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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Police DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 147 (38-39) Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 4-2- 19 39

Not to be folded or roughly handled

o. 38. Read the following letter from C. W. READE, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Chinna Salem, 11th January 1870, No. 9.

A few days ago, when on leave, I received the Proceedings of the Govern- [illegible] Public Department, dated 30th November 1869, No. 1015, recorded on my [illegible] and memorandum of the 7th September last, on the subject of emigration. had not quite resolved whether to take further notice of the matter, although the accuracies or misrepresentations in paragraphs 9 and 10 of Mr. Blair's letter of the th October, recorded in the said Proceedings, had not escaped me, and certainly emed to demand notice at my hands. But since rejoining the district, I have ceived the original of the enclosed letter from Mr. Gribble, in which he distinctly ntradicts the statement made by Mr. Blair, apparently on the authority of . Norfor, " that Mr. Gribble, Assistant Collector, arrived after three-fourths of the migrants had embarked in the *Eugenie*, and that " no Assistant was present when e *Anna* embarked her emigrants," and, further, that " on neither occasion were the en examined as to what money they had in hand."

2. The report made to me by Mr. Gribble on the occasion was only verbal, d I merely gave the substance of it in my memorandum of the 7th September, but rtainly I never disputed its correctness, as Messrs. Norfor and Blair have done in marked a manner. I specially deputed Mr. Gribble to proceed on board, and he s particularly directed to ascertain what money the emigrants had taken with em, as this was the practical test of the system I had adopted in correction of the ases connected with the advances; and the result, as informed to me by . Gribble, was necessarily very satisfactory, and was, therefore, mentioned in my emorandum in illustration of the change effected; and Mr. Gribble having now me forward in his own defence, and corroborated what I stated on his authority, nust leave to Government to determine what further notice ought to be taken of . Blair's remarks in paragraph 10 of his letter, closing with the strange assertion at " no examination took place at all," as gathered by him from Mr. Norfor's tement.

3. I have not seen any part of Mr. Norfor's correspondence on this subject, but he have written to Mr. Blair as described by the latter, it appears to me that, in the e of facts now reiterated on Mr. Gribble's personal declaration, Mr. Norfor should called upon to retract and to explain so serious a misstatement reflecting on the [illegible] of my report made on Mr. Gribble's personal knowledge of what had ually passed as regards both emigrant ships, the *Eugenie* and *Anna*.

4. I have no wish to re-open a discussion which has exposed me to some pleasantness; at the same time, having occasion to address Government in port of my Assistant, Mr. Gribble, it is incumbent on me to notice another part Mr. Blair's letter where he speaks of the recruiters or maistries receiving the larger tion of the balance of money taken with them into the depôt by the emigrants, de paragraph 5 of Mr. Blair's letter, 3rd November 1869, No. 26-W,) and this nion is apparently shared in by the Government, as noted in paragraph 10 of ir orders under acknowledgment.

5. I am sorry I did not notice this point when inditing my memorandum, because my attention was directed to it while in charge of the Emigration office, and it was my impression also that it was open to the emigrants to dispose of their money to the maistries or to any one else as they might think proper after entering the depôt; but I was assured to the contrary by the Committee, who informed me that no communication between emigrants and maistries was allowed by the French Government, after the former had once passed into the depôt, and that they could not afterwards get rid of their advances, and it was on this very ground that so much opposition was made to my interference, and it was urged as a reason why the emigrants' alleged wishes to give their advance to the recruiters before they entered should be complied with.

6. If it really were, as at first supposed by me and as now assumed by Mr. Blair and Government, that an emigrant can pay to the maistry after once entering the depôt, it clearly affords the strongest argument why such extortionate payments should not be allowed, or made beforehand under the direct sanction and countenance of the several authorities; for it is this which seems to me so objectionable, and it supports my avowed resolve in the temporary protection of these ignorant people not to be a party to any such flagrant abuse and injustice. It is only provided that payment by the emigrants to maistries after entering the depôt is impracticable, that I am able to understand the motive of insisting on these payments being determined beforehand in the presence of the various emigration functionaries. For if the maistries' claims can be satisfied at any time when the emigrants are under lock and key, and without authoritative intervention, what, it may be asked, is the object of the inquiry by the Committee beforehand, and why are all claims and debts due by the emigrants investigated and formally adjusted before this solemn conclave of three officials, the majority of whom are supposed to represent the interests of the men brought up to be fleeced? The whole Committee affair becomes farcical and objectless to my view; but since the possibility of paying when once in the depôt has been distinctly denied to me personally by one of the Secretaries to the French Government, and by the French Emigration Agent Mr. Erny, I think it only my duty to correct the views of my own Government and of the Madras Protector of Emigrants, which I am in a position to do, on the high authority quoted, and I only regret that it did not occur to me to anticipate t at the supposed practice might be argued as a set-off against any practical results from what I had done; because if it were open to the emigrants to pay the maistries at any time before embarking, interference beforehand could clearly effect nothing beyond a mere postponement of the evil, except that the extortion and abuse would not have the sanction of authority as at present. But I accepted the statements made to me by the officers I have named, and I never imagined that the question would be raised.

7. The abuses and losses to the emigrants under the system of advances having been so fully exposed, it is to be hoped that nothing of the kind will be authorized in regard to native emigration to British Colonies, as suggested by Mr. Blair, in order to place French and English Emigration Agency on an equal footing. There are interests other than the agencies which should be paramount, and with the knowledge the Government have of the working of the system with the French, they

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
4th February 1870.

are not likely, I conclude, to sanction its adoption in regard to emigration to our own Colonies.

From J. D. B. GRIBBLE, Esq., Assistant Collector of South Arcot, to the Collector of South Arcot, dated Cuddalore, 4th January 1870, No. 4.

With reference to paragraph 9 of Mr. Blair's letter, recorded in Government Order, No. 1645, dated 30th November 1869, I have the honour to inform you that Mr. Blair is mistaken in his statement that I arrived after three-fourths of the emigrants had embarked in the *Eugenie*.

2. I was present in the Recruiting office from the time the first recruit was mustered, until the last had appeared, and after they had embarked, I went on board, and myself inspected the arrangements of the ship, and questioned a large number as to the advance they then had in hand. On my return I reported to you that the majority of those I had questioned on board had from seven to ten rupees in hand. Mr. Blair, therefore, states what is not the fact, when he states that "on neither occasion were the men examined as to what money they had in hand."

3. I may mention that it does not appear to be usual to visit the emigrants on board, and though accompanied by Mr. Erny to the *Eugenie* he expressed his surprise at my wishing to cross the surf, and on the occasion of my visiting the second ship I went alone. I am, therefore, at a loss to understand how Mr. Blair is justified in stating that "no Assistant was present when *Anna* embarked her emigrants," or that on neither occasion did an examination of the men take place.

No. 39. ORDER THEREON, 4th February 1870, No. 147.

The foregoing letter, and its enclosure, will be communicated to the Protector of Emigrants, with instructions to call on the British Consular Agent at Pondicherry for any explanation that he may have to offer on the subject of paragraph 3 of Mr. Reade's letter.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Protector of Emigrants.

Rgd. J. Wright.

Govt. of {1870} Madras.

PUBLIC.

To

THE PROTECTOR OF EMIGRANTS.

Dated February, 4th.

Read. Read.

G. O., 4th February 1870, *No.* 147.

FEBRUARY.
Nos. 38-39.

X

Forwarding a communication from the Collector of South Arcot repudiating certain statements made by the Protector of Emigrants on the authority of Mr. Norfor, British Consular Agent at Pondicherry, that the due and proper examination of the emigrants per ships *Eugenie* and *Anna* had not been made by the Assistant Collector, as previously asserted by Mr. Reade, with instructions to call on the British Consular Agent at Pondicherry for an explanation.

From

C. H. Reade Esquire
Collector of South Arcot

To

J. C. Hinchin Esquire
Actg Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George

Sir,

After days ago I received the Proceedings of the Government Public Department dated 30th November 1869 No. 1645, recorded on my letter of the 6th September last on the subject of Emigration. I had not quite resolved whether to take further Notice of the matter, although the inaccuracies & misrepresentations in Paras 9 & 10 of Mr. Bird's letter of the 20th October recorded in the said Proceedings had not escaped me, and certainly seemed to demand notice at my hands. But since receiving the Letter I have received the Original of the enclosed letter from Mr. Gribble in which he distinctly contradicts the Statement made by Mr. Bird respecting the authority of the Inspector. That Mr. Gribble assistant Collector, received a letter which I am told the Emigrants had

contained in the "Eugenie" and that he after-
wards perused it when the "Anna" embarked
her Emigrants" and further that on neither occa-
sion was he then examined as to what Money
they had in hand".

2 The Report made to me by Mr.
Gribble on the occasion was only verbal &
I merely gave the substance of it in my
Memo: of the 7th September, but certainly
I never disputed its correctness as Messrs Parker
& Blair have done in so marked a manner.
I specially deputed Mr. Gribble to proceed on
board, & he was particularly directed to ascer-
tain what Money the Emigrants had taken
with them, as this was the practical test of
the system I had adopted in connection
with the abuses connected with the advances,
and the result as informed to me by Mr.
Gribble was necessarily very satisfactory and
was therefore mentioned in my Memo: in
illustration of the change effected. Now
Mr. Gribble having now come forward in
this own defence & corroborated what I stated
on his authority, I must leave to Government
to determine what further notice ought to be
taken of Mr. Blair's remarks in Para 10 of
his letter coming under the strange impression
that the examination took place at Parkes as
gathered by him from Mr. Parkes statement.

3 I have not seen any part of Mr. Parker's
correspondence on this subject but if he have
written to Mr. Blair as described by the latter
it appears to me that, in the face of facts
now contrasted on Mr. Gribble's personal decla-
ration, Mr. Parker should be called upon to
~~retract~~ & to explain so serious a misstatement
reflecting on the accuracy of my Report —
made on Mr. Gribble's personal knowledge
of what had actually passed as regards both
Emigrant Ships, the "Eugenie" and "Anna".

4. I have no wish to reopen a discussion
which has exposed me to some unpleasantness;
at the same time, having occasion to address
Government in support of my Assistant
Mr. Gribble, it is incumbent on me, to notice
another part of Mr. Blair's letter which he
discards of the Accountants as unjustly recei-
ving the larger portion of the balance of
Money taken with them into the Depot by
the Emigrants (vide para 6 Mr. Blair's letter
3rd Nov.r 69 P.26, W.) and this opinion is apparently shared in by the Government, as noted
in para 10 of their orders under acknowledge-
ment.

5. Mr. Larry I did not notice this
point when considering my Memo: because
my attention was directed to it while in
charge of the Emigration office and it was
not my impression also that it was given to

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the Emigrants to dispose of their money in the Mauritius or to any one else as they may think proper after entering the Depot, but I was assured to the contrary by the Committee, who informed me that no communication between Emigrants & Mauritius was allowed by the French Government, after the former had once passed into the depot, & that they could not afterwards get rid of their advances, & it was on this very ground that so much opposition was made to my interference; & it was urged as a reason why the Emigrants alledged wishes to give their advance to the Recruiters before they entered should be complied with.—

6. If it really were as at first supposed by me & as now assumed by the Mauritius Government, that an Emigrant, on leaving the Island cheerfully affords the strongest argument why such exorbitant demands should not be allowed, or made beforehand under the direct sanction and countenance of the several authorities, for it is this which seems to me so objectionable & so shocking in every case where the simplest transaction of this Emigrant, he/she is not to be exposed to any such—Fraud & abuse and injustice—It is only intended that payment by the Emigrants

Emigrants to Mauritius after entering the Depot is impracticable, that I am able to understand the matter of inducing any such payments being determined beforehand in the presence of the various Emigration functionaries—but if the Mauritius claims are the only ones to be satisfied by the Emigrant he under both by, & without authorities intervention whatever, being the object of the enquiry by the Committee beforehand, & they are all claims & debts due by the Emigrant investigated and friendly adjusted before the Embarkation and clear of the Officials the Registry & Embarkation are understood to be finally completed by the Emigrants to be pleased—The whole Committee system becomes farcical & objectless to my view, but since the responsibility of bringing evidence in the Depot has been distinctly denied to me personally by one of the Secretaries to the French Government & by the French Emigration agent Mr Croy, I think it only my duty to correct the wrong impression of the Madras Government & of the Madras Protector of Emigrants, which I am in a position to do on the high authority quoted, and I only regret that it did not occur to me to anticipate that the supposed practice might be urged as a reason against any practical benefit from

learn what had done because it was never open to the Emigrants to learn the Routes at any time before embarking in the Ships before hand could clearly effect nothing beyond a mere postponement of the evil, except that the extortion and abuse would not have the Sanction of authority as at present. — But I accepted the Statements made to me by the Officers of those names, and I never imagined that the question would be raised. —

The abuses & losses to the Emigrants under the System of advances having been so fully exposed, it is to be hoped, that nothing of the kind will be authorized in regard to Native Emigration to British Colonies, as suggested by Mr. Blair in a letter to Messrs. French & English Emigration agency, on an equal footing — There are interests other than the Agencies which should be paramount, & with the knowledge the Government have of the working of the System with the French, there are not likely, I conclude, to sanction any action in regard to Emigration to Colonies. —

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your most obedient Servant

Charles Lennox Peel

Under Secretary

Private Office

1st January 1856

Public Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read the following letter from the Collector of Arcot. (R.C. 11th Jany/70 No 9.)

Ordered that 4 Feby. 4 January 1870 — No 147.

The foregoing letter & its enclosure with be communicated to the Collector of Emigrants, with instructions to call on the British Consular Agent at Pondicherry for any explanation that he may have to offer on the subject of paragraph 3 of the Reader's letter.

N.

A/F.

To the Collector of Emigrants [illegible]

Sort. of 18 } Madras.

Public

Vice Consuls at Singapore.

Dated 7 Feby 70 } 1870, No.
Recd. 167

Nos. 38. 39.

Forwarding a communication from the Colr of Straits Settlements enclosing certain statements made by the Vice Consuls of Singapore on the authority of the Rajah, Brooke's Consular Agent at that place, denying that the alleged examination of the Singapore Merchant Ships "Eliza" & "Thomas" had not been made by the Straits Settlements Authorities as previously asserted by the Rajah with instructions to call on the British Consular Agent at Sarawak