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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

97

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated

25-1-1976

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
25th January 1870.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 104. From the Protector of Emigrants, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 14th January 1870, No. 7-W.

To save delay I beg to forward an original letter just received from the British Consular Agent, Pondicherry.

2. You will see that the Captain of the *John Scott* "refuses to leave Pondicherry with the emigrants, that he will land or put them on board another ship," but will not go.

3. Mr. Norfor wishes to know what he is to do.

4. It seems to me he has no jurisdiction in the matter, which should be decided by the French Government, with which the *John Scott* contracted to take emigrants.

From B. T. NORFOR, Esq., British Consular Agent, to the Protector of Emigrants, Madras, dated Pondicherry, 12th January 1870, No. 436.

I have the honour to inform you that the quarantine being taken off the Emigrant Ship *John Scott*, the Master landed and came to this office and made the accompanying deposition on oath before me; it was given on oath because he said he required it for legal purposes; otherwise, I should simply have taken his deposition on honour.

2. I send you this in advance because the inquiry by the French authorities is also going on, and I am obliged to attend there. I am sorry to say that the examination of witnesses before the French Court is going quite against the Master; his own officers speaking most decidedly in favour of the Doctor, and besides the Doctor produced three letters from the Master, (of which letters the Master now says he kept no copy,) but which he admits are his; these letters quite upset his charge that the Doctor forced him in an illegal manner. Whereas the Doctor's letters show he only went through the usual official form, and as to the Doctor refusing to attend to the sick, the Chief Officer, who was the interpreter between them, does not recollect the Doctor saying anything of the kind, and as to his shutting himself up in his cabin, it turns out he did retire to his cabin, but only remained there half an hour.

3. I cannot write you any more until the French inquiry is over, and indeed the real excuse for this letter is to bring to your notice what passed yesterday after the inquiry.

4. I said to the Master that I hoped the inquiry would be over to-morrow (to-day), and that, then, I should ask the French Government about despatching him; he said he had no intention of moving from these roads until his expenses had been repaid, the loss he had been put to in deviating from his voyage.

5. I told him I could not listen to such argument, that he had emigrants on board now near a month, and he must proceed on his voyage; he said he would not. They might land the emigrants or put them on board another ship, he would not move. I told him, when the inquiry was over, I should write to him on the subject, and he said that he would reply.

6. What is to be done in case he refuses to sail?

Statement of W. Q. Kennedy, Master of the British Ship "John Scott," who solemnly affirms and deposes —

On the 13th December embarked 324 emigrants for Guadaloupe; * these men were to have been shipped on 7th or 8th, but on account of cholera amongst the men

* From Pondicherry.

the shipment was delayed until the before-mentioned date. On the 14th morning got under weigh at 6 A.M. and at 7 P.M. ship having run her distand anchor in 7 fathoms, and not before 9 P.M. could any light be seen either at Tranquebar or Karikal.

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that time the Karikal light was distinguished. On 15th ship lay wind bound, all day being too close to land to cast in shore. On the 16th proceeded on to Karikal and anchored about 4 p.m. One death this day by cholera, a woman. I prevented any communication with shore until such time as the authorities had instituted due inquiries; at 7 p.m. received letter from the Master Attendant to bury the woman at sea, (copy of note shown, dated 16th December 1869.) On 17th was instructed to land; again reported the death of the woman. Notwithstanding this, they on same day embarked 150 more emigrants. By Consular Agent.—The Doctor reported to me the death of a woman of what he thought cholera; she was only, he told me, two hours ill when her death occurred. After receiving these men on board, I was despatched by the authorities who gave me my papers at 9 p.m. and ordered me to proceed on my voyage. The Doctor shown me the Bill of Health remarking that it was very unclean. On the morning of 18th at about 8 a.m., got under weigh and stood E.S.E. with the wind at N.N.E. About three hours after getting the anchor, the Doctor came to me and ordered me to take the vessel back to port; he stated a new case of cholera had occurred. I replied that the authorities on shore, knowing the state of things on board the vessel, had ordered me on my voyage, and I was willing to go; besides the position of the vessel prevented my returning at once; had I put the vessel round at that time, I could not have reached even Karikal. On that day, the 18th, he wrote me two letters; in the first he notices one case, in the second, same evening, he reports eight cases in all. I replied to these two letters explaining that I was getting the ship into position to enable me to return if necessary to do so. On the 19th morning at about 6 a.m. the Doctor began to assume a line of conduct which was to say the least exceeding defiant. For instance, he brought a woman said to have cholera and laid her down across my private cabin door; she was allowed to remain there from 6 a.m. till about 9 a.m.; shortly after this I saw her going about amongst the others on deck, seemingly nothing the matter with her. I considered the intent of this act of his was to intimidate me in the execution of my duty. At about 7 a.m. on same day received a third letter reporting ten cases in all, of which two had died; in this letter he urges the necessity of my return, and in case of my not doing so, he would report me on our arrival at Mauritius. At the time he handed me the letter, he threatened to institute proceedings against my person for all the deaths that might occur, if I persisted in continuing it. He stated he was no longer able to attend to his medical duty, he would leave the sick unattended to and uncared for to die; and then retired to his private cabin and did not come out until the vessel was put round to the north. The refusal of the Doctor to do his duty by thus retiring to his cabin forced me to return, as I could not go on without a medical man. The Doctor had, I knew, a right to protest against my proceedings; but he had not a right to force me to do as he wished, by refusing on his part to attend to the sick, or do any duty. This act of his, of course, forced me to return, as I could not expose the lives of 474 emigrants without the services of a Medical Officer. An entry was duly made in the Official Log recording all this (log shown). Before putting the ship about, I consulted my officers and they agreed with me that under circumstances there was nothing else to be done than to return. On 20th finding the vessel was making little progress north, in the presence of the Chief Officer I pointed out her position on the chart to the Doctor, requesting I might be allowed to put into Trincomallee which could have been effected in a few hours; he objected to this, and requested I would make Pondicherry, although it would take days, as he said he would get no assistance at Trincomallee, and that much time would be lost in telegraphing, &c. I wished to give him my written opinion, but he declined to receive it. I arrived here 22nd evening, and the ship was immediately placed in quarantine.

I protest, on the part of the owners, against being forced by the Doctor delegate on board of French Government to a deviation from my voyage, and I claim in full all expenses and losses incurred by the ship in consequence of such deviation.

(Signed) W. Q. KENNEDY.

Given on oath before me.

(Signed) B. T. NORFOR,

Consular Agent.

PONDICHERY,
10th January 1870.

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No. 105. From the Protector of Emigrants, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 19th January 1870, No. 8-W.

I have the honour to report that the *John Scott* has sailed from Pondicherry for Guadaloupe yesterday, 18th instant.

2. Thirty-seven emigrants died, one woman fell or threw herself overboard, and two absconded from the Lazaretto. One seaman also died.

3. A full report will be sent afterwards.

No. 106. ORDER THEREON, 25th January 1870, Np. 97.

The Protector of Emigrants is informed that the matter now brought to notice is one in which this Government cannot interfere.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Protector of Emigrants.

Exd. J. Wright.

7447 187-452-

JANUARY.
No. 101-103.

PUBLIC.

Govt. of NEW YORK.

7

Proy. Jan 1704 25-56. Public No 10 Department
From Jan 25 Jan 1707
The Protector of Emigrants
Made up
To New York
Chief Secretary to Govt
First of George
January 1870
The original letter
has been sent to the
Chief Secretary to Govt
and the Capt of the ship
has been asked to have
the ship ready with the
passengers that he will land or put them
on board and then ship
but will not go -
but has for wishes to know
what he is to do.

104.

Public Department

Proceedings of the Madras Govt

Read the following
letter from the Protector

of Emigrants, Madras

J.E. 14 - 15 Jan'y 90 No 24
19 Jan'y 1891

Order thereon 25 January 1890 No 97

The Protector of
Emigrants to inform
that the matter now
brought to notice is
one in which the
Government cannot
interfere -

15-1-90

The Protector of Emigrants 27/

