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ORDINARY, MS.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O., DATED 5-9-93

No. 720

INDEXED.

When given for copying.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Inviting the attention of the Colonial
Secy. Mauritius to letter of this
Govt regarding the conduct of Dr Keiser
& Commander Cantin on board the
'S. S. "Warora" towards the immi-
grants on board that ship &
inquiring whether any reply may
be expected.

BACK PAPER, No.

OF 18

FURTHER PAPER, No.

2544

OF 193

HEAD-AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
18, No. , MISCELLANEOUS.

ENCLOSURE.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DETO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DETO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING WANT FOR DISPATCH
IN ORIGINAL (not paged).

N.B.—

- A = Copy in full.
- B = Not to be copied.
- P = Copy abstract only.
- Q = Copy heading only.

GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

EMIGRATION—No. 1987.

CALCUTTA, THE 12TH AUGUST 1893.

FROM H. H. RISLEY, Esq., C.I.E.,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your endorsement No. ¹⁹⁹⁰₅₀, dated the 22nd July 1893, with enclosures, regarding the treatment to which time-expired immigrants who returned from Réunion and Mauritius to Madras by the S.S. *Warora* were subjected on the voyage. It appears from the correspondence that all the coolies, with a few exceptions, unanimously complained before the Protector of Emigrants, Madras, of the bad treatment they had experienced on board at the hands of the Medical Officers, and more especially at those of Compounder Mr. Cantin.

2. I am to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the papers noted on the margin, from which it will be observed that when the *Warora* arrived in Calcutta with return emigrants from Mauritius in April 1893, similar complaints of ill-treatment were preferred against Mr. Cantin by some of the emigrants. Dr. Macleod held an enquiry into the charges, and decided that Mr. Cantin should be deprived of his full gratuity and debarred from future employment in the Emigration Service. Against this decision Mr. Cantin submitted an appeal; and the Lieutenant-Governor, after a full consideration of the facts of the case, decided that he should be fined half of his gratuity, and be warned that he would be debarred from employment if anything of the kind occurred again.

3. I am to add that the Lieutenant-Governor will issue such further orders with regard to Mr. Cantin as may be necessary on being placed in possession of the views of the Government of Mauritius regarding his treatment of the Madras coolies.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

H. H. RISLEY,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 971, dated Calcutta, the 18th May 1893.

From—R. MACLEOD, M.D., Protector of Emigrants, Calcutta,
To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the orders of Government, the accompanying copy of endorsement No. 302—239, dated 10th instant, from the Emigration Agent for Mauritius, forwarding copy of a representation from Mr. E. Cantin, late compounder on board the S.S. *Warora*, which conveyed return emigrants from Mauritius to Calcutta in April last.

2. While holding the inspection of the return emigrants after the arrival of the vessel at this port, several complaints of ill-treatment were preferred against Mr. E. Cantin, first compounder. I held an enquiry into the charges in the presence of the Emigration Agent and Dr. F. L. Keisler, Surgeon-Superintendent, in which the report of the enquiry held on board on the 25th April last, a copy of which is herewith enclosed, was read to the complainants and the defendant. It will be observed that Mr. Cantin made no attempt to refute the charges brought against him, but on the contrary acknowledged the statements to be correct. I accordingly decided that he should be deprived of his full gratuity and debarred from future employment in the Emigration Service. This decision was conveyed to Mr. Cantin through the Emigration Agent for Mauritius, and the present appeal is against that decision.

Dated Calcutta, the 6th May 1893.

From—MR. E. CANTIN,
To—The Government Emigration Agent for Mauritius.

I AM sorry to hear from you that the Protector of Emigrants at Calcutta has intimated to you that I should be deprived of the whole of my gratuity and that I should further be debarred from employment in the Emigration Service for the alleged ill-treatment of the return emigrants by the S.S. *Warora*.

I have been employed for the last twelve years in the Emigration Service and have made several voyages between Mauritius and the Indian ports as Surgeon-Superintendent, but under recent ruling I have been compelled to fill a subordinate position.

During the long time of service I have never on any occasion been found fault with.

I have been accused of ill-treating, i.e., branding with a hot iron during the last voyage several return emigrants belonging to both Madras and Calcutta, and I have been found guilty of this offence without having been allowed to defend myself before the proper authority in India.

This concession is granted to the greatest criminal, and I am unaware why the same was not extended to me.

In respect to Madras there was no time to hold a proper enquiry into the allegations made by certain emigrants, as the vessel's stay in that port extended to but a few hours.

Here of course this was not so, and I think that at least I should have been called upon to face the charges which I was in a position to prove by evidence were utterly false and malicious.

In these circumstances I respectfully beg to request that you will be pleased to forward this to the Protector of Emigrants, with the prayer that he will forward it to the Government of Bengal with any remarks he may deem necessary in order that the decision arrived at may be considered by them.

To ill-treat one on board, my long service and intimacy with the rules of the service would have been sufficient to deter me from any such action as has been imputed to me.

I may add that I have and do admit having used a fire utensil ("shovel") one day on board to disperse a crowd, who were preventing the issue of medical comforts to the sick and weak.

In doing so I had no intention to strike or injure any person, my only object being to clear a space, so to enable the bhandary to carry out my instructions, i.e., that the invalids should be served first.

I did not specially select that utensil, but it was the first to hand, and was therefore taken advantage of.

I was not aware that this was at all hot, as the emigrants have endeavoured to make out, as no complaints whatever of burning were made at the time. Had this been done, the occurrence would have been brought immediately to the notice of the Surgeon-Superintendent, whereas reports of burning were made by the Madras emigrants on their being landed, and by the Calcutta complement the day after the departure of the vessel from that port.

An enquiry was made immediately by the Surgeon-Superintendent and the Captain in presence of the Ship's Surgeon and the Clerk, and I was called upon to explain matters.

On this occasion I did not put forward any witnesses as I did not consider the tribunal one qualified to dispose of the case, and I preferred to reserve them till the matter was investigated by the proper authority in Calcutta.

I, however, was disappointed inasmuch as I was not called upon to defend myself at all, the matter having been disposed of *ex-parte*. There have been several instances of emigrants getting burnt on board whilst cooking their food, whilst others have been burnt accidentally by the bhandary; each and all of these cases have been put down to me. For instance; a Madrassee was burnt one day on the leg by a boy who was helping the bhandary to cook the sago; he was detected by the second compounder in the act of striking the boy when he was looked up in a bathroom by the same compounder.

This case of burning was also imputed to me in Madras. Another instance: one Motoora, who was one day standing by the galley, was burnt accidentally on the leg by the hospital bhandary while dragging a pot of boiling sago from one side of the hospital to the other (for the purpose of serving out the contents to the invalids), also alleged that he was burnt, slapped, and abused on his applying to me for some liniment to rub on his wrist.

As already stated in each and every case I was prepared to prove that the marks borne by them were not caused by me.

The sole reason for the complaints against me was the fact that I refused to issue stores to those wishing to cook their own food without the express order from the Surgeon-Superintendent.

These statements having been also instigated by a bhandary among the Madras, who was disrated by order of the Surgeon-Superintendent on account of sickness, and also by the man (Madrassee) who was locked up in a bathroom, to whom reference is made above.

The Calcutta emigrants having heard from the ship's topasses (who were appointed to work for the emigrants and who had been on shore for the purpose of receiving their gratuity) that the Madras emigrants complained to the Protector of having been burnt. They, in their turn, the next morning made a similar complaint to the Surgeon-Superintendent and the Captain.

I can also solemnly affirm that I have never lifted my hand on or abused any man, woman or child on board, and that these statements, like the others, are utterly groundless and made with the sole object of involving me in difficulties for not issuing stores and allowing them to have the use of the galley at their pleasure.

No. 302-239, dated Calcutta, the 10th May 1893.

Memo. by—A. C. STEWART, Esq., Government Emigration Agent for Mauritius.

COPY forwarded to the Protector of Emigrants in accordance with Mr. Cantin's request.

S.S. "WARORA,"

The 25th April 1893.

Enquiry regarding ill-treatment of the coolies by my first compounder, E. Cantin, in presence of Captain G. Johnstone, Dr. F. L. Keisler, Surgeon-Superintendent, G. M. M. Cameron (ships clerk) and Dr. Buchanan (ship's doctor).

THE following statements are taken from the return emigrants regarding serious complaints of ill-treatment done to the coolies during the voyage of S.S. Warora from Mauritius to India:—

1st witness, Motoora, states—That he went to the first compounder, Mr. E. Cantin, and applied for some liniment to rub on his wrist, and received abusive language. He was struck on his face, and also burnt with a hot iron on his leg.

2nd witness, Seetham, states—That he went to the same compounder for some sago for his child, and instead of obtaining what he asked for, he was burnt on the leg with a hot poker.

3rd witness, Bachoo, states—That he went to the same compounder for some sago, and was also burnt with a hot poker on two places on his legs.

4th witness, Ramkalea (female), states—That she went to the same compounder and asked for some sago for two of her children, and received a slap on the face and also abusive and filthy language.

5th witness, Daree (female), states—That she went to the same compounder for some sago, and was burnt on two places on the dorsum of the right-foot.

6th witness, Sookbasi (female), states—That she was cooking some food for herself, and that she was roughly pushed away and at the same time burnt on the left forefinger with a hot poker.

7th witness, Ramgobin (child), states—That he went to the same compounder for some sago, and was burnt with a hot poker on the back of the left leg.

8th, Sammoony (female), states—That she was cooking some food for herself, and that she was struck on the face, and also received abusive and filthy language.

They all state having received good treatment and attendance in the way of food and medical comforts from the second assistant and all others concerned on board.

The first compounder, Mr. E. Cantin, was called, and gave the following statement in his defence:—All the patients, sick and weak people, amounting to 80 or 90, were placed in two distinct rows in the after part of the ship for the purpose of issuing to them medical comforts, that is to say, sago, milk, chicken, &c., &c. The cooking-pot containing the hot sago

was by the side of the galley, and no sooner had the hospital topas started serving the sago that all the healthy coolies made a rush to the place, trying to obtain a portion of the medical comforts that was then being given. They were told several times that the sick and weak people must be served first, and whatever might remain would be given to them. They insisted by force to obtain some sago, and wanted to be served first, which was refused. They became aggressive, and as they would not move away I took one of the fire utensils that was lying by and used it in clearing a space to enable me to serve the medical comforts to the invalids. My intentions in so doing being neither to strike or burn the coolies, and I was not aware that the utensil I was using was hot.

As to the accusations of slapping two women on the face, I solemnly declare have done nothing of the kind. I was one day very busy cooking some chicken broth, when a woman came forward and started some cooking of her own. She was told that it was not the proper time, and to come after I had finished. She insisted and quarrelled with the bhandary, saying that no one could prevent her from cooking her food there. I heard her saying so, and moved her *chappates* away, and in so doing some of them fell behind the galley.

So much of the medical comforts in the way of sago, milk and chicken broth, &c., &c., were being cooked that unless I had the whole use of the galley to myself for that purpose I would not have been able to complete the work in time.

G. JOHNSTONE,

Commander, S.S. "Warora."

G. M. M. CAMERON,

Ship's Clerk.

R. D. BUCHANAN,

Ship's Surgeon.

F. L. KEISLER,

Surgeon-Superintendent, S.S. "Warora."

Dated Calcutta, the 29th April 1893.

Memo. by—R. MACLEOD, Esq., D.M., Protector of Emigrants, Calcutta.

THE above statements of complainants and defendant were read on to them in my presence and acknowledged by them to be correct.

No. 180T.—G., dated Darjeeling, the 13th June 1893.

From—H. J. McIntosh, Esq., Under-Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal, General Dept.,
To—The Protector of Emigrants, Calcutta.

With reference to your letter No. 91, dated the 18th May 1893, and its enclosures, I am directed to request that you will be so good as to report what character Mr. E. Cantin, late compounder on board the S.S. *Warora*, bore before the complaints of ill-treatment were preferred against him by the return emigrants on board that vessel.

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No. 369T.—G., dated Deeling, the 7th July 1893.

From—H. J. McIntosh, Esq., Undy Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal, General Dept.,
To—The Protector of Emigrants, Cutta.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters noted on the margin regarding the misconduct of Mr. E. Cantin,

No. 971, dated the 18th May 1893, and enclosures.

No. 1388, dated the 22nd June 1893.

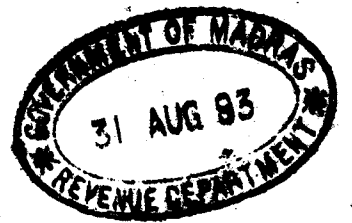
late commander on board the S.S. *Warora*. It appears that when that vessel arrived with return emigrants from Mauritius to Calcutta in April 1893, complaints of ill-treatment were preferred against Mr. Cantin by some of the emigrants. You held an enquiry into the charges and decided that Mr. Cantin should be deprived of his full gratuity and debarred from future employment in the Emigration Service. Against this decision Mr. Cantin has submitted an appeal.

2. In reply I am to say that, in view of the fact that the ill-treatment of the emigrants occurred on one occasion only, and then under circumstances of some provocation, and considering that Mr. Cantin has hitherto borne a good character, as reported by you, the Lieutenant-Governor considers that a less severe punishment will meet the merits of the case. His Honour accordingly directs that Mr. Cantin be fined half his gratuity, and be warned that if anything of the kind occurs again he will be debarred from employment.

No. 1388, dated Calcutta, 22nd June 1893.

From—R. MACLEOD, Esq., M.D., Protector of Emigrants, Calcutta,
To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. McIntosh's letter No. 180T.G., dated the 13th instant, desiring me to report regarding the character previously borne by Mr. Cantin, late compounder on board the S.S. *Warora*, and in reply to state, for the information of Government, that from an examination of the records of this office Mr. Cantin does not appear to have been unfavourably reported in connection with his previous voyages in emigrant vessels.



No. 27

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

(Emiglon.)

Simulated the 25th August 1893.

Forwarded to the Government of Madras for information, in continuation of this Department letter 1448/50, dated the 13th June 1893.

80-489/
27-6-93

By order,

Undersecretary to the Government of India.

List of Paper forwarded.

Letter from the Government of Bengal No. 1987, dated the 12th August 1893.

2362.

Pub Dept.

From

The Govt of India

Secy to Govt.

Dated 25.8.

Recd 31.8 } 93

Encs. 5

Subject

Forwarding copy to
Correspondence re the
treatment to which the

Expatriated immigrants was
put on board the "Tasman"

Pub No 4898, 27-6-93
406-4088, 20-5-93

21st Sep 1893, No 720.

Colonial Secy
Mauritius.

Wd 4th 11-49

Dear Sir,
I am directed to
invite attention to my
letter No 407 of the 20th
May last regarding the
conduct of Dr. Keider and
Commander Canbin on
the S.S. "Warona", and
to enquire whether the
Govt of Madras may
expect a com^{re} on the
subject.

J.P. 2/9/93

J.P.
11/9.

WITH ORDER