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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Public DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Home Department (Sanitary), dated Simla, 12th July 1882, No. 4—198-214.

Read—again the following papers regarding the issue of passports to pilgrims proceeding from India to the Hedjaz, and the rules for regulating their distribution :—

- Despatch from Secretary of State, No. 61, dated 8th July 1875.
- " to Secretary of State, No. 17, dated 2nd July 1877.
- " from Secretary of State, No. 100, dated 22nd July 1880.
- " " " 112, dated 12th August 1880.
- " " " 161, dated 11th November 1880.
- " " " 42, dated 3rd March 1881.
- " " " 163, dated 7th July 1881.
- " to Secretary of State, No. 126, dated 2nd October 1881.
- Circular to Local Governments, No. 1914 S.P., dated 24th August 1881.
- Despatch from Secretary of State, No. 147, dated 29th September 1881.
- From Punjab, No. 2026, dated 15th September 1881.
- " British Burma, No. 6537, dated 20th September 1881.
- " Bombay, No. 3100, dated 20th September 1881.
- " Rajputana, No. 1895, dated 22nd September 1881.
- " Bengal, No. 1672, dated 30th September 1881.
- " Hyderabad, No. 84, dated 1st October 1881.
- " Madras, No. 1348, dated 5th October 1881.
- " North-Western Provinces, No. 160, dated 4th March 1882.
- Circular to Local Governments, &c., No. 244, dated 8th November 1881.
- From Government of Madras, No. 550, dated 29th November 1881.
- " of Bombay, No. 517, dated 11th February 1882.
- " of Bengal, No. 105 P., dated 16th January 1882.
- " of North-Western Provinces and Oudh, No. 227, dated 5th April 1882.
- " of Punjab, No. 112, dated 25th January 1882.
- " Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, No. 4253-230, dated 19th November 1881.

Resolution—

1. The proposal to grant passports to pilgrims from India to the Hedjaz, which had previously occupied the serious attention of the Government of India in connection with the question of alleviating the hardships attending the journey, was revived by an inquiry from Her Majesty's Government in July 1875, whether the Government of India could suggest any means of mitigating the sufferings of the poorer class of Muhammadans who undertook the pilgrimage. Her Majesty's Consul at Jeddah was at that time in favor of introducing a system similar to that pursued by other Governments of granting upon certain conditions a passport to every pilgrim.

2. The Government of India took the subject into careful consideration, and after consulting the Local Governments decided that, with the strongest desire to relieve the discomforts and sufferings to which at present pilgrims to Mecca are

subjected, it was inadvisable to impose upon their movements any restrictions which might be liable to misconstruction. A reply was accordingly sent to the Secretary of State on the 2nd July 1877, to the effect that, in concurrence with the views of the local authorities, the Governor-General in Council was opposed to any direct interference on the part of Government with what is considered to be a religious obligation by a large section of the Muhammadan community in India, and accordingly deprecated the introduction of a system of passports or licenses, or any other similarly restrictive arrangements.

3. In consequence of this determination, no further action was then taken in the matter, and the question remained in abeyance until July 1880, when the Government of India received an intimation from the Secretary of State that the Turkish Government had issued orders requiring passports in future for all passengers and pilgrims arriving in Jeddah, whether Turkish or Foreign subjects, and announcing that those who came unprovided with such documents would be liable to be repelled from the ports of the Hedjaz.

4. It therefore became necessary, in order to prevent Indian pilgrims from encountering the risk of being turned back on their arrival in Turkish ports, that the Government of India should take measures to provide their Muhammadan subjects with passports, and it only remained to consider how best to give effect to the requirement without interfering more than was absolutely necessary with the freedom of movement of pilgrims. With this object a circular was sent to Local Governments and Administrations explaining the Regulation published by the Porte, and asking for opinion upon the following points:—

- (i) the question of charging a small fee on passports in order to raise a fund to be devoted to giving assistance to needy and impoverished pilgrims;
- (ii) the plan of issuing passports, not only at the ports of embarkation, but also in every district in British India, and in the Native States;
- (iii) the necessity of appointing pilgrim agents at Indian seaports to facilitate the embarkation of pilgrims, and to afford them all possible information and aid.

5. The reports received in reply made it clear that, although a small minority, including some Muhammadan gentlemen of position and experience, were in favor of levying a fee upon each passport issued, the weight of opinion was opposed to such a measure, not only as being liable to misinterpretation, and calculated to give rise to erroneous impressions, but also on the ground that it would still further increase the already heavy expenditure which the pilgrimage entails. In deference to these views it has been decided that passports shall be distributed, in the form annexed to this Resolution, free of any charge; and also, for similar reasons, that no deposit or other guarantee of the ability of the grantee to discharge the cost of his journey in Arabia or of his return journey shall be exacted by this Government.

6. Further, with a view to making the new Turkish regulations as little irksome as possible to natives of India proceeding to the Hedjaz on pilgrimage, it has been resolved that passports shall be unconditionally given to every intending pilgrim not only at the ports of embarkation, but also at the central stations of every district in British India, and at the head-quarters of all Political Agencies in Native States. Thus it will be left to the option of the pilgrim to take his passport either in his own district or at the port from which he starts, as he may find most convenient.

7. With regard to the proposal to appoint pilgrim agents at the several ports of embarkation, it has been represented to the Government of India that, as a general rule, the local authorities empowered to carry out the provisions of the Native Passenger Ships Act (No. VIII of 1876) can satisfactorily discharge the duties that would devolve upon these officers. With this opinion the Governor-General in Council concurs. But in consideration of the very large numbers of pilgrims who annually embark at, and return to, Bombay, and the necessity of making some special arrangements to meet their requirements, it is proposed to appoint a Protector of Pilgrims at

that port. He will be a Muhammadan, and will work in subordination to the Commissioner of Police. His duties will be to issue passports to all applicants; to aid them in procuring the necessary equipment for the voyage; to bring to notice the existence of any epidemic disease among them; and generally to give them all the information and assistance within his power in respect of every matter connected with their pilgrimage. The Bombay Government will be requested to make proposals for the pay and establishment of this officer, whose employment on this special work will only be necessary for a portion—about six months—of the year.

8. The last point which has engaged the attention of the Government of India in connection with this subject, is the question of providing passports and making arrangements for the subjects of other Governments, *e.g.*, Natives of Kashgar, Russian Turkistan, Afghanistan, &c., who embark for Mecca from Indian ports, similar to those introduced for the benefit of British India subjects. The numbers of this class of pilgrims are not large, and it has been ascertained that in their passage through British territory they have uniformly comported themselves in quiet and orderly fashion. At the same time they have no right to represent themselves as British subjects, or to receive passports as such. Nevertheless, in accordance with the rules and principles which always guide the action of the Government in such matters, it has been determined to facilitate the embarkation of such foreigners at Indian ports, and possibly their debarkation at those in the Red Sea, by granting them informal passes in the form appended to this Resolution as Form No. 1. These passes will not be compulsory, and their issue will be subject to the payment of a small fee of Rs. 2. They will be granted on application at Bombay by the Protector of Pilgrims; at other ports by the Commissioner of Police. It should be clearly explained at the time of issue that they impose no responsibility upon the Government of India in regard to the holder, nor can that Government in any way guarantee their recognition by the officials of the Turkish or any other Foreign Government.

9. The forms of passport to be granted to Indian subjects, and of the informal pass for aliens, are marked respectively A and B, and are appended to this Resolution. The latter, which is translated into both Urdu and Arabic, needs no remarks. On the reverse of the former explanatory instructions are printed in the same languages for the guidance of the pilgrims and the information of all concerned. These instructions are simple and self-explanatory. In the column for "General Remarks" attention may be drawn to the social position of persons of rank receiving passports. This may prove useful to them in the Hedjaz.

10. In order to secure, as far as possible, that Indian pilgrims to the Hedjaz are properly treated after landing, and to assist them in making arrangements for their return passage, the Governor-General in Council has, with the approval of the Secretary of State, decided to appoint a Muhammadan gentleman to act as Vice-Consul at Jeddah. It is anticipated that this officer will take up his duties before the commencement of the next pilgrim season.

Order—

Ordered that a copy of the above Resolution be forwarded to all Local Governments, Administrations, and to the several Departments of the Government of India for information and guidance. Also that it be published in the *Gazette of India* and in all local Gazettes for general information. Local Governments are requested to arrange for its early translation and publication in all Vernacular Gazettes.

2. Local Governments are also requested to apply without delay for as many copies of the passports and passes as they may require to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India in charge of the Home Department at Calcutta.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. MACKENZIE,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

To the Secretary to the Government of Madras.

CLOSURES.

A.



Registered No.
BRITISH CONSULATE,
JEDDAH.

PILGRIM'S PASSPORT.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Name (in English and Urdu).	Father's Name.	Res. ice.	Occupation.	Age.	* Distinctive Marks.	General Remarks.

* To be filled up for male pilgrims only.

This Passport, issued by the authority of the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council, Requests and Requires all those whom it may concern to afford the person above named going on pilgrimage to the Hedjaz all needed assistance and protection.

By Order of the Governor-General of India in Council,

Countersigned at _____
this _____ day of _____ 188-
(Sd.) _____
Magistrate or Commissioner of Police,
or Political Agent.

Secretary to the Government of
India in the Home Department.

NOTICE TO PILGRIMS.

1. The British Government having been informed by the Turkish Government that the authorities in the Hedjaz will not allow pilgrims from British India to land without a Passport, this Passport is issued to enable pilgrims to comply with the orders of the Turkish Government.
2. This Passport is supplied on request made by or on behalf of the intending pilgrim, but no fee is charged for issuing the same.
3. The British Government does not undertake to bring back pauper pilgrims from the Hedjaz.
4. The British Government has no desire to interfere with the liberty of the pilgrims, but warns its subjects that they should not undertake the pilgrimage if they have not sufficient pecuniary means for the expenses of the journey to the Hedjaz and back to India.
5. On arrival at Jeddah the holder of this Passport should present it to the British Consul for registration.
6. This Passport having been granted solely for the convenience of the pilgrim, the holder thereof is entitled to apply to the British Consul at Jeddah for assistance in case of difficulty.
7. For the convenience of pilgrims not knowing English, this Passport is accompanied with a full translation of this notice in Urdu and Arabic.

B



Certified that the bearer, who states that his name is _____, has passed through _____ and that he is a resident of _____, on his way to the Hedjaz; and that no complaints have been made regarding his conduct while in British Territory.

Dated at _____
this _____ day of _____ 188

Commissioner of Police.

Fee Rs. 2.

ORDER—dated 25th July 1882, No. 611, Public.

Communicated to all District Magistrates, the Commissioner of Police, the Protector of Emigrants, and the Consular Agents at Pondicherry and Karikal for information and guidance. They will report at _____ early date the number of Passport Forms (A and B) with which they desire to be _____.

2. Instructions will issue in the Marine Department regarding the appointment of Pilgrim Agents (paragraph 7).

3. The Resolution, with its annexures, will be translated into the Vernaculars and published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* and all District Gazettes.

(True Extract.)

C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

To all Collectors and Magistrates.

- „ the Commissioner of Police.
- „ the Protector of Emigrants.
- „ the British Consular Agent, Pondicherry,
- „ „ „ Karikal.
- „ Translators to Government.
- „ the Marine Department.

Exd. J. Wright.

Govt. of {1882} Madras.

PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 25th July 1882, No. 611.

JULY.

Passports to Pilgrims.

Communicating with instructions Resolution of
the Government of India on the subject of grant-
ing — to the Hedjaz.