

Howe (1918) Department.
(Miscellaneous)

Cromarty SERIES.

G.O. No. 400.

DATED 22-4-1918.

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Passports.

Issuing instructions in regard to the verifying of
declarations made by applicants for ----- when the applicants
are not personally known to the verifying officers.

PAPERS PUT UP WITH CURRENT No. _____

Papers of the department to which the current belongs.

Number.	Date.	Original (=O) or spare copy (=S.C.).	Remarks. (In this column such of the papers as have been removed for copying, printing, etc., should be marked with a cross.)	Initials of Referencer with date in token of return to Reference department

Papers of other departments.

Department.	Number	Date.	Original (=O.) or spare copy (=S.C.).	Initials with date of (1) Referencer acknowledging returns of the paper concerned or (2) Despatcher to denote the return of the papers to the department concerned.

2-16.

Home (Miscellaneous) DEPARTMENT.



Received 191 . Registered 1918

Subject.

Passport

Soliciting orderson the interpretation of the
phrase "personal knowledge" occurring in the form of de-
claration of the officer recommending the issue of . . .

ENCLOSURES.

No. _____

R.O.C. No. 854 P of 1917.

Spare copies _____

Station M a d u r a , , Dated the 28th March 1918

From (Name) A. F. G. Moscardi Esq., I.C.S.,

(Designation) District Magistrate of Ramnad.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Home (Miscellaneous) Department.

Sir,

I have the honour to bring to notice a difficult point
in connection with the issue of passports to persons desiring
to emigrate.

2. In the form of application for passports, the person
(Magistrate) who recommends the ^{grant} ~~issue~~ of a passport has to -
certify from his own personal knowledge that the applicant is
a proper person to receive a passport. The words "Personal
knowledge" are printed in heavy type, evidently to indicate
that the sort of knowledge upon which the application is re-
commended is an important point. In this district it has
been the practice that Magistrates recommend the issue of -
passports without any personal knowledge of the applicants,

on the strength of the information that they get from others, such as village officials. Till now, I have been accepting such recommendations; but, on examining the rules in detail, it seems to me that I am not justified in doing so.

3. It is obvious that, if recommendations on the above principle are allowed and acted upon, the spirit of the rules is not being carried out. It is not at all unlikely that numbers of people have been getting passports whose applications would have been barred by Rules 16 A and 16 B of the Defence of India (Consolidation) Rules; or by paragraph 6 of the passport rules printed as an appendix to G.O. No. 1460, Public, dated 8th October 1915. The cases in which the applicant is personally known to the Magistrate who endorses his application must be very few. What happens is that the passport is granted by an official who does not know the applicant, on the recommendation of another official who also does not know the applicant. Evidently under this system, the issue of passports must be very nearly indiscriminate; and much time, expense, and inconvenience might be saved to applicants if they were allowed to go straight to the Collector instead of going first to a subordinate whose recommendation is a mere matter of form.

4. On the other hand, if the certificate to be signed by the recommending Magistrate has to be understood literally, the result will be that only one or two passports will be issued in the place of a hundred or so that are issued now.

5. What I wish to bring to notice is the contrast between the spirit of the rules and the application of them. According to the rules, a passport should be issued only to a person of known and approved character; but in fact, passports are issued to all who apply, except to the few persons who inadvertently admit that they are coolies. The difference turns upon the meaning of the words "Personal knowledge" in the endorsement on the application form.

The question is whether these words are to be interpreted strictly as I presume they should be; or loosely as is done now.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

District Magistrate.

Home (Misc) Dept.

Passport

Ct. No 1213 From the D.M., ~~Am~~ Raunad 8 28.3.18

The difficulty in verifying declarations when the verifying officer does not know the applicant personally has already been referred to Govt. by the D.M., North Arcot, and they have agreed that in such cases the officer might make enquiries and sign the declaration after he has satisfied himself as to the antecedents of the applicant. ^{Please see Encl. 3498-18, 8-11-17.} It should not be

difficult for verifying officers to satisfy themselves as to the bona fides of the applicants, ^(with a view to ensuring) that passports are not issued to persons who are not eligible for them under rules 16 A and 16 B of the Defence of India (Consolidation) Rules, or to persons who do not come under one of the classes enumerated in the instructions printed in the passport form for filling up the National Status. It does not appear advisable to accept the suggestions made in para 3 of the current, to permit applicants to go direct to the Collector, who is the passport issuing officer, instead of through a verifying officer, as required by rule 4 of the passport Rules.

Draft order is submitted. Copy of the order may also go to the other officers empowered to issue passports.

in p 52 8.11.18

101-18-4-18

NOTES.

Page 2.

Draft order for communication
to Passport-issuing Officers for
approval.

W. S. L.

The chief categories for whom ~~passports~~
should be declined are practically

(1) people who are likely to act seditiously
in foreign countries.

(2) people who go for hire.

Re (1), the police ought to know &
ought to keep the magistracy informed.
Even if information is obtained after the
issue of a passport, the passport may
be cancelled.

Re (2), this is the common thing. And the
best way to avoid indiscriminate issue
is by close examination the status of
the applicant & the purpose of his journey.

The circular is right so far as
it goes. But it might be supplemented
as indicated above.

W. S. L.
15/4/18

The draft has been amended as ~~indicated~~
directed above, and is subd. for approval.

MDK

17.4.18

Pdch.
19.4.18

S. Revised Draft for approval.

W. S. L.
22/4/18

Passports

Home Office DEPARTMENT.

READ AGAIN G.O. No., dated 191 ..

” ” ” ” ” 191

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 1213, From the D. G. Ramad, No. 854 P, dated 28 - 3 - 1918

” ” ” ” , “ ” 191

" ") " " , " 191

ORDER.

No. 400, dated 22-4-1918.

Misc.

It has been brought to the notice of Govt. that where applications for passports are presented for verification, verifying officers in some cases treat the matter as a mere formality, while in others they decline to verify the application on the ground that they have no personal knowledge of the applicant. The chief categories of persons for whom who should be refused passports are practically

(1) people who are likely

Knowledge is not necessary.
MOR 17.4.18 had 19.4.18

To
The D.M. Raymond Esq,
To all other D.M.s.
the Resident in T.C.
.. Poll. Agent, Padukottai
.. .. Prangampalle
.. .. Sander
.. Collectors of Madras.

(over only)

When given for copying _____
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When signed _____

READ AGAIN G.O. No.
191 .

DATE

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH LITTO.

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IN ORIGINAL,

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