

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	57	Press Mis.
Dated	1-3-	1871

Not to be folded or roughly handled

8/14/37

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
1st March 1871.

Read the following papers :—

- No. 1. Translation of a letter from His Excellency the Governor of the French Settlements in India, to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor of the Presidency of Fort Saint George, dated Pondicherry, 14th February 1871, No. 3.

I have the honour to confirm the following telegram which I have addressed to your Excellency :—

“The Collector of Coimbatore refuses to pass coolies, unless two months' advance is paid them in his presence. This is not according to rule. Be so good as to give orders in view to the removal of these difficulties, which obstruct our recruitment.”

2. I shall be very thankful to you if you will have the goodness to direct that the difficulties raised by the Collector of Coimbatore, but not based on any of the rules in force, may be removed as early as possible. Our Emigration Agency are at this moment engaged in recruiting a batch, which must be ready by the 15th March next—a fatal delay fixed by the International Convention. The obstructions which are now placed in the way of their recruiting operations may be the source of serious losses.

P.S.—These difficulties tend to neutralize the intention of the International Convention as regards our recruiting operations. I have ceased to refer to it under the loyal and distinguished administration of your Excellency.

- No. 2. From the Acting Magistrate of Coimbatore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Coimbatore, 15th February 1871, No. 8.

I have the honour to state, for the information of Government, that, on the 13th instant, seventeen persons (twelve male and five female) were brought up to this office by No. 7 Maistry, Rungaswamy, to be passed as emigrants for Réunion and Guadeloupe.

2. On asking the intending emigrants whether they fully understood the conditions on which they were going to leave their country, it came out that the Maistry had told them that all the adult males would receive Rupees 5 per mensem as wages, and the same amount monthly as batta, and that the women were to receive Rupees 4 wages and Rupees 4 batta.

3. As the “livret d'engagement” produced by the Maistry merely specifies that coolies, male and female, emigrating to the French Colonies, will receive Rupees 5 and Rupees 4, respectively, as wages, and is altogether silent as to “batta,” I called upon the Maistry to state under what authority he had made these promises, and, handing him the “livret d'engagement” which he had brought with him, and which is printed in French, English, and Tamil, I asked him to point out where such remuneration was guaranteed. I then discovered that the man could not read or write any language, so that it was a perfect farce his being furnished with this pamphlet for his guidance. In self-defence he stated that he had been verbally authorized by the “thorai” at Pondicherry to offer these terms. I presume that he referred to the French Emigration Agent.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
1st March 1871.*

4. The "livret d'engagement" mentions the rate of pay, and specifically states that gratuitous rations will be issued up to the time of the emigrants reaching their destination. On arrival, a certain minimum scale of rations is laid down; but, as all mention of their gratuitous issue is avoided, the natural inference is that their value is intended to be deducted from the monthly pay of the emigrants. Conceiving, therefore, that the ignorant Maistry who produced the coolies had engaged them under false pretences, I declined to pass them, and had instructed my Assistant, Mr. Underwood, to draft a letter to Government, reporting the circumstance and requesting instructions. The draft was prepared; but, before its submission to me for approval, I received the following telegram from the Emigration Agent at Pondicherry:—

"Informed of your objection registering coolies against rules. Government rules compel me to despatch that last ship before 15th March, and to pay to the ship hundred and thirty Rupees for every cooly wanting. If you throw difficulties in the way, impossible to do so. Should you persist, sorry to say, I protest and render you liable for any delay and indemnity to be paid. Answer telegraph prepaid."

As a matter of courtesy, I replied to it as follows:—

"The Maistry has told coolies they are to receive five Rupees per mensem pay and five Rupees batta. Nothing about batta in book of engagement. Remove this doubt."

It rests with the Government to decide whether I acted rightly under the circumstances stated in refusing to pass the emigrants on this occasion, and whether the French Emigration Agent was justified in addressing me as he has done. If there has been any mistake, it is owing to want of explicitness in the wording of the "livret d'engagement." If coolies, on arrival in the French Colonies, actually receive Rupees 5 in cash and Rupees 5 worth of rations monthly, I can understand their being tempted to emigrate; but, if the latter are deducted from their pay, they can command a higher rate of remuneration in their own country.

6. As from the French Emigration Agent's telegram it appears that important interests are involved, I request that instructions may be sent to me through the same medium.

7. The Maistry's "livret d'engagement" is forwarded, herewith, for reference. I request that it may be returned when no longer required.

No. 2-A. To His Excellency M. BONTEMPS, Governor of the French Settlements in India, dated Fort Saint George, 1st March 1871, No. 252.

In reply to your Excellency's letter and telegram of the 14th ultimo, I have the honour to forward, for your information, extracts* from a letter from the Acting Magistrate of Coimbatore.

* Paragraphs 1—4.

2. It will be seen that that Officer, whose duty it was to ascertain whether the coolies had entered upon their engagement with a full knowledge and understanding of its terms, found that they were under a misapprehension in an important particular, viz., that they were to receive, in addition to their wages, a subsistence allowance of Rupees five per mensem, and the Acting Magistrate, therefore, detained them.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
1st March 1871.*

3. I request your Excellency's attention to the facts noticed by the Acting Magistrate, as to the want of explicitness in the wording of the "livret d'engagement" in the possession of the Maistry, and the ignorance of that individual, which apparently rendered him unfit for the proper discharge of his functions. Your Excellency will, doubtless, agree with me that it is advisable that measures should be taken to prevent the recurrence of difficulties, such as have occurred in the case under discussion, by a more accurate definition of the engagement in the instructions furnished to recruiters, and by the employment in that capacity of men possessing some education.

4. Your Excellency has already been informed by telegraph that the Acting Magistrate of Coimbatore had, on receipt of further information, permitted the coolies to proceed to their destination.

Accept Sir, &c.,
(Signed) NAPIER.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Translation.

From H. C. the Governor of the French
Settlements in India to H. C. the
Honble the Governor of the Presi-
dency of Fort St. George, Madras,
dated Pondicherry 14 February 1871
No 3.

I have the honor to
confirm the following
telegram which I have
addressed to Your Ex-
cellency:—
"The Collector of Coim-
batore refuses to pass
coolies, unless two
months' advance is
paid them in his pre-
sence. This is not ac-
cording

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PUBLIC.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR
OF THE FRENCH SETTLEMENTS
IN INDIA.

MARCH
Nos. 1-2-A.

Furnishing extracts from a letter of the Acting
Magistrate of Coimbatore regarding his refusal to
pass coolies emigrating for Reunion and
Madagascar, with remarks of Government on the
subject.

According to rules Be
so good as to give
orders in view of the
removal of these dif-
ficulties, which obstruct
our recruitment.

I shall be very
thankful to you if
you will have the
goodness to direct that
the difficulties raised
by the Collector of
Coimbatore, but not
based on any of the
rules in force, may be
removed as early as
possible. Our Emigra-
tion Agency are at
this

at this moment engaged
in recruiting a batch
which must be ready
by the 15th March next
a fatal delay fixed
by the International
Convention. The ob-
stacles which are
now placed in the
way of recruit-
ing operations may
be the source of serious
losses.

P.S. These difficulties
tend to neutralise
the intention of the
International
Convention as
regards

~~My dear Sir~~ regards our recruiting
 operations. I have
 ceased to refer to it
 as under the loyal and
 distinguished admini-
 stration of your
 Excellency.

Your obedient servant
 J. H. [unclear]
 [unclear]
 [unclear]

[unclear]
 [unclear]
 [unclear]

Combaton 19
 Feb. 18. 1871

My dear Sir.
 The Governor of Pondi-
 chery was misinformed
 as to the cause of my
 refusing at first to register
 the cookies. My reason
 as I have already explained
 in an official letter
 is that rates of re-
 cimmensation had been
 promised by the
 Ministry which the 'lowest'
 'engagement' did not

Ordonnance du Gouverneur

N° 3.

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

J'ai l'honneur de vous confirmer
le télégramme ci après que j'eus d'adresser
à Votre Excellence :

" Le collecteur de Coimbatore refuse de
passer des coolies à moins que deux mois
d'avance ne leur soient payés en sa résidence
ce n'est pas réglementaire. Soyez assez bon pour
donner des ordres afin de lever ces difficultés
qui entravent notre recrutement. "

Je vous serai très reconnaissant de
vouloir bien donner des ordres pour que les
difficultés soulevées par M. le collecteur de
Coimbatore et qui ne s'appuient sur aucun
des règlements en vigueur, soient levées le
plus tôt possible. Notre agence d'émigration
recrute en ce moment un convoi qui doit
être prêt pour le 15 Mars prochain, délai
fatal fixé par la convention internationale.

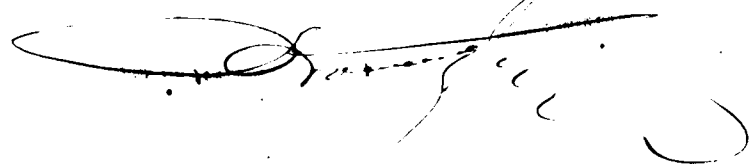
Les

A Son Excellence le Très Honorable Gouverneur
de la Présidence de Madras

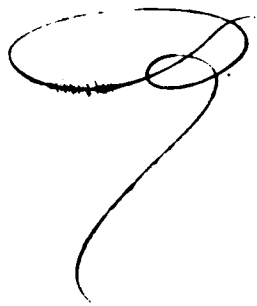
Les entraves qui sont mises aujourd'hui
à son recrutement peuvent être la source
de pertes sérieuses.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Gouverneur
l'assurance de la haute considération
avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'être
de Votre Excellence,

Le très obéissant Serviteur,
Le Commissaire Général de la Marine,
Gouverneur des Etablissements Français de l'Inde.



Les difficultés tendant à empêcher
l'effet de la convention internationale
en ce qui concerne notre recrutement
j'en aurais perdu l'habitude sous
l'administration aussi loyale qu'utile
de Votre Excellence.



Rice & Truslet Co.

J.W.L.

16/2/91.

drafted with
extracts from the
Comptroller's letter.

Public Department.

No. 252.

17.

His Excellency M. Bontemps
Governor of the French Settlements
in India.

Sir,

In reply to your
Excellency's letter and te-
legram of the 11th ultimo,
I have the honor to forward
for your information, ex-
tracts from a letter from
the Acting Magistrate of
Coimbatore.

2. It will be seen that
that officer, whose duty
it was to ascertain whether
the coolies had entered
upon their engagement
with a full knowledge
and understanding of
its terms, found that
they were under a mis-
apprehension on an
important

paragraphs 1-4

A.A.
J.D.S.

Public 1871, 1872

From
J.B. de Gennes
to the French Settlements
in India.
No. 3

1874, 1875, 1876.

No. 345.

Regarding the
absence of the Collector
of Coimbatore & his
successors.

important particular,
viz; that they were to
receive, in addition to
their wages, a subsistence
allowance of rupees five,
per mensem; and ~~therefore~~^{the Magistrate}
~~therefore~~ detained
them.

3. I request your Ex-
cellency's attention to
the facts noticed by
the Acting Magistrate,
as to the want of ex-
plicitness in the wording
of the "livret d'engage-
ment" in the possession
of the ~~magistrate~~, and
the ignorance of that
individual, which ap-
parently rendered him
unfit for the proper dis-
charge of his functions.
Your Excellency will
doubtless agree with
me that it is advisable
that measures should

be

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be taken to prevent
the recurrence of diffi-
culties such as have
occurred in the case
under discussion, by a
more accurate definition
of the engagement in
the instructions furnished
to recruiters, and by the
employment in that
capacity of men possess-
ing some education.

4. Your Excellency
has already been informed
by telegraph that the
Acting Magistrate of
Coimbatore ^{on receipt of further information} had permitted
the coolies to proceed to
their destination.

H.S.