

Public (1897) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 81

DATED 27-1-97

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Come to the Protector of Emigrants letter from the Govt of India suggesting that Emigration to Natal may be discouraged owing to the apprehension of the Colonists that the bubonic plague may be introduced there by the agency of Indian Emigrants.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Public (1897.) Department.

CURRENT No. 260.

From The Sec^y to the Govt
(Dept. of Rev. & Agr.
Emigration)

Order

N^o 81 of 27-1-97
concerning the

No. 72/36

Protector of Emigrants,
Madras, for the neces-
sary action.

Dated 16th Jan^r.

Received

Registered 22nd Jan^r.

Enclosures 3

Spare copies -

DB AK.
23.1.97.

20.1.97

SUBJECT.

Forwarding copies of a telegraphic
correspondence with the Natal Govt
suggesting that it would be well to warn
Indians intending to leave for Natal
that their landing in that colony will
probably arouse strong popular feeling
against them due to the colonists' appor-
-tioning an introduction of the plague
from Bombay.

JN 25/1/97

G.O

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Telegram dated 8th January 1897.

From His Excellency the Governor of Natal, to His Excellency the Viceroy & Governor General of India.

8th January. Emigration Agent for Natal at Calcutta calls attention to recruiting of emigrants for Natal in manner not prescribed by law. Emigrants, he states, are being sent to Natal paying their own passages and making no specific contracts. He also draws attention to risk of introducing plague from Bombay through importations of Indians who have not been examined and passed by properly constituted medical authorities. The grave attention of my ministers has already been directed to the danger of introducing ~~the~~ bubonic plague from Bombay. Very strong agitation, attended by popular demonstration, is going on in the Colony against the influx of free Indians into Natal. I therefore, at the request of Ministers, have the honour to ask if your Government can assist Ministers in coping with the situation by making use of any powers which it may possess or which it may acquire in order to arrest emigration to Natal of free Indians from Bombay or other Indian ports.

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Encl. No.

To

J.R. 1897

G.O

1. 197

Telegram dated 14th January 1897.

From His Excellency the Governor of Natal, to H.E.
the Viceroy and Governor General of India.

14th January. With reference to my telegram of 8th January, Ministers request me to inform you that on 18th December Steamers "Maderi" and "Courland" arrived here from Bombay with 611 free Indian passengers and were quarantined. Quarantine expired 10th January, privilege given forenoon 11th January. Agitation referred to in my telegram of 8th January had spread & become much intensified & large & unanimous European demonstration had been organised to prevent landing. Owners hesitated to bring Steamers into harbour but they were eventually brought in on 15th January. About noon, about 5000 people had gathered at landing place under leadership of organising Committee to protest against the landing of the Indians. The Attorney General however who, as head of the Police Department, had proceeded to Durban to take charge of the arrangements for landing the passengers without disturbance, addressed the crowd & persuaded them to disperse. The Indian passengers were then quietly landed without resistance. Ministers regret that in one instance violence was employed towards an individual who by his action as an agitator had made himself specially obnoxious, but was not however seriously hurt. This incident did not occur at the ordinary landing place but within the municipal limits of the Borough of Durban in which the Government is not responsible for the control of police arrangements. Ministers think it important that the Indian Government should be also informed that in the interests of order it is desirable that the emigration from India of free Indians to Natal should be arrested.

Telegram No. 71, dated Calcutta, the 14th January '97

From His Excellency the Viceroy to His Excellency the Governor of Natal.

Your telegrams of 9th and 14th. Indian law does not restrict emigration unless emigrant is already under agreement to labour and Government of India cannot prohibit departure to any port of Indians or any other class of Her Majesty's subjects who pay their own passages and embark without specific contract. Now could they possibly propose to their legislature to take such power, but they are taking steps to warn intending emigrants that their landing in Natal is likely to arouse strong popular feeling. As regards bubonic plague, Government control is limited to indentured emigrants, These all embark for Natal from Calcutta or Madras, where no plague exists. In case of free emigrants sailing from Bombay, length of voyage and quarantine imposed by Natal seem to afford ample protection.

26/1/97
CURRENT No. 260

No. 72
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FROM

DENZIL IBBETSON, Esq., C.S.I.,

Secretary to the Government of India,

TO

The Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Calcutta, the 16th January 1897.

Department of Revenue
and Agriculture.

Emigration
(Immigrants.)

SIR,

I am directed to forward for the information of
the Governor in Council, copies of a telegraphic
correspondence with the Natal Government, and to suggest
that it might be well to warn Indians proposing to leave this
country for Natal that their landing will probably arouse
strong popular feeling, and that difficulty may be experienced
in protecting them from violence.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

your most obedient servant,

Wm. A. Ibbetson

Secretary.

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined { 27/1 } 1897
When signed _____

READ AGAIN G.O., No. _____
189 _____ DATED _____

CURRENT No. _____

ENCLOSURES TO C. No. _____

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B. -
A = Copy in full.
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