

(1) Number of Pages 161(2) Date of repair 2-11-62(3) Initials of the Referencer M. S. S.

## MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

C.O. No.

B.P. No. 307.Press ✓Mis. ✓Dated 15. 6. 1962

196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
15th June 1875.*

Read the following :—

No. 100. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th May 1875, No. 1,173.  
From W. H. COMYN, Esq., Acting Collector of Tinnevely, to H. E. STOKES, Esq.,  
Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Tinnevely, 30th April  
1875, No. 216 :—

I HAVE the honor to report the wreck of the British ship *Somerset* of London  
bound from Cochin to Tuticorin.

2. The Master Attendant, Captain Phipps, reports that the vessel was  
stranded at 7-45 p.m. on Friday, the 23rd instant, about 2½ miles to the north of the  
Trichendar Pagoda on this coast. Captain Phipps on receiving information of the  
wreck left Tuticorin on Saturday evening to render every assistance in his power.  
On reaching the ship in the afternoon he was in hopes of being able to get her off,  
but for want of suitable anchors, boatmen, &c., nothing could be done that day,  
and early on the following morning she sprang a serious leak, and has since become  
a wreck.

3. Every endeavor is now being made to save the cargo, which consists of  
coconut-oil, coir, ginger, plumbago, and forty tons of old cannon shot. The  
necessary instructions have been issued to the Sea Custom Superintendent and  
Police. The cannon shot is the property of the Government of Ceylon, and was  
shipped at Galle. It is feared that the shot and plumbago will be lost; the cargo  
saved is being brought to Tuticorin and stored.

4. The Master Attendant reports that on the night the ship was stranded,  
an apprentice, whether native or European I am not informed, was lost by the  
upsetting of a boat.

5. The reason of the ship running ashore, and whether there was any  
negligence on the part of the Captain or crew, has not yet been reported to me.  
On this point information will be submitted as soon as received; meanwhile the  
officers and such of the crew as may be able to throw light on the matter are being  
retained for the inquiry, which will probably be ordered.

Submitted for the information and orders of Government

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,  
Acting Secretary.

No. 101. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th May 1875,  
No. 1,274 :—

From W. H. COMYN, Esq., Acting Collector of Tinnevely, to H. E. STOKES, Esq.,  
Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Tinnevely, 5th May 1875,  
No. 219 :—

In continuation of my letter, No. 216, of 30th April 1875, I have the honor to  
inform you that Captain Phipps, the Master Attendant at Tuticorin, reports that there  
is reason to consider that the loss of the ship *Somerset* is attributable to want of

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*  
*15th June 1875.*

caution on the part of those in charge. The Captain appears to have been ill, which prevented him from attending to his duty.

2. Captain Phipps has detained for the inquiry the three officers of the ship, the seaman who was steering at the time of the accident, and the man who was on the look out. The boy who was lost was a European.

Submitted to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 5th May 1875, No. 1,173.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,  
Acting Secretary.

No. 102. ORDER THEREON, 15th June 1875, No. 907.

|                       |
|-----------------------|
| Seports Revenue No. 9 |
| Customs               |

It is observed that an investigation was ordered by telegram on 13th May (G. O., Marine No. 103).

2. It is not necessary, and may entail delay, that such reports should be sent through the Board of Revenue. Act IV, 1875, as amended Act V, 1880, requires the *Magistrate*, by whom notice of the wreck is received, to ascertain the circumstances of the wreck, and to report thereon to the Government.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,  
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,  
all Gallies.



Ships are receiving information of the wreck  
left Tabiorin on Saturday Evening to  
render every assistance in his power. On  
reaching the ship in the afternoon, he was  
in hopes of being able to get her off,  
but for want of suitable anchors, boat  
men & nothing could be done that day,  
and early on the following morning, she  
opened a serious leak, and has since  
become so much.

Mr. Cunningham is now being made  
to save the cargo which consists of  
Cannon ball, Bow, pipes, Plumbago, and  
a store of ~~ammunition~~ shot. The  
necessary instructions have been issued to the  
Chief Clerk, Superintendent and others.  
The

The ~~ammunition~~ <sup>cannon</sup> shot is the property of the  
Government of Ceylon, and was shipped at  
Galle. It is feared that the shot and  
plumbago will be lost; the cargo saved is  
being brought to Tabiorin and stored.

4. The Master Attendant reports  
that on the night the ship was stranded,  
an apprentice - whether native or European  
I am not informed - was lost by the upsetting  
of a boat.

5. The reason of the ship running  
ashore and whether there was any negli-  
gence on the part of the Captain or crew  
has not yet been reported to me. On this  
point, information will be submitted as  
soon as received, meanwhile the officers  
and such of the crew as may be able  
to throw light on the matter are being  
retained.

referred for the enquiry, which will pro-  
bably be asked.

I have to  
Sincerely  
30<sup>th</sup> April 1873  
Signed, W. H. Conway  
Collector

Submitted for the information  
and views of Government.

(Enc. Copy & Extract)

Attest  
By Secretary

P. H. Secretary to Government  
Revenue Department.

W. H. Conway  
Collector.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue  
Dated 13<sup>th</sup> May 1875  
Read the following  
No. 219

Francis W. H. Conyngham Esquire  
Acting Collector  
D. N. S. Stokes Esquire  
Secretary to the  
Board of Revenue  
Madras

In continuation of  
my letter No. 216, 30<sup>th</sup> April 1875  
I have the honor to inform  
you that Captain Phipps,  
the Machine Superintendent at  
Pulicattin, reports that  
there is reason to believe  
that the loss of the ship  
Somerset is attributable  
to want of caution on  
the part of those in charge.  
The Captain appears to have

Rev: 1875: 24th  
1875: 12th  
Proceedings of the  
Board of Revenue  
1875: 12th

Submitting for the  
information of the  
Board of Revenue  
the result of the  
investigation made  
into the loss of the  
ship Somerset, which  
was found to be  
due to the want of  
caution on the part  
of those in charge.  
The Captain appears  
to have been  
negligent in not  
taking proper  
precautions  
against the  
loss of the ship.

have been ill, which pre-  
vented him from  
attending to his duty.

2. Captain Phipps has de-  
tailed for the enquiry  
the 3 officers of the ship  
the seaman who was  
deceased at the time  
of the incident and the  
man who was on the  
look out. The boy who  
was lost was a European.

Submitted by  
S. May 1875  
S. May 1875  
S. May 1875

Submitted to General  
in continuation  
of Board's Proceedings  
dated 10 May 1875

(True Copy of Proceedings)  
S. May 1875

To the Secretary to  
the Admiralty  
Whitehall  
London  
S. May 1875

Run: 1895-2442  
24.1887  
24.1931

Proceedings of the  
Board of Revenue

Section 18 - July 1895  
Book 11 - 22  
Recd 21 -

Subordinate to  
Board was from  
collectors of revenue  
in the district of  
the Madras  
is attributed to  
to want of caution  
on the part of  
there is change.

101  
1895-1896

101  
1895-1896