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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P. W. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2454/A-W	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	21. 9. 1882 ~~197~~	

ALF

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Establishment.

No. 175-A.

READ—the following letter from R. C. BEESTON, Esq., Executive Engineer, Third Division, Rangoon and Seetang Valley State Railway, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 19th September 1882, No. 6:—

With reference to the Order of Government, Public Works Department, dated 11th September 1882, No. 2346 W., I have the honor to inform you that I placed myself in communication with the Protector of Emigrants and the Government Solicitor, and it has been pointed out to me by those officers that my contracting here with natives of India for employment in the construction of the Rangoon and Seetang Valley State Railway might bring me within the provisions of "the Indian Emigration Act 1871" and "the British Burmah Labour Law" 1876 (Act III of 1876). I am further informed that, under the rules passed by the Government of Madras, under Section 86 of the latter Act, emigration to British Burma is limited to the Godávári District.

2. This places me in an awkward position. Six months ago I entered into correspondence with a contractor I met casually at Villupuram five years ago. I ascertained his willingness to come over to British Burma and bring a large number of men for my division on the railway there. In consequence of this I communicated with the Engineer-in-Chief, Seetang Valley Railway, and proposed that I should be allowed to go over to Madras and send the men over by batches, as I could procure accommodation for them by the British India Steam Navigation steamers, returning to Burma myself with the last batch.

3. The Engineer-in-Chief approved of my plan and gave me a list of men he considered I should bring over, they numbered 1,800 coolies and 250 artizans. As the contractor I was corresponding with could only supply about 1,000 men in all, I opened correspondence with another man I heard of, residing at Trichinopoly who, though not a contractor himself, was said to be capable of collecting a large amount of labour. I wrote informing him that if he would assist me in procuring labour I would recommend the Engineer-in-Chief to make him some fair allowance to remunerate him for his trouble. Besides this I advertised in the Madras papers and had numerous replies, so that there appeared to be every prospect of getting even more men than I required. There was however a difficulty with the men; they one and all refused to come to Burma unless their passage over was paid, and passage back, on the completion of the work for which they were taken over, was guaranteed to them. I had kept the rates given the contractors well within the sanction, as I expected some such condition would be made by the people, and therefor finding they would not come on any other, I laid the matter before the Engineer-in-Chief, who placed it before the Chief Engineer Colonel Scott-Moncrieff, R.E., and through him the sanction of the Chief Commissioner was obtained. A sum of thirty thousand rupees was sanctioned for paying passages by steamer and rail, and a further sum of fifteen thousand rupees for advances.

4. I arrived in Madras on 9th instant, and on 11th instant all arrangements were made to enable me to draw on the above credit as I might require cash.

5. I proceeded to Chingleput, where one of the contractors resides, and had settled with him to send off 500 men by the next mail steamer to Rangoon leaving Madras on 27th instant.

6. Yesterday I came to Madras at the request of the Government Solicitor and the Protector of Emigrants, when they laid the case, as shown in paragraph 1, before me, and further informed me that in the event of my taking the men away from here I should be liable to heavy fines and might be prosecuted for kidnapping.

7. I have the honor to place the following facts before you :—

1. A sum amounting to about 10,000 rupees has been sanctioned to build huts for the accommodation of the people I was to have taken over. The huts are in hand and probably many of them are nearly finished.

2. A contractor named Therumelai Reddiar, living at Chingleput, having arranged to go to Burma has, with two partners, collected 1,000 or upwards of that number of men, he and his partners have broken up their homes or made arrangements to do so and, working for the South Indian Railway, have, they inform me, refused for some time past to take fresh work, and have been finishing up all works they had in hand.

3. I have reason to believe that at Trichinopoly Veerasawmy Naidoo has taken a great deal of pains in collecting men, but I am not at present in a position to say how many.

If I am not allowed to take the men already collected to British Burma the abovementioned contractors will have a reasonable claim for compensation, which may be very heavy, I have therefor thought it right to lay the above facts before you in the hope that you may be able to suggest some means of helping me out of the difficulty I am in, and by which I may be enabled to take the men over to Burma.

8. I have the honor to add that the gentlemen named in paragraph 1 inform me that Cocanada is the nearest port to Madras from which emigrants can be despatched to British Burma.

No. 175-B.

ORDER—dated 21st September 1882, No. $\frac{2454}{A}$ W., Public Works.

Ordered that the following telegrams be despatched :—

"To Collector, Madras.

"No interference should be allowed with Mr. Beeston in regard to his enlisting labor for works in Burma. See G.O., 9th July 1881, Public, No. 925."

"To Mr. R. C. Beeston, Executive Engineer, Burma, Public Works Department.

"Following telegram sent to Collector, Madras :—No interference should be allowed with Mr. Beeston in regard to his enlisting labor for works in Burma. See G.O., 9th July 1881, Public, No. 925."

(True Extract.)

To R. C. Beeston, Esq.
To the Public Department.

Lieut.-Col., R.E.,
Ag. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

GENERAL.
ESTABLISHMENT.

Govt. of (1882) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated September, 21st.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 21st Sept. 1882, No. ²⁴⁵⁴_A W.

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 175-A-175-B.

Enlisting labor for works in
Burma.

Telegram to the Collector of Madras intimating that no interference should be allowed with Mr. Beeston, in regard to his —.

Rangoon and Sektang Valley State Railway

From

W. R. C. Beeston

Executive Engineer 3rd Division

R. & S. V. S. Rly.

To

The Secretary to Government

Public Works Department

Botacamund

N^o 6 dated Madras 19 Sept 1882

Si

With reference to the Order of Government Public Works Department dated 11th September 1882 N^o 2346^{III} I have the honour to inform you that I placed myself in communication with the Protector of Emigrants and the Government Solicitor and it has been pointed out to me by those officers that my contracting here with natives of India for employment in the construction of the Rangoon and Sektang Valley State Railway might bring me within the provisions of "the Indian Emigration Act 1871" and "the British Burmah Labour Law 1876 (act III of 1876)" I am further informed that under the rules passed by the Government of Madras under section 86 of the latter act Emigration to British Burmah is limited to the Godavery District

II

2454/18

This places me in an awkward position. Six months ago I entered into correspondence with a contractor I met casually at Villapuram, five years ago. I ascertained his willingness to come over to B. Burmah and bring a large number of men for my division on the railway there. In consequence of this I communicated with the Eng^r in Chief S. V. Bly and proposed that I should be allowed to go over to Madras and send the men over by batches, as I could procure accommodation for them by the B. I. S. N. Steamers, returning to Burmah myself with the last batch.

III

The Eng^r in Chief approved of my plan and gave me a list of men he considered I should bring over they numbered 1800 Coolies and 200 Artizans. As the contractor I was corresponding with could only supply about 1000 men in all. I opened correspondence with another man I heard of, residing at Trichinopoly who, tho: not a contractor himself was said to be capable of collecting a large amount of labour. I wrote informing him that if he would assist me in procuring labour I would recommend the Eng^r in Chief to make him some fair allowance to remunerate him for his trouble. Besides this I advertised in the Madras papers and had numerous replies so that there appeared to be every prospect of getting even more men than I required. There was however a difficulty with the men they one and all refused to come to Burmah unless their passage over was paid and passage

113-2540

back, on the completion of the work for which they were taken over, was guaranteed to them. I had kept the rates given the Contractors well within the sanction as I expected some such conditions would be made by the people and therefore finding they would not come on any other I laid the matter before the Eng in Chief who placed it before the Chief Engineer Col: Scott-Moncrieff R.E. and through him the sanction of the Chief Commissioner was obtained. A sum of Thirty Thousand Rupees was sanctioned for paying passages by Steamer and Rail and a further sum of Fifteen Thousand Rupees for advances

IV I arrived in Madras on 9th Inst and on 11th Inst all arrangements were made to enable me to draw on the above Credit as I might require cash.

V I proceeded to Chingleput where one of the Contractors resides and had settled with him to send off 500 men by the next mail Steamer to Rangoon leaving Madras on 27 Inst

VI Yesterday I came to Madras at the request of the Govt Solicitor and the Protector of Immigrants when they laid the case as shown in Para I before me and further informed me that in the event of my taking the men away from here I should be liable to heavy fines and might be prosecuted for Kid-napping

VII I have the honour to place the following facts before you

1. A sum amounting to about 19000 Rupees has

18 265418

been sanctioned to build huts for the accommodation of the people I was to have taken over. The huts are in hand and probably many of them are nearly finished.

2, A contractor named Therumalai Reddiar living at Chingleput having arranged to go to Burmah has with two partners collected 1000 or upwards of that number of men. he and his partners have broken up their homes or made arrangements to do so and, working for the South Indian Railway, have, they inform me, refused for some time past to take fresh work, and have been finishing up all works they had in hand.

3, I have reason to believe that at Trichinopoly Heeraswamy Naidu has taken a great deal of pains in collecting men but I am not at present in a position to say how many.

If I am not allowed to take the men already collected, to B. Burmah the above mentioned Contractors will have a reasonable claim for compensation which may be very heavy. I have therefore thought it right to lay the above facts before you in the hope that you may be able to suggest some means of helping me out of the difficulty I am in and by which I may be enabled to take the men over to Burmah.

I have the honour to add that the gentlemen named in Para I inform me that Cocanada is the nearest port to Madras from which Emigrants can be despatched to British Burmah.

I have the honour to be
Yours most obedient servant
W. B. Shaw

M.C. A-6464

Rev 25/7

20548

Public Works Department

Proceedings under the Madras Government

Read the following

From the Secretary to the Commissioner of
British Burma P.W. & G^o 6789
dated 29 August 1882

I am directed by the Chief
Commissioner to request that you will
be so kind as to direct the Examiner
Public Works accounts to allow
Mr P. C. Berston, Executive Engineer Rangoon
Sittang Valley State Railway to draw upon
him for sums not exceeding altogether
Rs 45,000 (Forty five thousand rupees) debiting
the Rangoon and Sittang Valley State Railway
in transfer. This officer is proceeding to
Madras by this mail to hire labor for the
works of his division and he shows some
is to enable him to give advances to the men
he hires and to pay their passages. Should
Mr Berston be in need of any advice or assistance
which you may be able to give him, or should he
have occasion to consult the Government
Advocate at Madras as to contract bonds, I
am to say that the Chief Commissioner
would feel obliged for any assistance
that may be afforded to him.

Order No 2346 W of 11 Sept 1882

Communicated to the Examiner of P. W. accounts for the necessary action with reference to the first sentence of the foregoing letter.

2 The Executive Engineer, Presidency The Govt Solicitor, and the Protector of Emigrants are requested to afford Mr Beeston such advice and assistance as they may be able to give on any points on which he may consult them.

(Enc Extract)

Signed C Vincent
For Secy. to Govt

P. W. D.

To The Examiner P. W. Accts

Supy. Engr. Fifth Circle

Govt Solicitor

Protector of Emigrants

Mr N. C. Beeston

True Copy N. C. Beeston

The above is forwarded to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department as enclosure U. to letter No 6 of this date, to his address for information.

Madras

10 Sept 1882

N. C. Beeston
Ex Engr. S. V. S. Ry
B. Beeston

No 2454 W
A

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 21st Sept 82

Read the following:-

From

Mr. N. C. Beeston

Ex. Engr. 3rd Division

S & S. V. S. Ry.

(M.C. No. 6 of 19th Sept 82)

Ordered that the following telegrams be despatched

To, Collector.

Madras.

No interference should be allowed with Mr. Beeston in regard to his enlisting labor for works in Burma. See G.O. 9th July 1881 Public No 925.

Telegram sent 21/9/82.

To,
Mr. R. C. Beeston
Executive Engineer
Burma P. W. Dept.

Following telegram sent
to Collector Madras +
No interference should be
allowed with Mr. Beeston
in regard to his enlisting
labor for works in Burma.
See G.O. 9th July 1881 Public
No 925 +

Telegram despatched 21/9/82.

Done
2/10 ✓
To, R. C. Beeston Esq.
The Public Dept.
R.C.

R.C.
Esq.

6464

Govt of (1882) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated

M

Recd

Encl.

G. O. 21 Sept 1882, No. 24544
A.

Nos. 175 A to 25 B

Inducing Labor
for works in Burma.

Telegram to the Collector
of Madras intimating
that no interferences
should be allowed
with Mr. Beecher
in regard to his —

25/9

25/9

Sd/- in Receipt Regm.