

(1) Number of pages 22

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	910-12.	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	14-7-1972	195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
15th October 1875.*

Pilgrims.

No. 45. Read the following letter from A. P. HOWELL, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Sanitary), to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Simla, 28th September 1875, No. 17-336:—

I am directed to forward the accompanying Despatch from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India with enclosures, and to request that a report may be submitted on the statement made by the British Consul at Jeddah that wealthy Mahomedans in India provide large numbers of the poorest class of their religion with passages from this country to Jeddah and food for the voyage, without making any provision for their subsistence at Jeddah, or for their journey to and from Mecca. If this statement is correct the Government of India would be glad to receive any suggestions which His Excellency the Governor in Council may desire to offer as to the best means of remedying the evil complained of.

From Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to the Government of India, dated India Office, London, 8th July 1875, No. 61.

In continuation of my Despatch, No. 51, of the 17th ultimo, I transmit a copy of further correspondence* between Her Majesty's Consul at Jeddah and the Political Resident at Aden, relative to pilgrim traffic in the East.

* General Schneider, to Captain Beyts, 15th May 1875.
Captain Beyts, to General Schneider, 27th "

2. I beg that your Excellency will cause inquiry to be made on this subject, and inform me whether the allegation that wealthy Mahomedans provide large numbers of the poorest class of their religion with passages from India and food for the voyage, without making a provision for their subsistence at Jeddah, or for their journey to and from Mecca, is substantiated, and, if so, whether you can adopt any measures for mitigating the evils that arise from such proceedings.

From Brigadier-General J. SCHNEIDER, C.B., Political Resident, Aden, to Captain G. BEYTS, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, Jeddah, dated Aden, 15th May 1875, No. 491.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th April, with enclosure, to the address of the Secretary to Government of Bombay, on the subject of the pilgrim traffic in the East, which I have forwarded to its destination, with a strong recommendation that the serious consideration of the Government of India should be invited to the question in view of mitigating the evils brought to notice.

2. The Government of India has recently addressed a despatch to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, regarding the overcrowding of pilgrim vessels sailing from the Straits Settlements, and I think Act XII. of 1870 and Act XII. of 1872, or probably the new Native Passenger Bill, now under consideration, will be adopted by the Government of the Straits Settlements.

3. In respect of British pilgrim steamers sailing from Jeddah to the Persian Gulf, I fear we cannot look for any improvement, unless your Consular jurisdiction enables you to interfere in the matter. Such ships, under the new Act just adverted to, are not required to touch at Aden for a clear bill of health.

4. I should be much obliged if you will furnish me with further details respecting the practice of the French and Dutch Governments in issuing passports. — If I understand you correctly, I gather that no pilgrims are allowed to leave French or Dutch possessions without satisfying the local authorities that they have the means of performing and returning from their pilgrimage.

5. I doubt whether the Government of India would be disposed to place restrictions on persons desirous to leave the country. All we have to look to is that Masters of British Ships do not infringe the law by carrying more passengers than are allowed under Native Passenger Acts; and the question is how to deal with Masters who do not touch at British ports.

From Captain G. BEYTS, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, Jeddah, to Brigadier-General J. SCHNEIDER, c.b., Political Resident, Aden, dated Suez, 27th May 1875, No. 4.

In reply to the 4th paragraph of your letter, No. 491 of 1875, under acknowledgment, in which you desire me to furnish you with further details respecting the French and Dutch Governments in issuing passports to their subjects who proceed to Mecca on pilgrimage, I have the honor to state that the remarks made by me on this head are contained in my letter of 30th April to the address of the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, which was forwarded under flying seal for your information.

My Consular colleagues have informed me that such precautionary measures are taken at the time of issuing passports to the subjects of their nations which, under ordinary circumstances, fulfil the intention of securing to the pilgrims the means of returning to their countries. In the case of French subjects, unless they can satisfy the authorities that such means are at their disposal, they would not be permitted to leave; but in that of Dutch subjects, I am not prepared to make a positive statement to the same effect. I am, however, given to understand by my Consular colleague that some such precautionary measures are taken when issuing passports which have for their object a check against the pilgrims being left in a state of destitution, and without the means of returning to their countries; but, although believing it to be so, he would not positively assert that pilgrims would not be permitted to leave under the circumstances of their having no means; but he would draw attention to the Javanese pilgrims, who are always found in large gangs, and to the possibility of the chiefs of such, or the brokers employed by them to obtain passports, being made, in some manner, responsible that the necessary means have been provided. However this may be, it is nevertheless a fact that Javanese pilgrims are never left behind in distressed circumstances. Should an exceptional case occur when an individual of these has improvidently exhausted his means or, what is more probable, that he has been plundered by the Bedouin Arabs, the Javanese are clannish, and means are provided by subscription to defray his passage expenses.

It is also to be mentioned that distressed Algerian and Javanese pilgrims are relieved by their respective Consuls, who are authorized by their Governments to levy a personal fee of one dollar for the vise of each passport. Such reliefs, however, must be looked upon as purely voluntary, and made under the dictate of a benevolent charitable spirit often exercised to the credit and commendation of my Consular colleague.

In the case of British Indian subjects, who annually resort to Jeddah on pilgrimage, a large portion of the number are from the poorest class of the Mahomedan population of India, the wealthy members of which sect, actuated as they may be from motives of religious zeal, or a desire of gaining popularity, deport these abject, poverty-stricken creatures, under circumstances, however praiseworthy the motives may appear, nevertheless to be characterized only in terms as cruel and inhuman by simply providing them with a passage from India and food for the voyage. They make no provision for their subsistence at Jeddah,—none for their journey to and from Mecca. Should these difficulties be surmounted by means of charitable aid, they are still left to the chance of some wealthy coreligionists sending them back to India,—a very precarious contingency, which frequently results in disappointment and certainty of death from starvation.

However unwillingly disposed the Government of India may be to impose restrictions on the liberties of British subjects, yet it is to be hoped that, in the interests of common humanity, they will be induced to take some steps that will at least mitigate the evil referred to. It strikes me, no better remedy can be applied than the passport system, which, besides the many advantages to be derived (as enumerated in my letter under reference) in checking the evils pointed out in

connexion with the transport of pilgrims, would also, in my opinion, afford the means for Government to improve the status of those who are landed at Jeddah, by inquiring into the means of those who present themselves for passports, and if it be found that they have not the means for accomplishing the undertaking which they have in contemplation, I would suggest that, without actually forbidding them, they may be discouraged from the attempt by being cautioned as to what would inevitably be the result if they were to do so, and this caution and advice would, in my opinion, be best given by some respectable, intelligent, and unbigoted Mahomedan gentlemen, who should be charged with the duty of issuing passports. It would also act favorably if those wealthy gentlemen, who deport vagrants as pilgrims by shiploads, were to give some security to Government that they do not mean to forsake their victims to such a cruel fate as death from starvation.

Thanking you for the interest you have taken in this matter, and requesting the favor of your placing my views before the Government, by forwarding them a copy of this letter, with such remarks of your own as will bear favorably on the point.

No. 46. ORDER THEREON, 15th October 1875, No. 1274.

Ordered that copy of the foregoing letter with its enclosure, be furnished to the Resident in Travancore, and to the Collectors of Malabar and Canara for any suggestions they may desire to offer, as it is believed that the largest number of pilgrims to Mecca from this Presidency proceed from the Western Coast.

2. Copy of the papers will also be forwarded to Captain Tyrrell for inquiry and report.

(True Extract.)

Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the Resident in Travancore and Cochin.
„ Collector of Malabar.
„ „ of South Canara.
„ Government Agent, Chepauk.

No. 61, dated India Office, London, the 8th July 1875.

From—Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

To—The Government of India.

In continuation of my despatch, No. 51 of the 17th ultimo, I transmit a copy of further correspondence* between Her Majesty's Consul at Jeddah and the Political Resident at Aden, relative to pilgrim traffic in the East.

2. I beg that Your Excellency will cause enquiry to be made on this subject, and inform me whether the allegation that wealthy Mahomedans provide large numbers of the poorest class of their religion with passages from India and food for the voyage, without making a provision for their subsistence at Jeddah, or for their journey to and from Mecca, is substantiated, and, if so, whether you can adopt any measures for mitigating the evils that arise from such proceedings.

No. 491, dated Aden, the 15th May 1875.

From—BRIGADIER-GENERAL J. SCHNEIDER, C. B., Political Resident, Aden,
To—CAPTAIN G. BEYTS, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, Jeddah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th April, with enclosure, to the address of the Secretary to Government of Bombay, on the subject of the pilgrim traffic in the East, which I have forwarded to its destination, with a strong recommendation that the serious consideration of the Government of India should be invited to the question in view of mitigating the evils brought to notice.

2. The Government of India has recently addressed a despatch to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, regarding the overcrowding of pilgrim vessels sailing from the Straits Settlements, and I think Act XII of 1870 and Act XII of 1872, or probably the new Native Passenger Bill, now under consideration, will be adopted by the Government of the Straits Settlements.

3. In respect of British pilgrim steamers sailing from Jeddah to the Persian Gulf, I fear we cannot look for any improvement, unless your Consular jurisdiction enables you to interfere in the matter. Such ships, under the new Act just adverted to, are not required to touch at Aden for a clear bill of health.

4. I should be much obliged if you will furnish me with further details respecting the practice of the French and Dutch Governments in issuing passports. If I understand you correctly, I gather that no pilgrims are allowed to leave French or Dutch possessions without satisfying the local authorities that they have the means of performing and returning from their pilgrimage.

5. I doubt whether the Government of India would be disposed to place restrictions on persons desirous to leave the country. All we have to look to is that Masters of British ships do not infringe the law by carrying more passengers than are allowed under Native Passenger Acts, and the question is how to deal with Masters who do not touch at British ports.

No. 1, dated Suez, the 27th May 1875.

From—CAPTAIN G. BEYTS, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, Jeddah,
To—BRIGADIER-GENERAL J. SCHNEIDER, C. B., Political Resident, Aden.

In reply to the 4th paragraph of your letter, No. 491 of 1875, under acknowledgment, in which you desire me to furnish you with further details respecting the French and Dutch Governments in issuing passports to their subjects who proceed to Mecca on pilgrimage, I have the honor to state that on the remarks made by me on this head in my letter of 30th April to the address of the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, which was forwarded under flying seal for your information.

My Consular colleagues have informed me that such precautionary measures are taken at the time of issuing passports to the subjects of their nations which, under ordinary circumstances, fulfill the intention of securing to the pilgrims the means of returning to their countries. In the case of French subjects, unless they can satisfy the authorities that such means are at their disposal, they would not be permitted to leave; but in that of Dutch subjects, I am not prepared to make a positive statement to the same effect. I am, however, given to understand by my Consular colleague that some such precautionary measures are taken when

issuing passports which have for their object a check against the pilgrims being left in a state of destitution, and without the means of returning to their countries; but, although believing it to be so, he would not positively assert that pilgrims would not be permitted to leave under the circumstances of their having no means; but he would draw attention to the Javanese pilgrims, who are always found in large gangs, and to the possibility of the chiefs of such, or the brokers employed by them to obtain passports, being made, in some manner, responsible that the necessary means have been provided. However this may be, it is nevertheless a fact that Javanese pilgrims are never left behind in distressed circumstances. Should an exceptional case occur when an individual of these has improvidently exhausted his means or, what is more probable, that he has been plundered by the Bedouin Arabs, the Javanese are clannish, and means are provided by subscription to defray his passage expenses.

It is also to be mentioned that distressed Algerian and Javanese pilgrims are relieved by their respective Consuls, who are authorized by their Governments to levy a personal fee of one dollar for the vise of each passport. Such reliefs, however, must be looked upon as purely voluntary, and made under the dictate of a benevolent charitable spirit often exercised to the credit and commendation of my Consular colleague.

In the case of British Indian subjects, who annually resort to Jeddah on pilgrimage, a large portion of the number are from the poorest class of the Mahomedan population of India, the wealthy members of which sect, actuated as they may be from motives of religious zeal, or a desire of gaining popularity, deport these abject, poverty-stricken creatures, under circumstances, however praiseworthy the motives may appear, nevertheless to be characterized only in terms as cruel and inhuman by simply providing them with a passage from India and food for the voyage. They make no provision for their subsistence at Jeddah,—none for their journey to and from Mecca. Should these difficulties be surmounted by means of charitable aid, they are still left to the chance of some wealthy coreligionists sending them back to India,—a very precarious contingency, which frequently results in disappointment and certainty of death from starvation.

However unwillingly disposed the Government of India may be to impose restrictions on the liberties of British subjects, yet it is to be hoped that, in the interests of common humanity, they will be induced to take some steps that will at least mitigate the evil referred to. It strikes me, no better remedy can be applied than the passport system, which, besides the many advantages to be derived (as enumerated in my letter under reference) in checking the evils pointed out in connection with the transport of pilgrims, would also, in my opinion, afford the means for Government to improve the status of those who are landed at Jeddah, by enquiring into the means of those who present themselves for passports, and if it be found that they have not the means for accomplishing the undertaking which they have in contemplation, I would suggest that, without actually forbidding them, they may be discouraged from the attempt, by being cautioned as to what would inevitably be the result if they were to do so, and this caution and advice would, in my opinion, be best given, by some respectable, intelligent and unbigoted Mahomedan gentlemen, who should be charged with the duty of issuing passports. It would also act favorably if those wealthy gentlemen, who deport vagrants as pilgrims by shiploads, were to give some security to Government that they do not mean to forsake their victims to such a cruel fate as death from starvation.

Thanking you for the interest you have taken in this matter, and requesting the favor of your placing my views before the Government, by forwarding them a copy of this letter, with such remarks of your own as will bear favorably on the point.

No. 14/336

FROM

ARTHUR HOWELL, Esq.,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of India,

TO

The Secretary to the Government of Madras

Home Dept.

Sanitary.

SIMLA, the 28 September 1875.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward the accompanying despatch from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India with enclosures, and to request that a report may be submitted on the statement made by the British Consul at Jeddah that wealthy Muhammadans in India provide large numbers of the poorest class of their religion with passages from this country to Jeddah and food for the voyage without making any provision for their subsistence at Jeddah or for their journey to and from Mecca. If this statement is correct the Government of India would be glad to receive any suggestions which *the Government of India would be glad to receive any suggestions which* may desire to offer as to the best means of remedying the evil complained of.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

Arthur Howell

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of India.

28 Sept 1875

Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter

from the
Offg. Secy. to the Govt.
of India, Home Dept.
of 28th September 1875.
No 17/336.

Order thereon. Adm. Comd.
15 Oct 1875. No 1274

Ordered that
copy of the foregoing
letter with its encl.
sure, be furnished to the
Resident in Travancore,
and to the Collectors of
Malabar and Canara
for any suggestions they
may desire to offer,
as it is believed that
the largest number of
Pilgrims to Mecca
from this Presidency
pass by

S.O. No 1274

The Govt. of India
Home Dept.
28.9.75
Adm. Comd.

No 17/336

28.9.75

28.9.75

11/5/81

The Govt. of India
Home Dept.
28.9.75
Adm. Comd.
No 17/336
28.9.75
28.9.75
11/5/81

pieces from the
Western coast.

Copy of the papers
with also his forwarded
Sept. 2nd for
Inquiry report.

To
The Resident in
Shanghai & for him.
Collector of Customs
in the South (anarch)
Agent Chepe

Boat of 1873 *Admiral*

Replied on 15-11-73
Fr. W. 1696
" 181
" 187
" 26
Chelle

Dated 15th { *Oct* 1875, No. *174*
 Recd.

Nos. 45-46.

Provision for their subsistence
and, as for their journey
to and from America from
minerals for any suggestion

Pilgrimage - Letter from
the Lord of India regarding
a report on the state of
the Punjab & Council at
Allahabad that recently Mr.
measures provide large
number of persons of colour
of their religion with passage
to Jeddah and home for the
purpose without making any