

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. *430-31* Press
Mis.

Dated *21-9-1918*

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
21st September 1871.*

No. 93. 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 St. George, dated India Office, London, 3rd August 1871, No. 19 (Public):—

I forward, for the information of your Excellency in Council, a copy of a Despatch, addressed by the Governor of Cape Colony to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, reporting the total loss, on the south-east coast of the Cape, of the French vessel the *Souvenance*, conveying coolies from Pondicherry or Karikal to Martinique. I also transmit an extract from the *Cape Standard and Mail* containing details of a somewhat later date.

2. Immediately upon receipt of the further particulars which Sir Henry Barkley states will be furnished by the French Consul at the Cape, I will again address your Lordship in Council. In the meanwhile you will give such publicity to this disaster as may seem to you fitting, pending the arrival of further details.

—

From Sir HENRY BARKLEY, Governor, to the Right Honourable the Earl of Kimberley, dated Government House, Cape Town, 3rd June 1871, No. 6302-M.

I deem it as well to report, for the information of Her Majesty's Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, the total loss, on the south-east coast of this Colony, of a French vessel carrying Indian immigrants, most of them probably British subjects.

2. Little is yet known beyond the fact of 107 bodies together with fragments of the hull being washed ashore near Ratel Bay; but from certificates of engagement, and other papers found on some of the former, there can be no doubt that the wreck is that of the *Souvenance*, 797 tons burden, Captain E. Brunnetean, Master, bound from Pondicherry to Martinique with 376 coolies, which ship left Karikal on the 31st of March, and touched at Mauritius for supplies on the 23rd April.

3. The French Consul is engaged in making inquiries, and has promised to communicate, in the usual form for the Board of Trade, such further particulars as he may ascertain respecting this sad casualty.

4. There seems but little ground for supposing, as more than a fortnight has elapsed, that any of those who were on board have escaped in the boats, though the number of bodies of white men as yet reported is very small.

—

WRECK OF A COOLIE SHIP.—The *Cape Standard and Mail* of June 20th gives all the information probably that can ever be known respecting the wreck of the coolie ship off the coast. A certificate found on one of the bodies showed that, as supposed, it was a French vessel named the *Souvenance*, belonging to the port of Nantes. Under the direction of the French Consul at Cape Town an investigation has been made on the coast and at a farm at Ratel River, belonging to M. von Breda. Pieces of wreck were found, some of which bore the names of well-known manufacturers at Nantes. The coast is wild and desolate, and for miles, with the exception of one small bay, there is no smooth water. It was on this coast the *Souvenance* was literally dashed to pieces. From the beach can be seen Gunner's Quoin Point, and it is believed that it was on this point that the *Souvenance* struck, about the 15th or 17th of May. All the bodies that were found were naked, which leads to the belief that the vessel struck at night. It is remarkable that all the white bodies escaped the voraciousness of the sharks, but they were dreadfully bruised by being dashed against the rocks. M. Hugo, the agent sent by the French Consul, was shown at a boat-house belonging to M. Breda a coat, evidently the full dress military coat of a French Doctor, and a bag of biscuits with the words on one side of it, *Souvenance*. Over 200 bodies had been washed up, fourteen of which were white.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
21st September 1871.

No. 94. ORDER THEREON, 21st September 1871, No. 1430.

From the Despatch above recorded, the Government learn with great regret the total loss, on the south-east coast of the Cape of Good Hope, of the French vessel the *Souvenance*, conveying coolies from Pondicherry and Karikal to Martinique.

2. The *Souvenance* when she left Karikal had on board, besides her crew and officers, 376 cooly emigrants. From the account of the wreck, transmitted by the Secretary of State from the Governor of Cape Colony, it appears that two hundred bodies were washed on shore of which fourteen were bodies of white men, and there seems no hope that any persons on board the *Souvenance* have escaped in the boats.

3. As public attention has been drawn to the delay in the departure of the *Souvenance*, His Excellency in Council desires to place on record the circumstances under which this ship was allowed to leave on the 31st instead of the 15th March last.

4. In a letter, dated 27th February last, the Officiating Protector of Emigrants at Madras reported that the French Emigration Agent at Pondicherry was anxious to obtain the sanction of the Madras Government to postpone the departure of the Emigration Ship *Souvenance*, which had been chartered to convey coolies to the Antilles, for ten days beyond the 15th March (the latest date prescribed by Article 13 of the convention entered into between England and France relative to emigration to the French Colonies).

5. The reason for this request was that, in consequence of the Franco-Prussian war, there had been no recruiting of coolies for two months, and that the delay in completing the arrangements for the despatch of coolies by the *Souvenance* had been unavoidable.

6. The Madras Government in the first instance declined to comply with this request.

7. The French Governor on receipt of this reply pointed out that the strict terms of the convention had been carried out in respect of the coolies embarked at Pondicherry, these having been put on board on the 15th March, and that the relaxation of the rule which was requested was to enable the ship to take on board the coolies who were waiting at Karikal, and that this course was that usually observed without any objection having hitherto been raised. His Excellency the French Governor further stated that heavy expense would be incurred if the embarkation of coolies at Karikal was prohibited on this occasion.

8. Under these circumstances, the Consular Agent at Karikal was instructed to extend the time of embarkation from Karikal from the 15th to the 31st March. The permission thus granted appeared to be in accordance with the spirit of Section 4 of Act VI. of 1869, which gave power to the Local Government, in cases of emergency, to permit emigrant vessels to leave Calcutta for any place west of the Cape of Good Hope between the 1st July and the 1st April, and with the proposed extension of this power to the Governments of Madras and Bombay in the new Emigration Act which was about to become law. The Act became law on the 10th March 1871. The extension of time granted by the Madras Government on the 17th of March to the *Souvenance* was, therefore, in fact legal when it was granted

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
21st September 1871.

and at this time there seemed no reason to believe that the delay would be attended with any risk to the safety of the vessel. The Government have it in contemplation, however, in consequence of this deplorable event, to obtain evidence from the most trustworthy sources as to the expediency of ever permitting even in exceptional cases, the last departure of emigrant vessels from the Ports of this Presidency, or from those of the French Settlements, later than the date originally fixed, viz., the 15th of March.

(True Extract.)

Captain, R. E.,
Under Secretary, P. W. D.,
for Chief Secretary.

To the Protector of Emigrants.

Exd. J. Wright.

Vol. of 1871 34

PUBLIC.

To
THE PROTECTOR OF EMIGRANTS.

Dated September, 21st.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 21st September 1871, No. 1430.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 93-94.

Recording certain observations in regard to the
postponement, in March last, of the embarkation
of emigrants on board the Ship *Sovereign* from
Pondicherry and Karikal.



5
*

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

No. 1431.

FROM

THE HON. R. S. ELLIS, C.B.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, REVENUE, AND COMMERCE.

SIR,

Referring to Mr. Under-Secretary Geoghegan's letter, dated the 9th instant, No. 42, I am directed to transmit copy of the enclosure* of the Despatch from the Secretary of State for India, dated the 3rd August last, No. 19 (Public), together with the order† passed thereon by this Government.

* No. 6302, dated 3rd June 1871.

† Dated 21st Sept. 1871, No. 1430.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Captain, R. E.,

*Under Secretary, P. W. D.,
for Chief Secretary.*

OOTACAMUND,
21st September 1871.

Ed. J. Wright.

1871.

AGRICULTURE, REVENUE AND
COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

From

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort St. George,

To

The Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Agriculture, Revenue, and
Commerce Department.

Dated 21st September 1871.

Recd.

No. 1431.
Enclosure.

Forwarding certain explanation in regard to the
participation of the embarkation in March last, of
the emigrants on board the "Souverain" from
Pondicherry and Karikal.

No 42.

From

J. Geoghegan Esq^r
Under Secy to the Govt of India,
Department of Agriculture,
Revenue, and Commerce.

To

The Secy to the Govt of
Fort St. George.
Simla the 7 September 1871

Immigration. Sir,

I am directed to request
that with the permission of His
Excellency the Governor in Council
you will be good enough to furnish
this Department with copies of
the enclosures of the Despatch from
Her Majesty's Secretary of State
to the Government of Madras No 19
dated the 3rd ultimo relative to the
loss of the French Vessel the "Souver-
-naunce" conveying coolies from Pondi-
-cherry or Karikal to Martinique
and to info the Government of
India

India of the action taken thereon
by the Government of Madras.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedt Servt,
Wm Haygarth
Under Secy to the Govt of India.

Requesting to be
furnished with copies of
the enclosures of the
despatch of the Secy of
State, relative to the
of the French vessel the
"L'Amourance" conveying
coolies from Pondicherry
or Warital to Martinique;
& to be informed if the
action taken by the Indian
Govt. thereon -

Sir H Bartley to the Earl of Kimberley

Government House
Cape Town, 3rd June 1871

My Lord,

I deem it as well to report
for the information of Her Majesty's
Colonial Land and Immigration
Commissioners, the total loss, on
the South East Coast of this Colony
of a French vessel carrying India
Immigrants most of them probably
British subjects.

2. Little is yet known beyond the fact of 164 bodies together with fragments of the hull being washed ashore near Patel Bay; but from certificates of engagement and other papers found on some of the found there can be no doubt that the wreck

wreck

wreck is that of the "Souverance" 494
tons burden, Captain & Brunnetan
Master, bound from Pondicherry to
Martinique with 376 Coolies, which
ship left Karikal on the 31st of March
and touched at Mauritius for supplies
on the 23rd April.

3. The French Consul is engaged
in making enquiries, and has promised
to communicate, in the usual form
for the Board of Trade, such further
particulars as he may ascertain
respecting this sad casualty.

4. There seems but little ground
for supposing, as more than a
fortnight has elapsed, that any of
those who were on board have escaped
in the boats, though the number of
bodies of white men as yet reported,
is very small.

I have &
(Signed) Henry Barkley
Governor

The Right Honble
The Earl of Kimberley

Recd. Paris 21 Sept 1871
In P.M. 93

I did not see the order until it
appeared in the newspapers. Considering
the importance of the subject I
think it proper I have been obliged

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully

India office
London 3rd August 1871.

Public

N^o. 19.

My Lord

we should report all the
circumstances connected with
the delay in the departure
of the Rebel ship - memo
3 June 1871 N^o. 6302.
the Editor's letter

V
R

A. A.

J. D. S.

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

I forward, for
the information of
your Excellency in
Council, a copy of
a despatch addressed
by the Governor of
Cape Colony to Her
Majesty's Secretary
of State for the Colonies,
reporting the total loss
on the South East
Coast of the Cape, of
the French Rebel the
"Souverain", conveying
coolies

coolies from Pondicherry
or Karikal to Martinique.

I also transmit an
extract from the
"Cape Standard and
Mail" containing details
of a somewhat later
date.

2 Immediately
upon receipt of the
further particulars
which Sir Henry Bartley
states will be furnished
by the French consul
at the Cape, I will
again address your
Lordship in Council.
In the meanwhile
you will give such
publicity to this
disaster as may
seem to you fitting,
pending

pending the arrival
of further details

I have the honor to

My Lord

Your Lordship's most
obedient humble servant

Cyp^r

No. Public 1871 Dept.

Public.
3rd Aug. 1871

The

Letter to Port St. George

No. 19
10 Nov 1870
1721 Sept 1871

Received 29th Aug 71.

N. 1865.

Forwards for information copy of a
despatch addressed by the Gover-
nor of Cape Colony to H.M. Secy. of
State for the Colonies reporting the
total loss on the S.E. Coast of the Cape
of the French vessel the Souveraine
conveying Coolies from Pondicherry
or Karikal to Martinique - and
requests that it publicly may be
given to the disaster.

July 4th / 71

My dear Mr. Wudleston,
I am sorry to see the reported
loss of the Souveraine - the French
Emigrant Ship. She was allowed
if I remember right, to stay over
her winter time a few days in
order to pick up Emigrants
at Karikal. The Vaper kindly
indicates that I can't have
against the decision of Govt.
You had better collect the Papers
about the case for Council
on Tuesday. We shall have

W. Wudleston Esq.

to lay them on the Editor's table & send
home some explanation.

Believe me
very truly yours,
Napier

Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter ~~Dispatch~~

from the Right Honble the
Secy. of State for India,
dated 3rd August 1871, No. 19.

Not accompanied

Order Tuesday 21 September 1871
1430.

Note

It is proposed that
the proceedings should
be sent to the Secretary
of State and laid on
the Editor's Table.

R. N. E.

From the Dispatch
above recorded the Govt.
learn with great regret
the total loss on the South
East Coast of the Cape of
Good Hope of the French
Vessel, the "Sousventure"
conveying convicts from
Pondicherry and Martinique
to Martinique.

The "Sousventure"
where she left Martinique
had on board, besides
her crew and officers,
376 coolie emigrants.

From the account of the
wreck, transmitted by
the

To let me tell
further is heard
of the ship -
Al

the Secretary of State from
the Governor of Cape Colony
it appears that two hundred
were washed on shore
of ^{which} ~~thirteen~~ fourteen were
bodies of white men, and
there seems no hope that
any persons on board the
"Sovereign" have escaped
in the boats.

3. To public attention
has been drawn to the
delay in the departure
of the "Sovereign", His
Excellency in Council
desires to place on record
the circumstances under
which this ship was allowed
to leave on the 31st inst.
of the 15th March last.

4. In a letter dated
27th February last, the
Officiating Protector of
Emigrants at Madras
reported that the French
Emigration Agent at
Pondicherry was anxious
to obtain the sanction of
the

the Madras Government
to postpone the departure
of the Emigration Ship
"Sovereign", which had
been chartered to convey
coolies to the Antilles, for
ten days beyond the 15th
March (the latest date
prescribed by Article 13
of the convention entered
into between England
and France, relative to
Emigration to the French
Colonies.)

5. The reason for the
request was, that in
consequence of the Franco-
Prussian war there had
been no recruiting of
coolies for two months,
and that the delay in
completing the arrange-
ments for the despatch of
coolies by the "Sovereign"
had been unavoidable.

The

6 The French Govt in the first instance declined to comply with this request.

7 The French Governor on receipt of this reply pointed out that the strict terms of the convention had been carried out in respect of the coolies embarked at Pondicherry, these having been put on board on the 15th March, and that the relaxation of the rule which was regulated, was to enable the ship to take on board the coolies who were waiting at Karikal and that this course was that usually observed without any objection having hitherto been raised. His Excellency the French Governor further stated that heavy expense would be incurred if the embarkation

embarkation of coolies at Karikal was prohibited on this occasion.

8 Under these circumstances the Consul Agent at Karikal was instructed to extend the time of embarkation from Karikal from the 15th to the 31st March. The permission thus ^{granted} ~~accorded~~ appeared to be in accordance with the spirit of Section 4 of Act VI of 1859, which gave power to the local Govt, in cases of emergency to permit Emigrant Vessels to leave Calcutta for any place west of the Cape of Good Hope between the 1st July and the 1st April and with the proposed extension of this power to the Government of

Madras

Public Department.

Memorandum.

In his letter of the 27th Feby. last, the late Offg Protector of Emigrants at Madras reported that the French Emigration Agent at Pondicherry was anxious to obtain the sanction of this Government to postpone the departure of the emigrant ship "Souverance," which had been chartered to convey coolies to the Antilles, for a few days beyond the 15th March, the latest date prescribed by ~~under~~ Article 13 of the Convention entered into between England and France relative to

Pro of Govt, 7th March 1871, N^o 281.

Madras and Bombay in the new Emigration Act which was about to become Law. The Act actually became Law on the 10th March 1871. The extension of time granted by the Madras Government on the 17th of March to the "Souverance," was, therefore, in full legal ^{when} ~~extension~~ it was granted; and at this time ~~it was granted~~ there seemed no reason to believe that the delay would be attended with any risk to the safety of the vessel.

M

I think I should add that the Govt. have in consequence of this declaration contemplated, however, obtain evidence for the most trustworthy sources as to the expediency of ever permitting exceptional cases the last departure of emigrant vessels from the ports of the Presidency, or in those of the French Settlements later than the dates

40-4840

The Protector of Emigrants

to the emigration of labourers
from India to the French
Colonies) ^{up to} which emigrants
might leave India by a
sailing vessel for colonies
to the west of the Cape of
Good Hope, that the reason
for preferring this request
was that in consequence of
the Franco-Prussian war,
recruitment had been at
^{for two months,}
a standstill, and that the
Pondicherry Government
had no objection to the ^{proposed} delay,
provided the Madras Govt.
had none. But as the law
then in force (see Act XLVI
of 1860 Section 13) gave no
power to the Government
to extend the time prescribed
for the sailing of emigrant
vessels, in special cases, the

Procl. of Govt. 17 March 1871
N^o 353
— 28 — N^o 411

29
Government replied that they
could not legally permit the
extension applied for in the
case of the "Louvance."

2 Subsequently, a
telegram ^{was} sent by the Governor
of Pondicherry stating that
ever since the Convention was
put in force, it had been
the practice to carry on, at
Pondicherry, the embarkation
of emigrants on sailing vessels
up to the date appointed
as the last day; & that
the vessel then proceeded to
Harbour to take the
remainder (if any) of the coolies
and that the British
Government had never raised
any objections to this practice.
Under these circumstances,
and as the extension of the
time

time of sailing, as desired by
the French Government, appeared
to be in accordance with the
spirit of section 4 of Act ^W of
1869, which gave power to the
local Government, in cases
of emergency to permit emigrant
vessels to leave Calcutta for
any place west of the Cape
of Good Hope between the 1st
July and 1st April; and also
as it was anticipated that

this power would be extended
to the Governments of Madras
and Bombay by the new
Emigration Act, as recommended
by this Government; a telegram
was sent, in reply, authorizing
the English Consular Agent
to allow Emigrants to
embark from Harrikal
until the 31st March. —

See Pages of Govt. Legation Dept
24th Feb'y 1871, p 38.

3. The new Emigration
Act⁺ VII of 1871 was passed
and became law on the

⁺ It was published
in the *Fort St. Geo.*
Gazette of 21 March

10th March 1871, so that the
authority given by the
telegram on the 17th idea
maybe held to have been
~~not~~ covered and warranted

by the ~~provision~~ ^{provision} contained
in the proviso at the end
of section 4.6.

It will be seen that it is
Q. in this section that the pro-
visions of *Act III* of *Act*
XLVI of 1860 relating to Emi-
gration to the French Colonies
are embodied. So that the
provisions ^{in question} applicable to Emi-
gration to those Colonies.

4. And it will be seen

that, on a reference made
by the ^{Kanikal} ~~Bengal~~ Consular
Agent, after the receipt of
the telegram from this
Government, on the subject
of the extension permitted by
Government, that officers'
attention was drawn to the
Proviso above referred to,
in the new Act -

L.B.

P. no. of Govt, 5th April 1871,
p. 459 (this.)

Dec. 17th March 1871. h. 92-94. h. S.
 " 28th " " 127-128 h. S.
 " 6th April 1871. h. 27-28.
 " 7th March 1871. h. 28-29. h. S.
 " 26th February 1871. h. 26-28.
 Act 26 of 1866.
 Act 27 of 1869.
 Act 28 of 1871.

Volume
 No. 12 The "Sovereign"

(13)

Keep the
 papers together

Council

Do not allow
 doing anything
 at the time
 of ship

11-7-71

25th 27/9/71 No. 1430
With 6 copies of the No. 1430.

Public Department.
No. 1431

To
The Secretary to Government
of India,

Department of
Sir, Agriculture. Rev. Commerce.

Referring to Mr. Under
Secretary Geoghegan's
letter of the 9th instant,
1871, I am directed to
transmit copy of the
Enclosure of the Despatch
from the Secretary of
State for India, of the
3rd August last No. 9.
(Public) together with
the order passed
thereon by this Govt.

MM

* of 21st Sept. 1871.
No. 1430.

Not examined.
21st Sept. 1871.

Govt. of 1871; M. 1871.

*Public Dept. 27/9/71
25th 27/9/71 No. 1430*

To
The Secretary to Government
of India

Dated Sept. 21/ }
Recd. 1871, No. 1430.

Nos. 93. 94.

Director of the Eastern India
Company, Calcutta, 27/9/71.
In reference to the
letter of the 9th instant,
1871, I am directed to
transmit copy of the
Enclosure of the Despatch
from the Secretary of
State for India, of the
3rd August last No. 9.
(Public) together with
the order passed
thereon by this Govt.

*Public. L. 2. to Eng. 29. 204
1871 No. 35*

187

Department.

No.

To

The Secretary to the
Government of

Department

Dated

187

1
Agencies No. 7/1000000

From
The Chief Secretary to Government,
Port Saint George.

To
The Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Agencies No. 7/1000000 Department.

Dated *Sept. 21* 1877.

Recd.

No. *14231*.

Enclosure.

Nos. *95. 96.*

Forwarding certain explanation
in regard to the postponement
of the embarkation
in *proper form*
of the *French* Emigrants ship
"Souveraineté" from Pondicherry
and Karikal.