

Public (1895) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

G.O., No. 67

DATED 28th Jan: 1895

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

CONVEYANCE OF PILGRIMS TO THE HEDJAZ.

Communicating to certain officers resolution of the Government of India intimating the discontinuance of the arrangements made with Messrs. Cook and Son for the---

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

28TH JANUARY 1895, No. 67, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Home Department (Sanitary),—under date Calcutta, the 11th January 1895, No. 1, Sanitary—3-16.

Read again—

Home Department Resolution, No. 1-Sanitary—21-33, dated the 21st January 1886.

Read also—

Home Department Resolution, No. 2-Sanitary—102-14, dated the 3rd May 1887.

Correspondence with, and reports from, the Government of Bombay and Messrs. Thomas Cook and Son on the arrangements made by the latter in connection with the conveyance of pilgrims to and from the Hedjaz from 1888 to 1894.

RESOLUTION.

In the Resolution of the 21st January 1886, cited above, it was stated that in October 1884 a communication had been received from Messrs. Thomas Cook and Son expressing the readiness of that firm to undertake the conveyance of Muhammadan pilgrims between India and the Hedjaz. The success which had attended the extensive schemes of Messrs. Cook and Son for lessening the difficulties and increasing the comfort of travellers in different parts of the world seemed to the Government of India to afford an assurance that that firm would be successful in placing the arrangements for the conveyance of pilgrims between this country and Arabia on a footing more satisfactory to the Government, and more convenient to the pilgrims themselves, than had hitherto been found possible. After carefully considering the matter in personal communication with Mr. J. M. Cook, the Governor-General in Council came to an agreement with the firm by which they were to be appointed pilgrim agents for the whole of India. Local officers and officers in charge of treasuries were instructed to assist the firm in making known the terms of through conveyance to Jeddah and back, and in disposing of through tickets; and the Government of Bombay were requested to make over to the representatives of the firm the issue of passports in Bombay after they had been signed by the proper authorities, and to instruct the Protector of Pilgrims to work in harmony with the firm and to render them every assistance. On their part, Messrs. Cook and Son agreed to arrange with the railway administrations, steamship proprietors and others concerned for the conveyance of the pilgrims, at through fares, from all the chief stations in India to Jeddah and back, and to do all in their power to secure the transit of the pilgrims in satisfactory ships supplied with proper accommodation in accordance with the regulations laid down by the Government. The firm were prepared to provide the requisite agency for the work, Muhammadans being appointed for that purpose in all cases where necessary; to establish a special pilgrimage office in the most convenient position in Bombay and possibly also at Jeddah; and to make all detailed arrangements in connection with the issue of the necessary announcements, forms of tickets, etc. They also expressed their readiness to comply with the requirements and regulations which might be laid down from time to time by the Government of India in the same manner as though they were in the service of the Government.

2. During the winter of 1886-87 Mr. F. H. Cook made a tour in India with the view of personally working out the details of the scheme in communication with the Government of India and of explaining to the Muhammadan community what the firm proposed to do. In their Resolution of the 3rd May 1887, the Government of India announced the detailed arrangements which had been completed with Messrs. Cook and Son. These were to last for three years from the beginning of 1887 and to be terminable at the end of that period at the option of either the Government or Messrs. Cook and Son. In the event of the Government withdrawing after three years from the scheme, Messrs. Cook and Son were to be at liberty to continue it as a private enterprise. It was explained that, though the Government gave their countenance and assistance to Messrs. Cook and Son's enterprise, they had no desire to constitute a monopoly in favour of the firm. As, however, the firm engaged to convey pilgrims to Jeddah at a fair charge, to protect them while on the journey from extortion and ill-treatment, and to provide them with comforts and facilities in the way of supplies of food and banking arrangements, the Government were, it was stated, satisfied that pilgrims would do well to take advantage of the firm's arrangements. The prices of single and return steamship fares were fixed on the representation of Mr. F. H. Cook and the advice of the Government of Bombay. Tickets, inclusive of the railway and steamer fares, were to be kept for sale at the office of the Collector or Deputy Commissioner of every district in India, and district officers were instructed to give the widest publicity to the advantages to be secured which were set forth in a prospectus approved by the Government of India. A guarantee against actual loss in the execution of these arrangements, up to £2,000 for the first year and £1,000 for each of the two following years, was given by the Government of India, on the understanding that Messrs. Cook and Son should furnish their accounts for audit by the Accountant-General of Bombay.

3. The report of Messrs. Cook and Son on the arrangements carried out by them in connection with the Hajj of 1887 showed that, out of a total of 9,839 pilgrims, who sailed from ports in British India for Jeddah and Yembo, 1,936 (or 19·8 per cent.) were booked by the firm. The chief advantage which the pilgrims had secured was stated by the firm to be that of through booking at fixed rates, inclusive of landing and baggage charges. Messrs. Cook and Son were endeavouring to charter vessels themselves for future voyages in order to be able to furnish improved accommodation on board. The accounts of the firm showed a loss of £2,592, and the sum of £2,000 guaranteed by Government was accordingly paid to them.

4. On the 27th February 1888, Messrs. Cook and Son reported that they had chartered for the coming season four steamers from Bombay to Jeddah and two from Jeddah to Bombay. The dates of departure of these vessels were published in the *Gazette of India*, and the Local Governments and Administrations were requested to give every publicity to them. The report on the working of the arrangements during 1888 showed that 13,532 pilgrims left Bombay for the Hajj, in sixteen steamers, of whom 3,961 (or 29·3 per cent.) were conveyed by Messrs. Cook and Son in four steamers. A loss was incurred by the firm above the amount of the guarantee of £1,000 and the guaranteed sum was accordingly paid by Government. In his letter dated the 17th April 1889, Mr. J. M. Cook stated that, from the experience they had gained, Messrs. Cook and Son were convinced that it was quite impossible for them to convey the pilgrims in the way they were doing at existing rates for a profit, and that, unless the Government of India expressed satisfaction with, and appreciation of, the past working of the arrangements, they did not consider that they would be justified in incurring the great responsibility and personal labour involved. The Home Secretary's letter of the 18th October 1889 conveyed the reply of the Government of India to the effect that, after making enquiries from the Local Governments and Administrations, they were assured that the conditions under which Indian pilgrims could proceed to the Hedjaz had been materially improved, particularly in the reduction of opportunities for extortion, since Messrs. Cook and Son had undertaken the work, and that the Governor-General in Council believed that this was not only the case in the ships by which pilgrims proceeded with the firm's tickets, but also that the example set on the vessels chartered by the firm had raised the standard

of comfort on the vessels belonging to other firms. The Government of India accordingly indicated their willingness to continue the arrangements with Messrs. Cook and Son for the years 1890 and 1891, with a guarantee against loss up to £1,000 in each year. Mr. J. M. Cook, the Managing Partner of the firm, when replying to this letter on the 9th December 1889, took exception to some of the criticisms contained in the reports of the local authorities, and stated that he would leave the decision as to the acceptance of a continuance of the arrangements for the years 1890 and 1891 to his son, Mr. F. H. Cook, who was then proceeding to India. On the 15th January 1890, the latter gentleman intimated that he had decided to continue the arrangements for at least the period of two years during which the Government had offered to continue its assistance.

5. The report on the working of the arrangements during 1889 showed that 11,544 pilgrims left Bombay for the Hajj, in fifteen steamers, of whom 4,460 (or 38·6 per cent.) were conveyed in the four steamers chartered by Messrs. Cook & Son. The amount of compensation claimed by the firm was Rs. 3,266 on account of the losses sustained in connection with the pilgrim traffic to the Hedjaz in 1889, and Rs. 4,969 representing the losses incurred in previous years which had not been covered by the guarantee. The former sum was paid to Messrs. Cook & Son, but the Government of India did not consider the firm to be entitled to the latter sum.

6. The report on the arrangements made in 1890 showed that of 9,953 pilgrims, who left Bombay for the Hedjaz in eleven steamers, 4,220 (or 44½ per cent.) were conveyed in the four steamers chartered by Messrs. Cook & Son. The statement of account submitted by the firm showed a claim against the Government of Rupees 12,761-15-4, which sum included Rs. 6,212 on account of losses incurred in previous years. In Home Department letter, dated the 25th August 1891, the Government of India sanctioned the payment of the sum of Rs. 6,489-13-10, being the amount of actual loss sustained during 1890.

7. On the 29th June 1891, the firm again addressed the Government of India regarding the question of continuing the arrangements. They expressed their conviction that the business of conveying pilgrims to the Hedjaz under the conditions proposed by them and accepted by the Government of India could never be made self-supporting, and enquired whether the Government was prepared to guarantee them against actual monetary loss. They stated that to enable the arrangements to be carried out in a satisfactory manner, it would be necessary to put on a special service of steamers to compete with the shippers who had been in the trade for many years, and that an increase in the amount guaranteed would be necessary. The Government of India were reluctant to withdraw from the scheme without a further trial of it, and expressed their willingness to continue existing arrangements for a further period of two years (1892 and 1893). This was eventually arranged on condition that the Government of India should pay to the firm the sum of Rs. 6,272 claimed as losses over the sums guaranteed in previous years, and should continue the indemnity and allow losses accruing to the firm in 1892 to be carried on to the accounts for 1893, provided that the total indemnity for those two years should not exceed £2,000. These terms were accepted by the firm in their letter, dated the 21st April 1892.

8. The report of the arrangements for the year 1891 showed that, out of a total of 12,032 pilgrims who left Bombay for the Hajj in eighteen steamers, 4,485 (or 37·2 per cent.) were conveyed in four steamers chartered by Messrs. Cook & Son. The amount of compensation paid to the firm for the losses of the year was Rupees 14,471-8-5.

9. The report on the pilgrim traffic for the year 1892 showed that 12,466 pilgrims left Bombay for the Hedjaz in nineteen steamers, and that only 2,939 (or 23·5 per cent.) were carried by Messrs. Cook & Son in three steamers chartered by them. In addition to these the firm conveyed 732 pilgrims in one steamer from Calcutta. The Government of India sanctioned the payment to the firm of the sum of £1,000 towards the loss of Rs. 36,147-2-9 (=£2,259-3-9) sustained by them during the year.

10. In a letter, dated the 20th July 1893, Messrs. Cook & Son enquired what were the intentions of the Government of India as to any further continuation of the

arrangements with the firm for the conveyance of pilgrims to the Hedjaz, and the Government of India consulted the Government of Bombay upon the matter. The report of the Government of Bombay showed that during the official year 1892-93, the number of pilgrims embarked from Bombay was 11,896, of whom only 1,656 or not quite 14 per cent. were booked by Messrs. Cook & Son. The Bombay Government considered that the influence of Messrs. Cook & Son on the working of the pilgrim traffic was diminishing, and were unable to recommend that the existing arrangements should be continued. The Government of India came reluctantly to the conclusion that they would not be justified, in view of the diminishing number of pilgrims carried through the agency of Messrs. Cook & Son, in continuing the subsidy to Messrs. Cook & Son after 1893. This decision was intimated to the firm and communicated to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

11. The report of Messrs. Cook and Son on the working of the arrangements during 1893 has now been received and considered by the Government of India, and the accounts for the year have been audited by the Accountant-General. The report shows that, in 1893, 18,468 pilgrims left Bombay for the Hedjaz in 29 steamers, but Messrs. Cook & Son only conveyed 1,767 (or 9.5 per cent.) in two steamers. These figures, it appears to the Government of India, are sufficient in themselves to justify the decision come to in October 1893 to terminate the arrangements with Messrs. Cook & Son. The accounts of the pilgrim traffic for that year show that the receipts to the firm from all sources amounted to Rs. 65,636-10-0, and the expenditure to Rs. 61,348-2-11. There was thus a net gain of Rs. 4,288-7-1 on the year. In pursuance of the conditions accepted by the firm in 1892, the Government of India have to make good the losses of the two years 1892 and 1893 together up to the limit of £2,000. The payment of Rs. 16,023-10-10 has accordingly been sanctioned. With the payment of this sum Messrs. Cook & Son will be recouped for all losses shown in their accounts and admitted on audit by the Accountant-General of Bombay which have been incurred by the firm since 1887 in connection with their transactions for the conveyance of Indian pilgrims to and from Arabia.

12. In sanctioning the above payment the Governor-General in Council has thought fit to review the history of the arrangements, which were brought to a termination last year, between Messrs. Cook & Son and the Government of India. His Excellency in Council fully recognizes the good work done by the firm in improving the conditions under which Indian pilgrims during the last few years proceeded to the Hedjaz. Its influence has in his opinion been especially manifested in the reduction of the opportunities for extortion. The Governor-General in Council is aware that difficulties were encountered by Messrs. Cook & Son in the opposition of the shippers interested in the traffic, but His Excellency in Council was not without hope that the popularity of the vessels of so influential a firm would have been so great that in time the continuance of the arrangements would not have necessitated a guarantee. This hope has not been realized, and the reports for recent years show that the firm's vessels have lately been less popular as compared with those of other charterers than they were. In these circumstances the Governor-General in Council was forced to conclude that the experiment which had been fully and fairly tried was not likely to be more successful in future, and that the time had come for the discontinuance of the annual subsidy.

Order.—Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to all Local Governments and Administrations, to the Foreign and Financial Departments, and to Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son, Bombay, for information.

Ordered also that the Resolution be published in the Supplement to the *Gazette of India* for general information.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. P. HEWETT,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

To the Government of Madras.

ORDER—dated 28th January 1895, No. 67, Public.

Communicated to all District Magistrates, the Commissioner of Police and the Protector of Emigrants, for information and guidance, in continuation of G.O., dated 18th May 1887, No. 691.

2. The resolution will be republished in the Fort St. George and all District Gazettes.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To all District Magistrates.
„ the Commissioner of Police.
„ the Protector of Emigrants.
„ the Superintendent, Government Press.
Gazette.

Exd. A. Raiff.

Gobt. of {1895} Madras.

PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 28th January 1895, No. 67.

JANUARY.

Conveyance of Pilgrims to the Hedjaz.

Communicating to certain officers Resolution of the Government of India intimating the discontinuance of the arrangements made with Messrs. Cook & Son for the —.

rent No. 177

Pub. DEPARTMENT.

From

The Govt. of India
Home Dept.

No. 1 Sand
3-16

Dated 11. 1. 95

Received 18. 1. 95

Enclosures 7 S.C

SUBJECT.

and 9 copy of the Resolution
discontinue the ^{annual} subsidy
Messrs. Cook & Son after
93, for the conveyance of
pilgrims to the Hedjaz.

Order 28 Jan 1895 N° 67

*bound: to all Dist.
Magtes, the Commr. of
Police and the Protector
of Emigrants for informa-
tion & guidance
in contr. of G.O. of 18th
May '87, N° 691.*

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*48 B.
21/1.*

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24/1/95*

*All District Magistrates 17
Commr. of Police 6
Protector of Emigrants
Super-Genl. P. M. 3
Magte.*

Copy sent 6/2/95

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3-16.

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10. In a letter dated the 20th July 1893, Messrs. Cook & Son enquired what were the intentions of the Government of India as to any further continuation of the arrangements with the firm for the conveyance of pilgrims to the Hedjaz, and the Government of India consulted the Government of Bombay upon the matter. The report of the Government of Bombay showed that during the official year 1892-93, the number of pilgrims embarked from Bombay was 11,896, of whom only 1,656 or not quite 14 per cent. were booked by Messrs. Cook & Son. The Bombay Government considered that the influence of Messrs. Cook & Son on the working of the pilgrim traffic was diminishing, and were unable to recommend that the existing arrangements should be continued. The Government of India came reluctantly to the conclusion that they would not be justified,

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in view of the diminishing number of pilgrims carried through the agency of Messrs. Cook & Son, in continuing the subsidy to Messrs. Cook & Son after 1893. This decision was intimated to the firm and communicated to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

11. The report of Messrs. Cook & Son on the working of the arrangements during 1893 has now been received and considered by the Government of India, and the accounts for the year have been audited by the Accountant-General. The report shows that, in 1893, 18,468 pilgrims left Bombay for the Hedjaz in 29 steamers, but Messrs. Cook & Son only conveyed 1,767 (or 9.5 per cent.) in two steamers. These figures, it appears to the Government of India, are sufficient in themselves to justify the decision come to in October 1893 to terminate the arrangements with Messrs. Cook & Son. The accounts of the pilgrim traffic for that year show that the receipts to the firm from all sources amounted to R65,636-10-0, and the expenditure to R61,348-2-11. There was thus a net gain of R4,288-7-1 on the year. In pursuance of the conditions accepted by the firm in 1892, the Government of India have to make good the losses of the two years 1892 and 1893 together up to the limit of £2,000. The payment of R16,023-10-10 has accordingly been sanctioned. With the payment of this sum Messrs. Cook & Son will be recouped for all losses shown in their accounts and admitted on audit by the Accountant-General of Bombay which have been incurred by the firm since 1887 in connection with their transactions for the conveyance of Indian pilgrims to and from Arabia.

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Ordered also that the Resolution be published in the Supplement to the Gazette of India for general information.

(True Extract.)

J. P. Kemelt

Offg. Secretary to the Government of India.

The Govt. of Madras

The Collectors of
The District Magistrates of

Anantapur.	8
North Arcot, Chittoor.	8
South Arcot, Cuddalore.	8
Bellary.	8
South Canara, Mangalore.	8
Chingleput, Saidapet.	8
Coimbatore.	8
Cuddapah.	8
Ganjam, Chatrapur.	8
Godavari, Cocanada.	8
Kistna, Masulipatam.	8
Kurnool.	8
Madras (when necessary).	
Madura.	8
Malabar, Calicut.	12
Nilgiris, Ootacamund.	8
Nellore.	8
Salem.	8
Tanjore.	8
Tinnevely.	8
Trichinopoly.	8
Vizagapatam.	8

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