

Rev Spl Dept
Home (1918) Department.
 (Miscellaneous)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 603

DATED 10. 8. 18

Slip sent to Division

[Despatch Abstract.]

Migration - Penang.

Madras Stating that the authority conferred on the Emigration Agent to ship 500 coolies for employment by the Penang Harbour Board shall be subject to the proviso that no recruitment be made from the existing harbour labour in Madras.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

Seott. II-8.

CURRENT No. 13
0

From Chairman, M.P.T.

Received 6.8 1918. Registered 6.8 1918.

C.

POSTS TELEGRAPHS.

NOTICE.

This form must accompany any inquiry made respecting this Telegram.

Charges to pay.

Office Stamp.

Handed in at (Office of Origin).

Date. Hour. Minute.

Service Instructions.

Words.

TO

Madras
R-E-S-POOTACAMUNE

GO NO 583 HON (MISC) DEPARTMENT OF 22ND JULY 1918 IF GIVEN EFFECT TO IS CERTAIN TO HAVE A VERY DISASTROUS RESULT HERE FOR THE COLONIAL GOVTS EMIGRATION AGENT IS PRETTY CERTAIN TO RECRUIT FROM AMONGST OUR MOST LIMITED NUMBER OF HARBOUR COOLIES SO FAR ARE WE FROM HAVING ANY SURPLUS LABOUR FOR ANY SUCH PURPOSE THAT WE HAVE BEEN CONTEMPLATING THE ERECTION ON THE SAND ACCRETION OF LINES FOR 500 MEN TO BE GOT FROM SOUTH ARCOT AND ELSEWHERE ALREADY WE HAVE LOST A GREAT PART OF OUR LABOUR ENLISTED FOR MESOPOTAMIA AND HANDLING OF CARGO IS IN CONSEQUENCE SO MUCH DELAYED THAT SHIPS ARE SERIOUSLY HUNG UP

BURMA RICE BAGS BEING UNLOADED AT UNDER 2000 INSTEAD OF 10000 PER DAY AND QUADRUPLE RATES DEMANDED I PROTEST MOST STRONGLY IN THE INTERESTS NOT ONLY OF MADRAS TRADE BUT IN THAT OF THE PRESENT RICE IMPORTANT TRADE IN THE SHIPPING INTEREST AGAINST AND FURTHER DEPLETION OF OUR LIMITED LABOUR FORCE AND WOULD SUGGEST THAT PORT TRUST SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONSULTED BEFORE SUCH AN ORDER WAS PASSED

--PORTTRUST--



Note: The name of the Sender, if telegraphed, is written after the text.

Lal Chand & Sons, 1,00,000 Bks. (Edn. 1).

To US

Rev. (M) 26.0.56 I/19-1

7.8.18
6.8.18

Subd that Home (M) may be requested to put up the go referred to by the Chairman, M.P.T. Home (M) v.o. 1-8-18

M. P. T. No. 1000-1-18

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

Received

1918

Registered

1918

Subject.

Marine No. 207
Reg. 7-818/0

stating that the permission granted to the Emigration Agent to recruit labour for Penang would not have contained evil potentialities if he is asked not to tempt away harbour and steamer Agent's labour.

ENCLOSURES

No. (1)

Spare copies

Madras,

No. G. 917

Dated the 6 Aug. 1918

From

The Hon'ble Sir Francis J. E. Spring, B.C.S., M.P.C.
Chairman, Madras Port Trust.

To

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Revenue (Special) Department.

Sir,

In forwarding a copy of my telegram sent yesterday, August 5th, on the subject of Government's permission to the Agent to the Straits and Malay Governments to ship 500 cargo-carrying coolies from here to Penang I have the honour to say that the permit in question would not have contained such evil potentialities for Madras if the proviso had been made that existing harbour labour whether working with the Port Trust or with Steamer Agents was not to be tempted away. It is quite open to the Agent to go as far afield as Vizagapatam on the one side and Negapatam and Tuticorin on the other, and to this there would presumably be little objection just now because owing to the scarcity of tonnage most of the sea-going business of the Presidency is concentrated in Madras, imports here going to all ports as far even as Bombay.

3
2. The labour question here is a most serious one, as Government can ascertain by consulting Mr. Wood the Controller of Civil Supplies, and extreme inconvenience and loss of time may result from its being tempted away to Penang where there used, I understand, to be plenty of Chinese labour.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

Wm. H. Spring

Chairman.

4
Copy of telegram dated the 5th August 1918 from the Chairman, Madras Port Trust to the Secretary to Government Revenue (Special) Department.

G.O. No. 563 Home (Misc) Department of 22nd July 1918 if given effect to is certain to have a very disastrous result here. For the Colonial Government's emigration agent is pretty certain to recruit from amongst our most limited number of harbour coolies. So far are we from having any surplus labour for any such purposes that we have been contemplating the erection on the sand accretion of lines for 4500 men to be got from South Arcot and elsewhere. Already we have lost a great part of our labour enlisted for Mesopotamia and handling of cargo is in consequence so much delayed that ships are seriously hung up, Burma rice bags being unloaded at under 2000 instead of 10 thousand per day and quadruple rates demanded.

I protest most strongly in the interest not only of Madras trade but in that of the present rice import trade and in the shipping interest against any further depletion of our limited labour force and would suggest that Port Trust should have been consulted before such an order was passed.



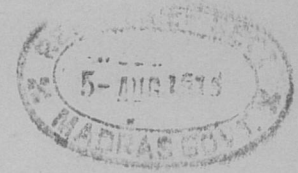
(True copy)

Wm. H. Spring
Office Manager,

Madras Port Trust.

6-8-18.

Mo. 2273 Lth
8-8-18
2225
Pub
6-8-18



Colonial Secretary's Office,

Singapore, 18th July, 1918.

O.A.B.

It is requested that the following number be quoted in the reply to this letter.

No. 6123/1918.

Sir,

Poster for
Telegram Deal
to 15639 22-7-18 (Kusputan)
Lodged

I am directed to inform you that a telegram in the following words has been despatched to your address on the 16th July, 1918:-

(as decoded)

"Penang Harbour Board in urgent need of cargo carrying coolies this Government would be obliged licence for 500 of these men can be issued to enable them to proceed to Penang. Our Emigration Agent will be instructed to arrange for passages."

Co.
8-8-18

Pub. up 2225-1 27.8.18.

Home (use) v.o.

Sur.
F-8-18
All
6-8-18

Wm
7.8.18

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Albiston
Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements.



The Honourable,
The Chief Secretary to the
Government of Madras,
"Stonehouse Hill",
THE NILGIRIS.

From the Chairman, MPT, N° 917 &
6828

To us

Please see the letter from the Chairman, Port Trust, below. The telegram received from him on the 6th was sent to Home (Mis) for the previous papers. It is understood they have telegraphed to Madras for the papers. Submitted that the receipt of the Go may be awaited before the question whether Chairman's protest should be supported by the Marine Dept is considered.

JKD
8828

P. For perusal. A copy of the info. ought to be available up here & perhaps Home (Mis) may be asked to furnish it without waiting for other records from London. L
8828

See.

Apparently the matter affects both
Revenue & Marine, but so far as I
know this Dept. never saw the
papers. JH 8/8/28

Homeless 1000

Dis

A

Go. no. 563 of 22.7.18
is put up. The file may be
sent to Revenue (Special) Dept.

For

Aug.
28.18
Dec.
28.18

Rev. Spl. no.
L
9.8.18

Home (his) no 2264

9.8.18

Rev (Spl) Dept

To us.

A

The Go in question (N^o 563 of
22.7.18) appears to have come to the
Rev (Spl) Dept and ^{to have been} accepted there - vide p 3
of notes to the Go.

The scarcity of labour seems to be
very acute in the Madras Harbour and
it therefore seems necessary that something
should be done to conserve the available
labour as far as possible. It is not
perhaps possible to rescind the permission
already granted but it is for consideration
whether the Home Dept may not be asked
to modify the permission by a proviso
as suggested by the Chairman MPT, viz
that existing harbour labour whether working
with the Port Trust or with Steamship agents should
not be tempted away.

A

9.8.18

Yes. They have not
enough to last
even food stuffs
for long enough.

Yes. They have not
enough to last
even food stuffs
for long enough.

A

P

8

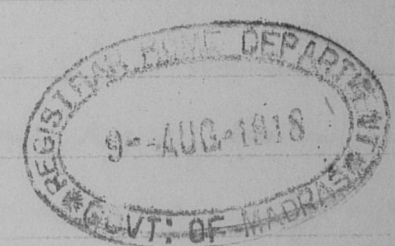
Perhaps Home may be asked to inform the Immigration agent that the license will be cancelled if it is found that the labour supply at the London harbour is adversely affected. But it would seem that the simplest remedy available to the Port Trust is to pay a wage which will make them coolie proof against temptation.

9.8.18

I think the Chairman's protest is well founded & that the solution proposed at A on the previous page should be accepted.

9.8.18

Home Dept. no



Home (mis) Dept
A draft order on the lines proposed at A on p 2 ante is subd. It seems to be sufficient if the order in question is communicated to the Immigration Agent and the Chairman, M.B.T., also to the Col. Secy, Singapore.

10.8.18
P. S. L.

10.8.18

main lco. 18/10-1
9.8.18

M. S. in CR
9.8.18

Accd
9.8.18

*Copys to New York State 12/18 (90) [unclear] [unclear]
Copys to the Honorable H.C. Lee [unclear] [unclear]*

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

When given for copying

When copied

When examined

When signed

191

READ AGAIN G.O. No.
191

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DISPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

- A = Copy in full.
- B = Not to be copied.
- P = Copy abstract only.
- Q = Copy heading only.

A A A A A A A