

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	288	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	9-3-	1870

Not to be folded or roughly handled

15.2.70

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

9th March 1870.

No. 51. Read the following letter from the First Judge of the Madras Court of Small Causes, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 14th February 1870, No. 29.

I beg to send, for the information of Government, the enclosed record and judgment in certain actions lately before this Court, from which the facts, to which I wish to draw the attention of Government, will sufficiently appear. It will be seen that Mr. Leamouth, the defendant in those actions, has brought several Europeans as grooms from Melbourne hither, and left them here destitute. Further, there can be no reasonable doubt that many, probably the greater number of those persons, have been induced to come to this country by false representations respecting the advantages of so doing, made to them by a person called Williams, a Negro, who keeps what seems to be a low boarding-house at Melbourne, of whose aid in procuring grooms for him Mr. Leamouth has availed himself. If nothing else could be done in the matter, this Government might, if it thought fit, make the facts of those cases the occasion of a representation to the Australian Governments on the subject of allowing Europeans to be exported as these men have been, to this country, where, whatever they might have been able to do in Australia, many of them can, in all human probability, only become beggars or criminals.

2. The Government might, perhaps, also see whether any proceedings could be taken against Mr. Leamouth under "The European Vagrancy Act, 1869," though I fear it will be found that the Act does not apply to the particular circumstances of this case, Section 31, as it appears to me, contemplating only the case of persons landed in India under an engagement *to serve in India*.

No. 52. ORDER THEREON, 9th March 1870, No. 287.

Resolved that copies of the foregoing letter, and of the judgment received therewith, be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor of Victoria.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

No. 53. To the Honourable the Colonial Secretary at Melbourne, dated Fort Saint George, 9th March 1870, No. 288.

In continuation of the letter from this Department, dated the 12th May 1869, No. 614, I am directed to transmit, for the information of His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, and for such action as he may deem necessary in the matter, copies of a letter and of a judgment received from the First Judge of the Madras Court of Small Causes, bringing to notice the fact of a Mr. Leamouth having brought several Europeans as grooms from Melbourne to Madras, and having left them there destitute.

2. Section 31 of "The Vagrancy Act,"* which came into operation in this Presidency on the 1st January 1870, applies only to Europeans brought out to serve in India; but, as this was not the case with the grooms referred to by the Judge of the Court of Small Causes, this Government cannot proceed against Mr. Leamouth. Under these

* Copy enclosed.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
9th March 1870.*

circumstances, His Excellency the Governor in Council trusts that effective measures may be adopted by the Government of Victoria to protect Europeans, in the position of grooms, being taken away from Australia, without adequate provision being made for their return.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

Govt. of 1870; ~~Madras~~.

PUBLIC.

To

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY
AT MELBOURNE.

Dated March, 9th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 9th March 1870, No. 288.

MARCH.

Nos. 51—53.

Forwarding copies of a letter and of a judgment received from the First Judge of the Madras Court of Small Causes, bringing to notice the fact of a Mr. Leamouth having brought several Europeans as grooms from Melbourne to Madras, and having left them there destitute.

Part of 11089. 11089.

Public

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary
at Melbourne.

Dear Sir,

March 10 1853.

No. 51. 53.

Enclosing copies of a letter & of
a judgment received from the
1st Judge of the Madras Courts.
Small Cause bringing to notice
the fact of a ship, Seamount having
brought several Europeans and
children from Melbourne to
Madras & having left them
there destitute.