

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	492	Press Mis.
Dated	15-4-1918	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

15th April 1871.

Read the following papers :—

No. 52. From the Colonial Secretary, Natal, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Natal, 19th January 1871, No. 149-D.

I have the honour, by direction of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, to apprise you that the Ship *Red Riding Hood*, with time-expired and invalid coolies, will leave this Colony for Madras in the course of a few days, and to request the favour of your selecting and fixing the remuneration of a person (but, if this Government may express a preference, it would name Mr. Rowland, its late Emigration Agent, in which capacity he gave every satisfaction) to see to the reception of these men and the execution of any measures which may be necessary on their arrival in India.

A proportion of these men were shipped from Calcutta, and will, therefore, require to be forwarded to that Presidency.

2. I am further to request that you will make all necessary advances in connexion with the return of these Indians, and re-pay yourself by draft, in the usual manner, on the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

3. I will do myself the honour of addressing you further on this subject on the occasion of the despatch of the ship, which I purpose supervising personally.

P. S.—It is probable that coolies will be required to return by the *Red Riding Hood* at the expense of private individuals, and in that case it is intended to trespass further on your kindness to select an Agent to act for the Government in passing and shipping these coolies, as the Government has at present no Agent of its own at Madras.

No. 53. From the Colonial Secretary, Natal, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Natal, 6th February 1871.

I have to apologize for troubling you with our return coolies, but I do not know how to avoid it. There seems to be little probability of more coolies being sent for at present. The passage money would be no obstacle at present rates; but the incidental expenses run up the cost to an amount which our planters are unable to bear.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor is extremely anxious that the coolies should have no cause of complaint, and everything we could think of has been done to secure their comfort in the Ship *Red Riding Hood*, which has been procured from the Cape (720 tons). In future, we propose to adopt the Mauritius regulations with regard to these shipments.

3. The only causes of complaint which have been mentioned to me whilst personally superintending the embarkation have been.

First, that the coolies by the first four ships were promised by some white men in India a gratuity of £10 each on the termination of their ten years' residence here. I need hardly say that this Government has no knowledge of, or belief in, any such promise having been made, and I can only account for the supposition on the part of the coolies (if not, as my old Indian experience teaches me, to suspect a pure invention) by the fact that land to the value of £10 is offered to the coolies in lieu of a return passage.

Secondly, a lawyer has complained on behalf of the coolies (the coolies did not do so) that since their engagement the law which gave them 25s. per month for each month which expired after their application for a return passage has been altered to 10s. and two months. This was not done at the instigation of the Government, but by the Legislative Council, and it has had no practical effect on the position of the coolies, as they remained in service until about a month before the departure of the ship, and were then kept in the Dépôt at the expense of the Government.

The third complaint was that they expected to be supplied with clothing and blankets. It was found that they had been so supplied when shipped from India in one or two ships (but not in others), and that this had been done in consequence of their having to proceed from a hot to a cool climate, which is not now the case, besides which they must be supposed, after a residence of ten years here, to have provided themselves with these articles. I shall, however, make inquiry whether it is the practice to furnish them elsewhere.

4. Dr. Mathews, who accompanies the ship is the Government District Surgeon of the most populous coolie district. The invalids have been shipped with blankets.

P. S.—Since writing this a memorial has been sent in by Mr. Ponsent, the lawyer referred to, which will be the subject of correspondence with your Government.

No. 54. From the Colonial Secretary, Natal, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Natal, 10th February 1871.

Referring to my letter, dated 19th January 1871 (original forwarded by Mail Packet, duplicate by the Ship *Red Riding Hood*), apprising you that the Ship *Red Riding Hood* was about being despatched from the port of this Colony to Madras with time-expired and invalid coolies, I am directed by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to acquaint you, for the information of the Madras Government, that the Acting Coolie Immigration Agent at the port of this Colony, Mr. L. H. Mason, has been instructed to forward to your address, per the Ship *Red Riding Hood*, the Charter Party and all other documents connected with the coolies by this ship, which documents I am to request may be handed over to the person appointed by your Government to act as the Agent for this Colony at Madras in attending to the landing of these coolies and the forwarding of such portion of them to the Bengal Presidency as are set forth in the list signed by the Acting Coolie Agent in this Colony.

2. I also beg to forward to you the enclosed letter of instructions to the Coolie Emigration Agent for this Government at Madras, and to request that, on the appointment being made, it may be handed over to that officer.

3. I am further to state that the Agents of the Ship *Red Riding Hood*, Messrs. Steel, Dunn, and Co., in this Colony, have been paid the sum of (£300) three hundred pounds sterling on account of the passage money of these coolies, and I am to request that you will favour this Government by drawing Bills on the Crown Agents for the Colonies at ninety days' sight for the amount of the balance of passage money certified to be owing, and handing the same over to the person mentioned in the Charter Party, in liquidation of the account for such passage money.

4. As our Agent at Madras will be required to make cash payments on the landing of these coolies, viz., to interpreters, maistries, cooks, and scavengers employed during the voyage, as per letter of the Acting Coolie Agent in this Colony with the papers, and other expenses, I am to request that you will be pleased to advance to our Agent such sums as may be found necessary to defray this expenditure. The amount of advances so made will be re-paid to your Government by your Bill at thirty days' sight on the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

5. The Agent for this Colony at Madras has been instructed to act according to any instructions he may receive from the Madras Government.

6. I beg to enclose, for the information of your Government, six copies of the Natal Law No. II., 1870, entitled "To amend and consolidate the Laws relating to the introduction of Coolie Immigrants into this Colony, and to the regulation and government of such Coolie Immigrants."

7. Mr. L. H. Mason, the Acting Coolie Immigration Agent in this Colony, has been authorized to sign the Charter Party for and on behalf of this Government.

No. 35. From the Acting Coolie Agent, Natal, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Natal, 11th February 1871.

I have the honour to inform you that, by direction of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, I have returned by the Ship *Red Riding Hood*, Captain John Henderson, the time-expired and invalid coolies, with their families, noted in the margin and as per descriptive list herewith.

Time-expired Coolies.
173 Males.
57 Females.
33 Boys.
27 Girls.
10 Infants.

Equal to 259 statute adults.

Invalids and Families.

47 Men.
3 Women.

50 Statute Adults.

Families.

1 Man.
12 Women.
14 Boys.
10 Girls.
4 Infants.

In all 75 Statute Adults.

TOTAL 334 do.

2. From this list you will perceive that from Ship's No. 1 to No. 137 are Calcutta coolies, and from Ship's No. 321 to No. 398 are also Calcutta men, the remaining portion being principally men from the Madras Presidency, and I have the honour to request that these people may be forwarded in the usual way to their respective villages.

3. The Charter Party of the Ship *Red Riding Hood* I enclose herewith, from which you will perceive that the passage money for 270 statute adults is at the rate of £8 sterling, and for all over that number £10 sterling per adult, as per return herewith (A).

4. The Charter Party has been carried out as far as possible at this port, the Captain agreeing to call at Mauritius to fill up fresh water, and to carry out any suggestions of the Medical Officer in charge for the well-being of the immigrants on board.

5. Dr. J. W. Mathews has been appointed to take the medical charge of the coolies by this ship, and is to be paid by the Captain. I enclose copy of his letter of appointment and instructions.

6. Two of the return coolies have been appointed to act as interpreters; copy of appointment enclosed. They will be entitled to receive a gratuity of 1s. per head for each adult landed, to be equally divided between them.

7. Two maistries and six cooks have also been appointed, and will be entitled to receive a gratuity of 15s. each, as per letter handed to them, copy enclosed.

8. Six scavengers or topasses have also been engaged, and will be entitled to a gratuity of 20s. each. Copy of letter handed to these men enclosed.

9. These appointments have been made on the understanding that, if the several duties are not performed to the satisfaction of the Surgeon Superintendent of the ship, and, should any of them be negligent or otherwise unfitted for the duties, he will be free to re-place them, and that they will only be paid in India on a certificate in writing from that gentleman that the several duties have been performed to his satisfaction.

10. The stores and medical comforts for the use of the coolies by this ship are of the best quality and sufficient in quantity for her intended voyage, and have been supplied in accordance with the Indian Act.

11. The invalid coolies have been supplied with warm clothing and blankets, &c., for the voyage, in order that they may be as comfortable as possible.

12. I enclose a parcel addressed to you from the Honourable the Colonial Secretary here, and I have also the honour of enclosing the following documents in connexion with the shipment of these coolies, viz:—

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| No. 1. Government Notice, No. 182, 1870. | No. 15. Survey of Vessel. |
| „ 2. Tender of the ship. | „ 16. Acting Coolie Agent's report. |
| „ 3. Acceptance. | „ 17. General instructions. |
| „ 4. Charter Party. | „ 18. Discharged voucher payments on account. |
| „ 5. Authority to sign Charter Party. | „ 19. Appointment, Surgeon. |
| „ 6. Descriptive list of coolies. | „ 20. Do. Interpreters. |
| „ 7. Medical report, time-expired coolies. | „ 21. Do. Maistries. |
| „ 8. Do. invalid „ | „ 22. Do. Cooks. |
| „ 9. Abstract No. of coolies. | „ 23. Do. Scavengers. |
| „ 10. Printed instructions, Medical Officer. | „ 24. Original Crew List. |
| „ 11. Certificate, Ship's Surgeon. | „ 25. Letter to Surgeon. |
| „ 12. Do. „ and Agents. | „ 26. Do. to Captain. |
| „ 13. Stores and Medical comforts. | |
| „ 14. Health Officer's report. | |

P. S.—Captain Henderson has been paid (£300) three hundred pounds sterling on account of passage money ; receipt enclosed.

A.

Return of the number of Statute adults' passage, at £8 per adult and £10.

- From Ship's number 1 to 320, equal 270 Statute adults, at £8.
- From do. 321 to 398 do. 64 do. at £10.

(Signed) LOUIS H. MASON,

NATAL, 11th February 1871.

Acting Coolie Agent.

No. 56. From the Acting Coolie Agent, Natal, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Natal, 13th February 1871.

I have the honour to inform you that, on shipping the return coolies this morning, one man, Mylapen, No. 59, Ship's No. 227, was not present, consequently is not forwarded by this vessel. This is one of the men whose passage is at the rate of £8.

No. 57. Petition from certain Calcutta Return Coolies per Ship *Red Riding Hood*, to the Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated——.

We hope that you will spare a few moments of your valuable time to take this our case into consideration. We engaged in Calcutta to go to Port Natal (Africa) and serve there for ten years, three of which had to be under one master, two with another, and the remaining five years with whomsoever we chose to engage. On the fulfilment of this agreement we had a free passage back to Calcutta, receive clothing during the first five years. If we wished to return home at the expiration of five years we had to pay our own passage. We were in the Colony of Natal ten years, at the end of which we were sent on board this ship, in the belief that, after the Madras coolies were landed in that port, she would proceed to Calcutta with us; but, after leaving Natal, we found to our dismay that she was chartered for Madras only. It is like a foreign country to us; we have no relations, nor have we the means of paying our passage; our only hope and dependence is on you. We are afraid to land in Madras for fear of being robbed by the coolies, as the Madras and Calcutta men don't agree. If it is your pleasure we would prefer remaining on board here (having been well treated) until the Madras men are landed and then proceed in this, or any other vessel your Excellency thinks fit. On leaving our own country, we were verbally promised a gratuity of £10 sterling each on leaving Natal if we fulfilled the conditions of the agreement. We have received nothing. This is just our case as it stands. Pardon us for having troubled your Honour, but necessity compels us.

(Signed)	SAKONIT, Interpreter.
(„)	BULLER, Sirdar.
(„)	GEHANEE, Coolie.
(„)	MEGHUE „
(„)	SOHAR, „
(„)	SEBUCASING, „

No. 58. ORDER THEREON, 15th April 1871, No. 492.

Resolved that copies of the letters and petition above recorded, together with the documents described in the concluding paragraph of the Acting Coolie Agent's letter, be forwarded to the Protector of Emigrants at Madras.

2. Captain C. H. Rowland having been appointed to officiate as Colonial Emigration Agent for Natal, the letter of instructions referred to in paragraph 2 of the Colonial Secretary's letter, dated the 10th February 1871, will be sent to him, with the direction that he will arrange for the transmission of the coolies to their respective destinations with as little loss of time as possible.

3. The Acting Protector of Emigrants will report to Government what remuneration he considers should be given to Captain C. H. Rowland for his services on this occasion.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Protector of Emigrants.

„ Accountant-General.

„ Officiating Colonial Emigration Agent for Natal.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Gobt. of {1871} Madras.

PUBLIC

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THE PROTECTION OF EMIGRANTS,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated April, 15th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 15th April 1871, No. 492.

APRIL.
Nos. 52—58.

Passing orders on papers relating to certain
return emigrants from Natal arrived per Ship *Red*
Siding Hood.

Memo for orders.

a ship "the Red Riding Hood"
between them & Natal. The
has between three and four hundred
emigrants & involved emigrants
that ship, which was chartered
by ship for Madras only, but
was then ordered by the Govt to serve as
an agent for Natal Govt, to
average about three weeks
being sent back to their
homes. The Natal Govt
will accept any charges.
The Captain of the Red Riding
Hood is not bound to go on
to Calcutta but will probably
agree to do so, if fairly treated.

terms are offered to him. The medical officer also wishes to have antepaid ~~50~~ for the trip.

Mr. Gartin, to avoid expense, has agreed to keep the ~~other~~ ^{other} on board till Saturday, paying demurrage (4? a ton).

What is required is to appoint an Agent for Natal to manage this business and he will perhaps be required to manage for the disposal of other batches of returning Emigrants.

It is suggested that Captain

Rowland, who was Natal Agent in connection to Mr. Gartin, until the agency was abolished at the request of the Natal Govt. - he asked to undertake the business.

It is emergent that an agent be appointed - who can treat with the Captain and Medical Officer.

If this suggestion is approved I will see Captain Rowland & Mr. Gartin tomorrow & prepare the necessary order for Friday's Council.

S. D. J.

Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the

Colonial Secretary, Natal dated 19th Jan., and 6th
and 10th February 1871.

Cookie Agent, Natal, dated 11th and 13th Feb'y/71
Petition from certain Calcutta Return Cookies per ship
"Red Riding Hood"

Order thereon 15 April 1871 S. 492.

Resolved that co-
pies of the letters and
Petition above recorded,
together with the docu-
ments described in the
concluding paragraph
of the Acting Cookie
Agent's letter, be forwarded
to the Protector of Emigrants

Mr. Gartin has retained the
papers I sent him. regarding
these Cookies. I have not thought
it necessary to delay this Memo
as the only important &
^{urgent} ~~important~~ part of the cor-
respondence is the ap-
pointment of an Agent
to despatch the Cookies
to Calcutta. P. E.

at Madras.

2. Captain C. H. Rowland having been appointed to officiate as Colonial Immigration Agent for Natal, the letter of instructions referred to in paragraph 2 of the Colonial Secretary's letter dated the 10th February 1871, will be sent to him with the direction that he will arrange for the transmission of the copies to their respective destinations with as little loss of time as possible.

3. The Acting Protector of Emigrants will report to Govt what remuneration he

he considers should be given to Captain C. H. Rowland for his services on this occasion.

(True Extract)

R. S. E.
Chief Secretary

The Protector of Emigrants. *disp 19/4*
with Encl. 10.
- Accountant General.
- Officiating Colonial Immigration } *disp 19/4*
Agent for Natal.

