Public (1898) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., Nos 261-62.

DATED 15. 2. 98.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Forwarding to the Hon'ble the Colonial Secretary, Natal, copy of a communication from the Protector of Emigrants Madras giving cover to an Extract from the diary of the Med. Officer in charge of the returned emigrants from Natal per S. S. "Pongola".

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	2150/98. (Natal Govt.)						

Public (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 493.

H.M. the Queen

H.E. the Governor.

CHIEF SECRETARY
1 FEB. 1898
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

From J. H. Atkinson Esq^re
a/ Protector of Emigrants

No. 56

Order No 261 of 15.2.98

The following letter will be addressed to the Hon^ble the Natal Sec^t.

To the Protector of Emigrants (P/40) with journal rctd. Letter No 262.

Dated 3rd February '98)
Received 4th Feb 1898.
Registered
Enclosures 1 Extract and one Journal
Spare copies

Sir

I am directed to forward a copy of a Communication from the Protector of Emigrants Madras, giving extracts from the diary of the Medical officer detailed from Natal to Madras on the S.S. Pongola on its second journey.

I am to say that H.E. the Governor of Madras in Council desires to commend to the consideration of the Natal Govt. the Protector's suggestion of the Protector of Emigrants [illegible]. AHA 14.2.98.

SUBJECT.

Requesting to address the Natal Govt if it considers fit in regard to the points noticed by the Surgeon-Supt S.S. Pongola in his journal

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	1200		5 Sept 93
	606-8		20/7/93
	489		27/6/93

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Extracts from the journal of the Surgeon-Superintendent Dr Sage in regard to:—

(1) The inadvisability of sending to much Cargo on an immigrant ship.

(2) Re galvanizing of the new boilers

(3) Thorough cleaning out of the water tanks

(4) Inferior quality of Patea nuts and Sickly lot of Sheep

× × × ×

1. All the hatches are off in between decks and Cargo is being turned out. This necessitates a very careful watch over blind invalids and others to prevent their falling below. It is extremely dangerous having all hatches off at the same time and working Cargo with such a number of sick persons on board

The workers working all night prevented the sick and others from obtaining natural sleep; altogether it is most undesirable to send so much Cargo on an immigrant ship

× × × ×

2. We have had eight cases of intestinal Colic these last couple of days.

× × × ×

I attribute these attacks of Colic to the condition of the new boilers, which are in a very

very bad State; particles of iron and rust come away in the rice at every Cooking — Frequent Cleaning and Scraping has had very little effect.

In my Opinion all the boilers want Regalvanizing as the interior of the boilers is quite Corroded.

(3) Chemically examined water to day from fresh tank. Found water fairly good and potable. There is a per centage of Suspended insolvable matter and trace of Chlorine — Organic matter, nitrates, nitrites and Ammonia quite absent. I am of Opinion the water-tanks require thorough Cleaning out and on no account should fresh waters be put into tanks Containing the Slightest trace of former water.

(4) I Should mention that the rice supplied at Natal was of a very inferior quality and the Sheep a miserably poor Sickly lot. I would Suggest that all old Stores Should be taken off the Ship Entire and not be allowed to be Counted in as So much fresh Stores.

(True Extract)

J. H. Atkinson

Protector of Emigrants.

493.

No. 56

OFFICE OF THE PROTECTOR OF EMIGRANTS,

Madras, February 1898.

From

J. H. Atkinson Esqr

PROTECTOR OF EMIGRANTS,

Madras,

To

The Honble Mr. A. L. Arundel

Chief Secretary to Government

Public Department.

Sir,

Encl 2

In continuation of my letter No. 56 dated 26th Feb. 1898.

Submitting my report on the return voyage from Natal by the Rangoon Steamer Kaiser-i-Hind with Emigrants for Madras.

The Kaiser-i-Hind sailed from Natal on the 12th ult. with 493 Emigrants for Madras, including 8 children, and arrived at Madras on the 24th ult. after a passage of 12 days.

2. The Emigrants complained of the rice supplied to them at Natal, stating that it was unwholesome and unfit for food, and that it caused sickness among them. The Surgeon Superintendent (Dr. Lee) who came from Natal on the 12th ult. in charge of the Emigrants and to report that, if Government think fit, to what Government may be allowed to view necessary action being taken

2. Dr. Lee complains that the rice boilers were in a very bad state and attributes the eleven cases of intestinal Colic that occurred during the voyage, such a state of things should be guarded against in future.

3. In regard to the rice and the sheep supplied at Natal for the voyage, Dr. Lee records that the former was of very inferior quality and the latter a miserably poor sickly

1. The miserable state of the boilers and rice.
2. Re-galvanizing of the boilers.
3. Thorough cleaning out of the water tanks.
4. Inferior quality of rice & filthy state of sheep.

* Memorandum sent to Government on return.

bree attention should, I think, be paid to these important
articles of diet in future. Should any of Dr Lee was
given an opportunity of examining the stores in question
at Natal before the vessel sailed.

4/. I approve of his 4th recommendation, viz that
water tanks should be thoroughly cleaned at before fresh
water is put into them and that so much cargo should
not be put on board as is inconsistent with and endeavoured
that they might be carried [illegible]

5/. It is also necessary that during the voyage fresh vegetables (two words illegible and two among the following lines)
[illegible] expended from the provisions supplied by Dr Lee
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]