

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	694	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	15-6-	1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

15th June 1867.

No. 164. Read the following letter from the Acting Mauritius Emigration Agent, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 10th May 1867, No. 69.

I have the honor to enclose copies of correspondence between the Colonial and India Offices, on the subject of accommodation to be provided for emigrants in the Bombay Mauritius Emigration Depôt, lately received from the Mauritius Government; and, as the allotment of space to each emigrant in the Madras Depôt was based upon the same principle as that which applied to Bombay (vide Proceedings of the Madras Government, No. 162, dated 16th February 1867), I respectfully solicit the opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council as to whether the word "emigrant," in paragraph 2 of the Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, No. 1, dated 9th January 1867, means an individual irrespective of age, or "statute adult" at 10 years of age and upwards.

2. I respectfully submit that, in paragraph 12 of Mr. Elliot's letter to Mr. Merivale, Lord Carnarvon suggests to Lord Cranborne that 24 superficial feet is sufficient for each "*adult*," and, in Mr. Merivale's reply to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 14th December 1866, it is stated that Lord Cranborne concurs in the opinion expressed by the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, *i. e.*, evidently, 24 superficial feet for each "*adult*," although the word "*adult*" is changed into "*emigrant*."

From the Colonial Secretary, Mauritius, to the Mauritius Emigration Agent, Madras; dated Mauritius, 6th April 1867, No. A 668.

In transmitting to you the accompanying copy of a correspondence between the Colonial and India Offices and this Government, relative to the amount of depôt accommodation to be provided for coolies emigrating to this Colony from Bombay, I am directed by the Governor to state that His Excellency presumes that the decision of the Secretary of State for India, with respect to the Bombay depôt will apply equally to the other Presidencies, and to request, therefore, that you will furnish the information indicated in the accompanying memorandum for the information of this Government.

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

* Colonial Office to India Office, 20th November 1866.
India Office, 14th December 1866.

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.

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 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.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
15th June 1867.

2. 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.

3. 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 (1st) bad accommodation in the depôt, (2nd) the prevalence of remittent fever among the poorer classes in Bombay and its neighbourhood, (3rd) the overcrowding of the ships, and (4th) 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.

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.

6. 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."

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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 to 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, was the result of the sickness prevalent in Bombay in the neighbourhood of the depôt, and was not generated in the depôt by over-crowding.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
15th June 1867.

11. 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.

12. 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 boardship under the most favorable circumstances, would be sufficient for the health of the emigrant in depôt.

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

14. 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.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
15th June 1867.*

No. 165. ORDER THEREON, 15th June 1867, No. 694.

The Governor in Council is of opinion that the word "emigrant" used in paragraph 2 of the Despatch of the Secretary of State for India, dated 9th January last, is used in the same sense as the words "inmate" and "adult" used in Mr. Elliot's letter to Mr. Herman Merivale, dated 20th November 1866, and that it is the intention of the Secretary of State that a space of 24 superficial feet shall be provided for each adult emigrant in the Emigration Depot.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Acting Mauritius Emigration Agent.
„ Protector of Emigrants.

Ed. J. H. Burna

Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

*Read the following letter from the
Acting Mauritius Emigration
Agent Madras.*

of 10 May 1867. No. 69.

ORDER THEREON

15th June 1867. No. 694.

*The Governor in
Council is of opinion
that the word "Emigrant"
used in para 2 of the
Despatch of the Secretary
of State for India dated
9 January last is used
with the same ^{sense} ~~intention~~
as the words "inmate"
and "adult" ^{used} ~~quoted~~ in
Mr. Elliott's letter to Mr.
Herman Merivale dated
20 November 1866 and*

work

that

it is the intention of the
Secretary of State that
a space of 24 superficial
feet shall be provided
for each ^{adult emigrant} ~~adult~~ in the
Emigration Report.

by R

Ag. Mauritius Emigration
Agent.
Protector of Emigrants.

Dr. P. 2/6

hint of 25 June

164. 165.

Public 1864 Department.

No. 694

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated. 15 June 1864.

7420 3422 of 1868

hint

c 15 June
All