Scott. II-48—22,303—17-1-18.

Law (Special) Dept

Home (1918) Department.

Miscellaneous

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 901

DATED 11-12-18

17

[Despatch Abstract.]

Insufficient accommodation on emigrant ships.

Recording papers connected with ~~ships taken~~ steps taken to prevent overcrowding on Emigrant steamers to the Straits.

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.

Home (Mis) 5029
24.6.18

Home

H.M.L.

24 OCT 1918
MADRAS GOVT.

1

2

Telegraphic Address:—
"SECRETARY, SINGAPORE."

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

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Singapore, 10th October, 1918.

No. 8590/1918.

31 OCT 1918

Sir,

I am directed to forward for your information 142-39 the enclosed copy of a letter addressed by me to the local Agents of the British India Steam Navigation Company, together 144-149 with copies of certain documents bearing on the question of the accommodation provided for Immigrant Coolies on the vessels of the above line.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Barnes.
Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements.

The Honourable,
The Chief Secretary to
the Government of Madras,
Fort St. George,
MADRAS.

COPY.

H.M.L.

2/

3

October 8

No.8590/1918.

Gentlemen,

With reference to the Contract of British India Steam Navigation Company Limited with the Straits Settlements Government for a mail and immigration service between India and this Colony, I am directed to inform you that this Government has received evidence, which it considers reliable, that the accommodation provided for Immigrant Coolies is not satisfactory.

2. There has been a good deal of Pneumonia among the coolies arriving at Port Swettenham from India, and it is thought that this fact is attributable to the conditions under which they travel from India.

3. The accommodation provided appears at times to be quite insufficient, chiefly because deck space is taken up by such articles as ships stores, and by cattle sheep and poultry.

4. A definite instance may be cited in the voyage of the S.S. "Euryalus" which arrived from India in February last.

5. This Government is of opinion that on all ships carrying Immigrants adequate hospital accommodation should most certainly be provided. It is not considered that such accommodation is provided by the screening off of a part of the upper deck as is, it is understood, done on the smaller vessels.

6. The

The Agents,
British India Steam
Navigation Company,
SINGAPORE.

6. The Government considers this matter to be one of the highest importance and of great urgency and requests you to be so good as to give it your earnest and immediate attention.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

F. S. JAMES.

Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements.

COPY.

Copy of Minute by the Chief Secretary, F.M.S.,
Dated 28th September, 1918.

In order to save time I pass this direct to you. I think that some representation should be made to the Agents of the B. I. Company and also to the Madras Government if you concur I shall be obliged if you will communicate with them. There has been a good deal of pneumonia among immigrants landed at Port Swettenham and this is I think attributable to the conditions under which labourers travel from India.

The P. M. O. has I think already made representations to the Company's Agents but without effect.

No 4 in 425/18. **COPY.**

Labour Office,
Kuala Lumpur, 25th Sept. 1918.

5

Subject.
Conditions on B.I. steamers.

5

Sir,

I have the honour to forward copies of a letter addressed to me as Chairman of the Indian Immigration Committee by the Secretary to the Planters' Association of Malaya with an enclosure which is an extract from a letter addressed to Mr. Mooijaart by Mr. C. F. Andrews of India, and of a memorandum by Mr. Gilman, Deputy Controller of Labour.

2. After consulting the Chief Secretary I have written to the Planters' Association of Malaya saying that the papers are being referred to the Government of the Straits Settlements who entered into the contract with the B.I. and that it does not appear that any good purpose would be served by a discussion of the subject by the Indian Immigration Committee who are not parties to the contract with the B.I.

I have etc.,

Sd/- J.R.O. Aldworth

Controller of Labour, F.M.S.

The Under Secretary,
F. M. S.,
Kuala Lumpur.

Kuala Lumpur,
11th September, 1918.

Sir,

The present conditions prevailing on the B.I. ships plying between India and Penang have been considered by my Standing Committee who inter alia have had before them a letter addressed by Mr. C.F. Andrews to Mr. L. Mooijaart, extract from which I beg to append.

I have now been instructed by the Standing Committee to ask you kindly to call a Special Meeting of your Committee to deal with this matter.

I have etc.,

Sd/- H.C.E. Zacharias
Secretary.
Planters' Association of Malaya.

The Chairman,
Indian Immigration Committee,
Kuala Lumpur.

Extract from a letter from Mr.C.F.Andrews
to Mr.L.Mooijaart dated June 18/1918.

I want to write to you about one thing which needs immediate overhauling if ever any decent Tamil women are to come over at all - that is the passage over. It is a hideous disgrace and yet you Planters are paying through the nose for it. I should think it could be scarcely less than 100 per cent profit which the Shipping Companies are making. I was very glad indeed to go over in one of the boats the "Tara" and this was not half as bad as the "Euryalus" was. I was down every day among the deck passengers at each meal and inspecting their latrines etc.

(i) This is a matter for Indian port authorities.	(i) On the Euryalus the Head Inspector told me that there was the complement of deck passengers (which is much too high as it is) and yet there were 40 heads of cattle stalled on the passengers deck taking up the room usually occupied by about 400 coolies who had to be crowded in the other sections.
(ii) There is nothing about medical arrangements in the B.I. contract.	(ii) The thing was so bad that a woman, who was confined during the voyage had to give birth to the child on the open deck with the men looking on and there was no where else to place her and she had to lie there in those days of child-birth exposed to every gaze. This was reported at Penang. I saw the Inspector's report. On the "Tara" the filth was unimaginable. There were 100 Chinamen on board loose among the Tamils going to Meso-
(iii) Presumably a military officer.	(iii) potamia under a fool of an officer who could not keep them in order.
(iv) I have heard of this row, or a similar one from a B.I. officer. The fact that the row ended without bloodshed shews that the officer was not the fool that Mr.Andrews suggests he was. It seems necessary in war time to give the military authorities space for their Chinese and Indian passengers other than Tamils and I am assured by the Masters of the B.I.ships that, so far as possible, separate decks or for small parties separate portions of decks are allotted for use of the passengers despatched by the military authorities.	(iv) There were was very nearly bloodshed between them and Sikhs. The food was nauseous. There was a wooden tub for what was called "pepper water" which was never cleaned and the
(v) I do not know this is objectionable. I should not have thought it was.	(v) rice was washed with salt water before cooking and I saw them throw a good deal
	(vi) overboard - disliking the taste. I pointed out what was going on to two Planters who were on board and they could only say it was damned shame as this was coming out of the Planters' pockets. They both agreed and a Madras civilian did also that no women would travel under these conditions unless absolutely obliged. Will you let Dr.Watson see this and any others, especially Mr.Zacharias at Kuala Lumpur?
	(vii) I have written to Mr.Gilman at Penang. It is a vital question, because as I pointed out the shortage of women is
	(viii) absolutely bound to tell sooner or later and give you the very trouble I have witnessed in Fiji.

(vi) This appears to me to be evidence of a generous diet.

(vii) This letter did not reach Mr. Gilman.

(viii) Not borne out by the facts; in 1916 women and children were respectively 19.24 and 8.25 per cent of immigrants. This year so far they have been 24.14 and 10.98 per cent respectively.

(ix) A report on labour in Fiji presumably.

intld. J.RO.A.

(ix) I am enclosing a copy of the 1st section of my report and I want you as well as Dr. Watson to give me your opinion about it in comparison with F.M.S. You will see I have kept very strictly to published Government figures and facts.

COPY.

Memorandum by Mr. Gilman.

Mr.C.F.Andrews holds a unique position in Indian public life.

He is in the closest touch and sympathy with the advanced Indian reformers and thinkers, men of the type of the late Mr. Gokhale and Sir Rabindranath Tagore.

At the same time I understand that he is frequently consulted by the Government of India and the Viceroy with reference to social questions, as he is generally believed to be a disinterested philanthropist.

How far he sways this educated Indian opinion and to what extent he is influenced by it would be difficult to determine. One cannot meet and talk to the man without feeling that he is thoroughly in earnest.

He is an ordained clergyman of the Church of England but for some time has not exercised his ministry owing, as he confided in me, to intellectual difficulties, which I imagine though he did not say so to be due to the influence of Hindu philosophy.

He was originally a Cambridge Don, who came out to an educational appointment in India which he threw up as he found himself out of sympathy with the methods and policy adopted and then started a school under the auspices of his friend Sir Rabindranath Tagore.

At the time of the South African Indian political agitation he paid a visit to South Africa and his intervention was so successful that a settlement was reached. At that time a large fund was subscribed to finance the movement. I believe under the name " The Indian citizenship league " .

Mr.Andrews' South African expenses were paid from this fund, also his expenses in Fiji where he has recently been reporting on Indian conditions in that Colony.

Mr. Andrews called on me at the beginning of the year, on 3rd March and for the two or three days he was in Penang as the guest of the Colonial Chaplain, Rev: K. Garnier, I saw a good deal of him.

He had already been in Kuala Lumpur where the late Mr. Ellis, after, I understand, consulting Dr. Lucy, had put at his disposal official reports and records. Mr. Andrews had also got into touch in Kuala Lumpur with the three gentlemen who figure in this correspondence, Dr.Watson, Mr. Zacharias and Mr. Mooijaart.

I am sorry to say Mr. Andrews' letter has never reached me. Had it done so I should have had an opportunity of correcting and perhaps modifying some of his impressions as I believe I did in conversation with him in Penang.

The allegations in the extract relate to two voyages, on only one of which Mr.Andrews was present. He left Penang on 5th March in the "Tara" and his information regarding the voyage of the "Euryalus" which arrived in Penang on 21st February was derived from the Inspector who had come over in that vessel and was returning by the "Tara".

I find that no action has been recorded in the minute paper in connection with the Inspector's report, a copy of which I attach, but as far as I recollect enquiries were made at the time and Mr.de Moubray who subsequently filed the paper confirms this.

There

10

There did not appear to be sufficient grounds for addressing a formal complaint to the British India Agents. The numbers that the ships are permitted to carry on the voyage from India are regulated by the Indian Port Authorities and where cattle are carried a proportionate reduction is made in the number of passengers. On this occasion according to our records the number of deck passengers was 2,140 adults and 171 minors which is taken as the equivalent of 2,226 adults, the full complement being 2,389 adults.

In the larger vessels of the "T" class a second class cabin was reserved as a Hospital: these cabins situated amidships were well adapted for the purpose.

In the smaller vessels now on the run hospital accommodation is provided when required by screening off a portion of the upper deck This arrangement is admittedly not very satisfactory and if the same vessels are to be kept on the run I think we should insist on some permanent accommodation being provided. But in any case such accommodation is scarcely intended for cases of childbirth. All that can usually be done in a case of this kind where no spare cabin is available is to screen off the portion of the deck where the woman is, and this was done. There is almost bound to be some delay in such a case and I believe the woman was actually delivered, with the doctor attending her, before the screen was erected.

In the memorandum recently prepared of suggestions for His Excellency's budget speech I have drawn attention to the very considerable increase which has taken place this year in the proportion of women and children amongst the arrivals from Southern India which although I believe to be due in the first instance to the prohibition of the emigration from India of adult males between the ages of 18 and 25 is nevertheless a most satisfactory feature and an interesting commentary on the statements contained in this letter.

sd. S. W. F. GILMAN.

20th September, 1918.

COPY

MEMORANDUM.

From T. M. Rajendram, Inspector of Immigrants,

To The Deputy Controller of Labour, Penang.

Penang, 21st February, 1918.

Sir,

In obedience to your instructions, I beg to report that the accommodation for the emigrants in S.S."Euryalus"during the present voyage was quite insufficient, as the coolies were over-crowded for want of space. It would be quite sufficient for the number, if the ship's authorities had not occupied many places for their own materials, such as "Canvas covers,ropes, oil casks, ship's stores, poultry and sheep". Besides, the two Bunker alleys were fully occupied for 40 bullocks and straw. Hence the accommodation was not satisfactory.

In connection with my report regarding the delivery of a child among one of the Port Swettenham emigrants, I beg to say, that the hospital accommodation was not provided in this steamer, as the woman, who gave birth was all along kept in the midst of other emigrants in Hatch No.1.

I beg, etc.

Sd. T. M. Rajendram

[G./6]
10,000—25-9-07

12

REVENUE (SPECIAL) MARINE DEPARTMENT.

Native Passenger Ships Act, 1887.

Instructing the P.P.O. and the Chairman, M.P.T to ensure that the certificate referred to in Section 11 of the ----------- is not granted to any ship which does not comply with the regulations re: accommodation of passengers and the conveyance of cattle in passenger ships.

READ

Original put up below

ORDER No. 426, dated 4th December 1908.

Mis.

A case has come to the notice of Government in which a ship which was carrying emigrant -- coolies to the Straits Settlements and which had on board the full complement of deck passengers carried also 40 head of cattle as well as miscellaneous articles of ship's stores and equipment on the -- passenger deck. The result was great -- ~~xraatx~~ overcrowding of the passengers.

2. The Government consider that such -- overcrowding should not be allowed to -- recur. The attention of the P.P.O. and of the Chairman, M.P.T, is accordingly -- invited to Section 15 of the Native -- Passenger Ships Act, 1887, and they are requested to ensure that the certificate

referred to in Section 11 of the Act is not granted to any ship which does not strictly fulfil the conditions prescribed in regard to the space to be provided for passengers and the conveyance of -- cattle in passenger ships.

S.L.S.
19-11-18

S.D.S.
21-11-18.

S.W.
26-11-18.

A.R.K.
26-11-18.

To the P.P.O.
" Chairman, M.P.T.
Copy to L.& M.(Legislative) Dept.

NOTES.

Home (Mis) Deptt

[3029] From the Colonial Secretary Singapore.
No. 8590/18 d/ 10. 10. 18

U.S. The correspondence in the c.f. relates to the action taken by the Govt. of the Straits Settlements on the representation of the F.M.S. Govt. in regard to the insufficient accommodation provided on Immigrant Steamers plying between Port Swettenham and India. ~~Singapore and the Madras Presy. ports.~~

pp. 2-3 c.f.
p. 4 c.f.

The B.I.S.N Company with whom the Straits Govt. have entered into a contract in regard to the immigration service have been asked to pay immediate attention to the provision of better accommodation and hospital arrangements on immigrant ships.

The subject was brought to the notice of this Govt ~~also~~ by the Rev C.F. Andrews but it was considered unnecessary to address the Straits Govt. on the one instance before this Govt. (vide p 46 of the notes to G.O. 664 d/ 14.9.18) These papers may be recorded after perusal. The Hon'ble Member may see the case.

S.

No action seems called for on the part of this Govt.

31.10.18

Asst
26.10.18
Rcd
30.10.18

E

NOTES.

[illegible](i) on p7.

See page 7 c.f. In view of the orders of the Govt of the F.M.S., should any orders be issued here to the port authorities at Madras Negapatam? [illegible] 17/11/[illegible]

[illegible]

E.i.S.

[illegible]

Section 15 (1) of the Native Passengers Ships Act, 1887, empowers the officer authorized to grant a certificate under the Act as to the seaworthy condition &c of a ship, to withhold the certificate in respect of a ship on board which there is "any cargo likely from its quality quantity or mode of stowage to prejudice the health or safety of the passengers". Apparently the F.M.S. authorities leave it to the ~~Presy.~~ Port officers at Negapatam & Madras ~~in this Presy.~~ to resort to this measure in case they are not satisfied with the conditions under which a ship is to sail. The ~~Presy.~~ Port Officers are under the control of the Marine dept and it is submitted, that that dept may be asked to bring to the notice of their at Madras and Negapatam the con brought to notice in this file and de them to take due precautions to obviate the recurrence of such complaints.

S / Dy Secy (marine) no.

Cop. 5.11.18.

Fdd. 7.11.18

8.11.8

9/11/18

Home (mis) 3029-1
9-11-18.

Marine (m)

Rev (Spl) No 1537 Mar.
12-11-18.

Revenue (Special) Deptt

To U.S.

Vide p 7 cf

The case has been sent to this department with reference to the question of preventing overcrowding on emigrant ships.

2. The rules provide sufficiently for adequate accommodation being provided and it is only a strict enforcement of the rules that is now required. Sections 18 & 21 of the Native Passenger Ships Act, 1887, and the notifn of the Govt of India, No 1356 d/14.3.89 (p. 274 of the Port Manual) prescribe the amount of space which must be provided for each passenger on board. Rule VI of the Govt of India's Rules issued with Notifn 1354 d/14.3.89 (p 263 of the Port Manual) and ~~the~~ § 14 of the Instructions framed by this Govt (p 287 of the Port Manual) provide for the passengers not being put to any inconvenience on account of any cattle carried on board.

P.T.O.

NOTES.

Strict compliance with these regulations can be enforced by refusing (Vide Section 15 of the Native Passenger Ships Act) the certificates referred to in Section 11 of the Act, to ships which do not fulfil the conditions laid down. And under Section 9 of the Act no ship can commence a voyage unless she is provided with this Certificate.

A draft order inviting the attention of the P. Ps. and the Chairman, M.P.T., to Section 15 of the Act and asking them not to grant certificates unless the ship complies with the rules regarding accommodation etc. is submitted. The order may, if approved, be taken ~~out~~ for issue in this deptt. and the case returned to Home (Mis). Deptt.

19.11.18

S.W.L.
22.11.18.

S

The only question is whether we are justified in insisting on the strict letter of the law in the present condition of shipping. I think we can do no harm in asking the officers concerned to see that there is no overcrowding.

26.11.18

26 XI. 18.

No. 33
27.11.18
3.12.18

3/12

To U.S.

The F.O. has issued and a Copy is placed below. The case may be returned to the Home (Mis) Depth

[illegible]
7.12.18

p.r.e.f.

Dept

S.D.
5.12.18
A.D.I.
6.12.18.

Home (Mis) U.S.

Marine no 1537-1
9.12.18

✓ noted the Date of return NM
10.12.18

REGISTRAR HOME DEPARTMENT
9 DEC 1918
GOVT. OF MADRAS

Home (Mis) Dept

U.S.

The papers may be
Recorded. 901
11.12.1918

11.12.18

(H.M.)

Mis
9.12.18

Rdex
10.12.18

Recording papers connected with the steps taken to prevent ~~Avoid~~ overcrowding on Emigrant Steamers to the Straits.

When given for copying
When copied ____
When examined ____ } 191 .
When signed ____

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

CURRENT NO.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

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.

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