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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	365	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	5. 2. 1875	196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1/365

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
5th March 1875.*

No. 72. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th January 1875, No. 115:—

Read the following letter from W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 1st December 1874, No. 411.

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th August 1874, on the Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, dated 31st July 1874, I have the honor to report that emigrants to Ceylon are chiefly conveyed by the Agency established for the purpose by the Ceylon Government.

	Tons.	
Barque <i>Lawrence Nairnee</i>	293.	
Do. <i>Sultan Seconder</i>	200.	
Brig <i>Rosineeth</i>	219.	
Do. <i>Ameed</i>	172.	

2. The vessels noted in the margin are employed in the transport service. From October to February they sail from Kundugalli, three miles south of Paumben, and from March to September they sail from Devipatam on the main land. The vessels are provided with hospital accommodation, the three large vessels having each a Medical practitioner and all the vessels having two Medical Subordinates on board called patrols. Both at Devipatam and Kundugalli arrangements are made for the treatment of the sick, and the whole arrangements are under the superintendence of Mr. Reidy. The cost of passage by the Government vessels is 4 Annas.

3. The emigrants are chiefly agricultural laborers and artisans. Those of the former class usually receive advances from Kanganies or recruiters, and return to India after serving their contract time on the Coffee Estates. On arrival at the port of embarkation, the emigrants are inspected by the Medical Officer of the Agency, and those passed by him are booked and shipped generally under the care of a Kangani whom they have joined. To make the Kangani responsible for his party on the road to the Estates, he is furnished by the Superintendent of Emigration with a ticket and a nominal roll of the gang. At the port of embarkation and on arrival at the Estate, the Kangani is required to produce the number of emigrants going with him, or to account for those who are missing.

4. Before the vessel sails a list of the passengers is furnished to the Custom-house Officer, as required by Section 10, Act XXV. of 1859, and all other provisions of law are duly observed.

5. The interference of the Sea Customs Authorities is limited to the prevention of smuggling, but a close examination of the bundles of coolies returning from Ceylon is necessary, attempts to evade payment of duty on articles brought from the Island being frequent. The Deputy-Collector assures me that no unnecessary detention of the coolies is ever permitted, and that he makes enquiries of the return emigrants both at the ports and on the roads to see whether they have any complaints to make. He says he hears no complaints except of the levy of legitimate duty. It is only necessary that the Deputy-Collector should exercise proper supervision over his subordinates at Paumben and Devipatam.

6. With regard to definite complaints of fraud or extortion, Mr. Reidy should report such complaints to the Deputy-Collector, and, if necessary, to me. The Deputy-Collector has not, I believe, omitted to enquire into any such com-

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
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plaint, and I would not permit him to be careless in this matter, if any carelessness were brought to my notice. The complaints which have come to his notice have been few. In September 1873 two passengers by one of the vessels complained that the Sea Customs Superintendent at Devipatam improperly charged duty on their clothes, but they could not produce the clothes. The Deputy-Collector applied to Mr. Reidy to inform him if he was aware of any annoyance caused by the Sea Customs Officers to passengers by his vessels. Mr. Reidy recommended the removal of a particular peon and the examination of the passengers' baggage at Kundugalli, and both these suggestions were at once attended to. He also stated his belief that half the articles upon which duty was levied should be allowed to pass free as personal baggage or wearing apparel. On this point the Deputy-Collector did not agree with Mr. Reidy, and the only way to dispose of such general complaints is for the Deputy-Collector to be present as frequently as possible when the baggage is being passed. If the Deputy-Collector's decision is not accepted, definite cases can be selected for appeal.

7. In February last, Mr. Reidy sent up the case mentioned in his letter, dated 4th February, and embodied in these Proceedings, but the Deputy-Collector considered that the charge against the Customs peon was not proved, and that Mr. Reidy's own peon had been getting money from the coolies. In March last a peon was dismissed for receiving 6 Annas from three coolies, and this is the only case which has been detected. Instances of petty exaction of this kind will undoubtedly occur unless the peons are carefully watched and strict orders have been issued on the subject to the Sea Customs Superintendents at Paumben and Devipatam. The Emigration Agency subordinates should try to catch a Customs peon in the act.

8. The Deputy-Collector believes that the close examination of the baggage of return emigrants is the chief cause of complaints being made by Kunganies, and although the coolies themselves may be easily imposed upon, I doubt whether the Kunganies would allow extortion to be practised on those under their care.

9. The Government vessels appear to be used more by coolies going to Ceylon than by those returning. The number conveyed since January last is shown in the annexed Statement.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Statement showing the Number of Emigrants conveyed by Ceylon Government vessels to and from Ceylon from January to October 1874.

Months.	Number of emigrants conveyed to Ceylon.	Number of emigrants brought from Ceylon.
1874 January ...	998	4,047
" February ...	1,807	5,352
" March ...	5,955	10,023
" April ...	7,378	6,066
" May ...	18,797	4,698
" June ...	21,435	2,677
" July ...	13,081	3,853
" August ...	9,546	2,796
" September ...	7,499	2,888
" October ...	3,551	2,351
Total...	90,047	44,251

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Collector.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
5th March 1875.*

SUBMITTED for the information of Government, with reference to G. O., dated 31st July 1874, No. 953.

2. The frauds which the Ceylon Government ask the Madras Government to assist in stopping are supposed to arise from a system of extortion practised by Sea Customs peons who exact money from Ceylon coolies under the name of duty.

3. It would seem from the Collector's letter that no such system exists, that the local authorities are on the alert to punish such isolated instances of exaction as occur, and that all Mr. Reidy, the Superintendent of Immigration has to do is to apply to the Deputy-Collector when he sees cause for complaint.

4. There is one point however in which the practice of the Sea Customs officers at Kundugalli and Devipatam might be changed. The Board gather from paragraph 6 that the Deputy-Collector thinks articles of wearing apparel carried by the returning coolies in bundles are dutiable. The Board think that they should, as a rule, be allowed to pass free. Of course, if in any case there is a large quantity of new articles in a bundle, duty must be levied.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
For Secretary.

No. 73. ORDER THEREON, 5th March 1875, No. 365.

Separate Revenue, No. 12.

Customs.

ORDERED that the foregoing Proceedings be forwarded to the Ceylon Government with reference to their letter of 20th July 1874, No. 50.

2. The Board's suggestion in paragraph 4 is approved for adoption.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 20th January 1875.

Read the following letter from W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 1st December 1874, No. 411:—

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th August 1874, on the Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, dated 31st July 1874, I have the honor to report that emigrants to Ceylon are chiefly conveyed by the Agency established for the purpose by the Ceylon Government.

	Tons.	
Barque <i>Lawrence Nairnes</i>	293.	gin are employed in the transport
Do. <i>Sultan Seconder</i>	200.	service. From October to February,
Brig <i>Rosineeth</i>	219.	they sail from Kundugalli, three miles
Do. <i>Ameed</i>	172.	south of Paumben, and from March to

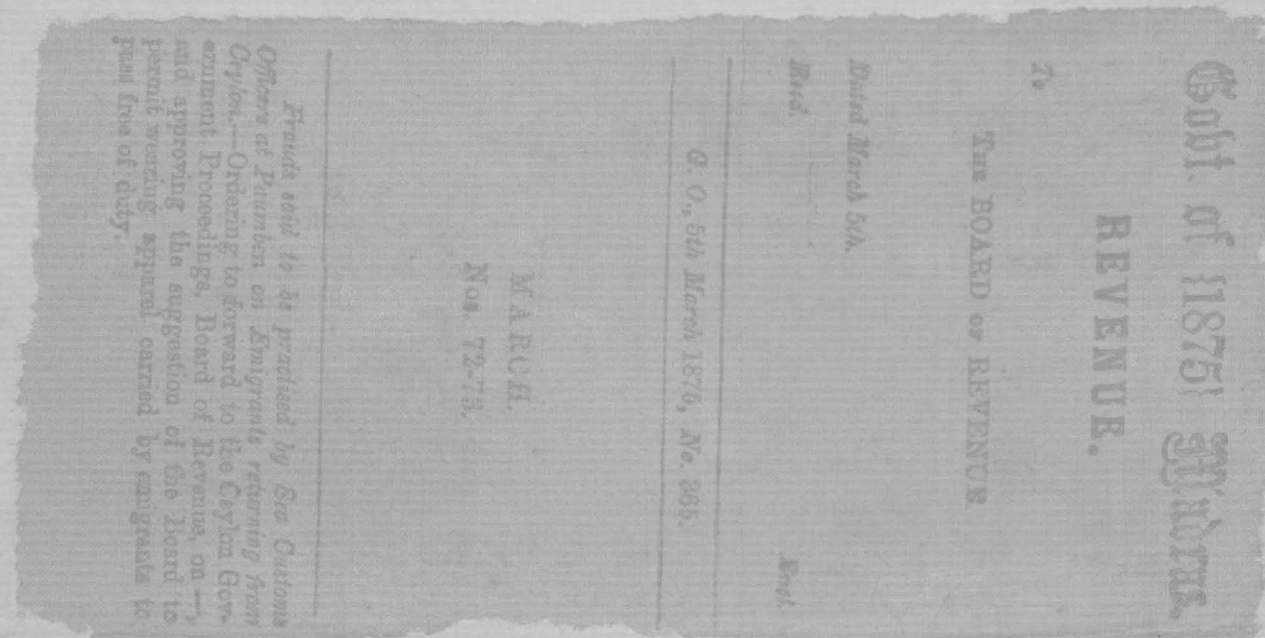
September they sail from Devipatam on the main land. The vessels are provided with hospital accommodation, the three large vessels having, each a Medical practitioner and all the vessels having two Medical Subordinates on board called patrols. Both at Devipatam and Kundugalli, arrangements are made for the treatment of the sick, and the whole arrangements are under the superintendence of Mr. Reidy. The cost of passage by the Government vessels is 4 Annas.

3. The emigrants are chiefly agricultural laborers and artizans. Those of the former class usually receive advances from Kanganies or recruiters, and return to India after serving their contract time on the Coffee Estates. On arrival at the port of embarkation, the emigrants are inspected by the Medical Officer of the Agency, and those passed by him are booked and shipped generally under the care of a Kangani whom they have joined. To make the Kangani responsible for his party on the road to the Estates, he is furnished by the Superintendent of Emigration with a ticket and a nominal roll of the gang. At the port of debarkation and on arrival at the Estate, the Kangani is required to produce the number of emigrants going with him, or to account for those who are missing.

4. Before the vessel sails, a list of the passengers is furnished to the Custom House Officer, as required by Section 10, Act XXV. of 1859, and all other provisions of law are duly observed.

5. The interference of the Sea Customs Authorities is limited to the prevention of smuggling, but a close examination of the bundles of coolies returning from Ceylon is necessary, attempts to evade payment of duty on articles brought from the Island being frequent. The Deputy-Collector assures me that no unnecessary detention of the coolies is ever permitted, and that he makes enquiries of the return emigrants both at the ports and on the roads to see whether they have any complaints to make. He says he hears no complaints except of the levy of legitimate duty. It is only necessary that the Deputy-Collector should exercise proper supervision over his subordinates at Paumben and Devipatam.

6. With regard to definite complaints of fraud or extortion, Mr. Reidy should report such complaints to the Deputy-Collector, and if necessary to me.



Revenue Dep^{ty}

No 365-

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 5th March 1875

Read the following

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Resolution



Submitting report of Collector that no such ^{complaints of} ~~practised~~ by Sea Custom Officers at Paumben Madura Dist^{ts} towards emigrants for Ceylon exists & that at Kundapalli & Devipattam a duty has been charged in one or two instances on articles of wearing apparel carried by returning coolies &c.

N. E. 20th January 1875 No. 115.

Ordered that the foregoing Proceedings be forwarded to the Ceylon Government with reference to their letter of 20 July 1874 No. 50.

2. The Board's suggestion in para 4 is approved for adoption.

Signature

144 To the Board of Revenue &c.

Signature

140/3

No 353

Revenue 1875, Sept 1875

Board of Revenue, MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 20TH JANUARY 1875, No. 115.

20th Jan 1875

Encl.

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Received 1. 11. 75

JANUARY. No. 115.

Fraud—practised by Sea Custom Officers at Paumben, in Madura District, towards emigrant for Ceylon.—Report of Collector that no such fraud exists and that at Kundapalli and Devipattam a duty has been charged in one or two instances on articles of wearing apparel carried by returning coolies, submitted to Government.—Opinion expressed that these articles should as a rule, be allowed to pass free, except when large quantities of new articles are carried.

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Hand practice of
Sea Customs Officers
at Rumbur
Madura Dist.

Am M Robinson
Do