

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
24th February 1870.*

might, I believe, have been reduced to almost nothing, had the ship remained in the Karikal roads until the outbreak had ceased; for the first few days only the Pondicherry coolies were attacked, and certainly the lives of all the Karikal emigrants, who subsequently died, would have been saved had they not been sent to sea in a ship, which actually had cholera cases on board at the time of sailing.

9. I believe the real truth is that the French Surgeon authorized the embarkation against his own wishes, and that he knew perfectly well what a risk he was running, but was afraid to take the responsibility of stopping the embarkation. The Protector of Emigrants also should not have allowed the emigrants to be embarked in a ship in which he had been told by both the Doctor and Captain a woman had died of cholera on the previous day.

10. As to what occurred at Pondicherry after the return of the *John Scott*, I believe the wisest course would have been to have landed all the emigrants, and had the ship thoroughly cleansed and fumigated. Thirty deaths occurred after the return of the ship on board and in the Lazaretto: had the emigrants been landed at once, I think many of these lives would have been saved.

11. I have simply reported the facts of this lamentable case, in order that Government may take such notice of it as they think proper. All I can say is that had the *John Scott* come in here, instead of Karikal, to take emigrants on board, I would not (as Protector of Emigrants) have permitted their embarkation.

No. 124. ORDER THEREON, 24th February 1870, No. 239.

In their Proceedings of the 27th January last, No. 109, the Government noticed the lamentable loss of life which occurred on board the *John Scott* Emigrant Ship.

2. From the reports of the British Consular Agents at Pondicherry and Karikal, now submitted, it would seem that the mortality was owing—

1st.—To the emigrants being allowed to leave the Dépôt at Pondicherry too soon (seven days) after one certain case of cholera and two doubtful cases occurred at the Dépôt.

2nd.—To a large batch of emigrants being embarked at Karikal on board the *John Scott*, although it was known that a fatal case of cholera had occurred on board the ship just before it anchored at Karikal.

3rd.—To the persistence of the Captain of the *John Scott* in leaving Karikal with cholera on board, and the delay that occurred when the *John Scott* arrived at Pondicherry, in landing the emigrants. For this delay the Sanitary Commission are responsible. The Governor of Pondicherry humanely overruled them, and probably saved many lives.

3. The conduct of the Consular Agent, Mr. Sam, is inexcusable, and his explanation does not in any way exculpate him. He knew that a death from cholera had taken place in the Karikal roads; he knew that there had been cholera in the Pondicherry Dépôt; he must have known, as stated* by the Sub-Collector, that cholera had broken out in the town of Karikal, and he was clearly bound to have refused his sanction to the embarkation of a very large number of coolies from Karikal, until there had occurred

* See Procs. of Govt., 27th Jan. 1870.

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24th February 1870.*

a sufficient interval to judge whether cholera had entirely ceased on the *John Scott*, and that there was no cholera taint among the coolies at the Karikal Dépôt. If he had done this, many lives would have been saved.

4. The Government consider Mr. Sam's conduct on the occasion to have been marked, not only by a want of common prudence, but by the neglect of a clear duty, and must cancel their Order of the 11th instant, permitting Mr. Sam to continue to hold his office, although he has attained the age of fifty-five years. Mr. Sam must at once retire from the post of Consular Agent.

5. The Government consider Mr. Norfor also to blame in not having insisted on a longer period than seven days after the occurrence of a case of cholera at the Emigration Dépôt at Pondicherry, before emigrants were embarked.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Protector of Emigrants, for communication to the British
Consular Agents at Pondicherry and Karikal.

Exd. J. Wright.

W
8/10

Protectors Office
Madras 31st January 1870

From J. Hunter Blair Esq.
Protector of Emigrants

To J. J. Minchin Esq.
Acting Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George

Sir, With reference to the case of the Emigrants per John Scott, I have the honor to forward, as report from the British Consul Agent, and depositions given before him by the Captain, and mates; also Copies of 3 letters written by the French Surgeon on board to the Captain, on Decr 18 & 19, after leaving Karikal.

2 I called on the British Consul at Karikal to report, what occurred there: Copy of his letter is herewith sent.

3 From the information obtained from these Reports, depositions, and letters, I am of opinion that the Authorities at Karikal were decidedly in fault, allowing the 150 Emigrants to be shipped there, nor do I understand the Conduct of the French Surgeon of the John Scott.

4 There was undoubtedly Cholera

Obdt. of 1870 Madras.

PUBLIC.

THE PROTECTOR OF EMIGRANTS.

Dated February, 24th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 24th February 1870, No. 239.

FEBRUARY.
Nos. 123-124.

Passing orders with reference to the reports submitted by the British Consular Agents at Pondicherry and Karikal, regarding the outbreak of cholera among the emigrants on board the John Scott.

Cholera in the Pondicherry Depot a week before the Embarkation of the Emigrants, and on that account alone the embarkation was delayed till the 13th Decr. —

5 A Woman died of Cholera on the 16th Decr, just before the John Scott anchored at Haricab, and was not even buried until orders were received from the Master Attendant. The French Surgeon was examined on shore the following morning, & after a consultation with the Port Surgeon, 150 more Emigrants were embarked, and the ship despatched with an unclean Bill of Health on the morning of the 18th. when the ship was starting on the 18th the Surgeon appears to have begged the Captain to remain, because there was Cholera on board; & during the day he wrote him 2 letters requesting him to return, & on the 19th morning he again wrote urging the Captain to return, which he then did. —

6 The incomprehensible part of the affair is, why did the Surgeon agree to embark the Emigrants at Haricab, when he knew the woman had died of Cholera the previous day, and then when the ship was starting, why did he beg the Captain to anchor again stating there

British Consuls
Report January, 1871.
1870 Para 2

✓ Vide letter from
British Consular Agent
Haricab of January
26th 1870 Para 1.

✓ Vide Capt's statement
in Para Madras
Govt of 25 January 1870

✓ Vide Captain's statement

2
Vide statement
of Captain & Mate.

there was Cholera on board: — The statements differ slightly as to the time, when this verbal request was made.

7 Eight Pondicherry Emigrants were attacked with Cholera on the 18th the day the ship left Haricab, and on the 19th morning, there were ten cases, and 2 deaths. Before night, 2 more deaths, and 8 deaths occurred before the ship got back to Pondicherry.

See report of death
No 1.

8 During the epidemic, 135 persons were attacked with Cholera, of whom 38 died; 1 woman jumped overboard, 1 man disappeared from the ship; and another absconded from the Lazaretto; a fearful list of casualties, which might I believe have been reduced to almost nothing had the ship remained in the Haricab Roads, until the outbreak had ceased. for the first few days only, the Pondicherry Coolies were attacked and certainly the lives of all the Haricab Emigrants, who subsequently died, would have been saved had they not been sent to sea in a ship, which actually had Cholera on board at the time of sailing.

9 I believe the real truth is, that the French Surgeon authorized the Embarkation against his own wishes

wishes, and that he knew perfectly well, what a risk he was running, but was afraid to take the responsibility of stopping the embarkation. The Protector of Emigrants also should not have allowed the Emigrants to be embarked, in a ship in which he had been told by both the Doctor, and Captain, a woman had died of Cholera on the previous day.

10 As to what occurred at Pondicherry after the return of John Scott, I believe the wisest course would have been to have landed all the Emigrants, and had the ship thoroughly cleansed, and fumigated. 30 deaths occurred after the return of the ship on board, and in the Lascar's had the Emigrants been landed at once, I think many of these lives would have been saved.

11 I have simply reported the facts of this lamentable case, in order that Government may take such notice of it as they think proper, all I can say is, that had the John Scott come in here, instead of Haricot to take Emigrants on board, I would not as Protector of Emigrants have permitted their embarkation. —

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Most Obedient Servant

Hunter Blair

Protector of Emigrants

No 27 Jan'y/70 Nos 132 & 134

— 25 — 104 c 106

Public Debt Engr 8th

Aug^t 1870 No 19

Per the 1870 Dept
From Pro 24 Feb/70
The Protection of
Emigrants & Passengers

To the Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St George

Dated 21st Jan'y/70
Res^d 3

Under No 157
Enclosures

Forwards in support
from the British Consular
Agent depositions given
before him by the
Captains & Master &
Lohies of 3 letters written
by the French Surgeon
on board to the Captain

The lamentable loss of life
which occurred on board the
John Bull. Emigrant ship
was owing its armed crew
1st To the emigrants being
allowed to leave the ship
at Pondicherry too soon
2nd To the large batch of
being embarked at that
on board the John Bull
it was known that a fatal

case of cholera had occurred
on the ship just before
it arrived at Kankal
34. In the persistence of
the Captain of the John Bull
in leaving Kankal with
the crew and
the delay that occurred
when the John Bull arrived
at Pondicherry in landing
the passengers. For this
delay the Sanitary Comm.
at Pondicherry are responsible.
The promoters of Pondicherry humanity
overruled them & probably

1631
saved many lives.

The conduct of the Consular
Agent Mr. ~~James~~ ~~Samuel~~ ~~Sam~~
is inexcusable and his efforts
do not in any way exculpate
him. He knew that a death
from cholera had taken place
on the Kankal road. He
knew that there had been
cholera in Pondicherry
before; he must have known
as stated by the ~~to the~~
Csa Pra fact 27 Jan'y 1870
that cholera had broken
out in the town of Kankal
and he was clearly bound
to have refused to

to the embarkation of a very large number of coolies from Kanikal until there had occurred a sufficient interval to judge whether cholera had entirely ceased in the place. It is that there was no cholera faint among the coolies at the Kanikal depot. If he had done this - ~~many~~ many lives would have been saved.

Mr. Lane will have to retire under the 55 years rule; & then his conduct in this case condones it, in my judgment, and that to treat his case exceptionally & to recommend a relaxation of the rule in his favor. ~~He~~ He should be severely censured for his conduct. Mr. Sturges should be told that

he should have insisted on a longer period of 5 days, ~~except~~ ^{at the Kanikal depot} after the occurrence of a case of cholera ~~had occurred~~ ^{before} before emigrants were embarked.

Mr. Lane
Mr. Sturges
Mr. Lane

The fact has already just been on the cholera outbreak on board the John Doe.

The Commission Agent of Kanikal is unable to blame for having permitted the migration to take place, after it was known that a case had died of cholera on the previous day.

J.M.

1899

Public Department

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following again letter
 From the Sub Collector of South Arcot of 5th Jan'y/70
 No 1, recorded in Prot. of Govt of 27th Jan'y No 109.
 Read also the following
 letter from the Collector
 of Emigrants.
 D.E. 31st Jan'y 1870.

Order thereon 24 Feb. 1870, No 239.

In their Proceedings
 of the 27th Jan'y last
 No 109, the Government
 noticed the lamentable
 loss of life which occurred
 on board the former
 Scott's Emigrant Ship.
 2. From the reports
 of the British Consular
 Agents at Pondicherry
 and Karikal, now
 submitted, it would
 seem that the
 mortality

mortality was ~~rising~~
1st to the emigrants
being allowed to leave
the depot at Pondicherry
too soon (7 days) ~~and~~
certain case of cholera
and two doubtful cases
occurred at the depot;
2nd to a large batch of
emigrants being embarked
at Karikal on board
the "John Scott", although
it was known that a
fatal case of cholera
had occurred on board
the ship just before
the ship anchored at
Karikal;

3rd to the persistence
of the Captain of the
"John Scott" in leaving
Karikal with cholera
on board, and the
delay that occurred when
the "John Scott" arrived
at

4
at Pondicherry in landing
the emigrants. For
this delay the Sanitary
~~Committee are responsible~~
The Governor of Pondicherry
immediately over-ruled
them and probably
saved many lives.
The conduct of
the Consul & Agent
in this case is ~~unexcusable~~
and his explanation
does not in any way
exculpate him. He
knew that a death
from Cholera had taken
place in the Karikal
road. He knew that
there had been cholera
in the Pondicherry depot
he must have known,
as stated by the Sub
Collector that cholera
had broken out in the
town of Karikal, and
he

Dec 10/90

he was clearly bound
 to have refused his
 sanction to the embark-
 ation of a very large
 number of coolies
 from Karikal until
 there had occurred a
 sufficient interval to
 judge whether Cholera
 had entirely ceased.
 At the same time, and
 that there was no chance
 that among the coolies
 at the Karikal depot.
 If he had done this,
 many lives would
 have been saved.

The Government
 consider the Sanitary
 discipline the occasion to
 have been marked
 not only by a want
 of common prudence
 but by the neglect of
 a clear duty.

The

cannot this order of the
 11th inst. permitting Mr.
 Sam to continue to hold
 his office although he
 has ^{attained the age of}
~~been appointed~~ 55 years.
 Mr. Sam must at once
 retire from this post of
 General Agent.

The Government
 consider Mr. Noyes
 also to blame in not
 having insisted on a
 longer period than
 seven days after the
 occurrence of a case
 of cholera at the emigre-
 ment depot at Pondicherry
 before emigrants were
 embarked.

Mr.

To the Portector of Emigrants,
 for comm^o to the British
 Consular Agents at Pondicherry
 and General
 with documents returned

Ind. 23 to Capt. D.
Sept. 1870 or 1871

Cont. of 118 } **Continued**

1871

7 No. 398 }
The Protection of Emigrants.

Dated July 24 } 1870, No.
Recd. 209

Nos. 128. 124.

Having, on the 1st of August,
1870, signed the following
Articles of Association for
the purpose of forming a
Society for the relief of
the poor and distressed
in the County of London
and the City of London
on the 1st of August 1870.