

Political (1898) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 238-9

DATED 4-4-88

[Despatch Abstract.]

Requesting the General
to arrange for adopting
the provisions of Act X of 1887, the
Native Passenger Ship Act, not
only as regards the space allowed
to passengers but also in respect
to the safety, comfort & health of
the passengers.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
1681	98 (P. 1st)						

Government {1898} of Madras. MARINE.



Recd. 24th Mar }
Regd. 24th Mar } 1898.

Enclosures One

Spare copies (4)

G.O., No. 168, 8th March 1898.

MARCH.

Native Passenger Ships Act

Ordered that the French Government be requested to arrange to adopt the provisions of the — X of 1887, not only as regards the space allowed to passengers, but also in respect to the safety, comfort and health of the passengers, which are safeguarded by two certificates which, under certain conditions, every Master of a ship is bound to hold.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From Captain H. NEPEAN, British Consular Agent, Pondicherry and Karikal, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Pondicherry, 15th January 1898, No. 8.

With reference to G.O., No. 1564, Public, dated 29th November 1897, I have the honour to forward, in original, the reply received from the Director of the Interior.

ENCLOSURE.

From the Director of the Interior of the French Settlements in India, to the British Consular Agent, Pondicherry, dated Pondicherry, 11th January 1898.

Under date the 3rd December last, you applied to the Harbour Master for information about the shipment effected on the 21st April last at Karikal of 196 passengers on board the German Steamer *Amigo* which passed through that port, and you have asked if this shipment, which might have been made without a license, was in conformity with our regulations.

I have the honour to inform you that the German Steamer *Amigo* did, in fact, take on board at Karikal on the 21st April last not 196 but 211 passengers, and that it had, besides, landed two days before that at Negapatam and at Karikal 240 passengers coming from Singapore.

The shipment in question was effected under the following conditions :—

We have a commission appointed by a local ruling dated 9th October 1881. The Commissioners go on board the ship which has to take passengers, inspect the various parts of the vessel and if it is found out that it is capable of undertaking the voyage, they fix the number of passengers it can take on board.

An English regulation of 1876, which we have adopted at the request of the Madras Government (Governor Laugier's letter dated 24th April 1879, No. 138), serves as a basis for the fixing of the number of passengers. Article 22 of this Act provides that there should be for each passenger a space of 12 square feet on board the sailing vessels, and of 9 square feet on board the steamers.

In the present case, these provisions were applied to the steamer *Amigo* whose accommodation intended for passengers measured 1,860 feet $\frac{1,860}{9}$ that is, space for 206, and the deck afforded, besides, room for 10 passengers. The commission, therefore, fixed the number for shipment at 216.

It follows from the foregoing explanations that the shipment in question was effected under lawful conditions, and that the *Amigo* was, besides, provided with a pass delivered by the British Government, since it was able to take 240 passengers at Singapore.

Accept, Monsieur le Consul, the assurance of my high consideration.

No. 322, Public.

Forwarded to the Marine Department, with notes (in original) recorded in this department.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
5th February 1898.

(Signed) A. R. KNAPP,
Ag. Under Secretary.

ORDER—No. 168, Marine, dated 8th March 1898.

Ordered that the French Government be addressed.

(True Extract.)

C. R. Knapp

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Political Department, with draft letter for issue.

6 copies

Ch W^o 2388 4-4-98

No. , POLITICAL, 1898.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

To
W^o 2397 4-4-98

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF THE FRENCH
SETTLEMENTS IN INDIA.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I have recently had under my consideration the circumstances connected with the shipment, by the S.S. *Amigo* from Karikal to the Straits Settlements, on the 21st April 1897, of a number of British Indian passengers who had been railed by the agents of the steamer from Negapatam to this French port in order to evade the provisions of the British Indian law. The circumstances are referred to in a letter from the Director of the Interior of the French Settlements in India to the British Consular Agent, Pondicherry, under date the 11th January 1898.

2. The vessel in question had, on the 25th April preceding, been refused passenger certificates by the Government Surveyor at Madras, on the ground that, although docked at Singapore in August 1896, ~~the vessel~~ had not been surveyed in a dry dock since February 1896. Her seaworthiness could not therefore be certified. It was found in addition that the vessel was not equipped in accordance with the provisions of the law, that her ventilation was defective, and that her privy accommodation was insufficient.

3. Before departure from Karikal, the vessel is said to have been surveyed by a commission who allowed her to leave with 211 passengers and 190 bullocks. The commission is stated to have been guided by section 22 of the Native Passenger Ships Act VIII of 1876, which has, at the request of the Madras Government, been adopted by Your Excellency's Government.

4. I have the honour to invite Your Excellency's attention to the fact that this Act has since been superseded by Act X of 1887, the Native Passenger Ships Act, section 21 of which contains provisions corresponding to those in section 22 of the earlier enactment. I should be glad if Your Excellency could arrange to adopt the provisions of the later Act not only as regards the space allowed to passengers, but also in respect to the safety, comfort and health of the passengers on the voyage. These are safeguarded by two certificates A and B which every Master carrying native passengers in excess of *15 or 30, as the case may be, from a British Indian port is bound to hold.

* Vide section 2 (3).

5. I transmit herewith a copy of the Act in question.
Be pleased to accept the assurance of the high consideration with which

I have the honour to be,
Your Excellency,
Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

FORT ST. GEORGE,
1898.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

N. 12.
Despatch
Cnd

Recd. Submt with manuscript
for the French
Cnd

At 29-3-98

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____

189 .

READ AGAIN G.O., No. _____, DATE _____
189 .

CURRENT No. _____

ENCLOSURES TO G. No. _____

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

PAPERS NOT FILLED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

[N.B.—

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