

1. Number of pages 52
2. Date of repair 3-37
3. Initials of Referee J

M.R.O. 1-22-406-22-11-20

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	744	Press
		Mis.
Dated	10-6-1870	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

10th June 1870.

Read the following papers :—

No. 52. From W. F. SEGRAVE, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul for the Island of Réunion, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Réunion, 8th March 1870, No. 18.

I have the honour, herewith, to transmit, with a request that you will lay the same before the Governor, copy of a deposition made before me by a Persian named Mahomed Ahmed.

2. Supposing that the statements contained in this man's deposition are true, it appears to me that some effectual means should be taken to put a stop to the scandalous kidnapping, practised by the mestrys, in the interests of their French employers, and numerous cases of which have been brought under the notice of this Consulate.

3. Perhaps, by insisting that all British subjects proposing to emigrate should be brought before British authorities before leaving British territory, some check might be placed on these malpractices.

4. I enclose a letter from Mahomed Ahmed, and venture to request that you will have the goodness to cause it to be conveyed to the person to whom it is addressed, and that the funds which he requires may be transmitted without delay.

5. Perhaps the best and safest way of sending him his money would be by draft on the Comptoir d'Escompte de Paris which has a branch here, and it might be addressed to the Consulate.

Comes before me WILLIAM FRANCIS SEGRAVE, Esq., r Majesty's Consul for the Island of Réunion.

Mahomed Ahmed, native of Bussorah or some place in the neighbourhood of that city, who maketh oath and deposeth—

I am twenty-nine years of age, and a horse dealer by profession. About the beginning of September 1869, I arrived at Madras with ten horses to dispose of. I sold my horses in different places, some in Madras, some in Hyderabad. One horse I sold in Chingleput to a man named Syed Mustaum. On the road between Chingleput and Pondicherry I fell in with a mestry who was recruiting coolies for this Island. I eat rice with this mestry, and at once went to sleep. I did not recover my senses for a long time, and for two months after my arrival in this country I was ill in hospital and like a mad man. I am unable to do the work of this country, and my employer has given me my liberty on the condition of my repaying to him the expense of my introduction and that of my servant Ibrahim Saib, amounting to 300 rupees. I deposited the sum of 4500 rupees in the hands of a shop-keeper named Ismail Saib of *Pearcamettoo* near Madras, and I now require 1000 rupees of that sum to pay my employer here for my liberty and that of my servant, and I beg that Ismail Saib will send me the money without loss of time.

(Signed) MAHOMED.

Sworn before me this 4th day of March 1870.

(Signed) W. F. SEGRAVE.

No. 52-A. MEMORANDUM by the Commissioner of Police, Madras Town, on the deposition given by one Mahomed Ahmed, before the English Consul for Bourbon.

I have been unable to learn that any such person sold horses here in September

10th June 1870.

2. There are two men of the name of Ismail Saib, living in Percamootoo, merchants of average respectability. They have both been shown the letter, and state that it is not for them. They deny all knowledge of the writer Ibrahim Saib and of Syed Mahomed to whom *he* refers in the letter itself. Neither of them are related to either, nor have any money transactions taken place between them. I append a translation of the letter, which I have no hesitation in pronouncing a hoax. Had it been genuine it would have been written in a very different style and in Persian or Hindoostani. It is at variance with deposition, inasmuch as the servant takes precedence of the master, and in the letter states they are both doing well in Bourbon, while the latter deposes to his inability to work. The story of the drugging may or may not be true, such cases do occur; but judging by the deposition given, it is impossible to believe that it could have occurred as therein stated. The deponent might have been drugged, but it is incredible that his servant should not also have been similarly treated if they were kidnapped, or that the master should not have referred to his servant in his deposition if it had been a *bonâ fide* story.

(Signed) W. S. DREVER,
Commissioner of Police.

14th May 1870.

No. 53. To W. F. SEGRAVE, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul for the Island of Réunion, dated Fort Saint George, 10th June 1870, No. 744.

With reference to your letter of the 8th March last, No. 18, I am directed to transmit copy of a Memorandum* from the Commissioner of Police, Madras, on the deposition made before you by Mahomed Ahmed, from which it will be seen that the two men who bear the name of Ismail Saib, living in Percamootoo, have both been shown the letter, (herewith returned,) sent by Mahomed Ahmed, that they state it is not for them, and that they deny all knowledge of Ibrahim Saib, the writer of the letter, and of Syed Mahomed, the person referred to in it.

* Dated the 14th May 1870.

2. I am also directed to enclose a memorandum containing extracts from the laws and rules in force respecting the recruiting and despatching of emigrants to the Colonies, from which it will be observed that every precaution has been taken to preclude the possibility of kidnapping.

3. The Protector of Emigrants and the Consular Agents in this Presidency examine every emigrant prior to his embarkation, and no emigrant is allowed to embark against his will, or in a state of health which unfits him for undertaking the voyage to the Colony to which he is proceeding.

4. It is possible that these provisions of the law may, in some instances, be evaded; and it is very desirable that any such cases as may be brought to your notice should be made known to this Government, with a view to a strict inquiry being instituted into the circumstances of each case.

5. In the present instance the account given by Mahomed Ahmed of the manner in which he was kidnapped appears very improbable, and the other circumstances of his story are not corroborated.

10th June 1870.

6. If you will be so good as to inform me of the name of the vessel on which Mahomed Ahmed was embarked, the port from which he sailed, and the name of the mestry whom he accuses of drugging him, further inquiry will be made.

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

Exd. J. Wright.

Translation of a Taini letter
 as recd. - This letter was delivered in the hand of
 Munnice Sennil Sah residing in Pannametto madras
 despatched (from) Bombay.

Succes to Lanka
 To Revered also brother obedient younger Brother
 I know Sah with great submission makes
 prostrations looking in the direction & requests.
 Having been blessed with your kind passes
 there is no want felt. now I & my children
 are doing well at Bombay. about the welfare
 of that place into hand. as I am now
 suffering much for expenses, send 1000 Rs.
 and my money. Thus Syed Mohamed &
 Ibrahim Sah said. send this money through
 an Englishman. - True Translation as
 near as can be.
 9th Sept 80 - J. Thumachanda Sah
 madras

Cont. of 18703

PUBLIC.

HER MAJESTY'S CONSUL FOR THE
 ISLAND OF REUNION.

Deled June, 10th.

Recd.

End

G. O., 10th June 1870, No. 744.

JUNE
 Nos. 59-68.

Transmitting, with reference to the letter from
 Her Majesty's Consul for the Island of Réunion,
 forwarding a deposition made before him by one
 Mohamed Ahmed, in regard to his being kidnapped
 and shipped as an emigrant to the Island, a Memo-
 randum on the deposition prepared by the Com-
 missioner of Police, Madras; and also a Memoran-
 dum on the recruiting and shipping of emigrants

Public Department
of
Memorandum.

In accordance
with Articles I and VI
of the Convention between
Her Majesty the Queen of
Great Britain & Ireland
and His Majesty the Emperor
of the French,

Article V

"The Government of
Her Britannic Majesty
shall appoint in those
British Ports where Emigrants
may be embarked, an
Agent who shall be specially
charged with the care of
their interest.

"In French Ports the
same duty, with regard
to Indian Subjects of Her
Britannic Majesty, shall
be confided to the British
Consular Agent.

"Under the term
'Consular Agents' are
comprised Consuls, Vice-
Consuls, and all other
Commissioned Consular
Officers."

"No Emigrant shall be embarked unless the Agent described in the preceding Article shall have been enabled to satisfy himself either that the Emigrant is not a British Subject, or if a British Subject, that his engagement is voluntary, that he has a perfect knowledge of the nature of his contract, of the place of his destination, of the probable length of his voyage, and of the different advantages connected with his engagement."

2. Under Act No. XXII of 1864. an Act relating to the emigration of native laborers to any of the British Colonies,

"Every native of India who shall in any place other than the Towns of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, enter into any engagement

Article VI

Section XXX

engagement with a recruiter to emigrate, shall, prior to leaving the district within which the engagement was entered into, appear with the Recruiter before the Magistrate of such district, and no Recruiter shall remove such emigrant from the said district until he shall have so appeared. Upon so appearing the Magistrate shall examine the intending emigrant with reference to his engagement; and if it appears that he comprehends the nature of the engagement he has entered into, and that he is willing to fulfill the same, the Magistrate shall register in a book to be kept for the purpose in such form as the local Government shall prescribe, the name, name of father, and the age of such emigrant,

and the name of the village or place of which such emigrant is a resident; the Emigration depot to which it is intended he shall proceed, and the rate of wages and period of service, if any, agreed upon between the emigrant and the Recruiter.

If the Magistrate shall be of opinion that the intending emigrant does not comprehend the nature of the engagement, or has been induced to enter into the engagement by fraud or misrepresentation, he shall refuse to register his name.

A copy of every register under this Section written on substantial paper which shall not require a stamp, shall be furnished by the Magistrate to the emigrant registered.

"Authentic" Section XXXII

Copies of every registration shall be forthwith forwarded

Section XLVI

by the Magistrate to the Emigration Agent at the depot to which the person named therein shall have been engaged to proceed, & to the Protector of Emigrants at the intended port of embarkation.

"The Emigration Agent in the presence of the Protector of Emigrants, and within forty-eight hours after the arrival of each emigrant at the depot, shall ascertain by personal communication with such emigrant whether or not he has been properly fed and otherwise properly treated on his journey to the depot. The Emigration Agent shall also in the presence of the Protector, and within such time as aforesaid, examine the copy of the registration furnished to the emigrant under Section XXX. x x.

If for any reason further enquiry be necessary, such enquiry

Such enquiry shall be made
forthwith -

x x x x -

3. The Rules for
Performance in the operations
connected with the recruiting
and despatching of Emigrants
to British & French Colonies,
provide -

1st That each Recruiter
on proceeding up-country
shall be furnished by
the Agent with a printed
paper, bearing the Pro-
tector's Signature in
English & the Vernacular
of the district in which
he is to be employed.
Setting forth the chief
conditions under which
the Emigrants will have
to proceed -

2nd That each Recruiter,
unless specially exempted
by the Protector, shall
wear on his left arm
a badge with the following
inscription in English &
the Vernacular of the district
in which he is to be employed,
and

and if he is found exercising
his calling without his
badge so placed and
plainly visible, his
license will be withdrawn.

"Recruiter of Emigrants
for x x x x"

3rd That Recruiters
are to be especially careful
not to entertain people,
male or female, as
emigrants who may be
improperly abandoning
their families, nor to
allow young persons under
18 years of age to join their
bands on the road without
being accompanied with
some relation of mature
age. If applications
from the families of people
who have left their houses
under such circum-
stances, whether at home
or up-country is made
requesting that their
embarkation might not
take place, the Protector
will

will forbid their proceeding
on board, or if on board
will cause them to be
landed, & after enquiring
such a step appears to
be just and reasonable.

15³
X
Memorandum by the Commissioner
of Police Muddus Lown on the deposition
given by me Mahomed Ahmed, before the
English Court for Bombay.

I have been unable to learn
that any such person sold horse
see in Sept. 1867.
There are two men of the name
of Hameed Saib, living in Perambur,
Merchants of average respectability.
They have both been shown
the letter & state that it is
not for them. They deny all
knowledge of the writer Ibrahim
Saib & of the Mahomed to
whom he refers in the letter
itself. Neither of them are related
to either, nor have any money
transactions taken place between
them. I appended a translation
of the letter, which I have no
hesitation in pronouncing a
hoax. Had it been genuine
it would have been written
in a very different style and
in Persian or Hindustani.
It is at variance with
deposition, in as much as

as the servant-tales precedences
of the master, in the letter
states they ^{are both} doing well
in Bourbon, while the latter
deposes to his inability to work.
The story of the drugging may
or may not be true, such cases
do occur, but judging by the
deposition given, it is impossible
to believe that it could have
occurred as therein stated.
The defendant might have been
drugged, but it is incredible
that his servant should not
also have been similarly treated
if they were kidnapped, or that
the master should not have
referred to his servant in
his deposition if it had been
a bona fide story.

W. D. Wells
Coun Police

11.5.70.

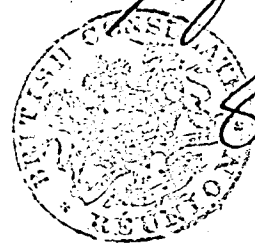
11/11/77/10

193
x
Comes before me William
Francis Seyraue Esq.
Her Majesty's Consul for the
Island of Reunion —
Mahomed Ahmed, native of
Bupporah. or some place in
the neighbourhood of that city
who maketh oath and deponent
I am 29 years of age and
a horse dealer, by profession,
about the beginning of September
1869. I arrived at Madras
with 10 horses to dispose of
I sold my horses in different
places, some in Madras, some
in Hyderabad, one horse
sold in Pungleput to a
man

named Syed Mustann,
On the road between Chenged
and Pondicherry I fell in with
a meeky who was recruiting
coolies for this Island
I eat rice with this meeky and
at once went to sleep, I did
not recover my senses for a
longtime, and for two months
after my arrival in this country
I was ill in Hospital and like
a mad man,
I am unable to do the work
of this country, and my Employer
has given me my liberty on
the condition, of my repaying
him the expense of my
introduction and that of my

246
Servant Ibrahim Sahib
amounting to 300 Rupees.
I deposited the sum of
4,500 Rupees in the hands of
a Shopkeeper named Ishmael
Sahib of Peareamuttou
near Madras, and I now
require 1000 Rupees of that
sum to pay my Employer here
for my liberty and that of my
servant, and I beg that
Ishmael Sahib will lend
me the money without loss
of time. (Signed) Mahammed

Sworn before me
this 4th day of March 1870



Witness

L. Vengadesan Interpreter
H. M. B. Consul,
Pondicherry

Deprave

British Consulate
Réunion

8 March 1870

No 18.

Sir.

I have the honor herewith to transmit, with a request that you will lay the same before the Governor, Copy of a deposition made before me, by a Persian named Mahomed Ahmed.

Supposing that the statements contained in this mans deposition are true, it appears to me that some effectual means should be taken to put a stop to the scandalous Kidnapping, practised

The Secretary to the Government
Madras

by

by the Meekys, in the interests
of their French employees, and
numerous cases of which have
been brought under the notice
of his Excellency.

Perhaps by insisting that all
British subjects proposing to
emigrate should be brought before
British Authorities before leaving
British territory, some check
might be placed on these male-
practices.

I enclose a letter from Mr
Mahomed Ahmed, and venture
to request that you will have the
goodness to cause it to be conveyed
to the person to whom it is addressed

and

23
And that the funds which
he requires, may be transmitted
without delay.

Perhaps the best and safest
way of sending him his money
would be by draft on the
Comptoir d'Escompte de Paris
which has a branch here and
it might be addressed to the Comptoir.

Yours

Yours most obedient
humble servant

G. S. S.

With copy of Office Memo
Tamil letter returned - with copy
of its translation.

Public Department.

To Mr. F. Segrave Esq.

His Majesty's Consul for the
Islands of Réunion.

Sir,
With reference to your
letter of the 8th March last
No. 18, I am directed to
transmit copy of a
Memorandum from the
Commissioner of Police,
Madras, on the deposition
made before you by
Muhammed Ahmed, from
which it will be seen
that the two men who
bear the name of Ismail
Saib living in Perea-
mottos have both been
shown the letter (herewith
returned) sent by
Muhammed Ahmed,
that they state it is
not for them, and that
they deny all knowledge
of Ibrahim Saib the
writer

x dated the 14th May/70.

N.
S. D. S.
A. A.

Public Dept. Copy
From
His Majesty's Consul at
Réunion.

8 March
21/8 May
74/75
Muhammed Ahmed
deposition
made before him by
an emigrant named
Muhammed Ahmed, for
the order of the Govt.

writer of the letter, &
of Syed Mahomed the
person referred to in it

2 I am also directed
to enclose a memorandum
containing extracts
from the laws & rules
in force respecting
the recruiting and
despatching of emigrants
to the Colonies, from
which it will be observed
that every precaution
has been taken to
preclude the possibility
of kidnapping.

3. The Protector of
Emigrants and the
Consular Agents in
this Presidency, examine
every emigrant prior
to his embarkation;
and no emigrant is
allowed to embark
against his will, or
in a state of health
which

which unjustly him
for undertaking the
voyage to the Colony
to which he is proceeding.

It is possible that there
^{provisions of the Law}
~~provisions~~ may in some
instances be evaded, and
it is very desirable that any
such cases as may be
brought to your notice
should be made known
to this Govt with a view to
a strict enquiry being instituted
into the circumstances of
each case.

In the present instance
the account given by
Mahomed Ahmed of
the manner in which
he was kidnapped

Enquiry

appears
to be very improbable - and
the other circumstances of
his story are not corroborated

F.H.

If you will be so good
as to inform me of the
name of the vessel on which

Feb 1764

Mahomed Ahmed was
embarked at the Port

from which he sailed,
and the name of the Mistry whom he accuses of
~~prosecuting him~~
drugging him
further enquiry will
be made.

Fort St George

10th June 1870.

Govt. of [1870] Madras.

Public.

To
H. his Consul for the
Island of Reunion

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O.

1 June 1870, No. 744

Nos. 52-53.

Memo. on the deposition
made by the Comr. of Police
Madras, & also a memo. on
the recruiting & despatching
of emigrants to the Colonies,
~~transmitted~~.

Or transmitting,
With reference to the letter from
H. his Consul for the Island
of Reunion, forwarding a
deposition made before
him by one Mohamed Ahmed
in regard to his being
kidnapped & shipped as an
emigrant to the Island, a