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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 615 Revenue Press.
B.P. No. _____ Mis.

Dated 24th April 1898 197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

24th April 1878, No. 615.

Read the following paper :—

No. 229. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th March 1878, No. 679.

Read the following letter from D. BUICK, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 1st March 1878, No. 47 :—

I HAVE the honor to forward, for the information of the Board, copy of letter, dated 22nd February, No. A, from Mr. Winterbotham, Acting Special Assistant, reporting his return from the Laccadives on the afternoon of that day. Mr. Winterbotham succeeded in visiting the islands of Androth, Kavarathi, and Agathi, but was unable in consequence of the circumstances detailed in his letter to visit Kalpeni and Minicoy.

2. It will be in the recollection of the Board that Mr. Winterbotham proceeded to the Laccadives in the *Margaret Northcote* on the 4th December last. He was landed at Androth on the 5th December, and the steamer returned here. Subsequently she had to be sent to Bombay for repairs, and the Board in their Proceedings of the 8th January last, No. 86, directed Mr. Logan to make arrangements for chartering a small coasting vessel or pattimar to proceed to the islands and be at Mr. Winterbotham's disposal. Mr. Logan was unable to procure any coasting vessel at any port in the district, and all that he was able to secure was a Minicoy Odam belonging to Sultan Ali Rajah. This vessel unfortunately was very badly fitted for a cruise. She was ill-found in every respect, and was almost unseaworthy. She, however, carried Mr. Winterbotham's party safely from Kavarathi to Agathi, but when attempting the passage between Agathi and Kalpeni the wind failed, the vessel drifted, the Malumi lost his reckonings, and fearing lest the scanty supply of tainted water should fail Mr. Winterbotham after being four days becalmed was reluctantly compelled to take advantage of the first breeze, and to steer for the main land. The safe return of him and the party accompanying him relieved me of much anxiety.

3. Mr. Winterbotham has proposed to make another attempt to visit Kalpeni and Minicoy this season, but I am unable to sanction the proposal. I have ascertained from Captain Phipps at Bombay that the *Margaret Northcote* will not be available in time to admit of a visit to the islands before the monsoon, and any attempt to visit them in the Minicoy vessel or other Native craft procurable here is entirely out of the question. I have accordingly informed Mr. Winterbotham that the visit to Kalpeni and Minicoy must stand over till next season, and I trust the Board will approve the decision.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., Acting Special Assistant Collector, to D. BUICK, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, dated Calicut, 22nd February 1878, No. A.

I HAVE the mortification to report my return this afternoon from the Laccadives without having accomplished the round of the islands.

2. You are aware of the circumstances under which Mr. Logan sent one of the Rajah's Minicoy vessels to take my party on from Kavarathi. We reached Agathi not without some difficulty, and sailed thence on the night of 15th February for Kalpeni with a fair wind. The distance is only 80 miles, and we ought to have reached Kalpeni in 36 hours; but the wind failed

us, and for four days we drifted helplessly with the current until we had lost all knowledge of our longitude. There were forty of us on board, twenty-three men belonging to the vessel, and sixteen with me, and using all economy we required twenty gallons of water a day. We had only ten days' supply in all, and were thus faced by the appalling fact that if the calm lasted two or three days longer we should have used up every drop before we could possibly reach the main land. Our lives would thus depend on our finding Kalpeni, for the only wind we could hope for must come from the north, and our tub of a vessel could not beat up against it to any of the northerly islands.

It seems to be imagined by some that the islanders can determine their position at sea without the instruments that an English sailor finds indispensable, and it may be admitted that all things being favorable there is no difficulty in passing from island to island with no instrument but a compass.

When, however the weather is unsettled, and a vessel has been swept out of its course, the chances of its reaching a particular island within five or six days are exceedingly remote.

In the day time the islands only become visible from the mast head at a distance of ten miles, and in the night the vessel may pass within a mile of the island without being aware of its proximity.

I took counsel with the Malumi in command, and he advised that we should pray for a wind, and (if our prayers were answered) steer straight for the main land while we had sufficient water left.

To be brief a breeze did spring up, and we escaped from an awkward predicament.

3. Our case is not a singular one. The same thing happened to Mr. Thomas who was three weeks at sea without being able to find Minicoy. A Minicoy vessel was unable to find the island last year, and passed the monsoon at Cochin, and vessels belonging to the northern islands frequently lose their reckoning, and after beating east and west for weeks have to make for the main land and take a fresh shot at their destination.

4. There is still time for a brief visit to Kalpeni and Minicoy before the monsoon sets in, but I must respectfully protest against going again in a vessel so utterly unfurnished with all that a vessel chiefly requires.

She leaks so that two men have to be kept constantly baling. My tin-boxes were called into requisition at Agathi to patch her up, but she is too rotten to be made water-tight without being pulled to pieces. As a temporary measure she must be fitted with a pump. This can be easily done. It is, I suppose, too much to expect that she should be furnished with one or more boats sufficiently roomy to give those on board a chance of escape in case of her running on a reef or foundering. It is not, however, too much to ask for a chronometer, a nautical almanack, a telescope, and a sextant in good repair. The Malumi understands the use of the instruments in practice, I understand it in theory, and together we can, I have no doubt, manage to find the island. To set out again without the above apparatus is simply to invite failure and possibly disaster.

5. If I am to set out again for Kalpeni and Minicoy I request your early orders to that effect, for there is no time to be lost.

I perhaps may be allowed to say that I do not regard the business as a pleasure trip in any light whatever. A man who spends a few days cooped up in a native craft, shoulder to shoulder with a party of sea-sick dependents, with a blazing sun overhead, not a breath of air moving, a scanty supply of water, and no possibility of withdrawing from the general gaze for a single instant, will find that there is very little of romance in his situation.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Board are glad to hear of Mr. Winterbotham's safe return. Mr. Buick rightly refused to allow another attempt to visit the islands of Kalpeni and Minicoy this season. Looking to the result of this trip, and the probability that the Salt Commissioner will often require the use of a vessel, the Board think that there should be at the disposal of Government a steam yacht. There are many purposes for which such a vessel would be useful besides the annual trip to the Laccadives, and at present the *Margaret Northcote*, which is evidently not to be relied upon and is not in other respects suitable, is the only vessel available.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed)

C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

No. 230.

ORDER THEREON, 24th April 1878, No. 615.

Miscellaneous.

THE Governor in Council does not think it likely that a steam yacht will be at the disposal of this Government for some time to come. The *Margaret Northcote* when in a seaworthy condition, as will be the case when she is turned out of the Bombay dockyard, ought to suffice for present purposes. The Board do not say why they consider her unsuitable.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Marine Department.

Exd. F. K. Bantleman.

Steam Yacht.—Considering it unlikely that a
the use of which the Board recommend will be at
the disposal of Government for some time to come;
and stating that the *Margaret Northcote*, when
seaworthy, ought to suffice for present purposes

APRIL.
Nos. 229-230.

C.O., 24th April 1878, No. 615.

Dated April 24th.
Recd.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

To,

Secy,

Calicut.

REVENUE.

Govt. of (1878) Madras.

No. 679.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 14th March 1878.

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(True Copies and Extract.)

Calcutta
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of Malabar.

Edw. C. Howarth.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 1327

From Board of Revenue
Dated 14 March 1878

FOR ORDERS.

See another paper appended. This seems
to be the work of a very reason-
able man. Mr. W. is able request
Caudel at Antares - but perhaps
as I suppose rowed in should be con-
sidered first in the Political
Dept. as connected with
the Laccadive
trips. E.M.

22 January 1878 No. 231-234

Revenue Register
No. 1327
1878.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 14th MARCH 1878, No. 679.

Comp 23-5-78

End.

Col. G. H. Macpherson

Received 15th March

MARCH.
No. 679.

W. H. M. - Acting Special
Assistant Collector of Malabar. - Submitting
to Government letter from Collector re-
ferring to the return of - from the Laccadives.

Ac 17/4/78 No 6/78
Ac 17/4/78 No 17/4/78
Ac 17/4/78 No 34/78
Ac 17/4/78 No 11/4/78

11/22/59
 11/23/59
 11/24/59
 11/25/59
 11/26/59

Assistant Collector of Customs
 to Government letter from Collector reporting
 the return of — from the Lacedaives.

Missing Boat for
 I don't know I have
 one of a row-boat
 several times
 I don't like the
 messy Kalfemi &
 missing & I suspect
 a piece of the missing
 boats are not generally
 such boats — unless
 they want to be "by order"
 — I found that more
 than one occasion —
 — & the order & the matter
 were there, depend upon
 it —
 Of course it is all
 right — but I can now

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

to Don for this year
 3/73

As regards a
 Steamer — I don't
 saddle the success
 don't admit
 with such a change —
 a present ~~boat~~
 Steam Yacht would
 be useful — but then
 so much is wasted on
 a piece

7/4/58 R 12/6/58
10/4/58 R 17/4/58
9/6/58 R 30/1/58

to Government letter from Collector reporting
the return of — from the Laccadives.

FOR ORDERS.

Regarding the return of Mr
Winters to the office of
Collector, Malabar, from the
Laccadives.

C. G. M.
12/3/58

R 10/4/58 R 30/4/58
C. 29/3/58 R 10/4/58

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 1327.

From Board of Revenue

Dated 14. March 1878.

FOR ORDERS.

I do not like the look of this case. Mr Winters to whom was landed at Anthoth. and I suppose rowed in a large row boat to Kavaratty (an easy night's row if still). From Kavaratty to Agarthi is a still easier trip. What they wanted a big

This seems a very reasonable request but perhaps should be considered first in the Political Department as connected with the Laccadive Trips.

Sd/ C. G. M.

Ac 17/4/58 R 12/6/58
 Ac 17/4/58 R 17/4/58
 Ac 17/4/58 R 30/4/58
 C. 27/3/58 R 11/4/58

Minicoy Boat for here
 I do not know: I have
 done it in a row-boat
 several times.

I do not like the
 missing Kalpeni
 and Minicoy; and
 suspect a "plant"
 Minicoy boats ^{men} are
 not generally such
 boats - unless they
 want to be "by order"
 - I found that on more
 than one occasion
~~but~~ the order and
 its motive were there,
~~It may have been~~ have
 been an accident.
 Of course it is all
 right now

Ac 17/4/58 R 30/4/58
 C. 27/3/58 R 11/4/58

now be done for this
 year.

As regards a steamer,
 I would not saddle
 the Laccadive adminis-
 -tration with such
 a charge. A presidential
 steam yacht might
 be useful - but this
 service could scarcely be
 urged as a plea.

3/4 M

I consider the
 "M. M. M. M." the
 more for our
 purposes than in

R.C. 7/4/58 R. 2/6/58
 R.C. 4/10/58 R. 17/4/58
 R.C. 1/10/58 R. 3/11/58
 C. 2/3/58 R. 1/4/58

AND APPEAR ON THE LACORDIER

leaving the water in
 B. it is hard to look
 in skin turned out
 from the bottom
 of the pond. I don't
 know why the B. consider
 her misadventure. She is
 a capital sea boat.
 to look her up a
 good steam yacht
 in my time. *[Signature]*

10/327.
 FOR ORDERS.

Regarding the return
 of the boat to the
 Costa Rica, Malabar from
 the Laccadives.

[Signature]
 15/4

R.C. 4/10/58 R. 17/4/58
 C. 2/3/58 R. 1/4/58



mm

No. 615

Revenue Dept.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
under date the 14th April 1878

Read Proc^s of
the Board of Revenue dated
14th March 1878, No. 79 sub.
-mitting to Govt. letter
from Collector, Malabar,
reporting the return of
Mr. H. M. Winterbotham
from the Laccadives.

The Governor in
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it likely that a Steam
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disposal of this Govern-
-ment for some time to
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Northcott" when in a sea-
-worthy condition, as will
be the case when she is
turned out of the Bombay
Dockyard, ought to suffice
for present purposes.
The Board do not say why
they consider her unsuit-
-able.

mm
1878

To Board of Revenue dated 14th May
- Marine Dept. 1/2 5

4
40

gll