

12/2 don't look it
Public (1896) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., Nos 1144 to 1146

DATED 24-10-96

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Informing the Govt of Straits Settlements that there is no objection to the removal of the restriction against agents or recruiters receiving Commission on coolies other than indentured men, engaged for labour in the Straits Settlements and forwarding copy of correspondence to the Govt of India -

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	1156-51 of 96						
	no 2380 of 96						

C I R C U L A R .

Indian Immigration Office,
Penang, 6th November, 1887.

I am directed to inform you that the following rules are to be observed with reference to the recruiting of labourers in India.

(a). All recruiters arriving in India with a letter from the Indian Immigration Agent and those appointed by the Agents of the planters, shall take the following in India.

(b). No agent or recruiter shall receive any commission on coolies not entered in the list of indentured coolies (Form A).

2. I will ask you to be good enough to communicate the above rules to your Agents in India.

I have &c.

(Sd.) H. A. Thompson,
Acting Indian Immigration Agent,
S. S.

G.

It is requested that the following number be quoted in the reply to this letter.



Colonial Secretary's Office,

SINGAPORE, 24 JULY, 1887.

Perang 4053/10.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor of the Straits Settlements to inform you with reference to your letter No. 1277 of the 7th September, 1887, and the circular which was issued thereon, copy of which was enclosed in my letter No. 1287 of the 25th December, 1887, in order to obtain, if possible, the consent of the Government of Madras to the removal of the restriction against payment of Co.ission to recruits of Madras who were not intended to serve under indenture.

2. The history of the restriction seems to have begun with a letter from Mr. A. Macpherson (the Indian Immigration Agent to the Straits Government,) to the Government of Madras in September 1881, stating that, amongst other things,

that

The Chief Clerk of the Government of Madras

11/11/87.

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that this measure would bring recruiters more under control, and pass all the men they recruit into the class of indentured emigrants, and he hoped, with the co-operation of the estate owners, to secure that agents and recruiters should not receive commission for non-indentured emigrants.

3. At the time Mr. Macgregor wrote Straits immigration was chiefly in the interests of the sugar planters of Province Wellesley in this Colony, whose labour was nearly all indentured.

Since 1857 a great change has taken place - The Protected Native States are now being developed and planted (chiefly with Coffee) by planters whose sympathies are entirely on the side of free immigration, whose existing labour force comprised no indentured coolies -

Some of the Province Wellesley planters also are now employing free labour in preference to, or in conjunction with, indentured labour.

4. These planters feel it a hardship to be debarred from remunerating the recruiting agents they may employ in the Madras Presidency by the payment of a Commission, and when it is borne in mind that the restriction to be effectual must largely depend on the co-operation of the planters, and

78
that it originated with the Straits Agent, I hope there will be no objection on the part of the Madras Government to my rescinding paragraph 1 (b) of the enclosed Circular as being no longer desirable.

5. If the Madras Government sees no objection to the above proposal being adopted, I should be glad if you would so intimate to the Straits Settlements Agent at Negapatam, who has received instructions how to act in that event.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

S. S. S.

Colonial Secretary,

S. S.

CURRENT

Public Dept

From the Colonial Secretary
Singapore.

No. 4662/96

Date 9 " }
Recd 24 " } July 96
Rep 27 " }

Encls - one

Subject

Communicating the
proposal of rescinding
para 1 (b) of the enclosed
Circular re recruiters receiving
commission on ab coolies.

Pub 635. 705-5870
570-12715-586
1277 27-9-87
456 24-11-86
Ed 6 22.10

Referred to the
of Tanjore for
remarks.

Redback Hill
Chief Secy

3013
4/8/16.

Cothacammol
12 August 1896

TO BE RETURNED
WITH REPLY.

Public (1896) Department.

CURRENT No. 211

CHIEF SECRETARY
29-SEP-1896
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

From

The Acting Collector of
Tanjore

No. 3328
Rev 96

Dated 25th September 1896

Received } 29th 96

Registered

Enclosures } Pub. e. No. 2398
with enclosure refd

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Reporting on the Singapore
Colonial Secretary's proposal
to rescind the rule pro-
hibiting receipt of com-
mission by recruiters
on non-indentured
labourers emigrating to the
Straits Settlements.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Da
	510-12	Pub	15-5
	1277	"	7-9
	635-7	"	5-5
	745-6	"	7-11
	Straits Immig return V of 84		

FURTHER PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Da

Head Assistant Collector's Office

No 1481 of 1896
Rev

Nehapatam, 16th September 96

From

N. E. Marjombanks Esquire

Acting Head Assistant Collector of

Tanjore,

Nehapatam.

To The Collector of Tanjore.

Sir, I have the honour to report as follows
on Collector's Reference on Current No 1152
of 1896 dated 20th August 1896.

2. The present Emigration Act XXI of 1883
does not Apply to Emigration to the Straits
Settlements. Emigration to the Straits
Settlements is regulated at present by

certain

certain rules which are printed as
an Appendix to Government Order 510
dated 15 May 1888 Public. All persons
engaged under these rules are registered
in Form A and on arrival in the
Straits come under the Provisions of
the Straits Settlements Indian ^{Immigration} Ordinance
1884. Under this Ordinance
"persons who have received —
advances" as defined in the Ordinance
are bound to Execute Contracts on
arrival at the Straits or to repay the
advances received together with "Smart
money".

3. At the time that the above rules

were

were made, Col: Browness Fischer, 110
British Consular Agent, Pondicherry
and Karikal, urged that all restrictions
should be abolished and that Emigra-
tion to the Straits should be left absolutely
free. But Government did not agree
with Col: Fischer (vide para 8 of Government
Order No 635 Public dated 5 May 1887).
4. To bring recruiting under complete
control and to secure that all Emigrated
coolies should get the protection of the
rules, (Appendix to Government Order
No 510 dated 15 May 1888), two rules
were proposed by Mr Macgregor, the

Straits

Straits Immigration Agent, and were accepted by the Madras Government viz. (a) that all recruiters whether sent from ^{the} States or appointed at the request of Agents here, should take out licenses; and (b) that no Agent or recruiter should receive any Commission on Coolies not entered in the list of indentured Coolies (Form A).

5. It is now sought to Cancel the latter rule.

6. It is said that non-indentured Emigration is the rule nowadays and that it is a hardship for planters not

to be able to remunerate their Agents for recruiting "free" or non-indentured Coolies

7. The figures showing the number of indentured and other Emigrants from Kelapattam to the Straits is given in the

Calendar year	Indentured Emigrants Adults	Other Emigrants Adults
1891	3340	21860
1892	1629	14693
1893	2132	13887
1894	1690	11397
1895	1546	12847

Margin.

Indentured Emigration appears certainly to

be on the decrease. The matters for consideration are whether the Cancellation of the rule in question would lead to a further decrease and whether the falling off in indentured Emigration

Emigration may be regarded with un-
-concern. From the figures above, it would
appear the desired Effect has not been
produced. But it does not appear
how the Straits Government have
enforced the rule sought to be cancelled.

In para 4 of the Colonial Secretary's
letter under report it is stated that
"the restrictions, to be effectual, must
largely depend on the Co-operation of
the planters". It seems to me that it
would be wellnigh impossible to
detect any evasion of the rule and
that there is no law whereby to punish
such evasion.

8. I do not therefore see the use of
retaining

retaining the rule as it does not ³seem
to purpose and as it is certain to be ³evaded
if the present movement in the Straits in
favour of free labour continues. But I
consider that there are good reasons
why Government should not abandon
its present policy with regard to Emigration
to the Straits.

9. Under the present rules, Coolies are
recruited by licensed recruiters and
are brought to the Depot kept at Negapatam
by the Straits Settlement Agent, where
they are well-fed and cared for and
the conditions of life in the Straits, the
rate of wages, and the scale of food
prices,

prices prominently brought to their
notice. They undergo a somewhat
strict medical examination and
Dr. Hardaker, the Straits Agent, is —
bound in his own interests to reject
all who are unfit for Agricultural
labour. When these Coolies go to the Straits,
they become Statute immigrants under
the ordinance referred to.

10. This system it appears does not
find favour in the eyes of the planters
who advocate "free labour". This
means simply labour recruited by
the Agents of the planters under no
supervision what so ever. These Agents

gather

rather together all sorts of waifs and
strays, bring them down to Kelantan
where they are herded in some filthy
godown, and kept practically in
confinement until it is time to Embark
them in the Steamer. A few of the
men so recruited are Agricultural
labourers who doubtless are in
demand in the Straits and whose value
will probably ensure them good treatment.
But such are very few, for the Ganjore
Mirasdar is keenly alive to the value of
his paupers and adopts every stratagem
fair or foul, to retain them in the Villa.
The majority of the men got together by
these

novel or

these recruiters are useless vagabonds
picked up in the streets of towns.
Many are syphilitic and diseased,
unfit for any kind of regular labour.

11. Even Dr Hardaker finds difficulty in detecting such "wasters" when brought to him as Agricultural labourers. These men are useless in the Straits and very probably are treated as such.

12. Unlike Statute immigrants, these men in the Straits do not have the benefit of the provisions of the Indian Immigration Ordinance.

13. It is, I think, significant that the

Estates

Estates which have free labour goes
those situated in the Native States
Especially Selangor. A Mr Carey, a
Selangor planter and a representative
of the free labour party was over here
last year. He seemed to be under the
impression that the Agents (Messrs
Adamson Macfarlane and Co and
Messrs Ganapathi Pillai and Co) -
were not devoting as much attention
to the work of recruiting as they might
and he himself made a tour through
North Borneo. He spent a considerable
sum of money in offering inducements
to free emigrants. At Kumbakonam

he

DEPARTMENT.

Initials of
attender.

1. he informed me that he had got
2. about 400 "free" Emigrants to accom-
3. pany him to the Straits. I am informed
4. however that when the time for Em-
5. barkation came, not one single Cooly
6. appeared.

14. In spite of this lesson, Mr. Carey
15. has been a very zealous supporter of free
16. labour. Moreover it is obvious, that in
17. theory a "free" labourer when he is got
18. over to the Straits may at any moment
19. run away and his Employer has no
20. such remedy as he would have were
21. the man an indentured Cooly. That in
22. spite of the above considerations, the
23. planters

planters in the native states of the
Straits are Advocates of free labour
points significantly to the possibility
that in practice, a free labourer is
mis-called so, once his Employer has
got him in the Estate. Indeed I am
told that Mr. Carey openly said that
one of the chief objections his party had
to Statute immigrants was the constant
interference of the Immigration Agent
which the Employment of such immi-
grants entailed under the provisions
of the Ordinance.

15. In support of the considerations
adduced above, I would invite attention

to the letter of the Consular Agent

1. Pondicherry and Karikal to the Chief

9. Secretary to Government dated Pondi-

-cherry 10th January 1888 No 21 printed in

1. Government Order No 510 Public dated

-C 15th May 1888. If the Madras Govern-

ment by sanctioning the Cancellation

of the rule in question be understood

to have changed their policy with regard

to "free" Emigration, the same malprac-

-tices are almost certain to arise

again.

16. The rule referred to has failed to

serve its purpose as it cannot be

and

and as far as I know has not been
enforced and as it is certain to be
evaded. If it is on that ground to be
formally cancelled, some rules of
greater efficiency and carrying a
sanction for their breach should be
introduced. I would invite attention
to the suggestion in para 3 of the
British Consular Agent's letter No 21
dated 10th January 1888 referred to
above. This would provide for the
probable evils on this side of the water.

To provide however for the safety and
health of the Emigrants in the Straits

is the duty of the Straits Government
and I would recommend
that the Subjection of the Madras
Government in para 16 of Government
Order No 635 Public dated 5th
May 1887 be once more urged on the
Government of the Straits Settlements.

I have etc

(Signed) N. E. Marjoribanks
Asst. Head Asst. Collr.

(True Copy)

No 3328 of 1896
Enclos. 2

Submitted to Government

Public Department with reference to its

Endorsement

Endorsement No 1620 dated 18th
August 1896 herewith returned with
its Enclosure.

2. If, as remarked by the Head
Assistant Collector in para 16 of his
letter, the rule now proposed to be
Cancelled has failed to serve the
purpose for which it was made, and
if it cannot be or will not be enforced,
there seems to be little objection to its
Cancellation.

3. I agree with the opinions expressed
by the Head Assistant Magistrate.

Tanjore Collector's Office,
Vallam, 25 September 96

Shankaran
For Acting Collector

27.

Mr. ...
Mr. ...
The ...

no objection to the
revelation of the rule
it seems so useful
for. It is approved
of the "free" emigration,
not to be different, but it
is not. In my opinion the
pleasure of the Straits
quite capable of taking
of themselves. But this is
the way.

HW 9/10/96
88 13/10/96

Public dept.

DEPARTMENT.

G.No. 3398

FOR ORDERS

Initials of
attender.

In his letter of the
20th July 1906 the Colonial Secy.,
Singapore, requests the consent of this
Govt. to ^{the} removal ^{of} the restriction against
the payment of commission to recruiters
of labourers not intended to serve under
indenture which is laid down in para 1 (b)
of the circular dated 20th Novr. 1905. The
amount of free emigration to the Straits
from Negapatam is very considerable in
excess of indentured emigration as will
be seen from the figures in para 7 of the
Head Asst. Collector's report with G.No.
3184, and the Colonial Secy. states that
the planters who employ the free emi-
grants feel it an hardship to be debarred
from remunerating their recruiting agents
in this Press. Attention is invited to
Mr. Harjoribanks' report on the question
in G.No. 3184. What he says in regard to
the value of the restriction is perfectly
true, for there is no check whatever on
the proceedings of the planters and of
the recruiting agents for free emigration,
nor is there any penalty for the breach
of the ~~restriction~~ ^{rule} referred to. Mr.
Harjoribanks' remarks in support of his
view that the Govt. should not abandon
its "present policy" with regard to emigra-
tion to the Straits have been made in

Nov 16 07

ignorance of the recent correspondence with India on the subject of free ^{ing} ~~legal~~ ^{legal} migration to the Straits from all ~~legal~~ ^{legal} restrictions. In regard to this, attention is invited to the linked file which is awaiting a communication from the G. of I.

** since received.*

From No. 200 No. 1, d/ 14th Feb. 1906, it will be seen that this Govt. has intimated its assent to the abolition of legislative interference with the labour contract of Indian immigrants in the Straits settlements subject to three minor conditions, two of which are merely regulations of sanitation and health, while the third is intended as a security against the free traffic being used as a cloak for emigration to forbidden countries.

From No. 2077 in the linked file, it will be seen that the Govt. of the Straits settlements has lost no time in meeting the wishes of this Govt. in regard to the increase of wages and the shortening of the maximum term of contract. It is submitted that in the circumstances the restriction against the payment of commission to recruiters ^{may} ~~should~~ be removed, and that the fact may be intimated to the Agent at Negapatam, as requested by the Colonial Secy.

If, as Mr. Harbordbanks states, the majority of the free labour recruited by Agents consists of "useless vagabonds" often "syphilitic and diseased", this Govt. has

*It seems perfectly
and must be habit
disregarded.*

Yes.

*2.8.7
20.10.96*

HA

has no reason to be sorry to lose them and if the planters take the risk of spending money in importing such labour it is no concern of this Govt. Their subsequent good treatment is secured by the existing ordinance, or would be, if all legal restrictions are removed, by the conditions which this Govt. has attached to such removal. The additional advantage of higher wages and shorter indentures which will shortly be offered should induce a better class of men to migrate.

In any case, as remarked by this Govt. in its letter No. 206, d/ 14th Novr. 1905, the large numbers of people who pass annually between the Straits and the Southern India doubtless tend to ~~enrich~~ ^{enrich} general acquaintance here with the conditions existing there.

*20B
5.10.96.*

Initials of
attender.

ation to Singapore

Public Dept, 198

C. N. 239843184

Order N^o 1144 of 24th Oct 1896
H. E. the Governor in
Council has no objection
to the removal of the restric-
tion against agents or
recruiters receiving com-
mission on coolies, other
than indentured ^{men}, whom
they engage for labour
in the Straits Settlements.

2. The Collector of
Tanjore will communicate
this decision to the Agent
to the Govt of the Straits Settle-
ments at Negapatam without
delay.

3. The following letter will
be addressed to the ^{Hon^{ble} the} Colonial
Secy, Singapore.

Secy of Tanjore

from orders/
N^o 1145.
Letter - to ^{Hon^{ble} the} Colonial Secy,
Singapore.

Sir, With reference to your
letter N^o 4663/96 Penang of
the 9th July last, I am
directed to inform you
that the Govt of Madras
has no objection to
the removal of

the restriction against agents or recruiters receiving commissions on coolies other than in ^{men} ~~men~~ ^{men} ~~men~~ whom they engage for labour in the Straits Settlements, and that the Collector of Tanjore has been directed to communicate this decision to the Agent at Negapatam without delay.

MA 23.10.96

Encl. No 1146.

Copies of the foregoing papers forwarded to the Govt of India, Res and Agricultural Dept, for information.

3013
22/10/16.

C. 2398 in full with Enclosures
C. 3184 (quote).
Order & letter.

Given for copying 24/10
Copies { 26/10 } 189
Examined
Signed

G.O. No.

DATED

No.

G.O. No.

DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT

DUPLICATE

UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH

in full.
to be copied
abstract only.
heading only

Initials
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19-2-06
23-3-08

10/10/19/12/11

[Handwritten signature]

No.

FROM
J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.I.E.,
Secretary to the Government of India.

To

Home Department.
Medical.

Simla, the July 1896.

SIR,

I AM directed to invite a reference to Home Department circular No. ^{s-Medical} 227-35, dated the 10th May 1893, regarding the proposed creation of a class of Senior Hospital Assistants on Rs. 80 a month in the Civil Branch of the Service.

The proposal was generally approved by Local Governments and Administrations, but the Government of India found it necessary, owing to financial exigencies, to postpone* its adoption. Now that the financial situation has improved, the Government of India have again had the subject under consideration and the Director-General of the Indian Medical Service has submitted an alternative scheme for the improvement of the prospects of Civil Hospital Assistants.

2. The main features of the scheme are the formation of a senior grade on Rs. 70 and the reduction of the period of service in each grade from 7 to 5 years. The gradation and pay of the service, suggested by the Director-General, compare thus with those now sanctioned:—

Present grades.			
3rd grade, under 7 years' service ...	...	...	Rs. 25 per mensem.
2nd ditto over ditto ...	...	...	" 35 "
1st ditto ditto 14 ditto ...	...	...	" 55 "
Proposed grades.			
4th grade, under 5 years' service ...	...	...	Rs. 25 per mensem.
3rd grade, from 5 to 10 years' service ...	...	...	" 35 "
2nd grade, from 11 to 15 years' service ...	...	...	" 45 "
1st grade, from 16 to 20 years' service ...	...	...	" 55 "
Senior grade ...	...	...	" 70 "

The Director-General proposes—

- (1) that promotion from the 2nd to the 1st grade should be made by selection without examination, provided that only men of good character who are recommended by the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals should be admitted to the first grade;
- (2) that promotion from the first to the senior grade should be by selection without examination, and that the number in that grade should not exceed 10 per cent. of the total strength of Civil Hospital Assistants.
3. The Director-General further suggests with the view of improving the quality of the service generally, that in future the general rule should be that

- (a) Ability to read fluently and intelligently ordinary English prose;
- (b) A knowledge of orthography, and ability to write from dictation with a reasonable amount of correctness;
- (c) A complete knowledge of simple arithmetic as far as the Rule-of-three; and
- (d) Ability to read and write prescriptions in English intelligently.

4. The scheme now proposed appears to the Government of India to be preferable to that previously circulated for the creation of a class of Senior Hospital Assistants on Rs. 80 a month, inasmuch as it will be of more general benefit to the service and afford a more equal and continuous flow of promotion. Before deciding, however, whether it should be placed before the Secretary of State, the Governor General in Council would be glad to be favoured with

be submitted shewing the sanctioned strength of Civil Hospital Assistants in the average number in the first class during the past five years, the number as nearly as can be estimated who should be allowed to draw Rs. 70, and the increased expenditure that the proposal generally will entail. I am to ask that the proposition statement may be forwarded through the and may be drawn so as to shew separately the increased cost per annum chargeable to Imperial, Provincial and Local Fund Revenues as the case may be.

Secretary to the Government of India.

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

G. C. Press, Serial - No. 564 H. D. - 13-7-62-310

Paper taken out of the Records from the charge of the Referencer.

Press _____
Miscellaneous No. _____ dated _____ 189
Routine _____

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R.F.W.H.					S-3	