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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	2066	Press Mis.
Dated	22-10-1883.	

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No. 319-39

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Home Department (Sanitary),—under date Simla, the 7th September 1883.

READ the following papers :—

- Home Department Circular No. 1—9-18, dated 13th January 1883.
 • Letter from the Government of Madras, No. 799, dated 17th April 1883.
 " " " of Bombay, No. 2055, dated 14th June 1883.
 " " " of Bengal, No. 615, dated 25th June 1883.
 " " " of North-Western Provinces and Oudh, No. 352, dated 29th May 1883.
 " " " of Punjab, No. 626, dated 8th August 1883.
 " " Central Provinces, No. 1997-101, dated 5th May 1883.
 " " British Burma, No. 713-88., dated 29th March 1883.
 " " Assam, No. 2043, dated 28th April 1883.
 " " Coorg, No. 2001-111, dated 14th February 1883.

Office Memorandum from Foreign Department, No. 1533E., dated 16th July 1883.

RESOLUTION—

In the Circular orders of this Department of 13th January 1883 reports were requested on the working of the system by which passports are issued free of charge to Indian pilgrims, and passes are granted on payment of a small fee to foreigners proceeding from India to the Hedjaz. Suggestions were at the same time invited on the subject generally in the light of the experience gained, and enquiry was made as to whether the system had found favour with the Muhammadan community in whose interest it was established. The replies to this reference have now been received.

2. In the Madras Presidency only 49 passports and passes were granted in five districts of the Presidency; but, so far as it has been worked, the system is said to have found favour with the Muhammadan community, except perhaps in Malabar.

3. The number of passports and passes issued in the Bombay Presidency was :—

	Passports.	Passes.
In Bombay ...	4,740	7
In Karachi ...	69	67
In Aden ...	6	0
Total ...	4,815	74

During the past pilgrim season, embracing a period between the 1st July and 9th October 1882, 6,818 pilgrims proceeded to the Hedjaz from Bombay; of this number 5,523 were Indian subjects, and 1,295 natives of foreign countries. The total number of pilgrims who passed through Bombay in 1882 was 6,818 against 8,543 in the previous year; the large decrease is attributed to the war in Egypt and the prevalence of cholera in Mecca. Except in Sind, where it is not yet properly understood, the system has found favour generally with the Muhammadan community; and in Bombay itself the appointment of a Protector of Pilgrims has done much to secure the comfort and protection from extortion of intending pilgrims.

4. The Commissioner of Police, Bombay, has made certain suggestions, which might have more conveniently been submitted separately for consideration and orders. The first suggestion is, that some rules should be framed for the protection and care by the commanders of pilgrim vessels of the effects of pilgrims

who may happen to die at sea. The Government of India will provide for this in the rules for pilgrim ships now under consideration. The next suggestion is that, in order to aid the Protector of Pilgrims in his work, two persons, possessing a knowledge of Persian and some local dialects, be sanctioned on a salary of Rs. 12 each per mensem instead of on Rs. 10 and 9 respectively as at present, the existing pay being insufficient to procure men of the kind needed. Orders sanctioning this proposal have been separately issued. Lastly, the Commissioner of Police recommends that a personal allowance of Rs. 75 per mensem be granted to his Detective Inspector for services rendered by him in arranging for the comfort and well-being of the pilgrims during their stay in Bombay. The Government of Bombay do not support this proposal on the ground that, when a Protector of Pilgrims was appointed, it was understood that he would be able, under the supervision of the Commissioner of Police, to perform all the duties connected with pilgrim traffic. The Government of India concur in the decision of the Local Government.

5. In Bengal 539 passports were issued, and no passes granted. The Lieutenant-Governor remarks that passes are not really required at Mecca and are of little use to the pilgrims, it is the Turkish Government which insisted upon the issue of passports; and as it has not withdrawn its requisition, passports and passes must continue to be supplied. Certain local officers have suggested that passports should be issued at sub-divisional and sub-registry offices and other places. The Lieutenant-Governor expresses some doubt upon this point, but the Government of India do not see why Sub-divisional Magistrates should not be allowed to grant them. There is nothing in the Home Department Resolution of 12th July 1882 which specifically confines the issue to the Magistrate of the district. The intention of the Government of India is that passports should be freely given to all applicants unless there is strong ground for believing them not to be British subjects, and everything should be done to facilitate their being obtained by intending pilgrims without trouble or cost.

6. Only 325 passports were issued in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. This small number is said to be probably due to the experiment not having been as yet fully understood by the people, and to the fact of many pilgrims having commenced their journey before the new system had become generally known. So far as it has been tested, the system has worked on the whole well, and has found favour with the Muhammadan community. A memorandum by Kazim Hussain Khan, a Talukdar in the Bara Banki District, is submitted, bringing to notice certain inconveniences experienced by the pilgrims at Bombay and in the Hedjaz. The Local Government think that most of these inconveniences are within the cognisance of the Protector of Pilgrims at Bombay and the Muhammadan Vice-Consul at Jeddah: a view in which the Government of India agree. Some of the inconveniences in question will be met by the rules for the management of pilgrim vessels, which it is intended to issue when the Native Passenger Ships Act, 1876, is amended.

7. The number of passports issued in the Punjab was 140, and the smallness of the number is said to be due to the ignorance of some pilgrims, and the belief entertained by others that passports could only be obtained at the port of embarkation. Steps have, however, been taken to make the system known. The Lieutenant-Governor offers two suggestions. The first is that passports should be issued at the head-quarters of every tahsil; and the second that counterfoils should be attached to passports for surrender at Jeddah, which should be filled in by the office of issue. The Government of India have no objection to the adoption of the first proposal. The second cannot at present be adopted, as pilgrims are not compelled to report themselves to the Consulate at Jeddah, and any order of the kind would lead to suspicion of the object of Government both on the part of the pilgrims and of the Turkish authorities.

8. In the Central Provinces only two passports were issued. So far as can be ascertained, the object of Government in establishing the system is appreciated by the Muhammadans, who, however, find no difficulty in obtaining passports in Bombay.

9. In British Burma four passports were applied for and granted. No passes for aliens were applied for. The Chief Commissioner recommends that Burma be excluded from the operations of the rules relating to the subject, as no pilgrims proceed direct from there. In the opinion of the Government of India there seems to be no sufficient reason for excluding this Province from the rules.

10. In Assam only 16 passports were issued, and applications for four more were made. The issue is at present confined to district head-quarters. This should be remedied.

11. From the reports received through the Foreign Office it appears that in Mysore only three passports were issued, and that much interest is not evinced in the system by the Muhammadans. In Kashmir, Central India, and Baroda no applications were made for passports, except in Bundelkhand, where one passport was granted. No opportunity for testing the working of the system in Kashmir or Central India has arisen, while the Agent at Baroda understands that it has found favour with the Muhammadans. In the States of Rajputana 1,425 passports were distributed to the authorities, but out of this large number only five were issued. The Agent in Rajputana is not in a position to suggest whether the continuance of the system will be beneficial or not, but it appears to him that it has found favour generally with the Muhammadan community. In Ajmere-Merwara no applications for passports were made. No causes for this apparent unpopularity of the system are suggested, but the Chief Commissioner thinks that the system will yet find favour with the Muhammadans.

12. The above summary of the reports shows that it is only the Bombay Government that has as yet had any large experience of the practical working of the system, followed in a lesser degree by Bengal, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and the Punjab. The original orders only issued in July 1882, and it could hardly be expected that the facts would be widely known in the interior for the then current pilgrimage. It was to be expected that the task of issuing passports would at the outset fall mainly on the towns of Calcutta and Bombay. At Calcutta some difficulties seem to have been thrown in the way of pilgrims by unnecessary demands for precise identification, but at Bombay, where the bulk of them gather, the issue seems to have been full, and the appointment of a Protector has already done much good. On the whole, the evidence appears to show that the motives of Government are generally understood and appreciated. The only persons who appear to be dissatisfied with the system are foreign pilgrims, who do not see why they should be called upon to pay Rs. 2 for passes, and do not consequently avail themselves of these. The Government of India have already decided to maintain the fee on these passes, as it serves as a salutary check on their issue. It must be borne in mind that these passes give no claim to British protection, and the Government are unwilling in any way to make themselves responsible for Central Asian or Afghan travellers.

13. The system having worked fairly well should be continued; and the Governor General in Council desires that instructions be issued to local authorities to grant passports at sub-divisional stations and tahsils as well as at sub-der stations. Any officer exercising magisterial powers might be authorized by Local Governments to sign passports; and care should be taken that no difficulties about identification are thrown in the way of applicants so long as there is no reason to believe them to be aliens.

Madras.
Bombay.
Bengal (Judicial Department).
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.
Punjab.
Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces.
" " British Burma.
" " Assam.
" " Coorg.
Resident, Hyderabad.

ORDER.—Ordered, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Local Governments and Administrations marginally noted for information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

Order 22nd October 1885, No. 211

Communicated to all St. Magistrates, the Jomias of Police, the Protection of Europeans and the Jomias Agents at Pondicherry and Karaikal. —

2. In view to effect being given to the instructions of the Govt. of India as contained in the last paragraph of the resolution, the Govt. authorize all concerned Divisional officers exercising magisterial powers to grant passports under their signature.

St. Maglis
Comm. of Police
Protection of Europeans
Com. Agent Pondicherry
Karaikal

From
The Govt of India
Home Dept
No 4
329-29

28 Sept 85
19
4 Spand
Copies

Receiving the Report
on passports & passes granted
to Indian Pilgrims —

The Collectors of
The District Magistrates of
The Presidents, Municipal
Commissions,
The Presidents, Local Fund
Boards,

- Anantapur.
- North Arcot, Chittoor.
- South Arcot, Cuddalore.
- Bellary.
- South Canara, Mangalore.
- Chingleput, Saidápet.
- Coimbatore.
- Cuddapah.
- Ganjam, Chatrapur.
- Godávári, Cocanada.
- Kistna, Masulipatam.
- Kurnool.
- Madura.
- Malabar, Calicut.
- Nilgiris, Ootacamund.
- Nellore.
- Salem.
- Tanjore.
- Tinnevelly.
- Trichinopoly.
- Vizagapatam.

PRESS.

<i>Public</i> DEPARTMENT. G.O. DATED <i>22/10/88</i> No. <i>2-1</i>
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Despatched in print.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Pilgrims - *Conj ball District*
Majithar, Pa, Resolution of
 the Govt. of India reviewing
 the reports on the working
 of the system by which
 passports are issued free
 of charge to Indian pilgrims
 & passes are granted on pay-
 -ment of a small fee to foreigners
 proceeding from India to
 the *Hedgah*.