

Government of Madras.
Marine (190) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 212-3

DATED 1. 7. 190 .

INDEXED.

[Abstract.]

EMPLOYMENT OF LASCAR SEAMEN.

Addressing the Government of India on the subject
of the employment in the engine rooms of steamships of lascar
seamen.

G.O.

No.

Department.

Date.

No. 3017-3020-19.

17 MAY 1910

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

Simla, the 23rd April 1910 ~~xxx~~.

(Merchant Shipping).

CURRENT NO.

0527

MARINE

Reg^d 4-5-10.

From

A.C. McWatters, Esq., I.C.S.,

Under Secretary to the Government of India,

To

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Marine Department.

Sir,

I am directed to forward a copy of a despatch No. 27-
Revenue, dated the 1st April 1910, with its enclosures from the
Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, on the sub-
ject of the employment, in the engine ^{room} department of certain
ships, of lascar seamen who appear to be too young for the work.

2. I am to request that the Government of India may be
furnished with the views of His Excellency the Governor in
Council, in regard to the general question of the age at which
lascar seamen may be employed in the engine rooms of steamships,
without objection.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A.C. McWatters

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Revenue.
No. 27.

India Office, London
1st April 1910.

17 MAY 1910

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL
MADRAS.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE GOVERNOR GENERAL
OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

My Lord,

I forward for the consideration of Your Excellency's Government a copy of correspondence with the Board of Trade

From Board of Trade 16th February with enclosure. } regarding the employment in the
From Board of Trade 19th February. }
From Board of Trade 11th March.

Engine-Room Departments of certain ships of lascar seamen who would appear, if their ages were correctly entered in the articles of agreement, to have been too young to undertake work of the kind for which they were engaged.

2. I shall be glad if Your Excellency's Government will enquire into the facts of the cases referred to, and will let me have a report, together with any observations you may wish to make on the general question raised.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,
Morley of Blackburn,

Enclosure 1 to India Revenue Despatch No. 27, dated 1st April 1910
M. 4039 The Board would be glad to be Board of Trade, my observations
Marine Department,
7 Whitehall Gardens, the
London, S.W.,
16th February 1910.

which the Secretary of State may be asked to consider, and would also be glad if, as suggested, Sir, it be inquired into and reported upon in India.

I am directed by the Board of Trade to state, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that they have been investigating the deaths of certain lascar firemen, K. K. Dewan, late of the S.S. "Manipur", Official number 120913, and A. R. Currin and O.M.C. Meah, late of the S.S. "Malakand", Official number 120907, and their attention has been called to the fact that the ages of the two first named are given in the articles of agreement as 15 and 16 years respectively.

It further appears from the attached copy of an extract from

from the articles of agreement of the S.S. "Manipur" that a large number of the seamen of the Engine Room Department engaged in Calcutta are stated to be under twenty years of age, and they are informed that in the case of the S.S. "Malakand" whose crew were also engaged at Calcutta, one coal trimmer was entered as 14, three as 16 and three others as 17 years of age. The Board's officers were however informed by the masters that no reliance was to be placed on the ages recorded in the articles of agreement and that none of the coal trimmers engaged in Calcutta were less than 20 years of age.

The Board desire me to suggest, for the consideration of the Secretary of State, that the matter is one in which some investigation might be made in India. They are advised by their technical officers that boys of 16 and 17 years of age are quite unfit to work as trimmers in a stokehold. If, however, as was stated, the men were not less than 20 years of age, it is difficult to understand why their ages were entered at Calcutta as being 14, 16 or 17 years, and the charge might be brought against the owners Messrs. T. and G. Brocklebank, to which support would be given by the evidence of the ships official papers, of employing Asiatic boys under conditions in which their age rendered them especially liable to disease and death.

The Board would be glad to be favoured with any observations which the Secretary of State may be so good as to offer in the matter, and would also be glad if, as suggested, the matter could be inquired into and reported upon in India.

I have, etc.,
Sd/- Walter J. Howell,

To
The Under Secretary of State,
India Office,

Sir, With reference to the letter of the 18th January, regarding the employment of "Manipur" and "Malakand" directed to me by the Secretary of State, I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of the 20th January, and to inform you that the matter has been referred to the Board of Trade for their consideration.

I forward for the consideration of your Excellency's Government a copy of correspondence with the Board of Trade on the subject of the ages of the crew of the S.S. "Manipur" and "Malakand" which was received from the Board of Trade on the 15th March. I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,
Walter J. Howell,
Secretary of State.

Enclosure 1 to India Revenue Department No. 27, dated 1st April 1910
Board of Trade,
Marine Department,
V Whitehall Gardens,
London, S.W.
1st February 1910.

Sir, I am directed by the Board of Trade to state, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, that they have been investigating the deaths of certain Indian men, K. K. Dewan, late of the S.S. "Manipur", Official number 120912, and A. R. Gurrim and O. M. C. Nosh, late of the S.S. "Malakand", Official number 120907, and their attention has been called to the fact that the ages of the two first named are entered in the articles of agreement as 15 and 16 years respectively. It further appears from the attached copy of an extract from the Board of Trade's report on the subject, that the ages of the two first named are entered as 15 and 16 years respectively.

practice prevailing in this country. I am to ask therefore if the Board of Trade will be good enough to state to what extent age limits are prescribed in this country for employment in different capacities on board ship, and what powers the shipping authorities have to prevent the employment in any particular capacity of persons whose age is considered to render them unfit for such employment.

I am, etc.,
Sd/- T.W. Holderness.

To
The Assistant Secretary,
Marine Department, Board of Trade.

Enclosure 3 to India Revenue Despatch No. 27, dated 1st April 1910.
M. 4457.

Board of Trade,
Marine Department,
7 Whitehall Gardens,
London, S.W.
11th March 1910.

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter R. & S. 377 of the 19th February, regarding the employment in the engine room of the Steamships "Manipur" and "Malakand" of persons under twenty years of age, in which you ask for information as to the practice prevailing in this country.

In reply I am to state for the information of Viscount Morley that there are no statutory age limits for seamen of any rating engaged in the United Kingdom apart from those fixed by regulation for candidates for examination for certificates of competency.

I am to add, however, that the Board are of opinion that in fact British boys of sixteen years or under are not knowingly employed in the stokehold of British ships, though it might be possible for a youth of exceptional physique to obtain a berth by representing himself as being older than his actual age.

I have, etc.,
Sd/- Walter J. Howell.

TRUE COPY

Howell

Department of Marine

11

M. 4457

Agreement and Payment of Gratuity

S.S. "Manipur" and "Malakand" of Liverpool, opened at

Calcutta S. Office Kidderpore.

8th December 1909.

Engine Room Department.

Capacity

Age

Signature of Crew

Signature of

For the purpose of the above, the following persons are engaged in the engine room of the S.S. "Manipur" and "Malakand" of Liverpool, opened at Calcutta S. Office Kidderpore, 8th December 1909.

For the purpose of the above, the following persons are engaged in the engine room of the S.S. "Manipur" and "Malakand" of Liverpool, opened at Calcutta S. Office Kidderpore, 8th December 1909.

For the purpose of the above, the following persons are engaged in the engine room of the S.S. "Manipur" and "Malakand" of Liverpool, opened at Calcutta S. Office Kidderpore, 8th December 1909.

(Initials) A.S.

Subdt.

M. Office, 10th January 1910, Bombay.

Enclosure 3 to India Revenue Despatch No. 27, dated 1st April 1910.

India Office, 19th February 1910.

A.S.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 4039 of the 19th February, regarding the employment in the engine room of the S.S. "Manipur" and "Malakand" of persons under twenty years of age, I am directed to say that the Secy. of State, before addressing the Govt. of India on the subject, would be glad to have some information to the

6

Parini Sep

Cno 527/10

Encl. 527-1 of 11-5-20.

Ref. to P.P.O. for
favour of early remark.

lul
2.5.20

5.5.10
5.5.10

11/5

11/5

the P.P.O. with current
in order to be
re-issued.

DESPATCHED
13 MAY 1920

1910
Mar
2
604



MARINE DEPARTMENT.

Received

190

Registered

CURRENT NO.

0004

190

MARINE



Subject.

Regd 21.5.10

Informing that there are no Statutory age limits for Seamen &c. and that no one under 20 years of age should be employed in the stoke-hold of a ship.

ENCLOSURES.

No.

Spare copies

No. 498/

149 G

Station MADRAS, Dated the 19 MAY 190

From (Name) H. S. BROWN ESQR.

(Designation) OFFG. PRESIDENCY PORT OFFICER.

To The Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Sir,

With reference to Endorsement of Government No. 527-1, dated 11th May 1910, I have the honour to state that there are no statutory age limits for seamen, firemen or coal-trimmers engaged in India. I am of opinion, that no one under twenty years of age should be employed in the stokehold of a ship, and that Shipping Masters should not allow boys of tender age to enter into an agreement with the Master of a

ship

ship to serve in such capacity.

2. Current ^{and} enclosures in original received with the Endorsement of Government under reply are herewith returned.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant,

J. S. Brown

Offg. Presidency Port Officer.

J. S.

[G.]
[2]

6,000-25-12-28.

NOTES.

Marine Department

(Cw 527) from the Govt of India, Dept of Commerce & Industries
W^o 3017-3020-19 823.4.10
(Cw 604) from the P.P.O W^o 498/149 G dated 18-5-10.

Employment in the engine room of steamships
of lascars seamen who are too young for work

In US

A draft letter to the Govt of India
in accordance with the P.P.O's reply is
submitted.

H
23.5.10

C.S.

1. The P.P.O's view may perhaps be accepted.
2. The mere fixing of an age limit would
however I submit be of little use
unless Shipping Masters were given
some discretion ^{accepting or} refusing to accept
statements as to age which were
obviously incompatible with appear-
ances.

lud.
25.5.10.

H 7-8 P.V.C

[$\frac{G.}{5}$]
12,000-28-208

READ

(Cw 527) from the Govt of India, Dept of Comm^{ce} & Industries
N^o 3017-3020-19 of 23.4.10

(Cw 604) from the P.P.O N^o 498/149 G dated 19.5.10.

ORDER No 212, dated 18th July 1900
~~20th June 1900~~

P.His.

The Govt of India will
be addressed.

H.
23.5.10

Not for S.T.

Is received
for ref for
numbering on 1.7.10.

P.T.O