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ORDINARY, MS.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O., DATED 26.9.93.

No. 795.

INDEXED.

When given for copying.

[Despatch Abstract.]

For to the Protector of Emigrants, Madras.
for perusal & early return, report submitted
by the Protector of Emigrants & the Chief
Medical Officer, Mauritius, regarding the
charges laid against Dr Keisler and
Compounder Lantier of the S.S. Wagon
directing that the report be submitted
to the Govt. of India, afterwards.

BACK PAPER, No.

or 16

FURTHER PAPER, No.

2771

or 16

93

80 850

18-10-93

READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
18, No. , MISCELLANEOUS.

ENCLOSURE.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DETAIL.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DETAIL.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING KEPT FOR REFERENCE
IN ORIGINAL (not paged).

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.

B = Not to be copied.

P = Copy abstract only.

Q = Copy heading only.

GENERAL BRANCH.

Registered No. 5708/93

[In any future correspondence on this
subject, the above No. should be quoted.]

MAURITIUS,

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

21st August 1893.

Sir,

I am directed by
His Excellency the Governor
to acknowledge the receipt
of your letter N=407 of the
20th May last, forwarding
copy of remarks of the
Protector of Emigrants, Madras,
regarding

The Under Secretary to
The Government of
Madras.

regarding the treatment
which the return Immigrants
per S.S. "Carora" in April
last, received at the
hands of Dr Keiser and
of the Compounder Mr
Cantin.

On the receipt of
your communication His
Excellency directed the
Protector of Immigrants
to confer with the Chief
Medical Officer and
submit a report on their
enquiry

*Copy of H.E.'s minute
enclosed*

enquiry into the circumstances
of the case.

I transmit for the
information of the
Government of Madras
a copy of their report, in
the conclusions of which
the Governor concurs.

His Excellency has
consequently directed
that Mr Cantin should
never again be employed
by this Government as
Compounder on board
Coolie

Coolie vessels.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Providence

Ad^r Colonial Secretary



Public

2544

Copy

Minute of His
Excellency the Governor.

Hon. Colonial Secretary:

This is the most
disgraceful report I ever
read. You will at once see
the Protector and show him
this report. He will confer
with the Chief Medical Officer
who will obtain the answers
of these officers to the
grave charges made and I
will then see as to how

28

I shall deal with them.

(Init?) H. E. H. J. *myself*

12.7.93.

Copy

The Honorable

Chief Medical Officer.

The conclusion that
I have arrived at in regard
to the complaints preferred
by the Madras emigrants,
ex S.S. 'Warora', against Dr
Keiser is, that he has not
been guilty of carelessness
or neglect in regard to the
important duties that were
entrusted to him. This
opinion is evidently shared
by the Protector of Emigrants
at Calcutta who reported to

me)

one as follows in regard
to the 213 emigrants embarked
here in the "Warora" for
Calcutta, and who returned
to India with the Madras
emigrants, alluded to in
this correspondence.

1st "The Warora, with the
returning emigrants from it."
"Mauritius arrived at this
port in good order."

2nd "The provisions and
water as per samples were
found to be good."

3rd "There were 4 deaths
on

"on the passage, the
mortality being 1.89 per cent."

4th "Some of the return
emigrants complained of
ill-treatment received by
them on board from Mr
E. Canton, first Compounder
and a separate report on
the case has already been
submitted to Government

Vide Encl No
2 in No 720
5-9-93

"with this office N^o 971 dated
15th May 1893. They made no
complaints of their treatment
in the Colony."

5th "The Medical Inspector

of

of Emigrants remarks as
follows: There were 4 deaths,
3 from bowel complaints
and one from Chronic
malarial fever on arrival.
in Calcutta 22 emigrants
were found sick, several of
them almost in a moribund
condition who were sent
to hospital. The dieting
and sanitary arrangements
were fairly good and the
sickness was due to old
age and the chronic
complaints with which several
of

of the men started on
the voyage."

2. You will observe
that the Madras Emigrants
were landed at Madras
on the 24th April last, that
they complained on that day
of the ill-treatment they
had received from Dr. Keiser
and Mr. Canton, and that
on the day following the
25th the writers statements
of five of them were taken
down, when the only one
who complained against Dr.

Keiser

Keister was Dharmam, who
said that he had been
locked up for three hours
by him in a water closet.
They all, however, complained
generally about the food
they had received during
the voyage. 2d. I noticed
3d. With regard to the
sickly condition, which
some of the immigrants
were landed. I have to
remark that many of them
were very old and that
others were suffering from
Chronic

chronic maladies when
they embarked, it is not
surprising, therefore, that
2d had to be sent to the
Native Infirmary on landing
at Madras. I often said
quite as much to the Civil
Hospital here on the arrival
of new immigrants from
India although they have
been selected with the
greatest care as to their
physique and are always
embarked in the very best
of health. I agree with Dr

Keister

Keisler that the voyage of 15 days was of too short a duration to enable the emigrants to pick up health and strength. Their first few days of a voyage being always trying to the emigrants on account of sea sickness and changes of diet.

4. Emigrants returning to India are, as a rule, far more difficult to handle than those coming here, as they become very independent and

and troublesome after a long residence in this Colony. So much is this the case that every planter requisitioning for new coolies invariably makes a proviso to the effect that no old Mauritius Coolies are to be recruited for him.

5. Dr Keisler has now been employed for 8 years in this service and I have pleasure in stating that this is the first occasion on which a complaint has ever

ever been preferred against him by a return Emigrant.

He informs me that M. Cantin burnt several emigrants on the 23rd of April last, that the emigrants knew they would reach Madras the following day and were probably advised by their leaders not to complain to him but to reserve their complaints for the Protector of Emigrants at Madras, and that this is why they did not complain to him.

It

It is quite possible that what he surmises is correct.

6. The Protector of Emigrants and the Medical Inspector at Madras appear to me to have formed their conclusions in regard to Dr. Keisker's conduct almost entirely on the ex parte statements of the Madras Emigrants and on the general charges made by them, as the emigrants were landed from the Warren at Madras on the 24th of April.

April and the same night
this steamer left for Calcutta,
thus giving Dr Keiser no
opportunity of refuting the
charges that had been
brought against him. These
charges he seems, to me to
have answered and to
have answered satisfactorily
in his defence. In regard
to the food I know from
experience that native
Emigrants are difficult to
please as a few years ago
I went with a batch of
them

them to India in the
"Warora" and observed that
they were very fainful
about their food and
that it was most difficult
to satisfy them. On the
occasions to which I
allude Dr Keiser was in
charge and performed his
duties with tact and
judgment and as far as
my observation went was
most attentive to them;
both as regards their food
and medical care.

With

With regard to
Mr. Carter the Compounder
I have come to the conclusion
that he treated some of
the Coolies harshly and
cruelly and I concur
in the decision arrived
at in regard to him by
the Protector of Emigrants
Calcutta, viz: that he be
"debarred from future
employment in the Emigration
Service".

(Signed) J. F. Trotter

8.8.93 Protector

To/

Honble Protector of Emigrants

I entirely agree with
your opinion upon this
case.

(Signed) F. Lovell

Chief Medical Officer

8 Aug/93.

Copy

To

Hon. Mr. J. Lovell, C.M.G.,

&c. &c. &c.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No 1464 of the 16th instant regarding the charges brought against me by the Madras Authorities, I have the honor to enclose for my defence the following statements which will explain all the incidents of the last voyage as they occurred.

I

I had on my last as
on all my previous voyages
followed the same routine
regarding the treatment of
the Immigrants entrusted to
my care, although I must
say, this time with different
results owing as I shall later
on explain to the gross neglect
and want of due and proper
assistance from my first
assistant Mr E. Cantin.

I left on the 8th of April
last with a very large batch
of Immigrants (550 souls) on
board

board of the S.S. 'Varona' -
bound for Madras and
Calcutta, with Mr E. Cantin
as senior and Mr S. Suzor
as junior assistant.

In order to simplify and
at the same time to divide
the work equally between
my two compounders, I placed
Mr Suzor at the galley looking
after the daily rations to be
cooked and served out to the
Immigrants, and Mr E. Cantin
more experienced in the work
through his number of years

in the service, to look after
the sick, the Invalids, mixing
and compounding the daily
medicines prescribed as well
as the dieting and nursing
of those in the hospital.

My work consisted in
the morning and in the
afternoon 1st to attend to the
sick in the Hospital and
to prescribe both to the
hospital and outside patients,
enquiring in both instances
about their state of health and
changing or continuing my
treatment

treatment as the case may be.

2nd To inspect the coolies
generally, the water closets
and the between decks.

3rd To keep my case book
and other official papers.

4th To see that all my
orders for the welfare of the
Immigrants are duly executed
and properly carried out.

On the 22nd of April last,
the day before our arrival
at Madras, Mr. Cantin exercised
without my knowledge at
the time certain acts of cruelty
on

on the immigrants, which I afterwards found to have consisted in burning with a hot poker a few Coolies, using also abusive and filthy language whilst discharging his duties on that day.

The Immigrants ~~never~~ complained either to me or to the 2nd Compounder, or to the Captain, or to any of the officers on board, although we daily mixed with them in the discharge of our respective duties, and from what I learnt

on

*It happened
the day
before arriv-
al at Madras*

on shore (from the Coolies themselves) when they brought the complaints against Mr. Cantin for his cruel treatment on them, was that they had wished to put in their complaints themselves to the Protector, knowing that they would be landed on the 24th that is to say 30 hours after Mr. Cantin had so cruelly assaulted them.

As soon as I became aware of the grave accusations brought by the Coolies against

Mr.

Mr. Cantin, I at once proceeded to make an enquiry, and took the following step.

Mr. Cantin was called by me and was asked to furnish explanations regarding his cruel and extraordinary conduct. I could hardly believe that a man in his proper senses could have acted so cruelly, yet I could not deny the fact that he had done so, and the worse of it, done so intentionally as I shall here prove.

Mr.

Mr. Suzor the 2nd assistant was called and said that Mr. Cantin himself had told him when seated together at breakfast that he (Mr. Cantin) had found a means of punishing the cookies, which he said consisted in burning them with a hot iron when they came to bother him; and further the hospital boy, one Francis Lagier who is actually here and can give evidence to that effect, said, that he was told by Mr. Cantin to keep a poker

poker always by the fire,
which he had seen him
use to burn the coolies on
that day.

Such overwhelming
evidence could not be refuted,
besides the marks of burning
were still visible on those
he had so cruelly ill-treated.

He was at once destitute
of all services and was
confined after that day to
the hospital and his only
duties consisted in dressing
wounds and ulcers.

Mr

Mr Sugor took over the
charge of all the Immigrants
being assisted by one Mr
Corven the 4th officer of the
"Warora" whom I appointed
to help him as the work
was too excessive to be
carried out by one assistant.

A proper report was
drawn up by myself in
presence of Captain G. Johnson,
Dr Buchanan, and Mr Cameron
and duly forwarded to the
Authorities.

At Madras I had
not

not the chance of explaining
matters as I do now, else I
would not have been accused
of negligence. The Protector
finding it too late (as it
was 4.30 P.M. when he inspected
the cookies) postponed the
enquiry till the next day,
and as the "Warora" left the
same night for Calcutta, I
could not be present at the
enquiry which he held.

I was not called upon
for any explanations of all
the grave accusations I see
mentioned

mentioned in the report
and neither Mr Cantin, nor
Mr Sutor, nor those who
could have given evidence
regarding the manner I
had performed my duties
on board were examined by
the authorities.

It was on the sole
evidence of the cookies who
had been ill-treated by Mr
Cantin that the Protector
based all his grave and
groundless accusations against
me.

Matters

Matters took a very different course at Calcutta, where complaints of a similar nature were made to the authorities, the enquiry was made in my presence, and the consequence was that I came out blameless, the Protector saying that I had done all that was necessary under the circumstances, and Mr Cantin was dismissed from the service (vide his report). He (Mr Cantin) did not even draw his gratuity allowed by

by the Mauritius Government. I must further say that Mr Cantin has been employed for these last five years in the Immigration Department under me and that he had never been a confederate of my choice. On several occasions I complained to the Hon. Mr. Foster about his carelessness and negligence as an assistant, but there had never been sufficient grounds for his dismissal. Some complaints

Some complaints were made
by me to the Mauritius
Immigration Agent at Calcutta
and to the same effect.

It must be a clerical
error for I fail to understand
how the Protector at Madras
said that I had allowed ~~the~~

Cantin to burn the Coolies

and further that I had
admitted the fact.

The Protector likely
misunderstood what I told
him; this is what took place.

Mr Cantin overwhelmed by
The

the accusations brought
against him by all the
returned Emigrants, could
not defend himself and
requested me to inform Mr.
Austin (the Protector) that he
admitted having burnt
and ill-treated the coolies
and to take into consideration
his long years of service
and to forgive him for
that time. Mr Cantin is here
and can give evidence to
that effect.

Mr Austin was very
much

much vexed and said that
he would make an enquiry
and forward the result to
Government.

I am too much aware
of the responsibility which
falls upon me to have ever
dreamt of such a thing and
even supposing, I had allowed
it to be done, I would, not
have been so foolish as to
confess such a shameful
action. Besides all the
measures I took on board
as soon as I became aware
of

of the cruelty inflicted on
the coolies by Mr. Cantin
clearly show that instead
of participating in his ~~cruel~~
designs I reprov'd them
and treated him as he
deserved.

I shall now pass on
to the question of food.

The following is the
quantity of rations which
have been cooked and served
out to the immigrants during
the voyage:-

Rice — #5796.

Sholl

Dholl — # 1198

Ghee — " 554

Salt fish — " 1141

Pumpkins — 540

Potatoes — 540

onions — 150

chillies — 30

Lumene — 145

Tamarind — 145

Salt — 145

Biscuits — 1275

Sugar — 150

The following medical
comforts have also been
issued to the sick and
to

to the Invalids.

Fowls — 103

Beef tea — 22 tins (20oz each)

Liebig's Extract — 11 tins (4oz each)

preserved milk — 160 tins (1¹/₂ each)

Sago — 50 #

arrowroot — 15 #

Marley — 7

Sugar (white) — 102

tea — 27

Rum — 32 bottles

Brandy — 6

Port wine — 30

These figures clearly
show that the Immigrants
had

had been well treated on board in the way of food & medical comforts.

The issue of medical comforts such as chicken soup, milk, sago, tea, Rum, Portwine etc. etc. always creates great jealousy and discontentment among the coolies on board. Those articles are put only for those who are sick during the voyage. The healthy coolies who have no claim to such dainties, never fail to come & ask for a share of such articles

articles and on being refused, go away angry and discontented.

They cannot understand why some get and others don't, as they consider themselves all alike and sent by the same Government.

The rice on this occasion though of good quality did not cook properly, it was always in spite of all I tried to improve it, a little soft and pulpy. This was owing to its being new and fresh from India.

I believe the same complaint
was made against the rice
at that time by the Surgeon
Superintendent of the Civil
Hospital, by the Police and
Prison Surgeon and others.

The rice was not
badly cooked, quite the contrary,
it was white and cooked
to point, though a little soft.
The coolies, never that I am
aware threw their rice over-
board, nor did they ever
complain about it on
board. On many occasions
I

I had to give extra rations
of Rice and Dhol.

The question of pleasing
the immigrants on board
with regard to the food
is very difficult. Not only
the quantity of alimentary
substances to be cooked
daily is large but also the
number of immigrants to
please is considerable. I
had altogether 530 souls to
look after and attend to
daily, a larger number than
all the patients of the Civil
Hospital,

Hospital, Immigration wards
and Prison Hospital put
together. The day that I
cooked Potatoes, Pumpkins
and salt fish, I was sure
to find some who would
have preferred dholl and
curry or vice versa. To attend
to every particular request
would only lead to confusion,
disorder & great discontentment.

This is an "aperçu"
of a daily ration to be cooked
and served out.

Rice - 675 # or 4 1/2 bags
Dholl

Dholl - 150 # or one bag

Salt fish - 128 #

Vegetables - 181 #

Besides the soup, milk
sago, tea and many other
minor diets for the sick and
the Invalids which had to
be cooked separately.

I shall now pass on
to the question of treatment.
The coolies repatriated
to India from Mauritius
were very weak, generally old,
much worn out and the
majority of them affected with
some

some chronic disease or
other, and most of them
suffering from malarial
cachexia, the result of repeated
attacks of fever during the
bad season (January, February
& March) which preceded their
departure.

Those from Rouen / French
Immigrants were still worse.
Out of 58 souls, there were
30 invalids, a very large
percentage indeed. I called
the attention of the Hon. Mr
Guthrie on the general weakness
and

and debility of this batch of
Immigrants. The men embarked
in a wretched condition and
the voyage was of too short
a duration to enable them
to reap any benefit therefrom
before being landed. The officers
of the Immigration depot
can testify to the poor state
of health of this batch of
coolies. Merely fifty paid
for their passage, the others
were too poor to do so. They
were all paupers who had
suffered considerably from
the

the effects of the bad season
preceding their departure
and the difficulties experienced
during 1892 after the cyclone.

I am glad to say that
notwithstanding that large
number of old and worn
out coolies placed under
my charge, no death occurred
amongst the Mauritius &
Immigrants. It is the first
time since eight years that
I am now in the service
that I have landed my
coolies without a single mortality
having

25-
having occurred amongst
them during the voyage,
and yet I am blamed and
accused of negligence? I
might have understood those
accusations, had an
epidemic prevailed or a
high mortality occurred
during the voyage.

The three deaths (a small
number considering the
condition of the Boarding
Immigrants) that took place
were among the Réunion
lot of coolies. They were
all

all classed as Invalids.

1st Yoganah Appanah died of Chronic Phthisis and Dysentery aged 62 (Bourbon Invalid).

2nd Karaynan died of Chronic Diarrhoea aged 61 (Bourbon Invalid).

3rd Apavoo died of Chronic Bronchitis and asthma, aged 62 (Bourbon Invalid).

It stands to reason that the Cooks (both Mauritan and Bourbon) must have been well fed and carefully attended to during the voyage,

as

as such an unprecedented result could not have been otherwise obtained, considering the age, weakness and great debility of the immigrants placed under my care.

I shall now pass on to the Immigrant who was shut in a W.C.

It is quite true that ~~one~~ Immigrant was shut in a bathroom by my order and here are the circumstances which have led me to take such a step:

Mr

Mr. Sutor the 2nd Compounder
was issuing the morning
meal to the coolies when
the said immigrant rushed
forward in a great hurry
and asked in a very high
and impertinent tone his
morning allowance of curry
& rice. He was told by the
Compounder to wait for his
turn and that he would be
served like the rest. He then
became more impertinent
and insisted on being served
at once, saying that, he was
not

not sent by Government to
be made a fool of. The Compounder
took him by the arm and
led him to the place he
occupied before he rushed
forward. He then became
aggressive and lifted his
arm, intending to strike
Mr. Sutor on the face. The
Compounder then took him
to me who was at the time
superintending the distribution
of medical comforts to the
sick and to the Invalids. He
even in my presence insulted

Mr. A

Mr. Sugar. I enquired into the matter and found the man guilty of creating a disturbance besides being abusive and disrespectful to his superiors. I ordered him to be shut in for half an hour (not more) and it was myself who released him after I had finished with the distribution I was engaged in.

He was not shut in a W.C. as is said in the report, those on board and Mr. Sugar himself can give evidence.

evidence, to that effect. He was shut in a large bath room which I used as a store room for new blankets, no other place being available at the time.

This bath room I must further say had never been used, neither on the voyage down to Mauritius nor on the voyage to India and was just as clean as any other cabin in the ship.

There is a regulation which authorises the Surgeon Superintendent

Superintendent of Coolie Ships,
to use disciplinary measures
in order to preserve order
and prevent mutiny among
his coolies on board. Such
measures I must say had
never been put in practice
by me before as I had generally
managed to obtain what I
required without resorting
to them. This is the first
instance in eight years
that I have been compelled
to shut a man up and
even in that case, I think

J

21
I have acted with great
kindness and leniency
considering the abusive and
disrespectful attitude of the
Immigrant.

I hope I have been
successful in establishing
my innocence and beg
to finish my defence by
stating that I have been
employed regularly by the
Mauritius Government for
these last eight years and
that I have as far as I
understand given entire
satisfaction

satisfaction to the Authorities
to whom I have always
shown zeal and activity
in the discharge of the
duties entrusted to me.

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your most obedient servant
(Signed) F. L. Keiser.

27-7-93.

CURRENT NO. 3

VI.

General DEPARTMENT.
~~Emigration~~ Branch.

No. 2691.

From

J. W. Richardson, Esq., C.S.,
Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

To

The Chief Secretary to the
Government of Madras.

Dated Calcutta, the 28th November 1893.

Sir,

At the request of the Government
of India, I am directed to return the
original documents forwarded to that
Government by the Government of
Madras, in connection with the emigration
of Mr. Cantin the compounder of the S.S.
"Warora" which brought return emigrants
from Reunion and Mauritius in April
last.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant

J. W. Richardson

Under Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal

CURRENT NO 3256

Public Dept

Pub 855 7/18-10-93 his
- 795: 26-9-93 -
- 720: 5-9-93 -
- 489: 24-6-93 -
- 406/8: 20-5-93 mid-

From

The Govt of Bengal

CHIEF SECRETARY
25 DEC 93
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NB 2691

N

Dated 28th Nov 93

Recd S. 12. 93

Encls 2 (Enc. no 1 to 2771 Thuck, /
to C. no 2544 ret.)

Yodged.

J.B.
5/11/93
for B.S.

Subject

Returning the documents forwarded
to the Govt of India regarding
the Misconduct of Mr.
Cantin.

Refce
File the ^{current and} ~~encls.~~ with G.O. 795
26/7/93

WITH ORDER

Current No. 2544

Public DEPARTMENT.

From

The Hon'ble The Colonial
Secretary, Mauritius.

No. 5708

Dated 21st August 1893

Received 20 September

Enclosures one

SUBJECT.

Forwarding copy of minute
of H.C. the Govt. of re the
treatment which the return
Immigrants per S. S. Marora
in April last, received at the
hands of Dr. Leister and of the
Comptroller Mr. Cantin -

Publ. O. 72005-9-93
" 489 227-6-93
" 406-4089, 20.5.

26 Sep 1893;
order No. 795.
M. M. L.

The enclosures will
be forwarded to the
Protector of Emigrants
for perusal and early
return. They will then
be submitted to the
G. of D. in compliance
with the request in
para: 1 of Mr. Macdougall's
letter no. 1448/50 d
13.6.93 -

3.5.13
21/9

AD 22/9/93

DESPATCHED

Protector of Emigrants -
20/9 with enclosure
M. M. L.
27/9