

Public Works (1898) Department.

RAILWAY BRANCH.

G.O., No. 592 *Ry*

DATED 20th April 1898

[Despatch Abstract.]

*Black mailing of Cooly recruiters
for Ceylon*

*Memorandum from the Public Dept
returning papers regarding the — and
stating that the Ceylon Govt has finally
decided on establishing a depot at
Tataparai, recorded*

[illegible]

CURRENT No. 1880

SERIAL
10541
NO. 41

From

From
The Judicial Dept

Order no: 775 of 26 Feb/97.

No. 227.

Copy forwarded
to the Agent, S. I. Ry. for
favour of report, with reference
to correspondence ending with
this office inst. No. 666 of 19.2.97.

Dated 16th February 1897.

Received 20.6.97

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Transferring letter from the
Ceylon Govt inviting opinion
of this Govt on certain suggestions
made regarding the blackmailing
of immigrant coolies.

Main diff.
 12-2089
 20-347-



READ the following paper:—

From the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, Colombo,
dated 1st February 1897:—

dated 1st February 1897:—

In continuation of my letter of 31st December 1896, I am directed to inform you that it has been suggested- as a further precautionary measure against the blackmailing of immigrant coolies- that the Port Officer at Tuticorin should be appointed by the Indian Government to be Protector of Emigrants

It is suggested that the South Indian Railway

2. It also been suggested that the South Indian Railway authorities be moved to erect a shed for coolies in the Railway Compound at Tuticorin where they may stay, leaving it only to purchase rice or other necessaries thus preventing any interference with them from persons outside. It has further been suggested that a truck for coolies be attached to the train the Railway authorities propose running to the pier at Tuticorin for 1st and 2nd Class passengers, in order that the coolies who book through may go straight to the pier and to the steamer, should they wish it, without going into the town.

town.

3. I am to ask the Government of Madras to be so good as to favour this Government with its opinion regarding the above proposals and, if there should be no objection, with the continuance of the good offices of your Government in securing their adoption.

○

ORDER,

C.
O R D E R. No. 227, dated 16th February 1897.

The foregoing letter will be transferred
to the Marine and Public Works Departments for remarks.

(True extract)

M. Rami
for Chief Secretary.

P. 126-127
23.97
7 May

No. 511

South Indian Railway Co., Ltd.
AGENT'S OFFICE,

TRICHINOPOLY, 10th May 1897



From

THE AGENT.

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY,

To

THE CONSULTING ENGINEER

FOR RAILWAYS,

MADRAS.

Sir,

Serial No 11

With reference to your endorsement N^o 775
dated 26th February 1897 on G.O. N^o 227 dated 16th Febry
1897, I have the honor to forward a copy of letter
N^o R 1783 dated 7th May 1897 from the Officiating
a. 681
Traffic Manager.

The proposals of the Honorable the Colonial
Secretary, Colombo, which affect this railway are
1 That the Company should provide a cooly shed
inside the station compound at Tuticorin, and
2 That coolies should be carried by train from the
station to the pier. The value of the suggested shed
as a preventative measure against black mailing
depends upon the conditions obtaining in connection
with cooly emigration at Tuticorin. These conditions
appear to be that as coolies are generally detained
two or three days at Tuticorin they require not only
lodging but also food during this period. I am
informed that the cooly recruiters do not book
their men beyond Tuticorin for reasons which are
said to be as follows:-

(a) That before arrival at Tuticorin the distri-
-bution of the collected coolies among the
-different estates is not known, and that the

To the Marine Department (with copy of G.O. No. 1330 J., d/18-11-96).
" " Public Works Department. *X*

The coolies have to be detained until this information is received from Ceylon.

- (b) That owing to coolies absconding en route to Ceylon, the recruiters do not care to risk more money in fares than is absolutely necessary.
- (c) That the recruiters are in league with the Tuticorin hostel proprietors and share with them the exorbitant charges levied for board and lodging.

If I am correct in these facts the problem for solution is to provide food and shelter at reasonable rates to persons who have ceased to be railway passengers. As this Administration has no authority over such persons and has already discharged its duties in bringing them to Tuticorin there are no reasons why the Company should bear the cost of the proposed accommodation. Even if the railway had any responsibility in the matter, it possesses no authority to compel coolies to resort to the sheds, or to prevent them from leaving it, and unless these conditions are enforced and food provided the usefulness of the shed will be greatly decreased. I am therefore of opinion that the coolie shelter should either be erected at the expense of and be worked by Government or that it should not be provided at all. If the shed is built, it should not be located in the railway compound, as it would be objectionable on sanitary grounds, and prejudicial to the safe custody of goods, etc., to have a large and changing population of coolies encamped in close proximity to our goods yard. It may be necessary to add a waiting shed to the Tuticorin Station house, but this would not of course meet the requirements of

To the
" "

84

2096
C. B. ...
Recd. 11/11/17

to ti

of the coolie traffic.
If any useful object will be served, there are no objections to training the coolies from the station to the pier at Tuticorin, but as before remarked, they are very rarely booked through to Ceylon.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
A. G. Shetty.
Captain, R.C.
Agent

1 Enclosure

M.S.D.

From
THE AGENT,
SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY,
Trichopoly.
To
THE CONSULTING ENGINEER FOR
RAILWAYS,
Madras.
No.
189
Dated
Received

I write the attention of Secretary to the Agent, Tuticorin, to the system of booking the coolies for the Ceylon traffic. The system is as follows: The coolies are booked from the station to the pier at Tuticorin, but as before remarked, they are very rarely booked through to Ceylon. The system is as follows: The coolies are booked from the station to the pier at Tuticorin, but as before remarked, they are very rarely booked through to Ceylon. The system is as follows: The coolies are booked from the station to the pier at Tuticorin, but as before remarked, they are very rarely booked through to Ceylon.

EM
A's objections to the Colonial Secy's suggestion, ^(No. 2) are I think well founded. The first suggestion is I presume under consideration in Marine Dept. I think should be most convenient therefore to send A's letter through W to J. S.

The Hon. the Sec. P.W.D.
13/11/17

Can games - to W. The number of the Regt. S.I.R. are ordered in the Railway Dept. The case is similar to that at Goulunder, where very large numbers of the coolies for Assam leave the train and go on board the steamer in charge of recruits. There (and also at Dhulri where two days later they enter Assam leaving under the Assam recruitment list) the coolies are under the protection of a Government official, who in Dhulri is the Civil Surgeon.

I do not think that it is a function of the Railway to have any further concern with it late passengers and they have arrived at the end of their journey.

The Regt. S.I.R. is arranging to set aside a block of land for the Assam coolies as a depot at the ... Forwarded
7/11/17

judicial
Marine Department.

judicial papers.

CURRENT No. 2084

Current No. 715

Recd 17-5-97

No. 341 E 8/17 May 1897

*Forwarded to the
Judicial Department in
continuation of Marine
Dept. Endorsement No. 208 E.
dated 20 March 1877.*

*J. H. Campbell Clerk &
Secretary to Govt.*

*CS
Recd 18/5/97
Regd 18/5/97
Enclosure I*

*The Judicial Dept.
with Railway Branch file
of papers.*

Public Department.



P. W. Ry C No 504.

Recd 13.4.98

Memorandum No. 884.

Read the following paper:—

Returned to the Public Works Department with the
remark that the Ceylon Government has finally decided on esta-
blishing a depot at Tataparai.

Fort St. George, }
5th April 1898. }

M. M. M.

for Chief Secretary.

TO
The Public Works Department (Railway Branch.).
with papers.

Papers to be read in Proceedings:—

Again G.O., dated

189 , No.

Again G.O., dated

189 , No.

Ri Current No. 1880 of 1897, dated 20. 2. 97, from Judicial Dept.
Endorsement from Consol. R. No. 775 of 26. 7. 97
Li " " 2096 " 1897, " 11. 5. 97, " Agent S. S. Ry.
Note by Joint Secy. P.W.D. to Secy. P.W.D. of 13. 5. 97 + Sub. No. 3412 of 17. 5. 97
Ri " " 504 " 1898, " 13. 4. 98, " Public Dept.

ORDER.

No. 592. Dy. dated 20/4/98.
Recorded in to

JM *AM*
20/4/98 *R*

R

For
the Consol. R. No. 775
Agent S. S. Ry.
25/4/98