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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	6126	Press.
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Dated	16.10.1877	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

82

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
MARINE DEPARTMENT.

10th October 1877, No. 552.

Native Passenger Ships Act.

Read the following papers:—

No. 20. *From the Colonial Secretary, Colombo, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Colombo, 11th September 1877, No. 87.*

I am directed by the Governor of Ceylon to acquaint you that the Superintendent of Immigration at Devipatam has received notice that the Government vessels employed in the conveyance of immigrant coolies are to be limited under the Act VIII of 1876 to one cooly per ton during the months of September and October and from January 1st to April 15th and to half a cooly per ton for the rest of the year.

2. His Excellency is not aware whether the vessels of the Ceylon Government were contemplated in the Act, but if they were, and if the notice in question has been properly issued under the Act, he would beg a reconsideration by the Madras Government of the decision. The Government vessels are specially selected and fitted for the service, they carry medical stores and a doctor on board, the transit occupies no more than from nine to fifteen hours, and the coolies are inspected by a Medical Officer before embarkation and on being landed.

3. Apart from the very large additional expenditure which would be involved in purchasing a fleet to carry the coolies under the limitations referred to above it would be impossible to procure the necessary number of suitable vessels within a reasonable time. The result therefore of the enforcement of the Act in the case of the Government vessels would be to drive the immigrants to native dhonies and so to deprive them of the advantages afforded by the Immigration Department, which has hitherto fulfilled its functions to the great advantage of the immigrants. A further result would be to withdraw the larger portion of the immigrants from the supervision of the Government Immigration Officers.

4. I am to add that the native dhonies, which are incomparably inferior to the Government vessels in a sanitary point of view, have during the recent excessive influx of immigrants conveyed large numbers of coolies from Devipatam as well as from Tuticorin, and it would appear that the provisions of the Act have not been enforced in many instances on craft of this class.

5. The Ceylon Government have no objection to offer to a strict enforcement of the Act in the case of these dhonies, which are miserably deficient as regards accommodation and all sanitary arrangements; but they trust that, for the reasons above stated, an exception may be made in favor of the Government vessels employed in the immigration service.

6. There is now a very abundant supply of labor in the country, and the matter is of importance at present chiefly because the restriction on the number carried by Government will drive a number of immigrants to native dhonies, where they will have to pay a far higher rate for passage than that charged by Government, and will incur a much greater risk of contracting disease.

7. But, when the rains fall in Southern India and the rush of coolies back to the Coast commences, the difficulty of providing passages at the prescribed rate per ton will be very serious.

8. I am therefore to request that you will be so good as to move His Grace the Governor of Madras in Council to reconsider the decision so far as it affects the Ceylon

Government, and to issue the necessary instructions to have the vessels employed by Government in the immigration service exempted from the operation of the Act.

9. I am at the same time to ask you to be so good as to send me a few copies of the Act.

No. 21. *Telegram to the Colonial Secretary, Colombo, dated 15th September 1877.*

Does Ceylon Government contemplate any restriction on immigration from Madura? If so, please give Madras Government all notice possible.

No. 22. *Telegram from the Colonial Secretary, Colombo, dated 17th September 1877.*

Telegram fifteenth received. Ceylon Government desire to restrict immigration only within limits which will enable Government to see that new arrivals among whom there is great sickness are properly cared for. Arrivals during July and August exceeded five thousand weekly, and Government Immigration Agent, Devipatam, was recently instructed to limit immigration by that route to from two thousand to two thousand five hundred weekly for the present month, but the recent action of the Master Attendant, Paumben, in extending provisions of Indian Act VIII of 1876 to Ceylon Government vessels has prevented Immigration Agent carrying out these instructions as under new rules only nine hundred can be carried weekly by our Government vessels. Letter on this subject has already been addressed to Madras Government.

No. 23. ORDER THEREON, 10th October 1877, No. 552.

Ordered that the following telegram be sent to the Ceylon Government:—

"Your telegram 17th September. Paumben Master Attendant directed not to apply Indian Act VI of 1876 to Ceylon Government vessels."

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Chief Secretary.

J. H. M. S.
Under Secy. to Govt.

To the Master Attendant, Madras.
„ the Collector of Madura.
„ all Collectors of Maritime Districts.
„ the Revenue Department.
„ the Revenue (Famine) Department.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Revenue Defaulter

No 41405

Govt. of 11877 Madras.

MARINE

To THE MASTER ATTENDANT,
Madras,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated October, 10th.

Issued *15*

Recd. 15 October

G.O., 10th October 1877, No. 552.

See File

OCTOBER.

NOs. 20-23.

2 Dec 1878 Revenue

Native Passenger Ships Act.—Ceylon Govern-
ment informed that the Master Attendant,
Panbani, has been directed not to supply Indian
Act VIII of 1876 to Ceylon Government vessels.

19.6.1878

Commr. of the

Board of Revenue

W. A. M. B.