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Home (1917) Department.
Miscellaneous

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 511

DATED 29. 5. 17.

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Emigrant vessels.-

Recording endorsement No. 4932-Spl., dated the 3rd May 1917, from the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, forwarding papers on the subject of emigration to British Guiana in which reference is made to the question of insufficiency of boat accommodation in emigrant vessels.

J. & P. 1169/17.

INDIA OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

29th March 1917.

Dear Mr. Howard,

With reference to my letter of 28th July 1915, J. & P. 2804/1915, I forward, for information, copy of the papers noted in the margin, on the subject of Emigration to British Guiana. The papers also touch on the question of boat equipment of immigrant ships referred to in the Secretary of State's Despatch No. 32, Revenue, of 19th March 1915.

Yours sincerely,
M.C. Seton.

The Secretary to the Government of India,
Commerce and Industry Department.

No. 8952/1916-17.

Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
17 March 1917.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Long to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, the accompanying copy of a report by the Immigration Agent-General, British Guiana, upon the S.S. "Chenab", which arrived in that Colony with 132 Indian Immigrants on the 8th of December.

2. In view of the cessation of emigration from India, it would not appear to be necessary to consider, at present, the question of the insufficiency of boats raised in the report. I am to suggest, however, that it might be communicated to the Government of India with reference to the correspondence referred to in your letter (R. & S. 881) of the 3rd of March, 1915.

I am, &c.,
(Sd). G. GRINDLE.

The Under Secretary of State,
Public Department,
India Office.

No.

3/

BRITISH GUIANA,
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT,

Georgetown, 20th
December 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to report for Your Excellency's information, the arrival on the morning of the 8th instant of the S.S. "Chenab" 2156 tons, J. Dorman, Master; Percy Randall, Surgeon Superintendent; after a voyage of forty-four days from Calcutta, having touched at Madras, where she embarked Immigrants for this Colony on 30th October classified as follows:-

Males.	Females	Boys.	Girls.	Male Infant.	Female Infant.	Total	Adult.
87	35	4	4.	2.	-	132.	127.

A delay of four days occurred at Durban, where the vessel coaled..

2. Of the Immigrants mentioned above, seven had previously been to Natal.

3. I regret that, owing to indisposition, I was prevented from visiting the "Chenab". In my absence Mr. J.C. King, the Ag. Senior Immigration Agent, inspected the vessel accompanied by the Medical Inspector and found the Stores, Medical comforts, etc., to be satisfactory - the 'tween decks were clean and tidy.

4. Good health, with the exception of a few coughs after rounding the Cape, existed during the voyage. There were no births or deaths among the Immigrants for this Colony.

5. The steamer berthed alongside Messrs. Bandback Parker's wharf and the Immigrants for British Guiana were landed at noon on the day of arrival and brought to Depot.

6. The Emigration Agent at Madras reports as follows relative to the small number of Immigrants for this Colony:-

"I regret exceedingly that I am unable to embark a larger number of emigrants for British Guiana by this steamer, but I have had only two weeks in which to recruit since I despatched the last Fiji steamer, and during this period it has been impossible to do anything like satisfactory recruiting work owing to very heavy monsoon weather, and to the celebration of the important Deepavali festival. It has been with the greatest difficulty that I have been able to secure even the small number embarked".

7. It was not found necessary to send any of the Immigrants to the

Public

Public Hospital, Georgetown for admission. Six men suffering from trivial ailments were, on the advice of the Medical Inspector sent to the Public Hospital, Georgetown, for treatment as out-patients.

8. The Medical Inspector has recommended and I have approved of one man being allotted at 1/2 fee owing to his having hernia.

9. Under the provisions of Section 140 of the Immigration Ordinance of 1891. 10 couples were registered on arrival as married and received the usual certificates.

10. Literary statistics showed as follows:-

9	men	could	read	and	write	Tamil.
3	"	"	"	"	"	Telegu.
1	man	"	"	"	"	Urdu.
1	"	"	"	"	"	Malayalam.
1	"	"	"	"	"	Telegu and speak English.

11. The Immigrants brought by this ship were of very fair physique and on the 6th December the Surgeon Superintendent was able to report that "the Madras invalids are few and far between just now and their general condition causes me considerable satisfaction." Under date 3rd November however the Surgeon writes "It is difficult to understand what the qualifications of the so-called Nurse in the Madras Depot are worth when I discover a woman No. 125 Sultan Bee 25 years with Gonorrhoea and also a chronic discharging buboe in her left groin, when examining the Coolies in the Depot I particularly enquired if all the women had been carefully examined by the Nurse and was informed it had been done."

12. The Immigrants were subjected to special treatment for Anchylostomiasis during the voyage and I attach hereto a copy of Dr. Randall's report in connexion therewith. In an entry in his journal dated 4th November the Surgeon writes: "Every day I obtain entozoa from some of the Emigrants and I am more than convinced that the universal administration of thymol is invaluable and ought to be made a routine treatment on all Emigrant ships - of this I have produced figures and statistics to prove this in two reports of separate voyages and in due course I shall be able to again give facts that will convince any except the hidebound self-opinionated specimen who willfully ignores facts, and is too old to learn. Extra work is of course involved, but, so there is in the trenches". And under date 10th November: "My progress with thymol daily produced the most excellent results. I find that intestinal parasites in Indian Coolies are at the back of

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"9/10 of all the diseases met with, and each day affords additional
"proofs, with fever diarrhoea, abdominal pain and nausea brought on
"by the presence of these entozoa, the removal of which effects a
"prompt cure." On the 27th November the Surgeon wrote My routine treat-
ment of all these Immigrants finished to-day."

13. There seems some question in regard to the rice for the Madras
Immigrants. Local experience is that the Madras rice do not like the
Calcutta rice. Dr. Rendall however under date 6th November writes,
"Many time before I have drawn attention in previous diaries to the
"inferiority of the rice supplied in Madras, which is inferior, cooks
"badly, and is of less dietetic value as it is milled, and therefore
"when cooked becomes mushy and the grains cohere. All Coolies prefer
"the Calcutta rice. As some one suggested that in unmilled rice the
germ of beri beri exists, therefore this rice is supplied instead of
"unmilled rice. As far as I am aware, beri beri has never existed on
"Coolie ships, but that is a mere detail." And again under date 25th
"November, "To obviate monotony in some degree, I have kedgeree made
"twice a week made by boiling the rice with the cooked dal, this mixture
"is very popular with the Emigrants but the Madras rice does not lend
"itself to this treatment, as it forms a sticky much. I wish again to
"put in writing my opinion that the rice put on board for the use of
"the Madras Coolies is inferior to the rice obtained in Calcutta, and
"the latter is infinitely preferred by the Emigrants of Madras as well
"as Calcutta, quite apart from the fact that it is difficult to boil,
"but coheres in a sticky much in the boilers." Yet under date 8th
November he reports "the meals are now greatly appreciated by all and
"the rice is consumed to the last spoonful, second helps are often asked
"for when there is balance in the deys".

14. In remarking on the leanness of the sheep, due apparently to the
war, Dr. Rendall reports "Before this I have drawn attention to the
"serious dangers of turning the poop which is supposed to be available
"as deck space for the Coolies, into a menagerie. The deck is cons-
tantly covered with a mixture of avian and mammalian fœces, and as
"Stores for a Return Ship from the West Indies' were put on board
"at the last moment, we have a double quantity of these Calcutta skeletons
"penned on the poop, to aggravate the nuisance. Further, ducks and
"geese have been seen affected with cerebro-spinal paralysis and it is
"quite likely that they are carriers of this disease".

The

6
The Surgeon at the same time urges that "the lack of a refrigerating
"chamber is in my opinion, the most crying need on board these vessels".

15. The Surgeon reports a shortage of 86 in warm vests and pants pro-
vided in Calcutta but this shortage was fortunately covered by a samples
in the warm clothing put on board at Madras, the ship leaving that Port
with 86½ souls less than was expected.

16. The influence of the great war was felt when from the 26th the ship
ran "at night time with all lights extinguished except those in the
"between decks, where the dead-lights are closed, candles are placed
"at the closets and in the hospitals on the floors just to enable the
"people to see their way about, this is considered by Captain J. Dorman
"to be necessary for the safety of the ship, as we are rapidly approach-
"ing a zone where a strafe raider or submarine might be encountered".

In this connection the Surgeon's entry under date 26th November
seems to call for instant attention. It is as follows:- "War warnings
reached us by wireless this evening faint, probably from
..... They warned us not to go near and
....."

"Under these circumstances on board, the less thinking one does
"the better, since one knows that, independent of the crew and firemen,
"the eight boats would not hold properly provisioned, and if ample
"time and a calm sea etc. allowed them to reach the water safely, at
"most 2/3rds of the emigrants on board 770 and this is nearly 100 less
"than this ship measures for. There are no rafts carried on any deck."

17. The attention of the Secretary of State was drawn to this matter
by Sir Walter Egerton in his despatch No. 491 of the 4th December 1914,
copy of which is attached, in connection with the voyage of the ship
"Indus" from this Port to Calcutta in that year.

18. The Medical Inspector's Report is forwarded, herewith.

19. The "Chenab" had also on board 638 Calcuttans for Trinidad.

I have, &c.,

Sd/- R. P. STEWART,

Ag. Immigration Agent General.

His Excellency,
The Officer Administering the Government,
Government House.

Report on Ankylostomiasis.

During this voyage, which began on 30th September and ended on
8th December 1916, I treated 87 men and 34 women with thymol to rid
them

them of entozoa.

Of these 121 Adults.

59 were suffering from Ankylostoma duodenale.

42 " " " Oxyuris vermicularis.

4 " " " Ascaris lumbricoides.

3 " " " Taenia (Tape Worm).

There were 8 children dosed with Santonin, 7 of them were found to harbour Round Worms. Two infants and ^{one} pregnant woman were untreated.

Amongst the adults Thread Worms (Oxyuris) were found 9 times in conjunction with Ankylostomes, and twice with Tape Worms -

In 2 cases Round Worms (Ascaris) were found with Ankylostomes. One patient was found to harbour Ankylos: Round and Thread Worms.

My procedure was the same throughout, a batch about 25 were chosen daily and 1 oz. of a saturated solution of Sulphate of Magnesia was given overnight. At 6 a.m. the next morning half a drachm of Thymol was given by the mouth, at 8 a.m. this dose was repeated.

At 10 a.m. an ounce of Sulphate of Magnesia was administered. Each patient was given a mutton tin, and the motion was voided therein. The tins were slowly emptied into very fine wire gauze sieves, and the faeces washed through with a stream of water. The entozoa were removed and placed on glaze slides to be indentified by the microscope each evening in any case where their identity was in doubt. In some cases this treatment was repeated, if any symptoms showed themselves, which made it possible that entozoa still lingered in the intestinal tract. In no case did I succeed in finding ova, in slides prepared from the faeces, of those who had actually harboured Ankylostomes.

I am convinced that this routine treatment for Entozoa is of great value, both to the digestion and general health of the Emigrants, and in the interests of the Colony. This is the 3rd consecutive voyage, during which I have treated every Coolie on board, and what I have specially noted in reference to the weekly Abstracts of previous voyages is, that this Thymolisation has almost banished the Dysenteric Diarrhoea and intermittent Fever which were practically epidemic throughout my voyage: caused in large measure in my opinion, by the presence of these entozoa, and the toxins liberated by them in the intestinal canal.

There was not a single instance of Thymol causing any toxoemia and I am convinced that it is infinitely more reliable for evacuating the Hookworms than Eucalyptus Oil, for I have repeatedly obtained the

Ankylostomes

Ankylostomes from patients to whom I had given half drachm doses of the oil, without positive results when I subsequently administered Thymol. Notwithstanding the enormous increase in price, it is still possible to treat patients with Thymol at the cost of 6d. In no case was I able to discover the ova of Ankylostomes, in slides prepared from the faeces of those who had actually harboured this parasite, after the most exhaustive microscopical examination. Smaller doses of Thymol have been proved years ago, to be futile for administration and oils and alcohol have to be vigorously banished, during its use. A milk diet only was given on the day this drug was exhibited. It must entail extra work on the Surgeon, but I think that anyone who takes his profession seriously, will hardly grudge the trouble when the benefits are so clearly demonstrable.

In conclusion I cannot close this Report without drawing particular attention to the excellent work done by my Senior Compounder (on these 3 voyages) Fazlai Hak in this laborious and valuable work.

(Sd). PERCY RENDALL, M.D.,

8th December 1916.

Surgeon Superintendent, S.S. "Chenab".

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 491.

Government House.

Georgetown, Demerara,

4th December 1914.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that the Surgeon Superintendent of the Return Immigrant Ship "Indus" which left this Port on the 25th June last for Calcutta, reported that, in his opinion, there was an insufficiency of boats for the immigrants carried.

2. A Certificate of the Marine Surveyor who surveyed the "Indus" prior to her departure from this Port in June last states that "the ship is in every respect thoroughly seaworthy and eligible for the conveyance of Return Indian Immigrants to Calcutta; that she is supplied with all the tackle, apparel and furniture requisite for her intended voyage in accordance with the Rules under the Indian Immigration Act No. 21 of 1883." Reference to the Appendix to the Rules under the Indian Immigration Act 21 of 1883 will show that the "boat scale" is laid down, and that the "requirements" of the boats is specified.

3. On my raising the question whether the boat equipment was up

to the requirements under the New Board of Trade rules issued since the loss of the "Titanic", I was informed by the acting Harbour Master:-

"I have no dimensions of the life boats, so it is not possible to state how many people they could hold. As the Titanic enquiry it came out that some boats (by picking up people in the water) had 50 people on board. Asked if they could hold more it was stated that they might possibly hold 70 but it would not be safe to lower them from the ship with that number. I have therefore taken 60 as the highest possible number that could be lowered from the ship and I find that the Indian Regulations for a ship of the Indus size requires not less than 7 life-boats."

"According to the New Board of Trade Rules, taking the ship at her utmost capacity, viz. 825 coolies and 120 crew she would be required to have 15 lifeboats, but as I am informed that they seldom carry more than 600 coolies it would mean 12 lifeboats as compared to not less than 7 by Indian Regulations."

(Intld). L. J. H. T.

Acting Harbour Master and

Surveyor of Passenger Ships under the Merchant Service Act.

4. From this it appears probable that the Indian Rules require considerably less boat accommodation than the Rules issued by the Board of Trade subsequent to the "Titanic" disaster and now in force in the United Kingdom.

5. It seems to me desirable that the question of the adequacy of the Boat accommodation on the Indian Immigrant steamers employed for the West Indian and British Guiana Service should be enquired into.

I have, etc.,

(Sd). W. EGERTON.

Camp Street, Georgetown,
British Guiana.

11th December 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following report on the S.S. Chenab and the East Indian Immigrants she brought from Madras to this Colony.

The Chenab was a joint ship, bringing East Indian immigrants for both British Guiana and Trinidad.

She

10
She sailed on October 25th 1916, from Calcutta to Madras with 638 souls for Trinidad.

At Madras she embarked for British Guiana 132 immigrants made up as follows:-

M.	F.	Boys.	Girls.	Infants.	Total Souls.	Statute Adults.
87	35	4	4	2	132	127.

The ship was certified for 827 statute adults; the actual number carried was 739½.

The Chenab sailed from Madras on October 30th and after calling at Durban for coals arrived at Georgetown on December 8th after a voyage of 40 days.

In accordance with sections 45 and 46 of the Immigration Ordinance No. 18 of 1891, I accompanied the deputy of the Honourable the Acting Immigration Agent General on board at about 9 a.m. on the morning of arrival, and together we proceeded to make a general inspection of the immigrants and the ship.

The immigrants were a particularly good lot; the condition of the ship was satisfactory in every respect.

Thereafter I proceeded to examine the provisions, water and medical comforts, and found them all of good quality. I was further assured by the Surgeon Superintendent, Dr. Percy Rendall, that all of these during the voyage had been ample in quantity and of good quality.

The general health of the immigrants during the voyage was excellent.

Neither birth nor death occurred among the Madras Immigrants for this Colony.

On arrival at Georgetown there were landed exactly the same number of immigrants as had been embarked at Madras.

Together with the Surgeon Superintendent I proceeded to examine these in detail, and referred 11 men and 1 boy for further examination at the Depot.

As the result of the further examination 6 men have been sent to Public Hospital for treatment as out-patients. 1 man is being detained in Depot for 14 days owing to poor condition.

I have found it necessary to recommend that 1 man be allotted at ½ owing to his having a hernia.

I have, &c.,

(Sd). W. deW. WISHART.

The Honourable

The Surgeon General.

10654/1917.

TELEGRAM:- From the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the
Officer Administering the Government of British Guiana.

(Sent 12.15.p.m. 6th March 1917).

Messrs. Nourse's ships taken over by Shipping Controller. With
possible exception of ship now awaiting clearance it will be impossible
to arrange further coolie emigrant ships or for return ships at present.

LONG.

TRUE COPY.

W. C. Allen

Superintendent,
Department of Commerce and Industry.

W

A.R.

[G.]
6,000-28-12-08

NOTES.

Home dept
(His)

Boat accommodation
in emigrant vessels

(Ch 1600) From the G. & I, Dept of Commerce and
Industry, No 4932-Spl, D. The 3.5.17

For the U.S

The main question raised
in the papers forwarded by the G. & I is
the insufficiency of boat accommodation
in emigrant vessels.

2 This question has
arisen in connection with the voyage
of the S.S. "Glenab" which arrived
in British Guiana on the 8th December
1916 with immigrants from Calcutta
and Madras. For some nights the ship
had to sail with all lights extinguished
except those in the between decks
lest she should encounter a stray
raider or submarine. The Surgeon
who accompanied the emigrants on
board the vessel remarks that
the eight boats provided in the vessel
could be

p 3 C F

Para 16, p 6 C F

[There were also emigrants
to Trinidad on board
the vessel]
Vide para 19, p 6 c F

p 106 of
Rules (put up)

p 2 c F

barely sufficient to hold ~~only~~ $\frac{2}{3}$ of
the emigrants on board the vessel in
the event of her encountering any
danger. The number of boats
provided in the vessel (8) was
higher ~~but~~ than that prescribed (7)
in the Colonial Emigration Rules.
The scale prescribed in the Rules would
apparently require amendment in the
light of the observations made by the
Surgeon. The Colonial office is
however of the opinion that this
question need not be considered in
view of the cessation of indentured
emigration for the present.

3 The papers may, if so
submitted, be recorded. A draft order
is submitted for approval.

21.5.17
Pdel
24.5.17
S.

May be needed.

The papers are interesting, esp. the parts having
reference to the treatment of hookworm.

Recd for file
28/5/17

Box 42
Circ 28/5/17
Reld 28/5/17



W. M.
C. M.
25.5.17
28.5.17

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191

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191

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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