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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Public DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	<i>B. No.</i>	<i>45-46.</i>	Press
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Dated	<i>15.</i>	<i>10. 1875</i>	<i>197</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
19th July 1875.*

Ceylon Pioneer Force.

Read the following papers :—

- No. 56. From A. HOWELL, Esq., M.A., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Police), to the Honorable D. F. CARMICHAEL, Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Simla, 25th June 1875, No. 186.

With reference to the orders of the Madras Government, No. 276,* dated the 3rd March last, on the subject of the collection of Indian recruits for the Ceylon Pioneer Force, I am directed to draw attention to Act IV. of 1874, and to observe that it would be advisable to apprise the Ceylon Government of the provisions of the said Act under which in all similar cases in future a previous communication should be addressed to the

Government of India. I am also to

From Secretary of State (Military), dated 9th December 1863.

From Secretary of State (Military), dated 29th February 1864.

From Home Department, to Captain Norman MacLeod, No. 186, dated 25th May 1874.

forward the papers noted in the margin, from which it will be seen that it has been found by experience to be necessary to observe much caution in recruiting in British India for service elsewhere.

2. I am to take this opportunity of bringing to your notice that some inconvenience is experienced in referring to any particular part of the Proceedings of the Madras Government, in the Public Department, owing to the omission to number the pages of the volume.

Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 9th December 1863, No. 421 (Military).

I have received and considered in Council your letter, No. 281, dated the 22nd September 1863, forwarding copies of the Proceedings of your Government relative to the measures adopted in consequence of a request, preferred by the Ceylon Government in August 1862, for your assistance in obtaining recruits for the Ceylon Pioneer Corps.

2. The Ceylon Government requested you to assist them in procuring recruits for the Corps of Pioneers attached to their Public Works Department, and to direct the enlistment of a thousand able-bodied men from some of the districts of Bengal.

3. In compliance with this request, you appointed an officer to the duty of superintending the enlistment and despatch of the men to Ceylon, and instructed the Civil and Military authorities in the Punjab and North-West Provinces to give him such assistance as he might require.

4. The recruiting seems to have been chiefly in the Punjab.

5. About 500 men were actually despatched to the island under the charge of a European Officer, and the remainder were in Calcutta ready for embarkation, when your Government learned that the men of the first party had refused to perform the work given to them by the Officers of the Department of Public Works in Ceylon, and that the greater part of them had absconded, and were supposed to be making their way to the continent, by way of Menaar, into the Southern Districts of the Madras Presidency.

6. It seems that the class of men actually required by the Government of Ceylon was not understood by the officer charged with their enlistment, and that the expressions made use of by the Colonial Secretary in his letter of the 4th August, together with the memorandum descriptive

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
19th July 1875.*

of the organization of the crops in question, were calculated to mislead, and did induce men of the military classes in the Punjab to come forward for enlistment.

7. The men are described by Major Lumsden as generally of soldierly races, and the majority of these men, on being shown the work which they were expected to perform, at once refused, and ultimately the whole of those men who had been landed in Ceylon followed their example.

8. The unfortunate result of this experiment is certainly much to be regretted, for it may exercise an injurious influence on the temper and behaviour of a valuable class of men whenever they may be required by the Government for service beyond sea.

9. It seems not improbable that in this case the Native Agents employed under the superintendence of Major McMullin may have themselves misunderstood, or not carefully explained to the candidates for enlistment, the terms and conditions of their proposed employment.

10. The result points clearly to the importance of extreme caution in explaining to natives of India volunteering for service beyond sea, with the utmost precision, the nature and description of the service expected of them, no less than the pay, allowances, and other privileges to be accorded to them.

11. The measures adopted by your Government in dealing with the men remaining at Calcutta, and in communicating to the Government of Madras your desire that all needful assistance should be given to those who might land in that Presidency, *visi* Menaar, have my entire approval.

12. The whole of the expenses incurred on account of these proceedings will, of course, be charged to the Government of Ceylon.

Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 29th February 1864, No. 63 (Military.)

In continuation of my Despatch, No. 421, dated 9th December 1863, I have to inform you that I have been in communication with the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of the enlistment of Sikhs for employment in Ceylon.

2. The Duke of Newcastle transmitted to me the correspondence on the subject which he had received from the Government of Ceylon, and at the same time intimated that it appeared to His Grace that the Ceylon Officers had behaved in general with great discretion under the novel and difficult circumstances in which they were placed.

3. In reply, your despatches of the 22nd September and the 5th December 1863, Nos. 281 and 322, and my communication of the 9th December, No. 421, were forwarded for His Grace's information.

4. I expressed my great regret that the issue of the experiment, of obtaining men from the Punjab for employment in Ceylon, should have been so unsatisfactory; and my opinion, upon a review of all the circumstances, that the Government of India had done all that lay in their power to meet the wishes of the Government of Ceylon, and that the failure of the experiment was to be traced to an unfortunate misunderstanding as to the nature of the duties which the men were expected to perform.

5. Upon this point, I observed that the use of the term pioneer might have tended to mislead the men in regard to the nature of those duties, the same term being applied in India to regular corps of military workmen, forming part of the Bengal Army, and these men not being called upon to perform the sort of work which appears to have been required of those sent to Ceylon.

6. I added that it did not appear to me that any object would be gained by calling for any further explanation, or, indeed, by any further correspondence on the subject. Some of the proceedings which had occurred in Ceylon were to be regretted, but it seemed to me that the Government of Ceylon had done all that could be done to meet the circumstances of the case.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
19th July 1875.*

7. The Duke of Newcastle has expressed his concurrence in these views. Before dismissing the subject, however, His Grace desired to assure me that he was by no means insensible of the goodwill and energy with which your Government had endeavoured to forward the wishes of the Government of Ceylon.

8. It affords me great pleasure to convey to you this acknowledgment of the cordial assistance rendered by your Government on the occasion.

From A. P. HOWELL, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, to Captain N. MacLEOD, Special Agent for Natal, dated Fort William, 27th May-1874, No. 186 (Police—May 1874).

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters, dated the 14th March and 4th instant, regarding the proposed recruitment of 100 men to serve as pioneers and fifty men to serve as policemen in Natal, and, in reply, I am to forward, for your information, a copy of Act IV. of 1874, relative to recruiting in British India for the service of foreign States.

2. I am to call your attention to paragraph 3 of the Act, and to state that experience has shown the necessity of considerable caution in carrying out any proposal for recruiting natives of British India for service in other countries. In 1862 a body of Sikhs was raised to serve as pioneers in Ceylon, but on arrival at the colony they all refused to work on the roads on the plea of having been enlisted as soldiers, and the experiment entirely failed and gave rise to troublesome complications.

3. The Government of India, though desirous to assist the Government of Natal as far as may be practicable, are very anxious to avoid any repetition of the experiment of 1862. Moreover, I am to point out that, with the exception of Muzbi Sikhs, few men are likely to enlist for military service and for roadmaking also. And even if recruits were likely to be forthcoming, the terms offered are not considered to be sufficiently liberal; for even in India the Muzbi pioneers receive high working pay when employed on the roads, besides military pay. As regards policemen also, the pay offered is not likely to prove attractive.

4. In any case it is essential that, before any step whatever be taken to recruit either pioneers or policemen in India for service elsewhere, the Government of India should be put in possession by the Government of Natal of the fullest information as to the terms of enlistment, pay and other advantages to be allowed to the men; as to treatment in hospital, mode of reckoning service and pension, option of returning to India, payment of return passage, option of taking their families with them, remitting money to India, and other details connected with the arrangement. On receipt of this information the Government of India will readily communicate the steps it would propose to take in furtherance of the wishes of the Government of Natal.

No. 187.

Copy forwarded to the Military Department for information, with reference to their No. 1789, Foreign—Colonial, dated the 20th instant.

No. 57. ORDER THEREON, 19th July 1875, No. 910.

A communication will be made to the Colonial Secretary, Colombo, in the sense indicated by the Government of India.

2. A copy of G.Os., dated 18th October 1871, No. 1570, and 11th March 1872, No. 325, will be transmitted to the Government of India. It will show the great care with which the Ceylon Government is working in the matter of this recruiting. It is observed that there is a continuous passenger-traffic

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
19th July 1875.*

between Ceylon and the Southern Districts of the Presidency, the people of which hardly regard that island as a foreign country, the language and climate being the same as in the Tamil Provinces of India.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

No. 58. To the Colonial Secretary, Colombo, dated Ootacamund, 19th July 1875, No. 911.

Adverting to your letter, No. 12, dated 26th February last, which was duly communicated to the Collectors named, I am to request that, in all similar cases in future, you will address the Government of India (Home Department), with reference to Act IV. of 1874 of the Governor-General of India in Council.

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

No. 59. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Ootacamund, 19th July 1875, No. 912.

In acknowledging your letter, No. 186 (Police), of the 25th June ultimo, I am directed to submit, for the information of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, copy of

* No. 910, dated 19th July 1875. the Proceedings* of this Government of this date and of those therein referred to, together with transcript of the communication which has been made to the Government of Ceylon, in regard to any future recruiting in this Presidency.

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

N^o 186

From Arthur Hornack Esq
Offy Secy to the Govt of India
To The Secy to the Govt of Madras.

Sir, Andra the 25 June 1875.

Home Dept
Police.

Side Madras Sup
in the Public Report
for March 1875, No
374.

With reference to the orders of the
Madras Government No 276 dated the
24 March last on the subject of the col-
lection of Indian recruits for the Ceylon
Pioneer Force I am directed to draw
attention to Act IV of 1874 and to observe
that it would be advisable to apprise
the Ceylon Government of the provisions
of the said Act under which in all
similar cases in future a previous com-
munication should be addressed to
the Government of India. I am also to

From Secretary of State (Military)
dated 9th September 1863
do 29th February 1864.
Home Dept to Capt Hornack Esq
No 186 dated 25th May 1874.

forward the papers not
in the margin from which
it will be seen that it has

Govt. of India 3340/1875

PUBLIC.

Date July 1875

Issued

Recd

End

G.O. 10th July 1875, Nos 910-912.

JULY.
Nos. 56-59.

Of the Private Papers. Orders passed on
certain correspondence received from the Govern-
ment of India regarding the collection of Indian
recruits for the Army, and copy of those Pro-
ceedings transmitted to that Government.

2. I am to take this opportunity of bringing to your notice that some in-
convenience is experienced in referring
to any particular part of the Proceedings
of the Madras Government, in the
Public Department, owing to the omission
to number the pages of the Volume.

I have the honor to be
Sir
your most obed^t - servant
Arthur Sturtevant
Offg Secy to the Genl of Ind's

Public (1875) Report.
(Ceylon Pioneer Press)
The
The first of the
Koni Department
Dated 25 June
Recd 5 July 1875
No. 186.
Encl. 3
No 1036.

Making cor-
 -tain observations on
 the Prov. of this
 Govt. of 31st March/95,
 regarding the collection
 of Indian recruits for
 the Western Pioneer
 Force.

[illegible]

India Office.
London, 9th December 1863.

Military,
N^o 421.

To His Excellency The Right Honourable
The Governor General of India in Council

My Lord

Para 1. I have received and considered
in Council your letter, N^o 281, dated 23rd Sept^r
1863, forwarding copies of the proceedings of your
Government relative to the measures adopted
in consequence of a request preferred by the
Ceylon Government in August 1863, for your
assistance in obtaining recruits for the Ceylon
Pioneer Corps.

2. The Ceylon Government requested you
to assist them in procuring recruits for the Corps
of Pioneers attached to their Public Works Depart-
ment, and to direct the enlistment of a thousand
able bodied men from some of the districts of Penang.

3. In compliance with this request, you appointed an officer to the duty of superintending the enlistment and despatch of the men to Ceylon, and instructed the Civil and Military authorities in the Punjab and North West Provinces to give him such assistance as he might require.

4. The recruiting seems to have been chiefly in the Punjab.

5. About 500 men were actually despatched to the island under the charge of a European Officer, and the remainder were in Calcutta ready for embarkation, when your Government learned that the men of the first party had refused to perform the work given to them by the Officers of the Department of Public Works in Ceylon, and that the greater part of them had absconded, and were supposed to be making their way to the continent by way of Allahabad, into the Southern districts of the Madras Presidency.

6. It seems that the class of men actually required by the Government of Ceylon was not understood by the Officer charged with their enlistment, and that the expressions made use of by the Colonial Secretary in his letter of the 14th August, together with the memorandum descriptive of the organization of the Corps in question,

were calculated to mislead, and did induce men of the military classes in the Punjab to come forward for enlistment.

7. The men are described by Major Trenchard as generally of soldierly races, and the majority of these men, on being shown the work which they were expected to perform, at once refused, and ultimately the whole of those men who had been landed in Ceylon followed their example.

8. The unfortunate result of this experiment is certainly much to be regretted, for it may exercise an injurious influence on the temper and behavior of a valuable class of men whenever they may be required by the Government for services beyond sea.

9. It seems not improbable that in this case the Native Agents employed under the superintendence of Major McNeill may have themselves misunderstood, or not carefully explained to the Candidates for enlistment, the terms and conditions of their proposed employment.

10. The result points clearly to the importance of extreme caution in explaining to natives of India volunteering for services beyond sea with the utmost precision the nature

nature and description of the service expected of them, no less than the pay, allowances, and other privileges to be accorded to them.

The measures adopted by your Government in dealing with the men remaining at Calcutta, and in communicating to the Government of Madras your desire that all useful assistance should be given to those who might land in that Presidency, via Menaar, have my entire approval.

The whole of the expenses incurred on account of these proceedings will of course, be charged to the Government of Ceylon.

I have no
Signed, Charles Wood

True Copy

Registrar General's Department

India Office

London 29th February 1864

Military
No 63.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable
The Governor General of India in Council
Sir,

Para. 1. In continuation of my Despatch, No. 421, dated 9th December 1863, I have to inform you that I have been in communication with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of the enlistments of Sikhs for employment in Ceylon.

2. The Duke of Newcastle transmitted to me the correspondence on the subject which he had received from the Government of Ceylon, and, at the same time, intimated that it appeared to His Grace that the Ceylon Officers had behaved in general with great discretion under the novel and difficult circumstances in which they were placed.

3. In reply, your Despatches of 22nd September and 5th December 1863, Nos. 281

And 322, and my communication of 9th December, No. 421, were forwarded for His Grace's information.

4. I expressed my great regret that the issue of the experiment, of obtaining men from the Punjab for employment in Ceylon, should have been so unsatisfactory; and my opinion, upon a review of all the circumstances, that the Government of India had done all that lay in their power to meet the wishes of the Government of Ceylon; and that the failure of the experiment was to be traced to an unfortunate misunderstanding as to the nature of the duties which the men were expected to perform.

Upon this point, I observed that the use of the term pioneer might have tended to mislead the men in regard to the nature of those duties, the same term being applied in India to regular corps of military workmen, forming part of the Punjab

Army, and these men not being called upon to perform the sort of work which appears to have been requested of those sent to Ceylon.

6 I added that it did not appear to me that any object would be gained by calling for any further explanation, or, indeed, by any further correspondence on the subject. Some of the proceedings which had occurred in Ceylon were to be regretted, but it seemed to me that the Government of Ceylon had done all that could be done to meet the circumstances of the case.

7. The Duke of Newcastle has expressed his concurrence in these views. Before dismissing the subject, however, His Grace desired to assure me that he was by no means insensible of the goodwill and energy with which your Government had endeavored to forward the wishes of the Government of Ceylon.

8. It affords me great pleasure to convey to you this acknowledgment of the

and assistance rendered by your
Government on the occasion.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble
Servant,
Sd. Charles Wood.

True Copy

Registrar.

Home Department.

POLICE—MAY 1874.

No. 186, dated Fort William, the 27th May 1874.

From—A. P. HOWELL, Esq., Offg. Secretary to the Government of India.
To—Captain NORMAN MACLEOD, Special Agent for Natal.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters dated the 14th March and 4th instant regarding the proposed recruitment of 100 men to serve as pioneers and 50 men to serve as policemen in Natal, and in reply I am to forward for your information a copy of Act IV. of 1874 relative to recruiting in British India for the service of foreign States.

2. I am to call your attention to paragraph 3 of the Act, and to state that experience has shewn the necessity of considerable caution in carrying out any proposal for recruiting natives of British India for service in other countries. In 1862 a body of Sikhs was raised to serve as pioneers in Ceylon, but on arrival at the colony they all refused to work on the roads on the plea of having been enlisted as soldiers, and the experiment entirely failed and gave rise to troublesome complications.

3. The Government of India, though desirous to assist the Government of Natal as far as may be practicable, are very anxious to avoid any repetition of the experiment of 1862. Moreover, I am to point out that, with the exception of Muzbi Sikhs, few men are likely to enlist for military service and for road-making also. And even if recruits were likely to be forthcoming, the terms offered are not considered to be sufficiently liberal; for even in India the Muzbi pioneers receive high working pay when employed on the roads, besides military pay. As regards policemen also, the pay offered is not likely to prove attractive.

4. In any case it is essential that, before any step whatever be taken to recruit either pioneers or policemen in India for service elsewhere, the Government of India should be put in possession by the Government of Natal of the fullest information as to the terms of enlistment, pay and other advantages to be allowed to the men; as to treatment in hospital, mode of reckoning service and pension, option of returning to India, payment of return passage, option of taking their families with them, remitting money to India, and other details connected with the arrangement. On receipt of this information the Government of India will readily communicate the steps it would propose to take in furtherance of the wishes of the Government of Natal.

No. 187.

Copy forwarded to the Military Department for information with reference to their No. 1789,* dated the 20th instant.

* Foreign.
Colonial.

HOME

1874

DEPT.

POLICE.

To

Captain Norman MacLeod, Special Agent for Natal

No. 186.

Dated 27th May.

Diary Nos. 157 & 181.

L. Sub. 1036/95

PROCEEDINGS—MAY 1874.

No. 53.

Acknowledging the receipt of the foregoing letters dated respectively, the 14th March and 4th May 1874, regarding the proposed recruitment of 100 men to serve as pioneers and 50 men to serve as policemen in Natal, and conveying the orders of the Government of India on the subject.

No. 187. Copy to the Military Department.

H. Progs., August 1873, Nos. 91 to 93.

sent with Encls
14/7/75.

No 9/2

Public Dept.

To Secy. Govt. India

Home Dept.

Sir, In acknowledging Mr. Latham's letter (18th) of the 25th June ult., I am directed to submit for the information of H. E. the V. & G. C. in copy of the Progs. of the Govt. of this date, together with transcript of the commr. as has been made to the Govt. of Ceylon, in regard to any future recruiting in this Progs.

L. Sub. 1036/95.

Continued.
19 July 1875

Puller

Pioneer Recruiting -
for Cayman Is.

18-9-35

Gobt. of 1875 Madras.

Public

G.O. 19 July 1878. No. 910.2

Nos. 56-9

Ceylon Pioneer Force.

Orders passed in certain
correspondence received
from the Government of
India regarding the
collection of Indian
Recruits for this Force
and copy of these orders
are transmitted to that
Government.