rescue of British seamen from peril, and aid and good treatment to them will not be unrewarded.

6. I beg, therefore, to recommend that the sum of Rupees 1000 be granted to the owner of the boat; and I further submit, for the favourable consideration of Government, that the boat, which will be detained here till October, be put in order, and that a present of a few moorahs of rice, which is the most acceptable gift to the natives of the islands, be sent in the name of the Government to the headmen of the place for their kindness and assistance to the shipwrecked seamen.

7. As the men who arrived in charge of the boat possess no written authority from the owner or owners to receive any remuneration that Government may be pleased to award, I beg to suggest that some guarantee be required to ensure the money ultimately reaching the hands of the parties entitled to it. On if the small steamer which is, I believe, at Tuticorin, could be spared by an officer of Government direct natives. The distance of the island from Cochin is 150 miles.

No. 53. ORDER THEREON, 27th May 1869, No. 122.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to sanction a payment of Rupees 1000 to the islanders of Kalpeni for their services to the crew of the wreck *Sarah Sands*, both in furnishing them with necessaries while on the island, and in bringing them to Alleppey on the Western Coast. He also sanctions the payment of Rupees 682-8-0, being the cost of the passage of the shipwrecked crew to Bombay by the steamer *Martaban*, and of provisions supplied to them on board. The amount of the charge for conveying the shipwrecked crew from Alleppey to Cochin should be reported as soon as possible, in order that a report of the total expenditure incurred on account of the distressed sailors may be forwarded to the Board of Trade.

2. The Government approve of the suggestion that a few moorahs of rice be sent to the headmen of the island with the acknowledgments of Government. The cost of the rice, and all expenditure on account of the islanders' maintenance while detained on the West Coast, and of securing their boat, should be deducted from the thousand Rupees sanctioned, and the balance sent to the island when Mr. Logan, the Sub-Collector, visits the Laccadives after the south-west monsoon is over. Mr. Logan will then see that the money and rice reach the proper parties.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Master Attendant of Madras, with enclosures returned.

.. Collector of Malabar.
.. Accountant General.

Edw. J. Wright.

(Mormi)
Pro. NO - 122 (SC) (51-53) 27-5-1869

Restored on 15/3/15