Scott. II—48—21,640-19-1-17.

Rec'd Sept

Home (1917) Department.

(Miscellaneous)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 606

DATED 19.6.17

slip sent to Indexer

[Despatch Abstract.]

Emigration - Ceylon.

Recording Correspondence between H.E the Governor of Ceylon and H.E the Governor of Madras on the subject of the employment of the Ceylon Labourers Commission for controlling emigration of unskilled labourers to Ceylon & the emigration of coolies required for employment in Colombo Harbour.

PRIVATE SECRETARY MADRAS

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
OOTACAMUND.
25th May 1917.

Misc
1800
Pag dt 5.17

My dear Davidson,

I am to send you the accompanying copies of correspondence relating to emigration to Ceylon for record in the Secretariat.

Yours sincerely,

CHIEF SECRETARY GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS 26 MAY 1917

SECRETARIAT GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS 28-MAY-1917 HOME DEPARTMENT

The Hon'ble Mr. L. Davidson, C.S.I., I.C.S.,
Chief Secretary to Government,
Stonehouse Hill.

SECRETARIAT GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS 28-MAY-1917 HOME DEPARTMENT

Telegram from - H.E.the Right Hon'ble the Lord Pentland, P.C.,G.C.I.E., Governor of Madras,

To - H.E. Sir John Anderson, G.C.M.G.,&c. Governor of Ceylon, Nuwaraeliya,

Dated - 30th April 1917.

G.O. 396 Y 2341

P.I. Protests 90 468 A 14517

Your telegram dated 28th April about permits for labourers proceeding to Ceylon. Directions have already issued in this Government's telegram and letter dated 23rd April that coolies employed Colombo harbour should not pass through Ceylon Labour Commission and that permits for them will be issued on certificate your Mandapam Agent that they are proceeding for Government work. Trust this arrangement satisfactory in their case. Regarding estate labour we consider it necessary that recruitment should be controlled by properly organised labour agency. Letter follows.

Letter from - H.E. the Right Hon'ble the Lord Pentland, P.C., G.C.I.E., Governor of Madras,

To - H.E. Sir John Anderson, G.C.M.G., &c. Governor of Ceylon, Nuwaraeliya,

Dated - Ootacamund, the 30th April 1917.

Would you please refer to your telegram dated 28th April regarding permits for labourers proceeding to Ceylon and my telegram of this date in reply? When you despatched your telegram of the 28th April you apparently had not seen this Government's telegram No.139 of the 23rd April which was a reply to your Colonial Secretary's telegram of the 12th April. You will see from that telegram that we had already modified our previous orders in so far as they related to the emigration of coolies employed in the Colombo harbour, and that we have directed our officer at Mandapam to issue permits for such coolies on the certificate of your Camp Superintendent at Mandapam that they are proceeding to Ceylon for Government work. These coolies will therefore no longer pass through the hands of the Ceylon Labour Commission and if you consider that any other classes of labourers employed by your Government should be similarly treated, we are quite prepared to issue the necessary orders.

As regards estate labour, the Madras Government have been much concerned to devise a remedy for certain objectionable features which have come under our notice in the recruiting methods practised by some private employers of labour in Ceylon and particularly by estates which do not subscribe to the Ceylon Labour Commission. We were satisfied from the enquiries made by Messrs. Marjoribanks and Marakayar that it was necessary to place all recruitment of labour for private employment in Ceylon under the control of an organised Labour Agency established in this Presidency.

In giving effect to this decision my Government had necessarily to make use of the only Labour Agency available, namely the Ceylon Labour Commission. I sympathise with your dislike of recruitment being placed in the hands of a private body, but in the absence of a Labour Agency authorised by your Government, I feel sure you will agree that no other course was

possible. I would add that the fact that the Commission recruits for 85 per cent of the estates and that it has throughout been making earnest and genuine endeavours to suppress abuses in connection with recruitment, seemed to us fully to justify this course and I sincerely hope that the arrangements as now modified will meet with your approval.

Copy of letter from-His Excellency Sir John Anderson, G.C.M.G.,&c.
Governor of Ceylon, Nuwara Eliya.

To - His Excellency the Right Hon'ble the Lord Pentland, P.C.,
G.C.I.E., Governor of Madras.

Dated-12th May 1917.

pp 3-4 ante

I am much obliged for yours of 30th April, but I am sorry to say we are still far from satisfied. In the first instance, I venture to suggest it would have been more in accordance with the usage prevailing between neighbouring administrations if your Govemment had taken us into Council before arriving at a decision in these labour matters which are of equal importance to both. If that had been done the whole trouble might have been avoided.

As it is, your Government, which, in the nature of things, cannot know where the shoe pinches us, has taken an important decision with the most serious effect on us here and left us in the objectionable position of having to protest and appeal. That is not as it should be, and I should be glad if you would try and arrange that we should have our say before a decision is arrived at. It is most important for us to work in harmony with you and we are fully aware of this and are anxious to realize your point of view as well as our own and not to raise unnecessary difficulties, and I am quite sure that if your Govemment would as far as possible take us into Council no trouble would arise.

Now as regards first the Harbour coolies, these are not in Govemment employ but in the employ of two or three firms of landing or coaling agents, and if you will modify your instructions to allow certificates to be issued to coolies proceeding to Ceylon for work under any recognized firm of wharfage or coaling agents it will be all right.

As regards estate labour we have no information as regards the objectionable features in the recruiting methods employed by estates outside the Ceylon Labour Commission. I can find nothing in the Marjoribanks-Marakayar report on the subject beyond a statement in paragraph 26 that there is reason

to believe that some such estates send tin tickets direct to professional recruiters in India. The evidence on which that suggestion is founded does not appear in the report, and I venture to think that if the Commission and your Government considered that this led to evils and malpractices, and had brought the matter to our notice, we should have made haste to find a permanent remedy, while the action of your Government can be, at best, a temporary palliative.

As it is, by ignoring this Government and placing the control of emigration entirely in the hands of a private agency responsible only to its employers, you are placing a severe disability on all estates outside that agency including practically all the estate owners who are natives of the country. The result must be that to get their necessary labour these estates must have resort to "crimping" or to encouraging bolting and other devices not calculated to minimize labour troubles and difficulties in the Island.

Our Camp Superintendent at Mandapam could easily do the work and without favouring any employer or class of employers. The Labour Commissioner is at hand to help and advise if required, but I am unable to see that he has any knowledge or facilities at his command for the object your Government have in view which are not equally available to the Government official to whom we have asked you to submit the task.

I am not concerned to deny the valuable services rendered by the Labour Commission, but with nearly forty years' official experience behind me, I say without hesitation that I have never previously known of a case where the Government of a British possession would have taken such a step without consulting the Government of the possession whose interests were affected.

There are evils connected with the employment of labour from South India in Ceylon undoubtedly, and they have been the subject of my most anxious consideration ever since I have been here. But they are of old standing, and an effective remedy is by no means simple. If your Government considered that some of them were so pressing that their removal was urgent, and had taken the usual course of bringing them to our notice, we should have done our utmost to meet their wishes.

Copy of letter from-His Excellency the Right Hon'ble the
Lord Pentland, P.C.,G.C.I.E. Governor of Madras.

To - His Excellency Sir John Anderson, G.C.M.G., &c.,
Governor of Ceylon, Nuwara Eliya.

Dated - Ootacamund, 23rd May 1917.

I write to acknowledge your letter of the ~~31st~~ May and to give you such further information as I can regarding the points to which you refer.

In the first place as regards the harbour coolies the wording of your Colonial Secretary's telegram of the 12th April led us to think that these coolies were employed by your Government. The mistake was pointed out in your telegram of the 9th May and as stated in a telegram sent by the Home Department here to the Colonial Secretary on the 14th instant instructions have been issued authorising the permit issuing officer at Mandapam to issue permits without restriction to coolies required for employment in Colombo harbour on the certificate of the Superintendent of the Quarantine Camp at Mandapam. I trust that these instructions fully meet your wishes in the matter.

In regard to estate coolies as stated in Mr.Harvey's letter No.1022-1 dated 29th March 1917 we have been anxious to carry out the instructions contained in the Government of India's notification regarding the emigration of labourers from India with as little disturbance to Ceylon interests as possible. But in view of the strictures passed by Messrs.Marjoribanks and Marakayar on the methods adopted by certain estates in Ceylon and the certainty that these irregularities and malpractices would be intensified by the restrictions imposed by the ordinance we felt bound to adopt a procedure which would minimise this danger. These strictures, which I may add are now under the consideration of the Government of India, had special reference to those estates which are outside the agency of the Ceylon Labour Commission. As stated in Mr.Harvey's letter that Commission seemed to my Government to offer the most suitable agency through which to exercise control and we felt obliged to decline the suggestion

to utilise the Mandapam Camp Superintendent as he has neither the same experience of this complicated question nor means of knowing how the coolies are obtained.

My Government are quite in agreement with you that the present procedure can only be regarded as a temporary expedient and as indicated in my letter of the 30th April are of opinion that a satisfactory settlement can only be arrived at by the institution of an official Labour Agency organised and controlled by the Ceylon Government. That however is part of the larger question which is now in the hands of the authorities at home. Our immediate duty was to meet without delay the situation arising out of the Government of India's notification and we are still of opinion that the arrangements which we made were the most suitable within our power. We shall however I need hardly say carefully consider any further suggestions your Government may have to offer.

II—8 (a):—160,004—16-1-17.

# NOTES.



For the w.s.

The papers may, it is submitted, be recorded. A draft order is submitted for approval.

Sd
29.5.17.
Ider
29.5.17

S.

30.5.17

Folio over the 15 lines

31/5/17

31-MAY-1917
HOME DEPARTMENT

For the w.s

Submitted.

Sd
16.6.17
Ider
16.6.17

S.

16.6.17

Draft approved
19/6/17

19-JUN-1917

Scott. 11.10 (b)—1-17.

Home DEPARTMENT.
(Mis)

## Emigration - Ceylon

Recording correspondence between H.E the Governor of Ceylon & H.E the Governor of Madras on the subject of the employment of the Ceylon Labour commission for controlling emigration of unskilled

READ AGAIN G.O. No. ..... dated ..... 191 the labourers to Ceylon and ~~emigration~~

" " " " emigration of coolies required 191 for employment in the Colombo Harbour.

READ ALSO:—

C. No. ....., From the ....., No. ....., dated ..... 191 .

" " ....., " " ....., " ....., " ..... 191 .

" " ....., " " ....., " ....., " ..... 191 .

ORDER.

No. 606, dated 19.6. 1917.

His

Recorded.

H.E
29.5.17
Paid
29.5.17

C.A.S.
30.5.17

Mis 15/6/17

*given for copying*
*copied* _____
*examined* _____ } 191 .
*signed* _____

AGAIN G.O. No. 191 . DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ORDER OF GOVERNMENT .. .. .. | A | A | A | A | A | A | A |
| LETTER OF GOVERNMENT. | | | | | | | |
| STATEMENT WITH DITTO. | | | | | | | |
| PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL. | | | | | | | |

*N.B.*—
A = Copy in full.
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