

APR. 1915
15801

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167

REPATRIATION OF INDIAN ARTIZANS
ENGAGED FOR THE P.W.D.

1915

6th March

Last previous Paper.

This copy of correspondence with the Agents in India. Matter has also been discussed with representatives of the Agents and it is hoped that there will be no further cause for complaint.

Nov
964
145

Mr. B. B. Stewart to Mr. G. F. Files

A most unsatisfactory business, resulting in a loss to the Govt of £533-3-2 (see 964 1/2). Protests have been entered by the P.A.P. Com. that it is very hard to fix the blame, and the evidence is conflicting. If the Ch. Sec's account of the men who had been previously employed by the P.W.D. (para 3 - on p. 16 of encl. 5) with para 7 of Mr. Davison's letter (p. 21), and again with the letters from two of them on Wagon in West Africa (pp. 24-26) are correct, I think, perhaps the matter should be treated as if money would be saved if a P.W.D. repatriation

Last account Paper

1912

sent to India ~~to recruit the men~~
as stated in Dr. Davison's letter (page 21)

? Ach. recs. say that the present
system appears to be most unsatisfactory,
and suggest that unless the Govt. is
satisfied that ~~there~~ adequate safe-
guards against future complaints

of this kind can be provided, it would
be preferable to send a representative
of the Dept. concerned to India to
recruit the men.

H.F.D. 7.4.15

I do not attach much weight to the letters from
Wazir Din (22nd Oct.) & Amir (20 Oct.) enclosed
in Dr. Davison's letter of 21 Oct. The dates
seem to show that, even if the letters were
not written in response to an invitation from
Dr. Davison but on their own initiative, at
all events he left himself no time to
consider the "personal equation".

If it is probable that in some cases
ignorance was feigned in order to secure return
to India, the ^{objection} ~~objection~~ there is against this is
the fact of the men having to pay a heavy
fee for medical examination in India.

Rs 35 may
an exaggeration

I do not think it is worth while suggesting to
the Govt. that it should be sent to recruit the
men ~~already~~ ^{already} ~~the suggestion~~ ^{the suggestion} ~~has been~~
made. The present ~~arrangement~~ ^{arrangement} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~very~~ ^{very} ~~good~~ ^{good} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~likely~~ ^{likely} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~improved~~ ^{improved} ~~by~~ ^{by} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~present~~ ^{present} ~~arrangement~~ ^{arrangement} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~likely~~ ^{likely} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~improved~~ ^{improved} ~~by~~ ^{by} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~present~~ ^{present} ~~arrangement~~ ^{arrangement}

Mr. Garrison who has a world of work
which to test the men & prevent the
prevention to have a good supply
of the material required

420

? And I say that we shall be
glad to be prof^d in the course
whether the ~~the~~ ^{subsequently} articles ^{engaged} are
found to be more satisfactory.

W.C.P. 8/4/15

H. J. R.
8/17/15

at once W.C.

9.4.15

Remind of work.

[Possibly they have not engaged any
more, but it will be best not to lose sight of
the matter].

W.C.P. 5.2.16 at once

BRITISH EAST AFRICA

March 5th 1915.

15801
REC'D
APR 15

300
964
14-5

Sir,

With reference to paragraph 3 of your despatch No.84 of the 3rd of February on the subject of the repatriation to India of artizans engaged for the Public Works Department I have the honour to enclose herewith copies of the correspondence which has taken place between this Government and the Agents in India.

Messrs. Mackinnon
Mackenzie & Co.
Bombay

28. 8. 14
th encs.

om do.
18. 9. 14
th enclosures

om do.
6. 11. 14
th enclosures

2. The matter has also been discussed with a representative of the Agents who has recently passed through Nairobi and it is hoped that we shall have no further cause for complaint.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

Alauddin Bajaj

GOVERNOR.

RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARGREAVES, P.C., & CO.

SECURITY OF STATE PRINTING CO. LTD.

DOWNING STREET

LONDON

421 4

Public Works Department,
Head Office,
Nairobi.

In reply please quote No.441/8
and date July 21st, 1914.

The Honourable Acting Chief Secretary,
Nairobi.

Indentured Artizans, P.W.D.

Ref. S.9036 of July 15th 1914.

All the men were tested on arrival and the work of those to be repatriated was inspected by myself in order that there should be no injustice done to any of the men.

2. The men who have lately arrived, are, taken as a whole, extremely bad workmen and it will be cheaper to return those mentioned in my letter to the Treasurer, at once, as the loss in one year would otherwise be far in excess of the cost of their passages from and to India.

3. As the men were accepted by our Agents in India we are unable to repudiate the contracts but the Agents will be asked for an explanation of their action in writing on men who are admittedly not tradesmen.

4. As regards the Carpenters, Blacksmiths and Fitters their work was the subject of reports by the Workshop Foreman and the Executive Engineer prior to my inspection. In the case of Masons reliance was not placed merely on reports received from the quarry but stone was carted to the Public Works Yard and 8 doubtful cases were tested under the continuous inspection of the Executive Engineer. I and the Deputy Director also inspected the work during its progress and on completion.

Sd/- W.H. Tanner
for Director of Public Works.

Indentured Artizans.

425

No.	Name	Trade	Task Set	Measure of incompetency.
28	Haji Mohamed	Carpenter	Making common dining chair to pattern supplied.	1 day's job generally incomplete in 2 to 4 days - useless.
28	Rood Singh	"	"	"
29	Phaman Singh	"	"	"
30	Sadhoo Singh	"	"	"
31	Ishar Singh	"	"	Worth only 4/- p.m.
33	Megh Singh	"	"	" " 40/-
34	Inder Singh	"	"	" " 40/-
36	Labh Singh	"	Cancelled. Making common dining chair to pattern supplied.	
	Narain Singh	"	"	Worth only 40/-
2	Jetha Singh	"	"	" " 40/-
3	Assa Singh	"	"	Useless.
4	Mangal Singh	"	"	"
7	Dewa Singh	"	"	Worth only 40/- p.m.
6 *	Gulam Mahomed	Mason	Rough chisel dress 8 in. feet 8" coursed soft stone from quarry bed top face ends square.	3 Hours job uncompleted in 6 hours. useless.
7 X	Peer Mohamed	"	"	"
8	Imam Din	"	"	"
2 X	Saddar Din	"	"	"
X	Noor Hosain	"	"	"
X	Kiam Din	"	"	"
	Pali Singh	"	"	Retained by D.P.W's order.
X	Siag An	"	"	Useless.
	Mohamed	"	(see artizans 866)	Useless.

97	Mirag Din			Worth only 30/- p.m.
98	Fazal Din	"	"	" " 30/-
99	Gulam Mohamed	"	"	" " 35/-
100	Illum Din	Black-smith.	Welding 2 pieces of 2 1/2" x 3/4" mild steel to form a T.	Useless.
101	Basant Singh	Carpenter	Making common dining chair to pattern supplied.	Worth only 40/-
102	Guardit Singh	"	"	Useless.
103	Puran Singh	"	"	Worth only 40/-
104	Prem Singh	"	"	Useless.
105	Basant Singh	"	"	"
106	Manzal Singh	"	"	Worth only 40/-
107	Varian Singh	"	"	Useless.
108	Magha Singh	"	"	"
109	Santa Singh	"	"	"
110	Batan Singh	"	"	"
111	Ujajar Singh	"	"	"
112	Sewa Singh	"	"	"
113	Khari Singh	"	"	"
114	Uma Singh	"	"	"
115	Ghula Singh	"	"	"
116	Makhan Singh	"	"	Worth only 40/- p.m.
117	Ram Singh	"	"	Useless.
118	Budh Singh	"	"	Worth 90/-

Cancelled by
Workshop Manager

British Protectorates in Africa
Administered by the Colonial Office
Nicol Road, Ballard Pier .

25th September 1914.

Indian Artizans

Your Excellency,

We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's despatch No.G-S 9036 of 28th ultimo relative to the repatriation of certain Indian Artizans engaged for the Public Works Department in May last and in reply to report that the Artizans in question were selected by and engaged through Mr. Jas Davison of Lahore under specific instructions from the Hon^{ble} the Treasurer, a copy of whose telegram of 9th April last is herewith appended for Your Excellency's information.-

A copy of our letter No.907 of 13th April 1914 to Mr.Davison is also enclosed from which it will be seen that the necessity for selecting really good workmen with a thorough knowledge of their trade was clearly impressed upon him and it is greatly regretted that they have turned out to be so unsatisfactory, thereby causing much unnecessary expense and inconvenience to Government.

2. A copy of Your Excellency's despatch under acknowledgment is being transmitted to Mr.Davison with the request to furnish a full explanation in the matter and a further communication will be addressed to Your Excellency on hearing from him.-

We have etc.,

Sd/- Mackinnon Mackenzie & Co.

Agents.

Your Excellency The Governor,

British East Africa Protectorate,

N A I R O B I .

Copy of telegram from the Honourable the Treasurer,
British East Africa Protectorate, Nairobi,
dated the 9th April 1944.

Please obtain soon as possible through Davison Lahore
Indentured Artizans Public Works Department same
terms as last 80 carpenters 60 masons 15 blacksmiths
10 fitters 10 painters - Ag. Treasurer.-

Bombay, 13th April 1914

Indentured Artizans

Dear Sir,

We beg to confirm our telegram of date reading as follows:-

"East Africa Protectorate requires as early as possible for Public Works Department eighty Carpenters sixty masons fifteen blacksmiths ten fitters ten painters stop wages fifty Rupees monthly same terms as last please select accordingly agreement forms follow"

and to inform you that 80 carpenters, 60 masons, 15 blacksmiths 10 fitters and 10 painters are required for the Public Works Department of the British East Africa Protectorate for a period of three years' service under the usual agreement for indentured Artizans on a salary of Rs.50/- each per annum.-

2. The artizans should be really good workmen having a thorough knowledge of their trade and be of good character and physique.- They should be medically examined as to their fitness for service in Africa as usual.- Other conditions of service will be the same as were made applicable to men engaged on previous occasions.-

3. As the artizans are required as early as possible we shall be glad if you will endeavour to select the men without delay and despatch them to Bombay as soon as they are enlisted. Agreement forms are being despatched to you by separate railway parcel.- The sailing dates to Mombasa are 30th instant, 14th and 28th May 1914 and 11 & 26th June 1914.-

Yours faithfully,

Jas. Watson, Secy.,
Messrs. J. Watson & Co.

Jas. Watson, Secy.,

Messrs. J. Watson & Co.

British Protectorates in Africa
Administered by the Colonial Office
Nicol Road, Ballard Pier.

Bombay, 6th November 1914 .

Indian Artizans.

Your Excellency,

In continuation of our despatch No.487 dated the 25th September last we have the honour to transmit herewith a letter in original No.238/P/194 dated the 21st ultimo, together with its accompaniments from Mr. Jas. Davison of Lahore, submitting a full explanation in respect of certain returned Artizans engaged through him for employment in the Public Works Department of the British East Africa Protectorate.-

2. Mr. Davison's Office Register referred to in para 3 of his letter is being forwarded to Your Excellency by separate post for inspection and we shall be glad if it can kindly be returned when done with for transmission to Mr. Davison.-

We have etc.,

Encls.

Sd/- Mackinnon Mackenzie & Co.,
Agents.

His Excellency the Governor,
British East Africa Protectorate.

N a i r o b i .

G.

9636/

435

February, 24th. 1915.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No.487 of the 25th of September respecting the repatriation to India of certain Indian artisans engaged for the Public Works Department in this Protectorate.

2. As regards paragraph 5 of Mr Davison's letter dated the 21st of October, this Government is quite prepared to admit the importance of the personal equation in dealings with people of the class in question. In the present instance, however, all the men received identical treatment, their work was in every case inspected by the Director of Public Works himself, and there is no reason to suppose that the men who were rejected were doing unsatisfactory work in order to be sent back to India.

MESSRS. MACKINNON, MACKENZIE & CO.,

HIGH ROAD,

BOMBAY, INDIA.

3. With regard to paragraph 7 of Mr Davison's letter

(a) Peer Mahomed was engaged in May 1907 and was sent back to India in August 1908 as incompetent, nearly two years before the expiration of his agreement. He received no certificate of good service on leaving.

(b) Sadder Din, Pateh Mahomed, and Ameer were sent back to India with gangs totalling 135. At the time the Director of Public Works intimated that 47 of these men might be re-engaged if they presented themselves for another tour of service within six months of landing, but the three men in question were not included in this list. I do not know whether these two lists, of 135 and 47 men respectively, were communicated by you to Mr Davison. In the case of Sadder Din and Pateh Mahomed, no certificates of good service were given, while Ameer is actually described as unsatisfactory.

(c) Wasir Din was sent back to India before the termination of his agreement upon a medical certificate that he was suffering from chronic bronchitis and asthma.

4. With regard to paragraph 8 of Mr Davison's letter there is no intention of sending officers of the Public Works Department to India to assist in recruiting.

21st. October 1914.

The Agents in India
for the British Protectorates in Africa
BOMBAY.

ARTIZANS.

Dear Sirs,

In continuation of my office letter No. 238/194
dated 6th. inst., and in reply to your letter No. 2

East Africa dated 23rd. September 1914 with copies of
2504 letters from the Treasury and Chief Secretary to Govt.

Nairobi attached, I beg to submit herewith the following.

(1) I am extremely surprised, disheartened, and regret
hearing that 41 artizans out of 166 I had selected and
despatched in May and June 1914 for the Public Works
Dept., British East Africa Protectorate, had been returned
to India as useless.

(2) As you know, I postponed my departure from
India from 24th. to 1st. July to enable me to personally
attend to the trying and engaging of the 175 artizans
required.

(3) I am forwarding to you by Book-Post my office
Register (for inspection and return, and if considered
necessary it may be sent on to the Director P.W.Dept.,
British East Africa Protectorate) giving full particulars
of the number of men tried in their work, from which it
will be seen that I tried 274 artizans, out of which 84
failed in their work and 24 failed the Doctor; leaving a
balance of 166 who were despatched in May and June 1914.

This

This shows I rejected over 50 per cent of the men in 447 their work. The following table will be a ready reference to the Register.

Engaged 59 Masons

Page in Register	Failed in work test	Failed Doctor
19	9	"
20	12	2
21	7	"
22	2	"
30	12	3
31	3	2

Engaged 80 Carpenters

Page

25	8	4
26	5	6
27	"	1
28	2	3
29	5	1
32	3	"

Engaged 10 Fitters

Page 22	5	"
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Engaged 10 Painters

Page 23	11	"
---------------	----------	---

Engaged 7 Blacksmiths

Page 24	5	2
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Total 166 Artizans. Failed in work test -84- Failed Doctor -24- Total number tried in work -274 men.

(4) Against.

4. Against this proof how can it be said that I neglected my duty and risked my reputation in deliberately selecting and despatching utterly useless and incompetent men. 441

5. As mentioned in previous correspondence, please see my letters Nos. Africa 72, 205 and 351 dated 2-4-07, 14-10-07 and 27-3-09 respectively, the question of whether men sent are, or are not good workmen, will always be a disputable point for the reasons given in my above quoted letters, and will always depend on who has the handling of men and how he does it. Kindly refer to these letters, as they clearly explain points not ordinarily taken into account.

6. I can honestly and conscientiously say that every possible care was taken by me in trying the men. The fact of my trying and rejecting 84, and trying a total of 274 artizans to secure 166, goes some little way to prove it.

7. Some of the men returned have worked in the P.W. Dept. B.E. Africa Protectorate before, fulfilling their three years agreements, and hold good certificates from Officers of the Department. Can these men now be useless and incompetent? I give below their names and dates of their former agreements.

No
see
previous
encl.

- Mason Peer Mahomed s/o Fakeer Mahomed agreement d/ May 1907
- " Saddar Din s/o Ibrahim " " " "
- " Fatch Mahomed s/o Fakir Mahomed " " " "
- " Amoor s/o Kamala " " Dec. 1910
- Carpenter Wazir Din s/o Imam Din January 1906

8. It is stated in one of the applications which I attach in original with translations of same that it is the wish of some of the officials in Africa to be sent by the Department to India to recruit their own men and now therefore reject as many as they possibly can. I would be only too pleased to be of every

Translation of Vernacular application of carpenters

Wazir Din.

Jas. Davison Esq.

Lahore.

Sir,

I beg respectfully to bring to your kind notice that when I reached Nairobi and reported for work I was ordered to give trial of my work I replied that I have already given trial to Mr. Davison at Lahore on this I was ordered if I would not give trial I will be sent back to Lahore then I gave of my work, they gave me some furniture to make which I finished and prepared in 2 days very nicely properly speaking it was full 3 days work which I finished in 2 days then both Mr. Bush and Williams said that I am a man like cooly and not fit for work, go away to your residence I replied submissively that I have worked before in 1906 in Public Works Department and fulfilled my 3 years agreement and returned to India after satisfying my District Officer (Mr. Bland) for which I hold certificate granted to me No. 950 d/- 13-11-1908, Sir according to my agreement I should be paid 3 years pay for which I applied to but no to effect.

In conclusion I beg to request you to kindly arrange for my 3 years pay according to my agreement or allow me to seek judgment from Court.

I beg, eo.
(sd) Wazir Din

Lahore, Dated 22/10/1914.

-25

Translation of Vernacular application of Stone
Mason Amcer s/o Kamala.

445

Jas Davison Esq.

Lahore.

Respected Sir,

I respectfully beg that you very kindly offered me a post of stone mason and sent to Africa in May 1914 on arrival there I worked for three months and after that I was made unfit for the work, Sir. I have been twice before through you to Africa and after completing full period of 3 years every time returned to India without any complaint Respected Sir, it will not be out of place to mention here that Babu Ganda mall and Workshop Manager both are mixed with each other and I understand they are trying to come to recruit the men themselves in Punjab this is the only reason for which they have made me unfit for the service while I have been there twice before and worked under these officers as per agreements dated 16-10-06 and 10-12-10 respectively and given satisfaction and obtained certificates from officers and especially from the Governor of East Africa all these certificates were presented to Babu Ganda mal who tore this and destroyed into pieces. Sir, I engaged a pleader there to fight my case and get me on work (after passing) a test in masonry work, I was ordered to work in fort, on completion of same I received a notice terminating my services and returned to India I had submitted several applications but to effect and not I was permitted to see the Engineer in Chief though applied for but a notice was posted on board that no man ... see Engineer in Chief, personally and those who ... so will be liable to undergo a fine.

- In

In conclusion I respectfully beg to request you to kindly arrange for my three years pay according to my agreement made between myself and the Agent in India for the British Protectorates in Africa on behalf of His Majesty's Government on the 11th day of May 1914 or I may be permitted to go for judgment to the Court.

I beg, &c.,

(sd) Amir s/o Kamala

Stone Mason

Lahore,

20-10-1914.

28
443

Copy of a letter Africa No. 205 dated 14th October 1907
from Mr. Jas Davison Lahore to the Agent General in India for
the British Protectorates, in Africa, Bombay.

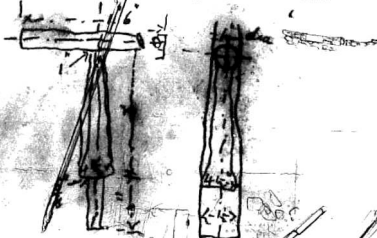
Indentured Artizans

Sir,

I beg to own receipt of your letter No. East Africa
dated 28th ultimo. 3630

The Doctor has been asked for his explanation regarding
artizan Kuda Bux S/o Kurrum Bux. On receipt of his reply it
will be forwarded on to you for disposal.

As regards the three Blacksmiths named I do not understand
how these men can possibly be pronounced as knowing nothing
whatever of their trade. Each one individually (not in the
presence of each other) was tried by me personally at the Forge.
Each one had to make up an Iron handle to a finished sample as
per sketch below, out of a couple of 1 1/2" Iron links



On their being able to turn out one finished exactly to sample
they were accepted out of a number of others who failed to do so.

I cannot with my 25 years experience as a Mechanical
Engineer, with a large varied workshop experience, understand
how these men can be said to know nothing whatever about their
trade.

trade.

If they were expected to make up an article from a rough sketch, or from verbal instructions, from a man who could not make himself understood in their language, I can understand their not being able to do it, as all said and done they are only workmen, and used to taking instructions from and working under the guidance and supervision of native Mistris.

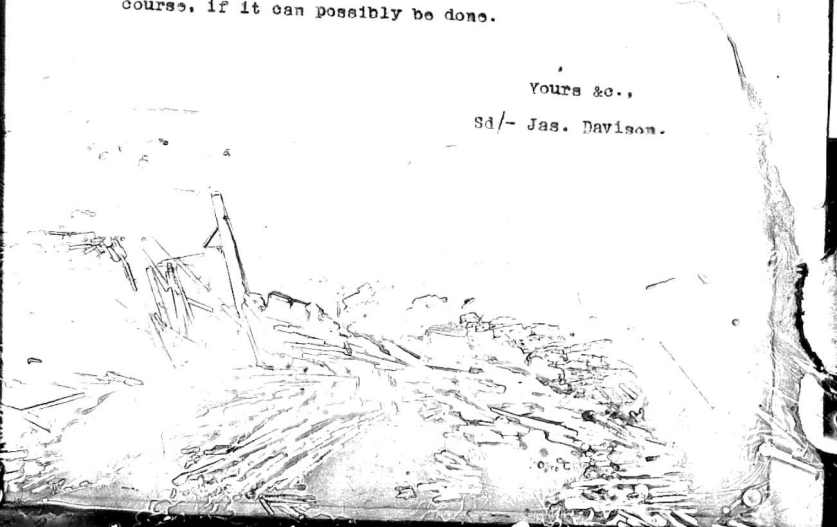
It also seems strange that all the three men sent in the one batch should be condemned.

It is not possible to get men all of the same calibre for instance, take a large workshop in India employing 100 to 200 Blacksmiths; how many are there among these who can do any and every job put before them, still they are all Blacksmiths and work is carried on satisfactorily under proper supervision and distribution of work according to each man's capabilities.

I have sent for these men, and should they come to me I intend having them tried in the presence of two responsible Govt. Engineers and will submit their report in due course, if it can possibly be done.

Yours &c.,

Sd/- Jas. Davison.



Copy of a letter Africa No. 351 dated 27th March 1907
from Mr. Jas Davison Lahore, to the Agent General in India
for the British Protectorates in Africa, Bombay.

Carpenters

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No. Africa 350 dated
24th instant, I beg to forward herewith enclosed carpenter
Sawan Singh's (S/o Ram Singh) statement, with copies of his
certificates, and a letter from Mr. Ram Singh, Principal,
Mayo School of Art, Lahore who is well known both in
England and India for his work in carpentry.

For my part all I can say is that Sawan Singh worked
in my workshop on trial for three days, and did all the
work allotted to him to my entire satisfaction, or he would
not have been engaged.

Am afraid there will always be a difference of opinion
as to workmen's abilities especially if they have to work
under those not actually engaging them, and would suggest if
I may, that a test procedure of some kind be laid down for
guidance by the authorities in Africa, so that men would be
engaged only after passing satisfactorily the test specified.

The above remarks apply also to carpenters Kartar Singh
S/o Dya Singh, and Sawan Singh S/o Esar Singh. The former is
I believe very ill just now, but will if I can get his state-
ment later on. The latter it seems has been taken service on the
Uganda Railway.

Yours faithfully

Jas Davison