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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1553	Press / Mis.
254-55 Dated	16·8·	1861.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
14th August 1861.

No. 254. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Marine Department, dated 8th August 1861, No. 253 :—

Communicating the Resolution of the Government of India, stating that all questions relating to Ports and Marine Officers including river Navigation, which require reference to the Government of India, should be addressed to the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Marine Department, instead of as heretofore to the Home Department or to the Military Department. } (Vide Marine Proceedings, 8th August 1861, Nos. 9 @ 11.)

No. 255. ORDER THEREON, 14th August 1861, No. 1,553.

Ordered to be recorded.

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

3B

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers :—

Extract from the Proceedings of the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council in the Home Department, (Marine), under date the 15th May 1861.

Read letter from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, No. 151, dated the 16th ultimo, and letter from the Civil Finance Commission, dated the 20th idem, regarding the re-organization and re-constitution of the Bengal Marine Establishments.

1. The Finance Commission have submitted the following proposals :—

1*st.*—That the Pilotage Fees be increased by 50 per cent.

2*nd.*—That half the Pilotage Fees be allowed to Pilots on the Free List, in order to induce the members of the present Pilot Service to enter it, and thereby cause the gradual absorption of the service.

3*rd.*—That gratuities to Pilots be prohibited, their reception being made penal, subjecting the recipient to dismissal.

4*th.*—That further appointments from England to the Pilot Service be discontinued.

5*th.*—That the number of Pilot Vessels be reduced from 7 to 4 in Commission, with one spare vessel.

6*th.*—That 800 Rupees per mensem be saved by substituting for the four standing Mate Pilots in charge of the Pilot Vessels, supernumerary Officers of the Sea-going Marine.

7*th.*—That the extra Crew kept up for relieving the Crews at the Pilot Stations be dispensed with, thereby saving 567 Rupees a month, plus the cost of provisions.

8*th.*—That Native Crews for Government Vessels be engaged through the Shipping Office, from which an eventual reduction in the rate of wages is anticipated.

9*th.*—That the river Flotilla be reduced to six* Steamers and Flats, all the others being put out of Commission, and each vessel out of Commission having an establishment as under :—

* Proposed to be reduced to 3 in a subsequent recommendation.

Commander.
Engineer.
Two Lascars.
Two Stokers.

10*th.*—That the allowance on account of Provisions for Native Crews be reduced from four Annas a day to Rupees 4-6-1 per mensem, producing an estimated saving of Rupees 73,068.

11*th.*—That the Naval Store-keeper be relieved of the duty of supplying provisions for Ships' Crews and for out-stations and Port Blair, and that the duty be transferred to the Commissariat.

12*th.*—That the application made by the Government of Bengal to England for Engineers for the Dock Yard be countermanded.

13*th.*—That the Dock Yard be employed in preparing half wroughts for the Ordnance Department, and that a Saw Mill be set up in the Dock Yard for the joint demands of the Marine and Military Departments, and partially perhaps for the Public Works Department.

The Civil Finance Commission further suggest the abolition of the Presidency Timber Agency; and in order to avoid competition for Timber in the same market by two or three Departments, and to ensure greater economy in the application of Timber, they recommend that the Timber of all three* Departments should be bought by one purchasing Officer, and distributed through the Agency of the Dock Yard Surveyor and Builder.

* Ordnance.
Marine.
Public Works.

14*th*.—That the Office establishments of the Dock Yards be increased from Rupees 2,399 per mensem to Rupees 3,826, and that a Controller of the Dock Yard be appointed on a salary of 1,000 Rupees per mensem.

15*th*.—That the Dock Yard be removed from the Government of Bengal and placed under the Supreme Government.

16*th*.—That the Cash and Store accounts of the Dock Yard be audited by the Examiner of Ordnance Accounts, with an Establishment for the purpose of 750 Rupees a month.

17*th*.—That the Office of Superintendent of Marine be abolished.

18*th*.—That the business of the Pilot service, and of the Port Establishments of Bengal be conducted by the Master Attendant of Calcutta in direct communication with the Government of Bengal.

19*th*.—That the business of the Inland Steam service be made over to the Controller of the Dock Yard, who is to be under the Government of India.

20*th*.—That a Naval Secretary to the Government of India be appointed.

21*st*.—That the distribution of the other duties now performed by the Superintendent of Marine be provided for as follows:—

I. Contracts, purchases, new work and repairs to be sanctioned by the Naval Secretary.

II. Tenders for Dock Yard Contracts to be invited by the Controller of the Dock Yard. Those for the conveyance of Troops to be obtained by the Master Attendant and the Naval Secretary to convey to these Officers the requisite sanction of the Government of India.

III. Indents to be passed by Examiners of Ordnance and Marine Accounts, save in doubtful cases when he can refer to the Naval Secre-

IV. Bills for Commissariat supplies to be paid under the check of the Commissariat Examiner, and for other supplies on that of the Naval Examiner: in the latter case the pay-

Department to disburse the amount.

V. The valuation statements of work done in the Dock Yard to be compiled by the Naval Examiner, who will also pass contingent charges, referring doubtful items, in the first instance, to the Naval Secretary.

VI. The demand for Port and Pilotage dues, which is initiated by the Master Attendant, to be placed under the check of the Audit Department, which at present takes account of the collections without having verified the demand.

VII. The present compilation of accounts in the Superintendent's Office to cease.

VIII. The Certificates of the Naval Secretary to the Bills for freight and passage to be no longer necessary. The points established by the Certificates to be verified by the Departments which have to adjust the freight and passage money.

IX. The correspondence with District Authorities regarding the Inland Steam Service to be partly transferred to the Steam Boat Office, and partly obviated by the Agency of Local Military Authorities.

22*nd*. That the Steam Boat Office Establishment be united with that of Controller of the Dock Yard, and that the Crews of Inland Steam Vessels be paid by the Officer in charge of the Steam Boat Office.

23*rd*. That the accounts of the Seamen's Registry Office be examined by the Accountant to the Government of Bengal.

24*th*. That the Arracan Flotilla be reduced.

25*th*. That the cost of the Establishments on the Assam line be saved, the line being taken up by a private Company.

26*th*. That four Gun-boats be dispensed with.

27*th*. That two of the Beauleahs maintained for the use of the Marine Authorities be dispensed with.

28*th*. That the present Marine Stock of Iron and Copper be reduced by transfer to other Departments.

2. The Lieutenant Governor of Bengal concurs generally with the Finance Commission in the above proposals, the only material point of difference being that the Lieutenant Governor thinks that the Pilotage Fees should be raised by 25 per cent. only, and that the Free List Pilots should be allowed 60 per cent. of that increased amount, which is equal to 50 per cent. of the larger increased amount proposed to be given to them by the Commission: The Lieutenant Governor proposes however to reduce the allowance to 50 per cent. to *Licensed* Pilots, *i. e.* Pilots coming from outside, and not from the Pilot service, limiting at the same time all future accessions to the Pilot Establishment to this class.

Proposals Nos. 1 to 6.

3. With regard to the proposals affecting the Pilot Establishment the Governor General in Council approves of the plan suggested by the Lieutenant Governor, and authorizes His Honor to communicate as proposed with the Chamber of Commerce on the subject of the increase of Pilotage Fees and the abolition of gratuities.

His Excellency in Council considers that the Lieutenant Governor is right as to the reserve of three Pilot vessels, instead of one as proposed by the Finance Commission. The suggestion to substitute supernumerary Officers of the Sea-going Marine for the standing Mates of Pilot vessels may be carried out, if it should appear to the Lieutenant Governor that a real saving will be effected thereby, as soon as any such Officers become available.

Proposals 9 and 10.

4. The Governor General in Council approves of the proposals for reducing the River Flotilla, observing that the Lieutenant Governor's opinion that two steamers should be retained in a thoroughly serviceable state, is sound and should be acted upon.

Proposal No. 11.

5. The transfer to the Commissariat Department of the charge of supplying provisions for Ships' Crews and to Port Blair seems very desirable. It should be referred for consideration and report to the Military Finance Department.

Proposal 12.

6. The Government of Bengal should address the Secretary of State with a view to countermand the order for the Engineers who have been applied for for the steam workshop.

Proposal 13.

7. The Governor General in Council apprehends that there will be no difficulty in arranging that the Dock Yard shall prepare half wroughts for the Ordnance Department. The suggestion should however be referred to the Military Finance Department for consideration, with a request that, if there is no objection, the arrangement may be made as soon as the Dock Yard is ready to undertake the work. The proposition that the Presidency Timber Agency be abolished and that the Dock Yard shall purchase all Timber required by the Marine Department, the Ordnance Department, and the Public Works Department, should also be referred to the Military Finance Department, and likewise to the Public Works Department, so far as that Department is concerned.

Proposals 14 to 23.

8. These proposals have reference to the re-organization and re-constitution of the Marine Department, the main features of which are as follows:—

Government of Bombay.	Financial Department.
Government of Madras.	Foreign Department.
Government of Bengal.	Military Department.
Government N. W. Province.	Public Works Department.
Government of Punjab.	Military Finance Dept.

Ordered, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Governments and Departments noted on the margin.

Ordered also, that Captain Reddie's letter dated the 9th instant, and enclosures, be forwarded to the Financial Department for consideration.

(Signed) W. GREY,
Secretary to the Government of India.

ORDER THEREON, 8th August 1861, No. 253.

Communicated to the Military, Financial, and Public Works Departments.

(True Extract.)

Exd. T. O'Connor.

P.W. 1861 Depart.
Pro: of Govt for August.
Nº 1839.

Proceedings of the
Madras Govt in the
Marine Depart.

Dated 8th }
Received 10th } August
1861.

List Nº 253.

~~Communicating the resolu-~~
~~-tion of the Govt of India~~
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~~Dept. or to the Military~~
~~Dept.~~

Recorded
Nº 1553. 14th augt. J.H.

Nº 254 & 255.

1553

Nº 1553.

To be recorded

Fort St. George
14th augt 1861