

EMIGRATION ACT 1844

ACT NO. XXI. OF 1844

(Rep., by 13 of 1864)

[16th November, 1844.]

Passed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor General of India in Council on the 16th November, 1844.

AN Act for regulating the Emigration of the Native Inhabitants of the Territories under the Government of the East India Company to Jamaica, British Guiana and Trinidad.

I. It is hereby enacted, that Act No. XIV. of 1839, and all Acts repealed thereby so far as the same are applicable to the Emigration of Natives from the Ports of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay respectively, to Jamaica, British Guiana, and Trinidad, respectively, are repealed. Provided always that the aforesaid Act No. XIV. of 1839 shall remain in full force in all the Ports of India, except the Ports aforesaid, and in regard to Emigrants from India proceeding to other places than Jamaica, British Guiana, Trinidad and Mauritius.

II. And it is hereby enacted, that after the passing of this Act, Emigrant Laborers, being Native inhabitants of the Territories under the Government of East India Company, shall be allowed to pass and to be conveyed to Jamaica, British Guiana, and Trinidad respectively, from the Ports of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay respectively, but not otherwise.

III. And it is hereby enacted, that at each of the three Ports aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the Government of the Presidency within which the port is situated, to authorize such persons as may be nominated by the Governments of Jamaica, British Guiana or Trinidad, to act as Emigration Agents at the aforesaid Ports respectively, and to exercise the powers conferred on Emigration Agents by this Act, and every such Emigration Agent shall make Monthly Reports to the Government to which he is subordinate of all matters transacted by him in pursuance of this Act.

IV. And it is hereby enacted, that at each of the three Ports aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the Government of the Presidency within which the Port is situated to nominate a proper person to act as Protector of Emigrants at the aforesaid Ports respectively.

V. And it is hereby enacted, that it shall not be lawful to convey any Emigrant, being a Native of India, who may embark for the purpose of labouring for hire in any of the Colonies of Jamaica, British Guiana or Trinidad from any of the Ports aforesaid in any Ship or Vessel unless a licence be obtained for carrying Emigrants in such Ship or Vessel from the Government of the Presidency in which the Port is situated. A fee not exceeding One Rupee per Emigrant as may be

regulated from time to time by the local Government, shall be demandable in respect of every such licence, which fee shall be carried to the credit of the said Government, and the granting or withholding any, such licence shall be entirely discretionary with the Government, and in consideration of such licence the Master of every Ship conveying or destined to convey Emigrants from India shall execute a Bond binding himself and his Owners in a penal sum of 10,000 Rupees to conform to the several conditions herein provided, and the said Bond shall, be executed in duplicate that it may be put in suit either at the place of execution or in the Colony, to which the Emigrants are to be conveyed, and one copy shall be forwarded to the Government of such Colony to be dealt with as the case may require. And every Ship or Vessel in which any such Emigrant shall be conveyed without a licence being obtained as aforesaid shall be liable to be forfeited and the Master thereof shall be liable as for a misdemeanor in a fine of 1,000 Rupees for every such Emigrant so illegally conveyed.

VI. And it is hereby enacted, that it shall not be lawful for the Master of any Vessel licensed as above to receive on board any Emigrant laborer, as above provided, unless such laborer shall have in his possession and show a Certificate or Pass to be given to him by the Emigration Agent of the Port, countersigned by the Protector, stating his name and the name of his father and his age, and certifying that having appeared before such Agent he has declared his willingness to proceed to work for hire in the Colony to which such Vessel is bound and has been engaged by him as an Emigrant to such Colony on the part of the Government thereof.

VII. And its is hereby enacted, that before any Ship or Vessel so licensed to carry Emigrant laborers as above provided, shall be cleared out from any of the afore said Ports for any one of the three Colonies aforesaid, it shall be necessary for the Master of such Ship or Vessel, provided any Emigrant of the description aforesaid, shall embark therein to obtain from the Emigration Agent so nominated and authorized at such Port as aforesaid, a certificate under the hand of such Agent to the effect following, that is to say-

1st. That such Agent has by personal communication done what is required on the part of such Agent by the 3d Article of the Schedule hereunto annexed, provided always that every such Agent shall make the inquiries specified in such Schedule in an open Court or public office to which all persons shall have admission.

2dly. That all the directions contained in the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th Articles of the said Schedule for ensuring the health and safety of Passengers have been duly complied with.

3dly. That (in addition to the directions contained in the said Schedule) such rules have been complied with as the Governor General in Council shall from time to time frame touching the medical attendance and medical stores and the proper clothing to be provided, the species of provisions suited to native habits, the number of women that should accompany the Emigrants, or other matters.

VIII. And it is hereby enacted, that the probable lengths of the voyages to Jamaica, British Guiana and Trinidad from the Ports aforesaid respectively shall for the purposes of this Act be deemed to be

For the Port of Calcutta twenty weeks;
For the Port of Madras nineteen weeks;
For the Port of Bombay nineteen weeks;

and that no Ship or Vessel carrying Emigrant laborers to Jamaica, British Guiana or Trinidad shall sail from Calcutta, Madras or Bombay; at any other time than between the 30th day of any September and the 1st of March next thereafter ensuing.

IX. And it is hereby enacted, that before any Ship or Vessel shall be cleared out from any of the aforesaid Ports for Jamaica, British Guiana or Trinidad, it shall be necessary for the Master thereof to deliver to the Emigration Agent, so nominated and authorized at such Port as aforesaid the list specified in Article 10 of the said Schedule, and to obtain such duplicate thereof as is required by the said Article.

X. And it is hereby enacted, that if the Master of any Ship or Vessel shall at any of the Ports aforesaid take on board such Ship or Vessel any Emigrant laborer of the description aforesaid, and shall clear such Ship or Vessel for Jamaica, British Guiana or Trinidad without having fully complied with every particular hereinbefore required previous to clearance he shall be liable on conviction before any Magistrate or Justice of the Peace in a penalty of 200 Rupees for every Emigrant laborer so taken on board his Ship or Vessel.

XI. And it is hereby enacted, that if the Master of any Ship or Vessel shall after having cleared such Ship or Vessel at any such Port as aforesaid for Jamaica, British Guiana or Trinidad take on board any such Emigrant laborer as aforesaid without having entered such Emigrant laborer in such list as aforesaid, or without having obtained such duplicate as aforesaid containing the entry of such Emigrant prior to clearance, he shall be liable on conviction before any Magistrate or Justice of the Peace in a penalty not exceeding 500 Rupees for every Emigrant so taken on board his Ship or Vessel.

XII. And it is hereby enacted, that if any Master of any Ship or Vessel cleared for Jamaica, British Guiana or Trinidad as aforesaid shall, after having obtained such Certificate as aforesaid fraudulently do or suffer to be done any act or thing whereby such Certificate shall become inapplicable to the altered state of the Ship or Vessel, its Passengers or other matters to which such Certificate relates, such Master shall be liable on conviction in any Penalty not exceeding 5000 Rupees, beside incurring a forfeiture of any Bond executed in consideration of any licence obtained for the Vessel as originally described.

XIII. And it is hereby enacted, for the greater security against Emigrant laborers being embarked for Jamaica, British Guiana or Trinidad, contrary to the provisions of this Act that all

the powers vested by law in the Officers of Customs in regard to the searching and detention of Ships or Vessels, or otherwise for the prevention of smuggling on board thereof, may be exercised by such Officers for the prevention of the illegal embarkation of such Emigrants as aforesaid on board Ships or Vessels bound for Jamaica, British Guiana or Trinidad, and of other offences against this Act; and it is further enacted, that all Pilots in the service of the East India Company shall be invested with the same powers and be charged with the same duties as Preventive Officers of Customs in this behalf.

XIV. And it is hereby enacted, that every person who shall attempt by means of intoxication or by false imprisonment, or other means of crimping to export any Native on board any Ship or Vessel contrary to the provisions of this Act shall be liable to be punished on conviction before a Magistrate in a fine not exceeding 500 Rupees, or imprisonment not exceeding six months, provided that nothing in this Act contained shall prevent the offender from being proceeded against by indictment, but the offender shall only be liable to one of these courses of proceeding.

XV. And it is hereby enacted, that whenever a Vessel shall clear from Calcutta for Jamaica, British Guiana or Trinidad with Emigrant laborers duly embarked thereon, the Customs Officer on board such Vessel shall countersign the Pass or Certificate brought on board such Vessel, by every such Emigrant laborer, and shall keep a Register of every such Emigrant laborer as may come on board. And such Customs Officer shall remain on board such Vessel until she shall arrive in Saugor Roads and shall not come away until a muster of the Crew and Passengers and Emigrant laborers has been made in his presence and in that of the Pilot in charge of the Vessel ; and after the Customs Officer has taken muster and quitted the Vessel the Pilot shall continue to exercise the duties indicated in Section XIII. of this Act, and it shall be lawful for him if he shall deem it necessary to require the Master or Commander to take a general muster of the Crew and Passengers and Emigrant laborers on board and to sign a muster roll so taken, and every such Custom House Officer and Pilot shall make a complete report of the Emigrant laborers on board of any Ship at the time of his quitting the same, and such report shall contain a declaration that to the best of the Declarant's belief, no additional Emigrant laborers have been received on board since obtaining the Certificate, and that nothing else has been done or omitted to be done in the Ship or Vessel contrary to the provisions of this Act, and every such report or muster, if any, shall be transmitted without delay to the Emigration Agent of the Port. And any Custom House Officer or Pilot who shall wilfully make a false, erroneous or incomplete Report of the Emigrant laborers on board of any Ship, or who shall connive at the unauthorized embarkation of any such Emigrant laborers, shall be liable, besides dismissal, to a fine of 500 Rupees, commutable, if not paid, to imprisonment in the Calcutta Jail for six months, and the penalty shall be adjudged in like manner as similar penalties are adjudged for offences committed in respect to the Customs Revenue.

XVI. And it is hereby enacted, that if any person shall forge or shall use, knowing it to be forged, any document required by this Act such person shall be liable to be imprisoned for any period not exceeding seven years..

XVII. And it is hereby enacted, that all the several penalties to which the Masters of Ships or Vessels are liable by this Act, shall be enforced by information laid before any Justice of the Peace at the instance of the Emigration Agent or of any Officer appointed for the purpose by the Government of the Place or Presidency, or may be enforced by putting in suit the Bond given by the master, if such Bond has been given in consideration of the licence granted to the Ship.

SCHEDULE.

1. The Governors of Jamaica, British Guiana and Trinidad may from time to time nominate such persons as they shall see fit to act as Emigration Agents at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay.

2. The remuneration to be given to any such Agent in India, shall not depend upon or be regulated by the number of the Emigrants sent by him but shall be in the nature of an Annual Salary.

3. Every such Emigration Agent shall ascertain by personal communication with every Emigrant previously to his or her embarkation from the Port or Place for which such Agent shall have been appointed, that such Emigrant has not been induced to emigrate by any fraud, false or unreasonable expectation, and is aware of the distance of the Colony to which he or she is about to emigrate from the place where he or she is about to embark; and such Agent shall explain the real advantages likely to be derived by such Emigrant from a removal to such Colony, at the same time cautioning such Emigrant against unreasonable and unwarrantable expectations; and such Agent shall also ascertain that every such Emigrant is in good health, and not incapacitated from labour by old age, bodily infirmity, or disease.

4. It shall not be lawful to ship on board of any Ship or Vessel carrying Emigrants from India to any of the Colonies aforesaid, any number of Passengers exceeding the proportion of one person for every two tons of the registered burthen of such Ship or Vessel, and no such Ship or Vessel carrying Emigrants and having more than one deck, shall have less than the height of six feet at the least between decks, and in case such Ship or Vessel shall have only one deck, a platform shall be laid beneath such deck and in such manner as to afford a space of the height of six feet at the least, and that such platform shall not be so laid as that the lower beams shall project above the same, and that no such Ship or Vessel shall have more than two tiers of berths, and that no such Ship or Vessel shall carry Passengers on any such voyage to any of the Colonies aforesaid unless there shall be an interval of six inches at least between the deck or platform and the floor of the lower tier throughout the whole extent thereof; and whatever may be the tonnage of the Ship or Vessel, no greater number of Passengers shall be taken on board of such Ship or Vessel than shall be after the rate of one such person for every twelve superficial feet of the lower deck or platform unoccupied by goods or stores not being the personal luggage of such person.

5. In the computation of the number of Passengers within the meaning of these Regulations, two Children under the age of ten years shall be considered as equal to, and shall be reckoned as, one person only. A

6. There shall be actually laden on board of every Ship or Vessel, conveying Emigrants into any of the Colonies aforesaid at the time of departure of such Ship or Vessel from the Port or Place at which such laborers shall be embarked, good and wholesome provisions for the use and consumption of the said Passengers over and above the victuals of the Crew, to the amount or in the proportion following, that is to say, a supply of Water to the amount of five gallons for every week of the computed Voyage for every Passenger on board such Ship or Vessel such Water being carried in Tanks or Sweet Casks, and a supply of Rice, Bread, Biscuit, Flour, Oatmeal, or Bread stuffs to the amount of seven pounds weight to every week of the computed voyage for every such Passenger; provided always that when any such Ship or Vessel shall be destined to call at a Port or Place in the course of her voyage, for the purpose of filling up her Water Casks, a supply of Water at the rate beforementioned for every week of an average voyage to such Port or Place of calling, shall be deemed to be a compliance with this Regulation, and provided that the preceding Regulation regarding food shall be deemed to have been complied with in any case when it shall be made to appear, that by the special authority of the Governor General of India in Council any other articles of food were substituted for the articles above enumerated as being in his judgment equivalent thereto.

7. Before any such Ship or Vessel shall be cleared out on any such Voyage, the Agent appointed for the Port or Place from which such Ship or Vessel shall be cleared out, shall survey or cause to be surveyed by some competent person, the Provisions and Water hereinbefore required to be on board for the consumption of Passengers, and shall ascertain that the same are in good and sweet condition, and also that over and above the same there is on board an ample supply of Water and Stores for the victualling of the Crew of the Ship or Vessel, and shall also ascertain that such Ship or Vessel is generally reputed sea-worthy and that the directions hereinbefore contained for ensuring the health and safety of the Passengers have been complied with, and shall grant a Certificate thereof under his hand to the Master of such Ship or Vessel.

8. The Master of every Ship or Vessel conveying Emigrants to Jamaica, British Guiana or Trinidad shall be bound to provide for and furnish to every such Emigrant and his wife and children, a sufficient quantity of good and wholesome Provisions for his, her and their daily maintenance during such voyage and during the space of 48 hours next after the arrival of such Ship or Vessel at the place of destination.

9. Two copies of these Regulations, authenticated by the signature of the Agent at the Port or Place at which such Emigrants shall embark, shall be delivered to the Master by such Agent on demand at the time of clearance, and shall be kept on board of every Ship or Vessel carrying such Emigrants as aforesaid, and one of such copies shall upon request made at the reasonable times to the Master of the Ship or Vessel be produced to any Passenger for his perusal.

10. The Master of every Ship or Vessel carrying Emigrants from India to any of three Colonies aforesaid, shall before clearing out such Ship or Vessel, deliver to such Agent at the Port or Place from which such Vessel is cleared out, a list in writing, together with a duplicate of the same, specifying as accurately as may be, the names, ages and occupations of all and every the Emigrants on board such Ship or Vessel, and such Agent shall thereupon deliver to the said Master the counterpart of such lists, signed by such Agent, and the said Master shall on the arrival of such Ship or Vessel at the place of destination, and previous to the disembarkation of any such Emigrants give notice of the arrival of such Ship or Vessel, and deliver the said counterpart of such list to the protector of Immigrants appointed or to be appointed at the Colony at which the said Ship or Vessel may have arrived.

11. Provided always that nothing in these Regulations contained shall apply to any Ship or Vessel in the service of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, or to any of Her Majesty's Ships of War.
