

Pacific Island Labourers Act of 1880.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to make the following regulations under the Pacific Island Labourers Act of 1880.—

Applications for ship master's licences must be made in duplicate, in the form, and containing the particulars, specified in schedule N hereto, and must be delivered to the inspector of Pacific Islanders at the intended port of departure. The inspector will retain one copy and forward the other to the Immigration Agent at Brisbane, together with a report upon the several statements contained in the application, and the character of the officers and men intended to be employed, and a certificate from the shipping inspector at the port as to the seaworthiness of the ship and the number of passengers she may carry under the provisions of the Act. In the case of officers not previously known to the Immigration Department, certificates of character must accompany the application.

When the particulars required by the preceding regulation have been once given in respect of any ship, any subsequent application for a licence for the same ship may refer to the particulars previously given, provided that no change has since been made.

No licence will be granted for any ship in which proper first-class cabin accommodation is not provided for the Government agent.

No licence will be delivered to the master of any ship until the inspector at the port of departure has received a certificate from the Customs Department, stating what firearms and ammunition are on board, and certifying that they are not more than is required for any ordinary ship's use. On the return of the ship to Queensland the arms and ammunition remaining on board will be examined by the Customs Department, which will report the result of the examination to the inspector at the port of arrival.

When women are carried as passengers a separate compartment must be provided for them.

In order to distinguish Queensland labour vessels from those of Fiji, New Caledonia, or other countries, they are to be painted white, with a black streak at least six inches wide running fore and aft on both sides just below the covering board, and to carry when recruiting a black ball not less than eighteen inches in diameter at the mainmast head.

The Minister may, by a general direction published in the Gazette, or by a special direction given on granting a licence in respect of any particular ship, forbid the recruiting of labourers at any specified island or islands, and Government agents are required to see that all such directions are obeyed. The names of any islands from which recruiting is forbidden will be endorsed in the ship master's licence.

The passenger space in labour ships must not be used for stowing ships' stores, or for any other purpose than the accommodation of passengers.

Before the licence is delivered to the master the inspector at the port of departure is to satisfy himself that the ship has on board a proper supply of medicines, medical comforts, instruments, and other appliances necessary for diseases or accidents incidental to a sea voyage, and for the medical treatment of the passengers as required by the 12th section of the Act; and also that proper provision is made for ventilation, and that the ship has a proper supply of cooking utensils, water-tanks, and vessels for the supply of water to the passengers on deck during the voyage. The inspector is to forward a report thereon to the

inspector on deck during the voyage, and the inspector is to forward a report thereon to the Immigration Agent at Brisbane.

All trading with natives must be conducted under the supervision of the Government agent, who will note the particulars in his log.

If any return passenger dies before his arrival at his native island, his effects are to be delivered to his friends at the island, if any can be found there. If none can be found, the effects are to be brought back to Queensland and delivered to the inspector at the port of arrival.

The master is required at all times to obey the reasonable directions of the Government agent in respect to the recruiting of labourers.

The Government agent must be present on every occasion when labourers are recruited, and must inform himself by personal observation and inquiry that the intending recruit understands the nature of his engagement.

The Government agent is to supervise the engagement, discharge, and payment, of interpreters and all other persons who may be employed as boats' crews or otherwise during the voyage, and is required to report specially as to the qualifications of the interpreters and the character of all other persons so engaged, and the circumstances of their engagement and discharge.

Two Europeans at least, not counting the Government agent, must be present in every boat which leaves the ship to recruit labourers.

No firearms or ammunition are to be taken on board the ship after her departure from Queensland, or to be unladen from the ship during the voyage, except the arms required for the protection of the crews of the ship's boats. If this regulation is violated the Government agent is peremptorily required to refuse to permit any further recruiting on that voyage, and no licence will be granted for the ship for a period of twelve months from her return to Queensland.

No spirits are to be given to any islander, either on his island or in boats or on the ship, except for medicinal purposes and then only by order of the Government agent, nor may any spirits be taken in the recruiting boats.

No islander is to be recruited who is in the service of any European settler in the Pacific; nor is any islander to be recruited, under any circumstances, except at his native island.

If any islander who has agreed to come to Queensland afterwards leaves the ship, or refuses to go on board of her, no attempt is to be made to take him by force or to induce him to come by means of threats or intimidation. If the provisions of this regulation are violated the full penalty of the shipmasters' bond will be enforced.

No woman is to be recruited unless accompanied by her husband, nor without the consent of the chief of the island or of the village or district from which she is brought.

If any islander is recruited contrary to the provisions of those regulations, or if the master is guilty of any other violation of them, the Government agent is to refuse to permit any further recruiting, and to require the ship to return to Queensland as soon as the return passengers, if any, have been landed.

The ship must on her arrival in Queensland have on board or provide some person or persons competent to interpret between every islander on board and the inspector at the port of arrival. Any islander on board whose language cannot be so interpreted will be returned to his island at the expense of the owner of the ship.

On arrival of the ship in Queensland the health or medical officer at the port will inspect the islanders on board, and certify as to their fitness for labour in the colony. If he certifies that any islander is physically unfit by reason of age or otherwise, the islander must be at

that any islander is physically unfit by reason of age or otherwise, the islander must be at once returned to his native island, as provided by the 16th section of the Act.

Transfers of the services of labourers before the expiration of six months from the date of the arrival of the ship by which they were introduced will not be allowed without the special sanction of the Minister; nor will transfers from an employer residing in one district to an employer residing in another be allowed without the like sanction.
