

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	263	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	3 - 3 -	1920

Not to be folded or roughly handled

9/5/37

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
3rd March 1870.*

No. 26. Read the following Despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated India Office, London, 20th January 1870, No. 3, (Public.)

I forward, herewith, a copy of two Despatches addressed by Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, reporting the arrival at that Colony of the French Ships *Eugenie* and *Anna*, with cooly emigrants from Pondicherry and Karikal.

18th October 1869, No. 9.
21st November 1869, No. 10.

2. With reference to the concluding paragraphs of the first mentioned of these Despatches, I desire that your Excellency in Council will cause arrangements to be made, in accordance with Mr. Consul Segrave's suggestion, for providing emigrants in future with clothing previous to embarkation.

3. Adverting to Mr. Segrave's Despatch, No. 10, while lamenting the recurrence of extortions from the coolies by the "Mestrys," I do not deem it expedient again to prohibit advances being made to the coolies previous to embarkation; but

I have caused a communication to be addressed to the Foreign Office, (a copy of which is enclosed for the information of your Lordship in Council,) requesting the Earl of Clarendon to make an urgent representation to the French Government regarding this fresh renewal of the frauds upon the emigrants.

From C. F. SEGRAVE, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion, to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, dated Réunion, 18th October 1869, No. 9.

I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the French Ship *Eugenie* from Pondicherry arrived in this Roadstead on the 3rd instant, having on board 471 immigrant coolies: of these seventy-eight men, thirty-three women, and eleven children embarked at Karikal, and 232 men, eighty-nine women, and twenty-eight children embarked at Pondicherry. I am happy to acquaint your Lordship that these immigrants arrived in good condition, and that no deaths occurred on the voyage:

2. I have personally made inquiries from them, the result of which goes to establish that they have been well-cared for; were made acquainted before embarkation with the terms of their contracts and destination; and have made no complaints whatever.

3. The Medical Officer who had charge of them has suggested how desirable it would be that arrangements be made for providing some clothing for coolies before embarkation whether in the shape of blankets or other; many of these coolies were next to naked when they embarked, and suffered from a mild form of Dysentery in consequence.

4. It is needless to draw your Lordship's attention to the more serious results which might be produced from a long voyage and bad weather.

From C. F. SEGRAVE, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion, to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, dated Réunion, 21st November 1869, No. 10.

I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the French Ship *Anna*, from Pondicherry and Karikal, arrived in the Saint Denis Roadstead on the 8th instant, having on board 147 immigrant coolies; of these ninety-six were men, thirty-six women, and twelve children.

2. There was no sickness worth mentioning, nor did any death occur on the voyage.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
3rd March 1870.*

3. The coolies, however, very generally complained to me of having been defrauded by their "Mestrys," or headmen, at the port of embarkation of the sums advanced to them by the French Agents.

4. This abuse has been the subject of previous correspondence, but apparently without any effective result.

5. I now beg to suggest to your Lordship that strict orders be given that no coolie be permitted to embark to whom it is proved that advances in money have been made under any pretence whatever.

6. If men require articles for the voyage they can be supplied in kind under Government supervision ; if, on the other hand, coolies wish to transmit small sums to their families, the matter might be easily arranged by the Consular Agents through the local treasuries, or by means of "Hundies," or native drafts.

7. I am strongly of opinion, from all that I have heard, that the present system is vicious in the extreme, leading to crime, debauchery and fraud ; and that the sooner it is efficiently put an end to, the better for the emigrant coolies.

Extract from a communication to the Foreign Office, dated 18th January 1870.

Adverting to Mr. Segrave's second-mentioned Despatch, No. 10, upon the subject of which the Earl of Clarendon invites the opinion of the Duke of Argyll, His Grace regrets much to learn that, after the consent given by Her Majesty's Government in the sense of Mr. Melvill's letter of the 3rd of July 1868 to your address, to the withdrawal of the previous prohibition of advances to coolies before embarkation for the French Colonies, complaints of frauds by the "Mestrys" should have been made very generally by the immigrants who arrived in the ship *Anna* at Saint Denis. The Duke of Argyll considers it imperatively necessary that this should be strongly represented to the French Government, with an urgent request that they will cause more stringent precautions to be taken in future against the recurrence of the evil complained of, than would appear hitherto to have been done.

No. 27. ORDER THEREON, 3rd March 1870, No. 263.

Copies of this Despatch, and of its enclosure, will be forwarded to the Protector of Emigrants, for communication to the British Consular Agents at Pondicherry and Karikal, and with instructions to see that emigrants are, in future, provided with clothing prior to embarkation.

2. Copies of the Despatch, and of its enclosure, will be also furnished to the Governor of Pondicherry, for information.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Protector of Emigrants.

Erd. J. Wright.

3-
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

No. 264.

To

HIS EXCELLENCY M. BONTEMPS,
Governor of the French Settlements in India.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, the accompanying copies of a Despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, and of its enclosure, relative to the arrival at Réunion of the French Ships *Eugenie* and *Anna* with emigrants from Pondicherry and Karikal, together with a copy of the order passed by this Government on the subject of providing emigrants, in future, with clothing prior to embarkation.

Accept sir, &c.,

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
3rd March 1870.

Edw. J. Wright,

Colt. of 1870; 3rd March.

PUBLIC.

To

THE PROTECTOR OF EMIGRANTS.

Dated March, 3rd.

Recd.

Encd.

G. O., 3rd March 1870, No. 263.

MARCH
Nos. 26-28.

Passing orders on the subject of providing emigrants, in future, with clothing prior to embarkation.

Govt. of 1870 Madras.

PUBLIC.

To

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF THE
FRENCH SETTLEMENTS IN INDIA.

Dated March, 3rd.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 3rd March 1870, No. 264.

MARCH.

Nos. 26-28.

Forwarding copies of a Despatch from the Secretary of State, and of its enclosure, relative to the arrival, at Réunion, of the French Ships *Eugénie* and *Anna* with emigrants from Pondicherry and Karikal, together with a copy of the order passed by this Government on the subject of providing emigrants, in future, with clothing prior to embar-

Copy
No 9.

3 14
Bret. Con⁴. Reunion
18 Oct. 1869.

My Lord,

1. I have the honor to
inform your Lordship that
the French Ship "Eugenie" from
Pondicherry arrived in this
roadstead on the 3rd Inst.,
having on board 471
immigrant Coolies of these

78 men

33 Women & 11 Children

Embarked at Kankal and

132 men 89 women and

28 Children

Embarked at Pondicherry
am happy to acquaint your
Lordship that these immigrants
arrived in good condition
and that no deaths occurred
on the voyage.

The Earl of Clarendon.

2.

2. I have personally made Enquiries from them, the result of which goes to Establish that they have been well cared for, were made acquainted before Embarkation with the terms of their Contracts and destination, and have made no Complaints whatever.

3. The Medical Officer, who had charge of them, has suggested how desirable it would be that arrangements be made for providing some Clothing for Coolies before Embarkation whether in the shape of blankets or other; many of these Coolies were next to naked when they embarked, and suffered from a mild form of Dysentery in consequence.

4. It is needless to draw your Lordship's attention to the more serious results which might be produced from a long voyage and bad weather.

I have rec.

(Signed) C. J. Seignior

Copy
No. 10

562
British Consulate

Reunion

21 Nov: 1869

My Lord,

1. I have the honor
to report to your Lordship
that the French Ship
"Anna" from Pondicherry
and Karikal arrived
the St. Denis roadstead
on the 8th Inst: having on
board 147 Immigrant
Coolies; of these
96 were men
36 — women
12 — children

2. There was no sickness
worth mentioning nor did
any death occur on the
voyage—

F.

3. The Coolies however,
very generally complained
some of having been
defrauded by their
"masters" or head men
at the port of embarkation
of the sums advanced to
them by the French Agents.

4. This abuse has been
the subject of previous
correspondence but
apparently without any
effective result.

5. I now beg to suggest
to your Lordship, that
strict orders be given,
that no Coolie be permitted
to embark to whom it
is proved that advances
in money, have been
made

made, under any pretence
whatever -

6. If men require articles
for the voyage, they can be
supplied in kind under
Govt. supervision; if on the
other hand Coolies wish
to transmit small sums
to their families, the matter
might be easily arranged
by the Consular Agents
through the local Treasuries
or by means of "Hoon"
or Native drafts.

7. I am strongly of opinion
from all that I have
heard that the present
system is vicious in the
extreme, leading to crime,
debauchery and
fraud; and that the
sooner it is efficiently
put

Extract from a communication
to the Foreign Office dated 18 Jan 1868

Adverting to Mr. Segnier's
second mentioned despatch, No. 10,
upon the subject of which the
Earl of Clarendon invites the
opinion of the Duke of Argyll,
His Grace regrets much to
learn that, after the consent
given by Her Majesty's Government
in the sense of Mr. Melville's
letter of the 3rd of July 1868 to
your address, to the withdrawal
of the previous prohibition of
advances to Coolies before
embarkation for the French
Colonies, complaints of frauds by
the

the "Meosys" should have been made very generally by the Emigrants who arrived in the Ship "Anna" at St. Denis. The Duke of Argyll considers it imperatively necessary that this should be strongly represented to the French Govt. with an urgent request that they will cause more stringent precautions to be taken in future against the recurrence of the evil complained of, than would appear hitherto to have been done.

Public
No. 3.

18 October 1869. No. 9.
21 November 1869. No. 10.

His Excellency
The Right Honourable
The Governor in Council
Fort St. George.

India Office, London.
20th January 1870.

My Lord,

1 I forward herewith a copy of two Despatches addressed by the Major Consul at Reunion to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, reporting the arrival at that Colony of the French Ships "Eglin" and "Anna", with Coolie Emigrants from Pondicherry and Karikal.

2 With reference to the concluding paragraphs of the first mentioned of these Despatches, I desire that your Excellency in Council will cause arrangements to be made, in accordance with Mr Consul Segraves' suggestion.

suggestion for providing
Emigrants in future with
clothing previous to
embarkation.

3. Adverting to Mr. Segrave's
Despatch No. 10, while
lamenting the recurrence
of extortions from the Coolies
by the "Mestrys", I do not
deem it expedient again
to prohibit advances being
made to the Coolies previous
to embarkation; but I
have caused a communication
to be addressed to the
Foreign Office, - a copy of
which is enclosed for the
information of your
Lordship in Council, -
requesting the Earl of
Clarendon to make an
urgent representation to
the French Government
regarding this fresh
renewal

renewal of the frauds upon
the Emigrants.

I have the honor to be
My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient
humble servant,

Robert

Extract - 18th January 18th 1870

Pro¹ February/70 No 38-29
 - 16 Decr/69 — 92-93
 - 30 Novr — 139 C 192
 - 3 Sept/68 — 74-75
 - 19 Augt — 165-167
 - 17 June — 114 C 117
 - 23 April — 144-145
 - 18 March — 131 C 133
 - 22 February — 168-169
 - 8 May 1867 — 26-27
 - 21 March — 140 C 143
 - 22 Jan'y — 160 C 162

No. 6

Public
 20 Jan'y 1870

The
 Letter to Fort St. George

No. 3

No. 263/64

Forwarding Despatch
 from Her Majesty's Consul
 at Réunion, and desiring
 that arrangements may
 be made, in accordance
 with Mr. Consul Segrave's
 suggestion for providing emi-
 grants in future with clothing
 previous to embarkation

Public Department

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following Despatch
 from the
 R. Hon'ble the Secy. of State
 for India.
 (H.E. 20 to Jan'y 1870 No. 3.)

Order thereon No. 263. 3 March/70.

Copies of this
 Despatch and of its
 enclosure will be for-
 warded to the Protector
 of Emigrants, for com-
 munication to the
 British Consular
 Agents at Pondicherry
 and Karikal, and
 with instructions to
 see that emigrants
 are, in future, pro-
 vided with clothing
 prior to embarkation.
 Copies

2 Copies of the
Despatches and of its
enclosure will be
also furnished to the
Governor of Pondicherry
for information.

To the Protector of Emigrants.

Sept 9/5

1870/3 with
3 copies of Nos. 263.

Public Department

No 264

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

Sir,

I have the honor
to forward, for your
Excellency's information,
the accompanying copies
of a Despatch from
the Right Honble the
Secretary of State for
India, and of its
enclosure, relative to
the arrival at Réunion
of the French Ships
"Eugenie" and "Tuna"
with emigrants from
Pondicherry & Karikal,
together with a copy of
the Order passed by
this Government on
the subject of providing
emigrants, in future,
with

Recd 15 March 1870

Further Despatch from the Secy of State for India, 27 March 1870

Orders on the subject
of providing emigrants, in
future, with clothing prior
to embarkation

Nos. 26. 28.

1870, No. 263.

with Note to of Emigrants

Public

with clothing prior to
embarkation -

Fort St. George
3 March 170.

Recd 15 June 1870

Public 1870. Departt.

To
His Excellency
The Governor of the
North-Western
India.

Dated 3^d March 1870.

No. 1,72. —