

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Rudie DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

487

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Dated

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1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

1st May 1867.

No. 5. Read the following letter from the Colonial Secretary, Mauritius, to the Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Mauritius, 6th April 1867, No. A-666.

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor of this Colony to transmit, herewith, for the information of the Madras Government, copy of a correspondence between the Colonial and India Offices and this Government, relative to the amount of depôt accommodation to be provided for coolie emigrants to Mauritius from Bombay.

2. As His Excellency presumes that the rule laid down by Lord Cranborne in the case of Bombay is intended to apply equally to the other Presidencies of India, the Acting Agent of this Colony at Madras has been called upon to furnish this Government with information, to enable it to decide whether larger accommodation should be provided in the present depôt, or a new depôt should be procured. As it is not probable that any requisitions for labor will be transmitted to India during the present year, there will be ample time to make the necessary arrangements for the depôt before emigration is re-commenced.

From the Earl of CARNARVON, Secretary of State for the Colonies, to Sir H. BARKLY, K. C. B., Governor of Mauritius; dated Downing Street, 31st December 1866, No. 124.

I have had under my consideration your Despatch, No. 210, of 4th September, relative to the mortality on board emigrant ships from Bombay to Mauritius.

2. I transmit to you copies of correspondence with the India Office, from which you will learn my views, and the decision which has been formed upon the subject of the requirements of the Government of Bombay, as to the space to be provided in the depôt for emigrants to be constructed at Bombay.

Colonial Office, to India Office, 20th November 1866.

India Office, 14th December 1866.

From T. F. ELLIOT, Esq., Assistant Secretary of State, Colonial Office, to H. MERIVALE, Esq., C. B., Under Secretary of State, India Office; dated Downing Street, 20th November 1866.

With reference to your letter of 10th May last, and to previous correspondence, respecting the mortality which has, during the last two years, occurred on board the vessels engaged in carrying coolies from Bombay to Mauritius, I am directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to transmit to you, to

No. 210, of 14th September 1866.

be laid before the Secretary of State for India in Council, the copy of a Despatch from the Governor of Mauritius, forwarding, with other papers, a report adopted by the Council of Government of the Colony upon the subject.

3. In consequence of the mortality which occurred in ships which arrived at Mauritius from Bombay in the first quarter of 1865, Mr. Secretary Cardwell directed that the emigration from that port should be discontinued, until the cause of the mortality was discovered. Corresponding instructions were issued by the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay, and he was directed to take the necessary steps for instituting an inquiry into the subject. He accordingly commissioned Dr. Leith, the President of the Sanitary Commission, to conduct the inquiry.

4. Dr. Leith made an elaborate report, in which he attributed the mortality to (1) bad accommodation in the depôt, (2) the prevalence of remittent fever among the poorer classes in Bombay, and its neighbourhood, (3) the overcrowding of the ships, and (4) incompetence in some of the Surgeons. In respect to the depôt he suggested that a building in a healthier locality should be obtained; that the dormitories should afford at least 54 superficial feet "for each inmate;" that separate dormitories and separate washing places and privies should be provided for men and women; and that improvements should be introduced into the dietary.

Barkly H. C. B.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
1st May 1867.*

5. At the date of Dr. Leith's report, Mr. Marsh, who had been despatched by the Mauritius Government to inquire into the conduct of their emigration, was in Bombay, and he at once undertook, on the part of the Mauritius Government, to carry out all Dr. Leith's suggestions, except that which required 54 superficial feet in the depôt for each individual. He represented that the expense of complying with that suggestion would be so great, as practically to put an end to the emigration. The Government of Bombay, however, declined to take the responsibility of setting aside Dr. Leith's recommendation, but referred the matter to the Secretary of State for India, and Earl de Grey, in transmitting the papers to this Department, expressed a hope that Mr. Cardwell would maintain the existing prohibition against emigration from Bombay to Mauritius, "till measures fully satisfactory to the Government of Bombay shall have been taken for removing the various causes of disease and mortality."

6. All the other conditions in respect to the depôt suggested by Dr. Leith having been agreed to, the only question remaining for consideration is, whether his recommendation respecting the superficial area to be allowed to "each inmate" in the depôt should be insisted on or not.

7. The Emigration Commissioners, to whom the papers have been referred, agree with Mr. Marsh and Sir H. Barkly, in thinking that an allowance of 54 superficial feet per adult is an excessive amount.

8. It is stated that to comply with Dr. Leith's requisition on this head would involve an expense of about £225 for each ship's complement, or about £1 for each adult male, and as Sir H. Barkly states that the expenses of immigration have grown in the last 20 years from £6, or at the outside £7 a head, to £10-1s., it is not difficult to believe that so large an increase as would follow from the proposed extension of depôt accommodation would make the immigration too costly to be remunerative.

9. But the reports from Mr. Marsh and Mr. Beyts, which accompany Sir H. Barkly's despatch, go far, in Lord Carnarvon's opinion, to prove that the allotment of so large a space to the emigrant in depôt is not indispensable to the healthiness of the emigration. They show that the depôt was opened in July 1861; that from that time till the beginning of 1864, although the space allotted to emigrants was the same, the emigration was very healthy; that it was only in 1864, when epidemic diseases became prevalent in Bombay, that the mortality in emigrant ships also became excessive, and that the diseases which attacked emigrants were (as is also stated by Dr. Leith) the same as were attacking the people on shore. Mr. Gomez, the Medical Inspector of Emigrants, also argues in the same direction, and furnishes a table which shows that the variations of mortality on board the emigrant ships corresponded to a great extent with the variations in the mortality in Bombay at the same moment. The inference seems clear that the infection which the emigrants contracted, and which they carried in a latent state on board ship, was the result of the sickness prevalent in Bombay in the neighbourhood of the depôt, and was not generated in the depôt by overcrowding.

10. That the depôt should be moved from the spot where it has hitherto stood, and should be established in a more open and healthy situation, is acknowledged on all hands, and the Government of Bombay appear willing to assist the Mauritius Government in obtaining a proper site for the purpose. Mr. Marsh calculates that a depôt which would allow 54 superficial feet to each emigrant could not be constructed for less than £5000, but that one allowing 24 feet could be built for half that sum.

11. I am to express Lord Carnarvon's opinion that 54 superficial feet is an excessive requirement, and, considering that, in such a climate as Bombay, the depôt must be open day and night, and that there must, therefore, be as free a circulation of air as the climate will allow, his Lordship would suggest to Lord Cranborne that a superficial area of 24 feet for each adult, which, irrespective of the greater height and freer ventilation of the depôt, is the double of the space allotted on board ship under the most favorable circumstances, would be sufficient for the health of the emigrant in depôt.

12. With reference to the question as to the superficial area to be allowed for statute adults on board ship, I am to observe that the Indian Act No. XIII of 1864, following the Convention with

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
1st May 1867.*

the French Government, allows the carriage of one adult for every 10 superficial feet of deck. But the French Convention was based on French precedents, which applied exclusively to emigration from Pondicherry, and it is well established that emigrants taken from the Coromandel Coast do not suffer at sea to the same extent as emigrants from Calcutta and Bombay. Instructions have been issued to the Emigration Agents for the West Indies at Calcutta not to put on board more emigrants for those Colonies than in the proportion of one statute adult to every 12 superficial feet of deck. But the voyage to Mauritius, being so much shorter, and entirely within the Tropics, it appears to Lord Carnarvon to be unnecessary, without further experience, to adopt the same rule for that Colony. Provided the people are put on board in a healthy condition, it may be hoped that, even with the smaller space, they will reach their destination without any disproportionate mortality.

13. Lord Carnarvon considers that a good system of drainage, ventilation, and other sanitary arrangements for preserving the health of the emigrants in depôt, is what is chiefly desirable, and this he cannot doubt that the Mauritius Government will gladly carry out. His Lordship will be ready to co-operate in any way in his power to secure this end, but he does not consider that it would be necessary, or even wise in the interests both of the Colony and the immigrant, to insist upon anything further, or to throw any unnecessary obstacle in the way of an immigration which is no less a boon to the immigrant himself than to his employer. His Lordship regards this question as one of very great importance, and hopes that Lord Cranborne will adopt the same view.

From H. MERIVALE, Esq., c. b., Under Secretary of State, India Office, to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies; dated India Office, 14th December 1866.

I have laid before the Secretary of State for India in Council your letter, dated the 20th ultimo, transmitting correspondence with the Governor of Mauritius, relative to the mortality on board emigrant ships from Bombay to that Colony in 1864-65, and conveying the remarks of the Earl of Carnarvon on the requirements of the Government of Bombay, with reference to the space to be provided in the new depôt for emigrants, to be constructed at Bombay at the expense of the Mauritius Government.

2. In reply, I am directed to state that Viscount Cranborne concurs in the opinion of Lord Carnarvon, that, the choice of the situation of the new depôt being subject to the approval of the Government of Bombay, it will be sufficient to provide space in the building at the rate of 24 superficial feet, with a minimum height of 12 feet, for each emigrant to be accommodated, and that the Bombay Government has been requested to authorize the construction of the depôt in accordance with this principle.

No. 6. ORDER THEREON, 1st May 1867, No. 487.

Communicated to the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, and to the Protector of Emigrants, with reference to the Proceedings of Government, of the 16th February last.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.
" Protector of Emigrants.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

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Copy

Mauritius

N^o 124.

Downing Street

31st December 1866

Sir,

I have had under my consideration your Despatch N^o 210 of 4th September, relative to the mortality on board Emigrant Ships from Bombay to Mauritius.

I transmit to you copies of correspondence with the India Office from which you will learn my views and the decision which has been formed upon the subject of the requirements of the Government of Bombay as to the space to be provided in the Depot for Emigrants to be constructed at Bombay.

I have &c
S^d Carnarvon.

Governor

Sir G. Barkly K. C. B.

*C.O. to India Office.
20th November 1866.
Ind. Office 14th Dec^r 1866.*

Mr. Elliot to Mr. Merivale

Downing Street

20th November 1866.

Copy

Sir,

With reference to your letter of 10th May last and to previous correspondence respecting the mortality which has, during the last two years, occurred on board the Vessels engaged in carrying coolies from Bombay to Mauritius, I am directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary

of State for India in Council, the copy of a Despatch from the Governor of Mauritius forwarding, with other papers, a Report adopted by the Council of Mauritius of the Colony upon the subject.

In consequence of the mortality which occurred in ships which arrived at Mauritius from Bombay in the first quarter of 1865, Mr. Secretary

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Cardwell directed that the immigration from that Port should be discontinued, until the cause of the mortality was discovered. Corresponding instructions were issued by the Secretary of State for India to the Governor of Bombay, and he was directed to take the necessary steps for instituting an enquiry into the subject. He accordingly commissioned Dr. Leith the President of the Sanitary Commission to conduct the enquiry.

Dr. Leith made an elaborate report in which he attributed the mortality to (1) bad accommodation in the Depot, (2) the prevalence of venereal disease among the poorer classes in Bombay and its neighborhood (3) the overcrowding of the ships, and (4) incompetence in some of the Surgeons. In respect to the Depot he suggested that a building in a healthier locality should be obtained, that

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the dormitories should afford at least 54 superficial feet "for each inmate" that separate dormitories and separate washing places and privies should be provided for men and women, and that improvements should be introduced into the dietary.

At the date of Dr. Leith's report, Mr. Marsh, who had been despatched by the Mauritius Government to enquire into the conduct of their immigration, was in Bombay, and he at once undertook on the part of the Mauritius Government to carry out all Dr. Leith's suggestions except that which required 54 superficial feet in the Depot for each individual. He represented that the expense of complying with that suggestion would be so great as practically to put an end to the immigration. The Government of Bombay however declined

declined to take the responsibility of setting aside Dr. Leith's recommendation, but referred the matter to the Secretary of State for India. Lord Earl de Grey in transmitting the papers to this Department expressed a hope that Mr. Cardwell would maintain the existing prohibition against immigration from Bombay to Mauritius "till measures fully satisfactory to the Government of Bombay shall have been taken for removing the various causes of disease and mortality."

All the other conditions in respect to the Depot suggested by Dr. Leith having been agreed to the only question remaining for consideration is whether his recommendation respecting the superficial area to be allowed to "each inmate" in the Depot should be insisted on or not.

The Immigration Commissioners to whom the papers.

papers have been referred agree with Mr. Marsh and Sir H. Barkly in thinking that an allowance of 54 superficial feet per adult is an excessive amount.

It is stated that to comply with Dr. Leith's requisition on this head would involve an expense of about £225 for each ship's complement or about £2 for each adult male and as Sir H. Barkly states that the expenses of Immigration have grown in the last 20 years from £6 or at the outside £7 a head to £10. It is not difficult to believe that so large an increase as would follow from the proposed extension of Depot accommodation would make the Immigration too costly to be remunerative.

But the reports from Mr. Marsh and Mr. Beyts which accompany Sir H. Barkly's despatch

despatch go far, in Lord Carnarvon's opinion to prove that the allotment of so large a space to the Emigrant in Depot is not indispensable to the healthiness of the Immigration. They show that the Depot was opened in July 1861, that from that time till the beginning of 1864, although the space allotted to Immigrants was the same the Immigration was very healthy, that it was only in 1864, when epidemic diseases became prevalent in Bombay that the mortality in Emigrant Ships also became excessive, and that the diseases which attacked Immigrants were (as is also stated by Dr. Leith) the same as were attacking the people on shore. Mr. Lorne, the Medical Inspector, Immigrants, also argues in the same direction, and furnishes a table which shows that the variations of mortality on board the Emigrant Ships.

Ships corresponded to a great extent with the variations in the mortality in Bombay at the same moment. The inference seems clear that the infection which the Emigrants contracted, and which they carried in a latent state on board ship, was the result of the sickness prevalent in Bombay in the neighborhood of the Depot and ~~not~~ generated in the Depot by overcrowding. ~~It has~~ ~~been~~ ~~the~~ ~~spot~~ where it has hitherto stood and should be established in a more open and healthy situation is acknowledged on all hands, and the Government of Bombay appear willing to assist the Mauritius Government in obtaining a proper site for the purpose. Mr. Marsh calculates that a Depot which would allow 54 superficial feet to each Emigrant could not be constructed for less than.

than £5,000 but that one allowing 24 feet could be built for half that sum.

I am to express Lord Carnarvon's opinion that 54 superficial feet is an excessive requirement and considering that in such a climate as Bombay the Depot must be open day and night and that there must therefore be as free a circulation of air as the climate will allow, his Lordship would suggest to Lord Carnarvon that a superficial area of 24 feet for each adult which irrespective of the greater height and free ventilation of the Depot is the double of the space allotted on board ship under the most favorable circumstances would be sufficient for the health of the Emigrant in transit.

With reference to the question as to the superficial area to be allowed for Statute Adults

on board ship. I am to observe that the Indian Act No 13 of 1864, following the convention with the French Government, allows the carriage of one ¹¹/₁₂ superficial feet of deck. But the French convention was based on French precedents which applied exclusively to Emigration from Pondicherry, and it is well established that Emigrants taken from the Commaudel Coast ¹¹/₁₂ see to the same extent as Emigrants from Calcutta and Bombay. Instructions have been issued to the Emigration Agents for the West Indies at Calcutta not to put on board more Emigrants for those colonies than in the proportion of one Statute Adult to every 12 superficial feet of deck. But the voyage to Mauritius being so much shorter and entirely within the Tropics, it appears to Lord

Carnarvon

Carnarvon to be unnecessary without further experience to adopt the same rule for that colony. Provided the people are put on board in a healthy condition it may be hoped even with the smaller space, they will reach their destination without any disproportionate mortality.

Lord Carnarvon considers that a good system of drainage, ventilation and other sanitary arrangements for preserving the health of the Emigrants in Depot is what is chiefly desirable, and thus he cannot doubt that the Mauritius Government will gladly carry out. His Lordship will be ready to co-operate in any way in his power to secure this end, but he does not consider that it would be necessary or even wise in the interests both of the

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the Colony and the Immigrant to insist upon -
anything further, or to throw any unnecessary -
obstacle in the way of an Immigration which
is no less a loss to the Immigrant himself than
to his employer. His Lordship regards this question
as one of very great importance and hopes that
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I am &c.

Yr. I. Elliot

To,

Herbert Merivale Esq. C.B.

Yr. ——— Yr.

copy

Mr. Merivale to the Under Secretary of State
for the Colonies -

India Office

14th December 1886.

Sir,

I have laid before the Secretary of State for
India in Council your letter dated the 20th ultimo,
transmitting correspondence with the Governor of
Mauritius relative to the mortality on board
Emigrant Ships from Bombay to that Colony in
1864-65, and conveying the remarks of the Earl
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In reply I am directed to state that Viscount Cranborne concurs in the opinion of Lord Carnarvon that the choice of the situation of the new Depot being subject to the approval of the Government of Bombay, it will be sufficient to provide space in the building at the rate of 24 superficial feet, with a minimum height of 12 feet, for each Emigrant to be accommodated, and that the Bombay Government has been requested to authorise the construction of the Depot in accordance with this principle.

I am &c

Wm Herman Merivale

The Under Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

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MAURITIUS.
COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

6th April 1867.

GENERAL BRANCH.—Registered No. *A/666*

[In any future correspondence on this
subject, the above No. should be quoted.]

Sir

I am directed by
His Excellency the Governor of this
Colony to transmit, herewith for the
information of the Madras Govern-
ment copy of a correspondence between
the Colonial and India Offices and
this Government relative to the amount
of Depot accommodation to be provided

for

To

The Secretary to the
Government of Madras

the Public No 557/67
Recd 1st May 1867

for Coolie Emigrants to Mauritius
from Bombay. -

As His Excellency pre-
sumes that the rule laid down by
Lord Cranborne in the case of Bom-
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the other Presidencies of India, the

Acting Agent of this Colony at Ma-
dras has been called upon to furnish
this Government with information to
enable it to decide whether larger ac-
commodation should be provided in
the present depot, or a new depot should
be procured. As it is not probable
that any requisitions for labor will
be

be transmitted to India during the
present year there will be ample time
to make the necessary arrangements
for the depot before Emigration is re-
commenced.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Yours most obedient servant

W. H. D. M.
Colonial Secretary

No 16 July 1867 No 71-72
 No 16 July 1867 No 25-30.
 No 16 July 1867 No 25-27
 No 18 July 1867 No 105-108

No 16 July 1867
 No 25-30.
 No 25-27
 No 105-108

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