

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	483	Press Mis.
Dated	15-4-1918	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
15th April 1871.

No. 49. Read the following letter from the Officiating Protector of Emigrants, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 5th April 1871, No. 41-W:—

I have the honour to forward, herewith, copy of a letter from Captain Fischer, British Consular Agent at Karikal, proposing a change in his Office Establishment to render the working of it more efficient, and beg to recommend that, as the change does not involve any extra expenditure, it be sanctioned with retrospective effect from the 1st instant.

From Captain B. FISCHER, British Consular Agent at Karikal, to the Officiating Protector of Emigrants, Madras, dated Karikal, 30th March 1871, No. 52.

I propose to make the following changes in my Office Establishment from the 1st of next month, which—as they are intended to ensure greater efficiency than has hitherto obtained in this office at exactly the same price as heretofore—will, I trust, meet with the approval and sanction of Government.

2. The charge for Office Establishment, sanctioned by Government in February 1864, was as follows:—

	RS.
One English and French Writer	21
One Vernacular Writer	14
Two Peons, at 4 Rupees and 8 Annas each	9
Stationery	6
Office rent	20

3. I propose that, from the 1st of April 1871, the Office Establishment should stand as follows:—

	RS.
One Native Clerk	25
Four Peons, at 5 Rupees each	20
Office rent	20
Stationery	5

4. The Writers bequeathed to me by my predecessor were two of the most helpless and utterly useless beings with whom it has ever been my misfortune to be brought into business relations. With one of them—the Vernacular Writer—I could not communicate, since he hardly knew any English; and the other, with whom I *could* communicate, I could not trust. Though they had both been eight years in the office, they knew very little more than how to draw their pay. They could give me no reliable information whatever on any single point connected with my duties, and, as the office records were in a state of chaos, I had to grope out this knowledge for myself through many mortifying mistakes. My Writers could tell me nothing; and on those rare occasions when they did so venture, they were certain to be wrong. The chief article of their creed appeared to be that they were to do their duty in their state of life as unobtrusively and invisibly as possible, and that they were to make themselves as amiable as they could to myself and the French Emigration Agent. It has always remained a puzzle to me what such men were selected for, unless it was for their inane goodness and their large families. The duties of the “English and French Writer” were described by Mr. Sam in 1864 as “light,” and there is no doubt that this definition was strictly correct, since the *whole* of the correspondence conducted by Mr. Sam was in *English*, and this was *entirely* transcribed by a writer who was not employed in the office. What, then, were the duties of this “English and French Writer”—unless to act as an English and French Dictionary, and to teach the Consular Agent the latter language—I am unable to say, nor was the mission of the Vernacular Writer less mysterious. His chief duty seemed to be to “keep the Tamil Register”—a superfluous chronicle that no one ever thought of consulting, that brought no profit nor pleasure to any one

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

15th April 1871.

but the writer thereof, and that, as far as the Consular Agent is concerned, might just as well have been written in Chinese. His other duties, upon which Mr. Sam so laboriously expatiated in 1864, have either considerably decreased since then, or were as enormously exaggerated.

5. There is a great deal of work to be done in this office, enough to keep a good Clerk actively employed all through the day. I propose, therefore, in the interests of Government as much as of myself, to entertain, in lieu of these two useless creatures, a smart young Hindoo, who would be capable of conducting all the correspondence, keeping the accounts and the registers, and looking after the emigrants at the same time—a man, in fact, who would really be an assistant to me, and not the annoyance and stumbling-block these men have hitherto always been. The fictitious “Tamil Register,” which was only an excuse for idleness, over which I had but an uncertain control, I propose to abolish, and the French correspondence, which only occurs on an average about once or twice a month, can always be conducted by the British Consular Agent himself.

6. Another want in this office is that of hardworking, intelligent Peons. They are required not only as personal attendants and orderlies to escort emigrants to and from the depôt, but should also, I think, be possessed of some detective ability, in order to enable me to carry out thoroughly the instructions conveyed in the Order of Government of the 23rd December 1864. The Police arrangements at Karikal are so bad that it may almost be said that no Police whatever exists in this town, and this is another reason why I should have more and better Peons. The lowest price at which such kind of men are procurable, even in Karikal, is 5 Rupees a month each, and I have, for the last five months, paid the two Peons I now have at this rate out of my own private purse.

7. In order to enable me to carry out these most necessary changes, and yet not to exceed the allowance of 70 Rupees a month sanctioned by Government, I shall have to reduce the expenditure of stationery, but this, I trust, will be effected by the proposed abolition of one of the Writers.

No. 50.

ORDER THEREON, 15th April 1871, No. 483.

Sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Officiating Protector of Emigrants.

„ Accountant-General.

Govt. of India

PUBLIC.

To
THE OFFICIATING PROTECTOR OF
EMIGRANTS,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated April, 15th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 15th April 1871, No. 483.

APRIL.
Nos. 49-50.

Sanctioning the change proposed by the British
Consular Agent at Karikal in his Office Establish-
ment to render the working of it more efficient.

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N/11

Protectors Office
Madras 5th April 1871

From J. H. Gaustin Esq
Offy Protector of Emigrants.

To The Honorable H. L. Ellis Esq.
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St George

Sir,
I have the honor to forward herewith
Copy of a letter from Captain Fischen British
Consular Agent at Karikal, proposing a change
in his Office Establishment, to render the
working of it more efficient, and beg to recommend
inward that the change does not involve any
extra expenditure it be sanctioned with
retrospective effect from the 1st instant.

I have the honor to be

Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant

J. H. Gaustin
Offy Protector of Emigrants

Is sanctioned

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N^o 52.

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it myself
British Consul
Trivandrum 30th March 1871

To

The Protector of Emigrants
Madras.

Sir,

I propose to make the following changes in my Office Establishment from the 1st of next month which — as they are intended to ensure greater efficiency than has hitherto obtained in this Office, at exactly the same price as heretofore — will I trust meet with the approval and sanction of Government.

2. The charge for Office Establishment sanctioned by Government in February 1864, was as follows.

1 English and French writer	R ^o 21
1 Vernacular writer	Rs 14
2 Peons at 1, R ^o 8 each	Rs 9
Stationery	Rs 6
Office Rent	Rs 20

3. I propose that from the 1st of April 1871, the Office Establishment should

stand

Stand as follows-

1 Native Clerk Rs 25 . .
1 Peons at 5 Rs each . 20 . .
Office Rent . 20 . .
Stationery . 5 . .

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invisibly as possible and that they were to make themselves as amiable as they could to myself and the French Emigration Agent. It has always remained a puzzle to me what such men were selected for - unless it was for their ^{inane} ~~inane~~ goodnefs and their large families. The duties of the English and French writer were described by Mr. Sam in 1864, as "light" and there is no doubt that this definition was strictly correct, since the whole of the correspondence conducted by Mr. Sam was in English, and this was entirely transcribed by a writer who was not employed in the Office. What then were the duties of this "English and French writer" - unless to act as an English and French Dictionary and to teach the Consular Agent the latter language - I am unable to say nor was the mission of the Vernacular writer mysterious. His only duties were to keep the Tamil Register - a superfluous chronicle that no one ever thought of consulting, that brought no profit or pleasure to anyone but the writer then

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7. In order to enable me to carry out these most necessary changes, and yet not to exceed the allowance of Seventy Rupees a month sanctioned by Government, I shall have to reduce the expenditure

of Stationery, but this I trust will be effected
by the proposed abolition of one of the writers.

I have the honor to be &c.

Signed / Bowers Fischer Captain
British Consular Agent Haricot.

True Copy

J. H. C. Austin

Offy Protector of Emigrants

17/10/26

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105. 0715-4 April 1911
in 13 April 1911

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in 13 April 1911