

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public - **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. *280*

Press
Mis.

Dated

20-3- **1966.**

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
20th March 1866.

No. 83. Read the following letter from the Protector of Emigrants, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Madras, 13th November 1865, No. 95.

I have the honor to inform you that, in conformity with the Order recorded in Proceedings of the 1st instant, No. 1139, I called on the British Consular Agent at Pondicherry for explanation of the proceedings complained of by His Excellency the Governor of Pondicherry, and herewith forward the correspondence that has passed on the subject.

2. I think that M. Bontemps is unreasonable in raising the objection he has. The Madras Government, to facilitate emigration from French ports, has directed the British Consuls to register and pass British subjects desiring to emigrate, who might have been recruited when *residing in*, or *passing through*, those ports. Mr. Norfor consequently informs His Excellency that the men he passes must have come into Pondicherry without the intervention of recruiters, and that he must decline to pass any from the contiguous District of South Arcot.

3. The Governor of Pondicherry complains that this is in direct opposition to the Orders of the 13th ultimo, No. 1963, which he evidently understands as directing the Consul to pass, without question and without reserve, all British subjects brought to him, and which orders he designates as so liberal. I do not suppose that the Government will agree with His Excellency in this respect. The order to pass men must be understood as giving the Consul a right to inquire and satisfy himself if the parties brought before him are fit persons to emigrate. In respect to persons coming from distant provinces, he is prepared to exercise this power to the best of his judgment, but, as regards those from South Arcot, he requires that they should be sent in by the District Magistrate.

4. Precisely the same check is adopted in the recruiting operations for the British Colonies ; and about six weeks ago I found it necessary to reject two considerable gangs brought by licensed recruiters from Trichinopoly and Tanjore, because they had been brought from the Districts without having been passed by a Magistrate.

5. In conclusion, I would add that while I agree as to the principle on which Mr. Norfor is acting, there must occur numerous cases, as at Madras, in which the strict letter of the rule may, with advantage, be relaxed.

From the British Consular Agent, Pondicherry, to His Excellency the Governor of the French Establishments in India, Pondicherry ; dated Pondicherry, 23rd October 1865, No. 393.

I have the honor, with reference to the Orders of the Madras Government just received, No. 1063 of 13th October, to request you will instruct the Agents who have charge of the Emigration, that I can only pass men belonging to distant Districts, and not those men who belong to the District of South Arcot, of which District Mr. C. W. Reade has power to pass for. Also, that men of the other Districts must come to Pondicherry of their own accord, and not be brought in from those other countries by the Maistries.

2. This day, they brought me five men of South Arcot, and one man from Madras. I might have passed the Madras man, but he had not been told where he was going and what wages he was to get, or anything at all required by the *Arrêté* of 1st July, 1862, Article 7, paragraph 2, and Article 30. It was therefore a *manœuvre frauduleuse* on the part of the Maistries.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
20th March 1866.*

From His Excellency the Governor of the French Establishments in India, to the British Consular Agent, Pondicherry; dated Pondicherry, 24th October 1865, No. 58.

I have read, with as much surprise as regret, the letter, No. 393, you addressed me yesterday to notify that, in virtue of the Orders of the Madras Government, you could only examine emigrants of Districts at a distance—those of South Arcot being, as before, amenable only to the Collector of South Arcot—and, further, that the emigrants must come to Pondicherry of their own free will, instead of being brought by Maistries.

2. The line of conduct will be completely arbitrary. We find nothing that can authorize it, neither in the correspondence I have received from His Excellency the Governor of Madras, nor in the decision of 13th October that he notified to me, or in Act XIII of 1864, that regulates the action of the Protector of Emigrants. What is the object of the order, if it is not to cancel those measures in the executive, and make a concession in favor of the convention of 1861, now with difficulty accorded to us?

3. I protest energetically against such tendencies, which cannot be the intention of the Superior Government, and I refer, at the same time, to His Excellency the Governor of Madras, as well as to my Government.

4. The Order of the 13th October, No. 1063, makes no distinction between Indians, British subjects, who desire to emigrate, and who may have been recruited during their residence at, or passing through, the French ports. It is thus worded:—"The Consular Agents at French ports were authorized to register and pass British subjects desiring to emigrate, who might have been recruited when residing in, or passing through, these ports." Whatever the District, he should be passed by the Consul, if, once desiring to emigrate, he has been recruited in the French ports. Practically, people of this sort are furnished generally from neighbouring Districts; and it is easily understood that people do not come on chance from distances of 100 to 150 miles. So, if you exclude the only individuals who are likely to profit by it, it will be more simple and just to purely and simply recall this measure.

(True Translation).

(Signed) B. T. NORFOR,
British Consular Agent.

No. 396.

Monsieur BONTEMPS,

Gouverneur des Etablissements Français dans l'Inde,

MONSIEUR LE GOUVERNEUR,

Pondichéry.

J'ai l'honneur d'accuser réception de votre lettre du 24 Octobre 1865, et je regrette vivement de voir que vous n'approuvez point la manière dont j'interprète le sens de l'ordre du 13 Octobre, Numero 1063. D'ailleurs je suis content de voir que vous en avez fait référence à son Excellence le Gouverneur de Madras; par conséquent il me serait inutile de représenter ces faits à mon Gouvernement, mais j'attendrais le résultat de la réponse que vous pourriez avoir à votre lettre.

Ci-joint l'ordre du Gouvernement du 22 Mars 1864, Numero 361, dont il est question, en cas que vous n'en avez une copie.

En attendant la réponse du Gouvernement de Madras, il n'y aura point d'obstacles de ma part pour le départ de tels individus qui désireraient Emigrer. Mais je vous prierai seulement d'exiger de vos Agents chargés de l'Emigration de les examiner personnellement avant de me les envoyer, car je me trouve dans une position difficile lorsque les Maistries m'amènent des Coulys qui ignorent absolument où ils vont, et quels sont leurs gages, leur ayant dit seulement qu'ils vont à bord du Navire. Un pareil cas s'est présenté Lundi dernier, et c'est ce qui m'a forcé de renvoyer les individus.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
20th March 1866.*

Il serait à désirer que ces *Maistries* soient sous quelque espèce de contrôle, car actuellement ils agissent comme ils veulent, et il me devient inutile de vous dire que ces gens n'ont point le moindre sens de la vérité de la bonne foi, et leurs actions sans contrôle pourraient nécessairement occasionner bien des inconvénients et des malentendus.

J'ai l'honneur, &c.,

(Signé) B. T. NORFOR,

Consul Anglais.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) B. T. NORFOR,

British Consular Agent.

No. 84. ORDER THEREON, 20th March 1866, No. 280.

The Governor in Council considers that the Consular Agent at Pondicherry was not justified in declining to pass emigrants presenting themselves before him at Pondicherry, merely on the ground of their belonging to the contiguous District of South Arcot. If the Consular Agent has reason to believe that intending emigrants brought before him have been actually recruited, not at Pondicherry, but within British Territories, and have not been passed by the Magistrate of the District, or one of the Officers empowered to pass them, he is at liberty to reject them, but each case should be determined on its merits.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Protector of Emigrants.

„ Consular Agent at Pondicherry.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

No. 281.

To

HIS EXCELLENCY M. BONTEMPS,

Governor of the French Settlements in India.

SIR,

In acknowledging the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 25th October last, I have the honor to inform you that I have informed the Consular Agent at Pondicherry, that he is not justified in declining to pass Emigrants presenting themselves before him at Pondicherry, merely on the ground of their belonging to the contiguous District of South Arcot.

2. Mr. Norfor has been informed that, if he has reason to believe that intending Emigrants brought before him have been actually recruited, not at Pondicherry, but within British Territories, and have not been passed by the Magistrate of the District, or one of the Officers empowered to pass them, he is at liberty to reject them; but each case should be determined on its merits.

Accept Sir, &c.

(Signed) W. T. DENISON.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,

20th March 1866.

Police Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following
letter from the Protector
of Emigrants.

Here enters 13th November 1885
p. 95

Order thereon 20th March 1886 No. 200.

The Governor in
Council considers that
the Consular Agent at
Pondicherry was not justified
in declining to pass Emigrants
presenting themselves before
him at Pondicherry merely
on the ground of their
belonging to the contiguous
District of South Arcot.
If the Consular Agent
has

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has reason to believe
that intending emigrants
brought before him have
been actually recruited
not at Pondicherry but
within British Territories
and have not been
passed by the Magistrate
of the District, or one
of the Officers empowered
to pass them, he is at
liberty to reject them,
but each case should
be determined on its
merits.

Yk

To the Protector of Emigrants
Consular Agent at Pondicherry
Recd 24/3.

despatch 20/3 in l. v.

Public Department

No. 205.

To His Excellency M. Pontemps.
Governor of the French Settlements
in India.

Sir,

In acknowledging
the receipt of your Excel-
lency's letter of the 25th
October last, I have the
honour to inform you
that I have informed
the Consular Agent
at Pondicherry, that he
is not justified in declining
to pass emigrants pre-
senting themselves before
him at Pondicherry,
merely on the ground
of their belonging to the
contiguous District of
South Arcot.

M.

W. M. W.

Public 1861. Department

No. 200

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT,

Dated 20 March 1861.

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2. Mr. Norfor has been informed that, if he has reason to believe that intending emigrants brought before him have been actually recruited not at Pondicherry but within British territories and have not been passed by the Magistrate of the District or one of the officers empowered to pass them, he is at liberty to reject them, but each case should be determined on its merits.

by

For S^r Genl }
20 March 1866 }

Ms. 1866 Report.

No. 201

Mr. C. C. C. C.

The Governor of the
French Settlements
in India

Date 20 March 1866