

INDIAN IMMIGRANTS (GRENADA).

P A P E R S

RELATIVE TO

THE CONDITION OF INDIAN IMMIGRANTS

IN

GRENADA.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
February 1879.



LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1879.

[C.—2249.] Price 3d.

Coolies are examples (those that are left) of the way in which East Indians have been treated in Grenada. From what I can make out from the records of this office, there have been over 2,000 imported into this Island, prior to the arrival of the "Hermione," and from the late immigration agent's return, dated 7th December 1877, there were only 112 Coolies located on estates on the 30th November 1877. From the copy of the Trinidad Immigration Agent General's letter, dated the 6th August 1878, it will be seen that some have run away to that Island, and allowing that others are squatting in different parts of this Island, and many gone back to India, it is sad to think what has become of the bulk of them. The treatment they received was iniquitous, kicked off the estates directly they became ill, they were allowed to die of yaws and other diseases on the roads. I enclose a copy of the list of East Indians sent to the Colony hospital since my arrival (see Memorandum). The coolies ex "Hermione," 1878, have been treated on the estates, but they are suffering. There have been (6) deaths * up to date, and others are seriously ill. On the 9th of August I sent Nos. 253 and 254 of (the same ship) to the Yaws Hospital, so that yaws have already appeared amongst them.

The central hospitals will be a great boon, but they must be Government institutions and be built immediately, to be of any good.

The one in St. Andrew's parish ought to have been ready some time ago; it is still unfinished. Your Excellency is aware of the dilatory manner in which the proprietors of estates have helped the contractor. Most of the estates are in the hands of these gentlemen (Messrs. Shears, Kent, and Langdon) and they work those now remaining, belonging to Messrs. Hankey & Co. These gentlemen keep stores (shops), and contract for everything and anything, and unless the contract is in their hands they are loath to assist. Your Excellency is aware of the stamp of men these gentlemen are, who consider that they are doing the Government a kindness by applying for immigrants to populate the Island, so that I need not describe them any further, except to show that the managers are of the same type, having been carpenters, ploughmen, publicans, &c., &c., and these being paid small salaries, *ergo*, have to squeeze alike the labourer and the cane to procure as much sugar as possible, on which they are paid a per-centage. (The overseers are black men of the Driver clan.) These are the men who have the care of the poor East Indian. When asked how they expect the Coolies to live, say Oh, they can pick up bread fruit and provisions from the tree and ground for *nothing*. In my humble opinion this mode of living, combined with the *new rum* which is given as an incentive to do extra work, sows the seeds of yaws and other horrible diseases which are unknown in India.

August 24th.—I have now to report that I have been obliged to recommend the transfer of the Beausejour immigrants to some other estate (but where I am at a loss to know). The indentured immigrants have all been laid up with fever for over a month (one has died and another been removed to the Colony hospital), consequently they have been unable to earn anything. The manager has not supplied them with the maintenance required by the Immigration Act, and has beaten the Coolies to get them to work; he was had up before the Acting Police Magistrate, Mr. Sinclair, on Saturday last, the 17th, and fined 10s. I have now laid a charge against the manager for non-compliance with the law.

There is no doubt in my mind that the so-called proprietors are not in a position to employ East Indian immigrants, and are unable to fulfil their part of the contract, and therefore I feel it my duty to report it for the information of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, so that I may not be blamed hereafter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. A. DENHAM,

Protector of Immigrants, Grenada, West Indies.

To his Excellency Col. R. W. Harley, C.B., C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

SIR,

Trinidad Immigration Office, August 6, 1878.

In further reply to your favour of the 19th ultimo, I have to state that it has been reported to me on good authority that there are Coolies originally sent from India to Grenada now living in St. George's district, Trinidad, but this department has no means of furnishing any details respecting them, as they reside on estates which do not

* Adults and two infants.

14963

employ contract labour, and are beyond the limits of inquiry competent to the officers of this department.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. MITCHELL,

Agent General of Immigration.

To James Denham, Esq.,

Protector of Immigrants, Grenada.

MEMORANDUM.

August 8, 1878.

THERE have been over 50 old Coolies sent to the Colony hospital. I am laid up with fever, and cannot make out a list in time for the mail as it closes to-night.

(Signed)

J. A. DENHAM,
Protector of Immigrants.

No. 2.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR DUNDAS, C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON. SIR MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, BART. (Received September 28, 1878.)

Barbados, September 10, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward two Despatches from the Administrator of Grenada respecting the deplorable condition of some of the Coolie immigrants in that Colony.

2. I intend leaving Barbados on a tour of visits to the other Islands of this Government on the 19th instant. While at Grenada I shall personally inquire into the circumstances which Mr. Kerr has brought to my notice, and will report to you the result of my investigation without further delay.

3. Meanwhile I have instructed Mr. Kerr to call upon Mr. Denham, the Protector of Immigrants, for an explanation of the neglect of which he has been guilty.

4. I cannot but express my extreme concern that these Indian immigrants, but recently introduced into Grenada, should have experienced such neglect and treatment at the hands of the planters, so different from what might have been expected.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE DUNDAS.

The Right Hon. Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1. in No. 2.

SIR,

Government House, August 27, 1878.

THE condition of some of the Indian immigrants by the "Hermione" has caused me much anxiety, and it is my duty to inform your Excellency on the subject without delay.

2. When I arrived here Mr. Denham, the Protector of Immigrants, was laid up by an accident, and the medical officer of this district was ill with fever.

3. I soon found by reference to previous reports that many of the recently arrived Indian immigrants had been seriously ill, and that complaints were made by them of not having had attention and food when laid up by illness.

4. I had information by letter from the Protector of Immigrants that some immigrants from Beausejour Estate in this district had been to his house to urge their complaints of want of food and attention. Finding that the matter required immediate investigation, I on the 20th instant instructed the inspector of police to go to the estate and inquire into the matter.

5. On the 21st instant Mr. Denham came to me and said he had just returned from Beausejour, where the Coolies were nearly all ill from fever, that one had died, and that he had sent on another that morning to the Colonial hospital. They complained that the manager had not supplied them with food according to law, and he found that the visits of the medical officer were infrequent.

6. On the 23rd instant I was informed that Mr. Denham had made a complaint against the manager of Beausejour before the police magistrate. The complaint was heard yesterday, and at my request the Attorney General attended to watch the proceedings, which terminated in the conviction of the manager, who was ordered to pay a fine of 50/. I forward herewith a copy of the proceedings in this case and of the report which the Attorney-General has sent to me.

6. On the Calivigny estate, which is not far from Beausejour, and where there is no complaint of unkind treatment, 19 of the immigrants were ill with fever on the 23rd instant, and the medical attendance on both estates was irregular and insufficient; this is partly owing to the severe illness of Dr. Massiah, the medical officer of the district.

7. I have assumed the responsibility of directing that the old military hospital, which it is intended to convert into a prison, be immediately prepared for the reception of the whole of the immigrants at Beausejour and of all those who are sick at Calivigny. This building is in a healthy place, and has the best possible accommodation for these poor people; they will be under the daily inspection of the district medical officer, who lives very near, and I trust that with proper food and attention they will soon recover.

8. It would not be prudent to allow the immigrants to return to such unhealthy places as these to which I have referred, and with a view to their being ultimately located in healthy districts I caused a notice to be inserted in the last Gazette, to the effect that "Some of the immigrants by the 'Hermione' having been located in places which were so unhealthy that they must be removed to healthier localities, it was desirable that the Government should be made acquainted with the wishes of persons who required immigrant labourers in healthy situations."

9. I directed Mr. Denham, who is not free from blame for having allowed this state of things to be possible, to proceed to-day to the other districts, and report to me without delay on the condition of the whole of the immigrants by the "Hermione." I have just heard that he is ill with fever.

10. By the next mail I hope to be able to report more fully, and I hope more favourably, on this subject, but I feel the importance of it so much, that although I necessarily can only give you at present very incomplete information, I cannot be silent on a matter which causes me so much disquietude.

11. I may add that Dr. Massiah is now better, and is engaged with me in determining on the best arrangements for the removal of the sick immigrants and for their proper treatment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. KERR,
Administrator.

His Excellency Lieut.-Governor Dundas, C.M.G.,
Barbados.

SIR,

Chambers, August 26, 1878.

In pursuance of your instructions I appeared to-day before the police magistrate to watch the proceedings in the case of "The Protector of Immigrants v. the Manager of Beausejour," and in reporting to your Honour on the case I felt it to be my duty to submit a copy of the proceedings in order that you might see for yourself on which side the merits of the case lay, and I have accordingly procured a copy, and enclose same for your consideration.

2. I fear that it is patent that the immigrants were located at Beausejour Estate before the local official whose duty it was to inform himself on the point had ascertained that the requisite arrangements for the comfort and care of the immigrants had been provided. Up to the present time there is no hospital on Beausejour.

3. The evidence of the overseer leaves no doubt as to the unhealthiness of the estate.

4. The medical attendance was very irregular and quite insufficient.

5. I also consider that the statement of the manager, read together with the general evidence, shows that except in very serious cases maintenances and medical comforts were not supplied, and even in those cases the supply was very scanty.

6. The penalty may appear heavy, but the planter must evince more humanity before he can expect a mitigation in such a case as the present at the hands of the Executive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. M. SHERIFF,
Attorney General.

His honour the Administrator,
&c. &c. &c.

Grenada to wit.

Police Court, Southern District.

The information and complaint of J. A. Denham, Protector of Immigrants, taken this twenty-third day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight, before the undersigned, one of Her Majesty's justices of the peace in and for the Island of Grenada and its dependencies of the same, who saith:— I charge F. A. Perkins, manager of the Beausejour Estate, with failing to comply with the 75th section of the Consolidated Amended Immigration Act, No. 93, of the 8th October 1869, by failing to supply maintenance to indentured immigrants on the Beausejour Estate.

Sworn to before me the day and year first above written.

(Signed) J. A. DENHAM.

Grenada, to wit.

Police Court, Southern District, 26th August 1878.

Before the Acting Police Magistrate, Southern District.

J. A. Denham, Protector of Immigrants, v. F. A. Perkins, Manager of the Beausejour Estate.

For failing to comply with section 75 of the Consolidated Amended Immigration Act, No. 93, by failing to supply maintenance to indentured immigrants on the said Beausejour, Estate.

The Attorney General appeared on behalf of the Crown.

Defendant pleaded Not guilty.

J. A. Denham, Protector of Immigrants, sworn, saith:—During the last five weeks, the indentured immigrants on Beausejour Estate have been suffering from fever and other ailments, and they have not received that maintenance they are entitled to receive under section 75 of the Immigration Act.

By the Attorney General:—I am Protector of Immigrants. I have in my capacity of Protector of Immigrants from time to time visited the Beausejour Estate. During the last three weeks I made inquiries of the state of the health of the immigrants. There are 15½ adults on the estate allotted to the estate. On the 30th of July there was a death of a female adult. I received a medical certificate of the cause of death. The cause of death alleged was fever. On the 21st of August there were nine prescribed to by the doctor and one sent to the Colony hospital, being a case that required immediate attention.

On my visiting the estate on the above date there were three immigrants going to their work. The three looked very much pulled down. I made inquiry as to whether the requirements of the 75th clause of the Immigration Act had been complied with. I made inquiries specially as to the maintenance and medical comforts which ought to be supplied by the estate to immigrants during illness. I made the inquiries from the overseer, who is the second in charge of the estate (a Mr. Robertson). I also made inquiries from the immigrants themselves. I suggested to Dr. Proctor to put down the diet that ought to be supplied the patients that were ill, which he had not previously done.

C.Q. by Mr. Perkins.—I visited the estate about three or four times.

(Signed) J. A. DENHAM,
Protector of Immigrants.

August 26, 1878.

Ghurnight, sworn according to the rights of his faith, through a sworn interpreter, saith:—I am living on the Beausejour Estate. I came on board "Hermione." I am sick now. I have had fever four weeks ago. The doctor has seen me three times. I have not been able to work, being very sick. I told the manager I was ill. Neither the manager nor anyone else gave me anything to eat nor medicine, during my illness. Soup was not sent me nor rice. During the last I have been sick the manager always called to see me, and ordered me to go to work. I asked the manager to give me something to eat, as I was very sick. Mr. Perkins answered me, "You can die; I have nothing to give you to eat." Mr. Perkins told me all this in Hindoostani. "You can die, I have nothing to give you." Other of the immigrants were ill. None of the immigrants on the estate who were ill got any food to my knowledge. Mr. Perkins employed a nurse, a female, to look after the sick Coolies, but she never came to me. The blanket I brought from Calcutta I sold to buy food. Mr. Perkins never employed any person to cook food for the sick Coolies.

C.Q. by Mr. Perkins (through the interpreter):—I sold the blanket to a Coolie called Iadoo, at Grenville Vale Estate. I get fever every four o'clock. I mounted a horse yesterday, and had a fall.

(Signed) GHURNIGHT X my mark.

Dhumnie, sworn through a sworn interpreter according to the rights of his faith, saith:—I live on the Beausejour estate. I am pretty well now, but was sick for five weeks; had fever and ague. During the time I was sick the manager gave me nothing. I told Mr. Perkins I was ill. Mr. Perkins came to see me; I asked him for food. Mr. Perkins said he had nothing, and therefore could not give me anything to eat. Two or three days I remained without food, and then sold my blanket.

(Signed) DHUMNIE X my mark.

Ramdin, sworn through a sworn interpreter according to the rights of his faith, saith:—I live on Beausejour Estate. I have been sick for six weeks of fever and ague. During these six weeks I got soup once. The nurse gave me the soup made of fowl; the fowl out of which the soup was made belonged to a Coolie called Goolgar. I do not know if the manager paid Goolgar for the fowl. Mr. Perkins gave the overseer order to kill the fowl.

C.Q. by Mr. Perkins:—I received a little milk for three weeks; I could not eat rice. I never told Dhumnie to catch the fowl. Did not ask you to shoot the fowl.

(Signed) RHAMDIN X my mark.

Gobin, sworn through a sworn interpreter according to the rights of his faith, saith:—I live on Beausejour Estate. I have been ill, and am still. Had fever so badly as to prevent me from going to work. During my illness neither the manager nor the overseer ever sent me any food at all. I told Mr. Perkins I was sick and unable to work; when I told him this he said, "You can die, I don't want any Coolies."

(Signed) GOBIN X my mark.

George Robertson, sworn, saith:—I am employed as overseer on the Beausejour Estate. They have indentured Coolies on the estate. I know a Coolie Luchmonee. Luchmonee is dead. She died from fever and something else. There is not a hospital on the estate. I don't know whether a doctor was employed by the estate, but I saw one visit the estate, Dr. Proctor. It was a good time that the Coolies came to the estate that I saw the doctor come to the estate. When the coolies are ill they remain in their houses. The Coolies have been ill, some of them have been suffering from fever. I have had fever more than once. I would not say that Beausejour was a healthy estate. When the Coolies are ill they are supplied with a nurse. Her name is Mrs. Antoine. Mrs. Antoine cooks victuals for the Coolies when they are sick. She takes the Coolies' pots and pans, and cooks their food in the blacksmith's shop. They are generally supplied with fowls. About four or five fowls were killed for the Coolies that were very ill, and sometimes they got rice and milk. There were four of the Coolies that were very ill, including the woman that died. Last week for the first time they got bread according to the doctor's order. The three Coolies that were very ill never got any bread until last week. One of the three was last Thursday removed to the Colony Hospital. They got no bread, no arrowroot, no sago, nor fowl, no beef tea, no mutton broth, no corn starch. They had pap made from flour as long as they were weak. Mr. Perkins decided whether they were weak or not in the absence of the doctor. There is no room on the estate where corn starch, arrowroot, and such like things are kept for the sick Coolies. There are some medicines on the estate ordered by Mr. Perkins. There was no medicine until the Coolies got ill about four weeks ago. Amongst the medicines that were on the estate there was no brandy, no wine. Beausejour is four miles from town. Besides the four Coolies that were ill, including the woman that died, the other Coolies that are on the estate got no food. The four witnesses that were examined here to-day had fever. They had been getting food from last week, because Dr. Proctor ordered them to get food. Before Dr. Proctor ordered them to get food they got none.

C.Q. by Mr. Perkins. Ramdin, one of the four witnesses examined to-day, did get fowl soup, and he always got milk.

(Signed) GEO. ROBERTSON.

Goolgar, sworn through a sworn interpreter according to the rights of his faith, saith: I live on the Beausejour Estate. I had a fowl on the estate. Mr. Perkins ordered the

overseer to kill it. He shot it with a gun. Neither Mr. Perkins nor the overseer asked my permission to kill my fowl, and neither did I give any one leave to kill it. No one has ever paid me for it. The manager promised to pay me for the fowl last week. I have not got any money for the fowl.

C.Q. by Mr. Perkins:—I never received 1s. 6d. from you.

Golab, sworn, saith:—Mr. Perkins did not pay Goolgar 1s. 6d. in my presence.

(Signed) GOLAB.

Memorandum of Conviction.

Mr. Perkins, the manager of the Beausejour Estate, is convicted and fined the sum of 50% and costs, the same to be paid within 10 days from this date.

Enclosure 2. in No. 2.

SIR,

Government House, September 7, 1878.

WITH reference to the condition of the Indian immigrants ex "Hermione," which formed the subject of my Despatch, No. 170, 27th August ultimo, I have further to inform your Excellency.

2. On the 28th August I gave written instructions to Mr. Denham, Protector of Immigrants, to remove the sick and neglected immigrants from Beausejour Estate and to cancel their indentures; they were then removed to Richmond Hill Hospital, and Mr. Denham proceeded to ascertain the condition of the immigrants in the distant parishes.

3. On the 31st August and the three following days 32 immigrants suffering from fever and ulcers were removed from Calivigny Estate to Richmond Hill.

4. Mr. Denham returned from his inspection on Saturday the 31st August and gave me a deplorable account of the condition of the immigrants on many of the estates from illness and neglect. On one estate, La Fortune, some of them were, to use his own words, "like grinning skeletons," he recommended that they should be at once brought round to St. George's by sloop and sent to Richmond Hill, I at once made arrangements to send a sloop for them on the 2nd instant.

5. On the 1st instant Mr. Denham sent me his report upon the condition of the immigrants on the estates he had visited, copies of which I herewith forward to your Excellency.

6. On finding from the report that there were several cases quite as bad as those at La Fortune I directed Mr. Denham to proceed to the district at once and send round any others whom it was necessary to remove by the same vessel with those from La Fortune.

7. On the night of the 1st instant there was a severe gale, which drove some small vessels on shore and interrupted navigation all the next day, but on the afternoon of the 3rd instant the sloop arrived with 42 immigrants from La Fortune, La Taste, River Antoine, and Mornefendue, who were all safely placed in the hospital the same evening.

8. In his letter by the vessel Mr. Denham said he had embarked 43, but the captain reported that he only brought 42, as one was too ill to be taken on board.

9. The case of the poor man left behind, one of the La Fortune people, who is since dead, is very deplorable. Mr. Denham left the beach without seeing them all embarked, and the sick man, who was said to be weak from diarrhoea, was left under a shed on the beach without attendance, and even without information being given at the police station, which was not far off.

The place "Sauteurs" is at the extreme north end of the Island and more than 20 miles from here. On hearing what had been done, I sent through the inspector of police for information and with instructions. I was informed that the police corporal found the man while going his rounds, and called on Dr. McLeod, the Government Medical Officer of the district, to attend him, but that Dr. McLeod refused to go to the man's assistance. He was removed to the police station and taken care of, and he died there the next day.

10. I have called upon Dr. McLeod to answer for his alleged inhuman conduct, and an inquest is being held, the proceedings of which will not be concluded until after the mail leaves.

11. On the 4th instant Mr. Denham returned to town and on the next day sent me an additional report, copies of which I also transmit. In it he states that the central hospital of St. Andrew's district is opened, and that all the immigrants from Grand Bras

B

have been removed to it. These poor people have suffered from neglect as well as from illness. I have seen Dr. Lang, the medical officer of the district, and he has promised to be constant in his attendance on them.

12. Proceedings will be taken without delay against the employers of immigrants who have neglected them and failed to comply with the provisions of the Immigration Act, and the Attorney General will attend the prosecutions on behalf of the Crown.

13. There are 96 immigrants, men, women, and children, now at the Richmond Hill hospital. They are provided with constant and efficient medical attendance and with proper food and necessaries, and they are all rapidly improving in health and strength. The pure air and elevated situation makes this hospital quite a sanatorium. Dr. Massiah is unremitting in his attendance, and his services have been of great value. Mr. Latham, his dispenser, an intelligent Englishman, lives at the hospital, and an Indian interpreter is in constant attendance.

14. The Immigration Act does not authorise the Governor to cancel indentures, until after the conviction of the employers of certain breaches of its provisions. In the case of Beausejour this had been done, and I acted strictly in accordance with the law, but in the other cases I have assumed the responsibility of acting promptly, and perhaps arbitrarily. Had I waited for the course of law to obtain the convictions which would authorise me to cancel indentures, I might perhaps have been too late to prevent a considerable loss of life.

When the people I have removed are restored to health, they may, on assurances of proper treatment, be returned to their engagements, or be allotted elsewhere should the evidence on the pending complaints justify it. In what I have done I have the concurrence of the Executive Council, and I hope it will be approved by your Excellency and by the Secretary of State.

15. There will doubtless be some irritation on the part of the planters on account of the summary manner in which I have found it necessary to act, but I trust they will soon find that what I am doing will be to their advantage.

16. It was a mistake to put the immigrants at once to hard work before they were acclimatised, and with the sickly season coming on. This should have been carefully seen to by the Protector of Immigrants, who should have also been most vigilant in observing from the first that the provisions of the law as to medical attendance, proper hospital accommodation and nursing, medicines and maintenance, were strictly complied with, and that the immigrants were located in healthy places, and in comfortable and sufficient dwellings. Had he done his duty faithfully in this respect and made complaints in every case where the law was not complied with, I do not believe that the present unhappy state of things could have been possible.

17. I trust that what is being done will have the effect of ensuring for the future the proper treatment of the immigrants in every respect. And that this scandal will soon be at an end, I will take care that for the future the public officers are diligent and vigilant, and no case of neglect or ill-treatment of the immigrants is left unpunished.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. KERR,
Administrator.

His Excellency Lieut.-Governor Dundas, C.M.G.
Barbados.

A.

REPORT on my Visit to the Estates in St. Andrew's and St. Patrick's on the 29th, 30th, and 31st of August 1878.

Balthazar Estate, St. Andrew's Parish.

I found that there were nine men and five women laid up with ulcers; 14 adults out of the 30 allotted to this estate, ex "Hermione," 1878. The doctor is employed by contract, and visits weekly; every attention and care is paid by the proprietor, who lives at Batthazar. This estate is unfortunately unhealthy, being situated in a valley, and the immigrants on it are very susceptible to sores, &c., &c.

The indentured immigrants are earning good wages.

St. Cyr Estate, St. Andrew's Parish.

The proprietor, Mr. Langdon, having lately died, I was unable (owing to the books and papers having been locked up) to see the medical register, but I was informed by

the head overseer that the medical officer of the district was employed by contract. The estate is healthy, there being only a male and a female ill, the former being laid up with a cut on the foot, and the latter suffering from asthma.

According to the labour list, which was in the possession of the overseer, I found that the immigrants were earning fair wages.

Grand Bras Estate, St. Andrew's Parish.

One of Messrs. Hankey & Co.'s estates (manager, Mr. Shears). On arrival I saw the head overseer, a Mr. De Bellote, who informed me that there was no medical man employed for the estate, and that they did not keep a register. Out of the 20 Coolies allotted to this estate there were only four able to work the others being (as well as the children) laid up in the ranges with fever, and ulcers on the foot and leg. Mr. Shears being ill, I was unable to see him, there is no doubt that the Coolies have been sadly neglected, from the miserable condition I found them in. The law in regard to medical officer, medical comforts and maintenance has not been complied with, and on these grounds I recommend their immediate removal to some other estate; but first of all to the central hospital (which is within a mile of Grand Bras, and ready for use), where they will receive that medical treatment which they are greatly in need of.

Mount Horne Estate, St. Andrew's Parish.

Immigrants allotted, 15.

This estate is considered healthy. There were (five) immigrants unable to work, four were laid up with small sores, and one female had had fever, on whose account the doctor had been sent for on the morning of my visit (viz., the 29th); but previous to that the medical man had not attended the immigrants. I shall await your Honour's instructions (as to section 74 of the Immigration Act of 1869) in this case.

Dunfermline Estate, St. Andrew's Parish.

The medical officer of the district was employed from the commencement of the half year, and from the register kept on the estate I find that his visits have been regular (i.e. weekly). There were (seven) indentured immigrants on the sick list, five with fever (one) with dropsy, and one with (supposed) sunstroke.

The immigrants are not earning good wages, and the scale on this estate is very low, which will again receive my attention hereafter.

Soubise Estate, St. Andrew's Parish.

This estate is considered unhealthy; it is worked by the proprietor (Mr. Harford), who is doing his utmost in every way for the Coolies. The medical officer has been employed from the time the immigrants arrived; they are earning fair wages.

There were (six) laid up with sores and one with fever.

Tuilleries and Belle Vue St. Andrew's.

The former is a sugar estate and the latter a cocoa, where the proprietor (Mr. Batt) resides. The Coolies are all in good health and earning fair wages. The medical officer is called in when required, as in the case of a child (infant), No. 130, Goolgaree, in April last, but I should be glad to know if as no medical man is employed by contract whether section 74 of the Immigration Act would hold good?

Estates in St. Patrick's Parish.

Dr. McLeod, the medical officer of the district, is employed by contract to attend all the estates in this parish, and from the registers on the estates I find that he generally visits them weekly.

Observatory Estate. Manager, a Mr. Whiteman.

There were five cases in all, four of fever and one of ulcer on the foot, out of an allotment of 20 Coolies. The immigrants are earning moderate wages, and I am not satisfied with the system the manager has adopted towards those who are sick, that of giving 2s. a week in lieu of maintenance. The manager not being on the estate, I was unable to speak to him on the subject, but it is my intention to do so on my next visit.

Belmont Estate. Manager, Mr. Oueilly.

Attorney, Mr. Bannerman.

This estate, according to the Medical Register, is healthy (although there have been two cases of yaws sent to the Colony Hospital). On the day of my visit there was not a single case of sickness.

The rate of wages is very low. During the week ending the 24th August nine (9) of the indentured immigrants on this estate were lent out to the manager of Observatory Estate (on the 22nd and 23rd of the month). This is not according to the indentures, and I shall be glad to know the Attorney-General's opinion on the matter. I may remark that whilst they worked on Observatory they received 1s. a day, which is far more than they are given at Belmont.

La Taste. Manager, Mr. Fullerton.

Out of 20 immigrants allotted to this estate, only (five) were at work (four males and one female). The others were laid up with sores and fever; one case of ulcer on the ankle joint I intend sending to the Colony Hospital.

The black nurse I found attending to the Coolies is certainly a good hand at looking after them and deserves great credit, nevertheless the want of a central hospital is greatly needed in this parish, and until one is built I am afraid to say what will be the result.

The Belendese House is not to be had, as it is about to be let to a tenant.

Mornefendue Estate, St. Patrick's Parish.

Only (five) out of (40) indentured immigrants were at work, so that the remainder (35) were laid up with fever and ulcers. Had not the late manager been discharged it would have been my duty to have prosecuted him before the magistrate. No. 221 (M), Kullowah, ex "Hermione," 1878, died last week, and Dr. McLeod stated to me that it is for want of hospital care. A large building has been patched up for the reception of the immigrants, but I would suggest that an official communication be at once forwarded to the manager of the estate, to have the whole of the house put into immediate repair, and that a couple of competent nurses be taken on.

Montrose. Manager, Mr. De Gale, jun.

Four (4) cases of ulcers and one (1) of fever, which are receiving attention. The payments on this estate are not satisfactory, as the scale of wages is very low.

Mount Rich. Mr. Andrew Fullerton.

The situation of this estate, being healthy, the immigrants are keeping their health wonderfully, and are working well. There were only four cases, and they were of a trivial nature.

La Fortune. Late Manager (Mr. J. Fullerton).

There are 20 immigrants indentured to this estate, and with the exception of about (5) five (and they are not healthy), all were laid up with fever and ulcers. No. 277 (M), Bhugan, and No. 59 (F), Dillowah, were perfect skeletons; No. 369 (M), Nagga, requires hospital care; the others are more or less in a very sickly condition, owing to their not having received that maintenance and medical care which they are entitled to during their illness, and which is necessary for their recovery. I have never seen Coolies who have been so neglected. The manager having left for England, prevents my prosecuting him; as it is, I strongly recommend their removal to St. George's and their indentures cancelled.

River Antoine. Mr. Hancock.

(Fifteen) allotted. The manager has lately been appointed. The situation of the estate is very unhealthy. There is one case which I intend sending to the Colony Hospital, and there are five others laid up with fever. Payments bad. I would recommend the removal of the immigrants on this estate to a more healthy one.

In conclusion, there is no doubt in my mind that the managers of estates in this Island, with very few exceptions, are unfit to have the charge of East Indian immigrants; they do not take the ordinary care of them, neither do they pay them sufficient to enable them to obtain the common necessities of life, at the same time expect to get more from the Coolies (before they are accustomed to the work) than they are able to perform.

31st August 1878.

(Signed) J. P. DENHAM,
Protector of Immigrants.

B.

REPORT on my visit to St. Andrew's and St. Patrick's on the 2nd and 3rd September, in continuation of my Report of the 29th, 30th, and 31st of August 1878.

On Monday, the 2nd of September, I visited the Central Hospital at St. Andrew's and gave the dispenser, "Ahmud Hossein," an official letter for the manager of Grand Bras estate (St. Andrew's), ordering the removal of the indentured immigrants to the district hospital; I then proceeded on to the "Observatory Estate," St. Patrick's, where I saw the manager, and spoke to him regarding the payment of 2s. a head to the immigrants during their illness (as maintenance). He stated that he had heard of my objection and had ordered the ordinary diet of rice and peas to be given to those who were unable to work. There were no complaints. I then went on to River Antoine Estate, where I found things even worse than on my former visit (on the 30th of last month). The payments had not only been bad, but they (the Coolies) had not received any money for three weeks. This the overseer, a Mr. Moore, corroborated, and said that owing to the death of the attorney (Mr. Langdon), and the illness of the manager (who had been laid up for over three weeks), he had been unable to procure any money to pay the Coolies with!! A great many were suffering from fever, &c. And on these grounds, coupled with the neglectful manner in which they had been treated, I ordered their removal, and had the women and children, and those who were unable to walk, conveyed to Sauteurs in a cart, and lodged at the La Fortune works, until next morning. After having seen the Coolies placed into the cart, I turned on to La Taste and inspected the immigrants, I decided on sending (7) seven of them to St. George's, as the others seemed to be recovering, and were receiving all the attention which can be given on any estate. At Mornefendue, there being a serious ulcer case, I considered it advisable to send it on to St. George's for treatment.

On the 3rd of September, in accordance with the honourable the Colonial Secretary's communication No. 354 of the 31st August, I went on to La Fortune, and after having seen all the indentured immigrants who had been sent on the previous evening, I had them (as well as those mentioned above) taken in the estate's cart to a shed at the water-side. The captain of the sloop "Lily" then began to embark them, whilst I went up to Sauteurs and procured a barrel of biscuits, which I delivered to him, as well as a letter for the Colonial Secretary, stating at the same time the number of statute adults he had to carry, and on his assurance that all would be right (and there being only a few more left to be shipped) I rode on to Montrose, and afterwards to Belmont Estates, and had copies of the labour list made out, which I herewith forward for your honour's perusal. These are two of the estates on which I consider the payments are low.

In accordance with your honour's instructions conveyed to me in the honourable the Colonial Secretary's letter No. 355 of the 3rd September, it is my intention early next week (on my return to St. Andrew's and St. Patrick's) to lodge informations against those employers who have not concurred with the provisions of the Immigration Act of 1869.

(Signed) J. P. DENHAM,
Protector of Immigrants.

6th September 1878.

No. 3.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR DUNDAS, C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON. SIR MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, BART. (Received October 28, 1878.)

Barbados, October 11, 1878.

SIR,

In my Despatch of the 10th September,* I forwarded two Despatches from the Administrator reporting the condition of a number of the Coolies who had been recently introduced into the Island.

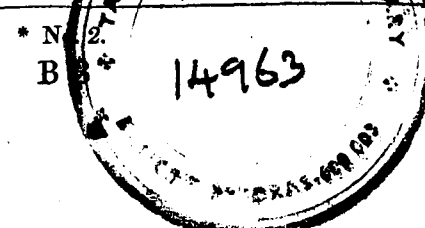
2. In continuation of Mr. Kerr's Despatches on this subject, I now enclose two more which report all circumstances up to the 8th instant.

3. When at Grenada on the 22nd and 23rd September I visited the sick Coolies in the military hospital on Richmond Hill, and received from Mr. Kerr all information on the circumstances which had preceded his directing the immigrants to be placed there.

4. Mr. Kerr's Despatches give in considerable detail all the particulars of the case. It may be convenient, however, if I condense the narrative into a few sentences.

U426.56

M79



5. Shortly after Mr. Kerr's arrival in Grenada it came to his knowledge that there was much suffering among the newly-arrived immigrants. Mr. Denham, protector of immigrants, was at once directed to proceed to those estates from which complaints proceeded, and to investigate them. To his report, already forwarded, I invite your attention.

6. In the meantime Mr. Kerr had collected every ailing Coolie within reach, and had placed them in an unused building, formerly the military hospital.

7. On receipt of Mr. Denham's report a further number of Coolies were brought by sea to the same hospital.

8. In shipping these invalids an untoward event occurred. The master of the vessel chartered to carry the immigrants to St. George's, and who had taken over 43 from Mr. Denham, left on his own responsibility one man on the beach. He tries to excuse this conduct by saying that the man was too ill to be moved. The man was suffering from dysentery, but it does not appear that there was any just ground for believing he could not have undergone a four hours' passage by sea to St. George's.

9. The man died within 48 hours; his death having been in all probability accelerated by exposure and neglect. The result of a close inquiry into the circumstances of this man's death exonerates Mr. Denham and Dr. McLeod, to whom it was said the dying man's condition had been reported.

10. The master of the vessel and a police constable, who appear to have been aware of but gave themselves no concern to aid the unhappy sufferer, have been criminally proceeded against.

11. From the accompanying Despatch from Mr. Kerr it will be seen that the grand jury threw out the bill against the master of the vessel, and that the police officer was found guilty and ordered to pay a fine of 5*l*. I propose to inquire further into the fact reported in Mr. Kerr's Despatch of the chief justice having omitted to charge the grand jury.

12. It is not difficult to trace the causes of all this misery.. An unfortunate coincidence of deaths among those charged with superintending the interests of some estates left the indentured immigrants without care or supervision. Ignorance and neglect on other estates engendered disease, and no steps were taken to check it.

13. Mr. Kerr remarks that no wise employer of Coolie labour would, until a short period had elapsed, put an unseasoned immigrant to hard work, nor can too much care be taken that the Coolie be supplied with wholesome food, especially on his first arrival.

14. Fond of possessing money the Coolie hoards his earnings. He purchases "stock," a pig, a goat, or fowls, while he satisfies hunger by boiling down and eating some innutritious roots or leaves. Several of the sick men whom I saw, or who had come into the hospital half starved, were in the possession of small sums of money, 2*l*. and upwards. Even the man who died, as above related, had 9*s*. 4*d*. in his waist cloth.

15. Mr. Denham cannot, I think, be altogether exonerated from blame. He ought to have been cognizant of the condition of the Coolies before the mischief had gone so far. He pleads severe indisposition as an excuse. I understand, however, that in many respects Mr. Denham is a good officer. He speaks Hindustani, and is trusted and liked by the Coolies. Under Mr. Kerr's supervision I think that in future his work will not be neglected. His unpopularity among the planters is in itself evidence that when in good health he discharged his duties conscientiously.

16. As regards these employers of Coolie labour who have neglected their duties and their obligations, the law has been and will be put rigorously in force against them.

17. I have only to add that it gratified me to see how rapidly the condition of the Coolies in hospital was improving.

I desired Mr. Kerr to spare no expense in contributing to their comfort. Their wants, however, are few, and they are easily satisfied, while the careful medical supervision of Dr. Massiah left nothing further in that direction to be desired.

I cannot conclude this Despatch without expressing the high sense I entertain of the vigour and judgment which Mr. Kerr has shown in dealing with this matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE DUNDAS.

The Right Hon. Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1. in No. 3.

ADMINISTRATOR KERR to LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR DUNDAS.

Government House, September 27, 1878.

SIR,

CONTINUING the subject of my Despatch No. 174, 7th September instant, on the condition of the immigrants by the "Hermione," I have further to inform your Excellency.

2. There have been no deaths among the immigrants since my last Despatch. Of 103 who are now at the Richmond Hill Hospital, 40 are reported well, and the others are for the most part rapidly improving; of 23 at the St. Andrew's Central Hospital 13 are well, and the medical officer reports that in a short time "all will be fit for work."

3. The case of the immigrant from La Fortune who died at Sauteurs on the 5th instant, after having been abandoned on the beach on the 3rd instant by the captain of the sloop employed by the Government to bring the sick Coolies round to St. George's, is more serious than I was aware of when I last wrote. The coroner's inquest, which was then sitting, terminated in a verdict that the man died of dysentery, accelerated by exposure. It came out at the inquest that the reports sent in by the corporal of police were not true, and that the man had been entirely neglected, although quite near to the town of Sauteurs and the police station.

4. Dr. McLeod, the medical officer of the district, denies the allegation that he was informed of the man's condition. Both Dr. McLeod and Mr. Denham will have to answer for their neglect of duty before the Executive Council.

5. As soon as I was made acquainted with the facts disclosed before the coroner I consulted the Attorney General, who advised that an information on a charge of manslaughter should be made by the inspector of police against Mr. Denham and the captain of the sloop, and a separate charge against the corporal of police for contributing to the death of the man by his culpable neglect of duty.

6. Pending the proceedings on the criminal charge, I interdicted Mr. Denham from the functions of his office.

7. The evidence on these charges was taken yesterday at Sauteurs before the police magistrate of the district, when the captain of the sloop was bound over to be tried at the next criminal court, and the charge against Mr. Denham was dismissed.

8. In consequence of the deaths of Mr. Langdon and Mr. Shears, the leading planters of the Colony, and the representatives of the most important absentee proprietors, I have had to put off the hearing of the complaints which had been made against the employers of immigrants who had not complied with the provisions of the Immigration Act. These gentlemen died within a fortnight of each other, Mr. Langdon on the 28th August, and Mr. Shears on the 11th September. They were both members of the Legislative Council, and it was chiefly at their instance that application was made to the Government for the immigrants who arrived by the "Hermione." They were the chief employers of immigrants, either on their own estates or on those under their charge, and it was only against them that it was necessary to make complaints.

9. I shall not be able before the arrival of the next mail from England to ascertain who will be appointed attorneys for the absentee proprietors, particularly for Messieurs Hankey of London, and Mr. Smith of Glasgow.

10. I have seen Mr. Ganaway and Mr. Kent, who are to administer the estates of Mr. Langdon and of Mr. Shears. And they have both promised to do everything in their power to promote the well-being of the immigrants on the estates under their direction, and to comply with the law and the regulations. I will not, however, allow any of the immigrants to be sent back to the estates from which they have been taken until I have satisfied myself by personal inspection that they will be properly lodged and in salubrious places.

11. I visited the Calivigny Estate on the 17th instant, and found that the ranges were exposed to the influence of malaria from an adjacent swamp. All the immigrants from that estate, except two, are now in Richmond Hill Hospital. They were kindly treated on the estate, but the place where they lived is unhealthy, although many of them have recovered their health at the hospital. I have refused to allow them to return to the estate until the ranges are removed to a higher and healthier place, which I selected, and to which the manager agreed to remove the ranges.

12. In order to prevent a recurrence of neglect and ill-treatment, and also to give facilities for the speedy adjustment of differences between the employers and the immi-

grants as to labour and wages, I think it is important that the protector of immigrants shall for the future be constantly moving about among the estates, instead of visiting and reporting on them monthly as heretofore. The country is so hilly, and the difficulty of travelling from St. George's to distant parts of the island is so great, that I am establishing two stations for the use of the protector of immigrants on going his rounds. I have rented a house in a central situation in the northern district; and I will have a room fitted up at the Grand Etang House which overlooks the eastern district. In these two districts most of the immigrants are located, and the protector will be able to go constantly from place to place where his presence and influence is required. And he will at the same time avoid the objectionable practice, hitherto pursued, of depending on the hospitality of the planters.

13. I do not think that one horse is enough for the protector of immigrants, and in order to enable him to keep two horses, I propose that his allowance should be increased from 50% per annum, which he now receives, to 80% per annum.

14. The erection of the Central Hospital for the northern district will be at once commenced, and I shall press its speedy erection.

15. With respect to the Military Hospital at Richmond Hill, which has been of such signal service, I cannot help expressing my regret that it has been determined to convert it into a prison. It is a great pity to destroy a building so perfectly adapted both in arrangement and in salubrity of situation for a convalescent hospital. And I think a suitable prison could be erected at a smaller cost than will be required for the proposed conversion. I hope it is not too late for the matter to be reconsidered.

16. I will, as soon as possible, proceed to the estates from which the immigrants have been removed, and make arrangements either for their return, when well enough, or for their transfer to suitable places. I am glad that your Excellency has had an opportunity of personally inspecting the condition of the Coolies, and of the arrangements which I have made for them. I have to thank Dr. Massiah for his able assistance and zealous co-operation in carrying out everything that was necessary for the treatment of the immigrants at Richmond Hill.

17. I am glad to think that there is no longer any fear of loss of life, and I trust that all the invalids will soon be restored to health and able to return to their occupations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. KERR.

His Excellency Governor Dundas, C.M.G.,
Barbados.

Administrator.

Enclosure 2. in No. 3.

ADMINISTRATOR KERR TO LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR DUNDAS.

SIR,

Government House, October 8, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that on the 27th September ultimo I sent to you to St. Lucia the following telegraphic Despatch:—"Case against Denham dismissed. Shall I reinstate, protector much wanted."

To which, on the 28th, I received the following telegram from your Excellency:—"Reinstate."

2. I accordingly withdrew the interdict and sent for Mr. Denham. I reprimanded him for his error, and gave him instructions as to the manner in which he is in future to perform his duties.

3. He accompanied me last week on a visit to the estates in St. Andrew's parish, on which the immigrants had been ill and neglected.

4. On Grand Bras Estate, the property of Messrs. Hankey, formerly under the charge of Mr. Shears, and now conducted by Mr. Kent, I found that the Coolie ranges were unfit for dwellings. The floors were resting on the earth, and were rotten with damp. The immigrants were removed from them to the Central Hospital on the 3rd September. They are nearly all well again, but I will not allow them to return to the estate unless Mr. Kent puts up new houses for them. If he does not do so in a reasonable time I shall allot them to other employers who will make provision for their health and comfort. Several applications have been made for immigrants by the owners of cocoa estates in healthy places, but before settling any of them afresh, I will inspect the dwellings prepared for them.

5. As I informed your Excellency in my Despatch No. 174, September 7th, paragraph 11, the Central Hospital for St. Andrew's district was opened on the 3rd September;

and Dr. Lang, the medical officer of the district, promised me that he would be constant in his attendance, and cause everything necessary to be provided. I was disappointed to find, when I visited it last week, that it was without any medical comforts for the sick, and that Dr. Lang was still visiting the sick immigrants at the ranges on the estates, instead of sending them to the hospital. I found on nearly every estate which I visited immigrants requiring hospital treatment. I caused them to be sent to the hospital, and I wrote instructions in the hospital book for Dr. Lang's guidance as to his attendance, and as to providing proper sustenance and comforts for the sick.

6. Since I have seen the condition of the roads, and the nature of the country, I do not wonder so much at the imperfect manner in which Mr. Denham's duties have been performed. His residence is in St. George's, and he is separated from his work by a mountain range, and by roads at all times difficult, and in wet weather nearly impassable. The house which I have taken in the northern district must be repaired before he can remove to it; but I will do what I can to get him close to his work as soon as possible.

7. As soon as the mail leaves I will proceed to St. Patrick's parish and look to the condition of the immigrants in that district, revisiting St. Andrew's in going and returning.

8. At the Richmond Hill Hospital 62 of the immigrants have recovered their health, and are fit for work. There are still 41 on the sick list. They all continue to improve, but many of them had very bad ulcers, which are slow in healing. There has been one death from phthisis; the case was one of the very emaciated Coolies from La Fortune.

9. I hope before I write again to be able to send to work the immigrants who have recovered, either to new houses on the places they have been brought from, or, as seems most likely, to other places where they are likely to keep their health and be well treated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. KERR.

Administrator.

His Excellency Governor Dundas, C.M.G.,
Barbados.

Enclosure 3. in No. 3.

ADMINISTRATOR KERR TO LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR DUNDAS.

(No. 186.)

Government House, October 7, 1878.

SIR, With reference to the prosecution of Charles Williams, the captain of the "Lily," who abandoned the Indian immigrant on the beach at Sauters, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the grand jury ignored the bill of indictment.

2. The evidence taken by the magistrate seemed so conclusive against the accused that on learning the result I applied to the Chief Justice for a copy of his charge to the grand jury on the indictment, and I was surprised to hear from him that he had not charged the grand jury at all. I forward his letter herewith.

3. I have since been told that the grand jury were misled by the technical wording of the indictment, and thought that the words "killing and slaying" meant murder, so for want of the explanation which they should have had from the judge the bill was ignored.

4. The police officer was found guilty, and ordered to pay a fine of 5%.

5. I have not seen the Chief Justice since my arrival in the Colony, and he wrote to say that ill-health prevented his calling on me. I fear that his continued indisposition has an injurious effect on the business of the Courts, and on the administration of justice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. KERR.

Administrator.

His Excellency Governor Dundas, C.M.G.,
Barbados.

Belmont, October 3, 1878.

The Chief Justice regrets that he was suffering so much from illness at the opening of the Court on Thursday that he had to pray the indulgence of the grand jury, and to beg them to excuse his offering any comments upon any of the cases about to be laid before them.

He therefore regrets that he cannot supply the information required by his honour the Administrator of the Government.

His Honour

The Administrator of the Government.

No. 4.

The RIGHT HON. SIR MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, BART., to LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR DUNDAS, C.M.G.

SIR,

Downing Street, October 14, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter addressed to me by Colonel Harley* respecting the treatment and condition of the Coolie labourers in Grenada, and I request that you will report without delay the result of your proposed inquiry into the matter, as notified in your Despatch of the 10th ultimo,† and that you will take immediate steps to enforce the legal obligations of the employers.

Lieutenant-Governor Dundas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. E. HICKS BEACH.

No. 5.

The RIGHT HON. SIR MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, BART., to LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR DUNDAS, C.M.G.

SIR,

Downing Street, November 29, 1878.

I HAVE received your Despatch of the 11th ultimo,‡ and enclosures relative to the condition of the Indian immigrants introduced into Grenada last season.

2. I am unable to accept Mr. Denham's plea of severe indisposition, and Mr. Kerr's plea of the great difficulty of locomotion owing to the mountainous nature of the country and the frequently impassable condition of the roads, as any sufficient excuse for the failure of the protector of immigrants to discover and report the cases of gross neglect and mismanagement which have been disclosed by the present inquiry. The difficulty of locomotion will in some degree be diminished by the establishment of the protector's residence in a more convenient situation, but whilst he should be required to perform all the travelling necessary for the most effective discharge of his duties, and should be informed that unless he shows himself in every way fitted for them he will be removed, I feel bound to mark my sense of his neglect by declining to sanction the increase of his travelling allowance proposed by the administrator.

3. I conclude that I shall hear further from you as to the omission of the Chief Justice to charge the grand jury in the case of the death of the Coolie from La Fortune Estate. I wish also to receive a more particular statement as to the apparent neglect of duty on the part of the medical officer by allowing the sickness of the Coolies to assume such serious proportions without taking steps for their removal to hospital.

4. The administrator appears to me to have acted promptly and judiciously throughout the whole affair, especially in his resolution not to permit the return of the Coolies to the estates until suitable habitations are provided for them.

5. In conclusion, I feel bound to express my strong sense of the neglect on the part of the employers which has led to such disastrous consequences.

Lieutenant-Governor Dundas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. E. HICKS BEACH.

* No. 1.

† No. 2.

‡ No. 3.

No. 6.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR DUNDAS, C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON. SIR MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, BART. (Received December 2, 1878.)

SIR,

Barbados, November 8, 1878.

1. I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, marked "Emigration," of the 14th October,* in which are transmitted a letter addressed to you by Colonel Harley, and a report made direct to him by Mr. Denham, protector of immigrants at Grenada.

2. My Despatch of the 11th October† has already furnished the information you desire. I shall not fail to report to you whatever further may occur respecting the treatment and condition of the Coolies.

3. Mr. Kerr still maintains a watchful care over all the immigrants under his administration. A narrative of personal visits recently made by him to various parts of the Island, detailing the result of his observation, is contained in a Despatch herewith transmitted.

4. I have read Mr. Denham's letter of the 20th August,‡ addressed to Colonel Harley, with some surprise. I shall refer it, together with your Despatch, to Mr. Kerr, and desire him to report upon them by the first opportunity.

I have, &c. *
(Signed) GEORGE DUNDAS.

The Right Hon. Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 6.

Administrator KERR to Lieutenant-Governor DUNDAS.

SIR,

Government House, October 25, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that immediately after the departure of the last mail I visited the St. Patrick's district, in which many of the Indian immigrants are located.

2. Mr. Denham, the protector of immigrants, was ill, and could not accompany me, but I had the services of the dispenser at the Central Hospital in St. Andrew's, who came out in the "Hermione" as compounder, and who, besides being an intelligent interpreter, is well acquainted with the immigrants individually.

3. I set out early on the morning of the 10th instant, and went round the southern part of the Island for the purpose of seeing the condition of the road from St. George's to St. Andrew's by that route.

4. On reaching St. Andrew's I first visited the Central Hospital, and I was pleased to find that the sick immigrants I had caused to be sent there from the estates on my previous visit to the district were recovering rapidly, and that all the patients were receiving proper care and suitable nourishment.

5. I visited Grenville that afternoon in the hope of seeing Mr. Kent, to make arrangements about removing the Grand Bras immigrants from the hospital, as I was informed that he proposed to allot to them a comfortable house in a healthy situation. I, however, failed to meet with him, although he had notice of my wish to see him. I then visited Soubise estate, to the south of Grenville. The immigrants there were well treated by Mr. Harford, the proprietor, and seemed contented, although some of them had suffered a good deal from fever. At Tuileries and Belvue, the estates of Mr. Batt, which are both in the better climate of the hills, the immigrants were particularly healthy and happy; they had put away their Indian attire, and were clothed neatly and comfortably.

6. Early next morning, accompanied by Mr. Batt and my private secretary, I started for St. Patrick's, calling at the St. Andrew's Hospital for the Indian dispenser. Mr. Batt kindly furnished us with fresh horses, and as he knew all the roads and places I was very glad of his company.

7. At Grand Bras I saw the house which I was told Mr. Kent would prepare for the immigrants. It is in every respect suitable, and I hope the Coolies will be taken to it as soon as possible.

8. I met Dr. McLeod at La Taste estate, and he, with Mr. Fullarton, of that estate, who has charge also of several other properties in the district, rode with me from place to place, and gave me such information as I required.

* No. 4.

† No. 3.

‡ Enclosure in No. 1.

of 15 cases, who are suffering from tedious ulcers, all the Coolies who were removed to the hospital at Richmond Hill have recovered their health.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

GEORGE DUNDAS.

The Right Hon. Sir Michael E. Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1. in No. 8.

Administrator KERR to Lieutenant-Governor DUNDAS.

SIR,

Government House, November 26, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Despatch, 4th November instant, transmitting to me for my report thereon a copy of a Despatch from the Secretary of State, enclosing copy of a letter from Colonel Harley and a report by Mr. Denham on the condition and treatment of the Coolie labourers in this Colony.

2. I have reported so fully and constantly on the condition and treatment of the Indian immigrants in my Despatches, 27th August, 7th September, 27th September, 8th October, 25th October, and 8th November, that my remarks on the documents sent me must necessarily be to a great extent a repetition of what I have already reported.

3. I think Mr. Denham is wrong in his opinion that "East Indian immigrants ought not to be sent to this Island, and that those who arrived in the 'Hermione' ought to be sent away to Demerara or Trinidad." And, indeed, in one of his early reports he says, "on the whole I am happy to say that the new Coolies seem generally contented, and the managers, one and all, seem perfectly satisfied with them."

4. The miserable condition of the Coolies on several of the estates has been the result of mismanagement and neglect, for which Mr. Denham is himself a good deal to blame. The Coolies were in many cases put into houses so badly constructed, and in such improper situations, that disease was both engendered and aggravated. There was no provision made for hospital room and for nursing and medical comforts, and in many cases the Coolies were entirely neglected.

5. Yet the Coolies were domiciled under such conditions, and no effectual steps were taken to insist upon the requirements of the law, with regard to their care and treatment, being observed.

6. The monthly visits which Mr. Denham speaks about were insufficient for the prevention of the evils which occurred, and he seems to have performed his duties generally in the most perfunctory manner.

7. When I visited Beausejour on the 2nd November instant, and saw the barrack in which the Coolies had been domiciled, I was not surprised at the report which Mr. Denham made to me on the 21st August, that he had found them nearly all ill with fever. The house was raised a little above the surface of the swampy ground on short posts with mud and filthy water under and around it, and with a pestilential morass at a short distance. No human beings could have kept their health in such a place.

8. Had Mr. Denham objected to the place, no doubt huts would have been erected on a healthy part of the estate as is now being done.

9. No complaints were made against employers or managers for breaches of the law when these breaches first occurred, and it was only when I discovered, soon after my arrival in the Colony, instances of gross neglect and ill-treatment, that Mr. Denham by my instructions entered complaints against the offending parties.

10. It turned out, however, that the responsible persons were Mr. Langdon and Mr. Shears, who both died before any investigation could be made.

11. Since that time everything that is possible has been done to ameliorate the condition of those who were suffering, immigrants have been removed from unhealthy estates, and new houses are being built in healthy places on others, and, as far as I can see, there is an earnest disposition on the part of the planters to do all that is required of them to the best of their ability.

12. There is a great want of labour in the Colony. The planting of cocoa is being greatly extended, and affords an employment which is exactly suited to Indian labourers. The cocoa planters are very anxious to obtain an additional supply of immigrants, and I see no reason why Indian labourers should not thrive as well in Grenada as in other places, or that the planters should not have as many as they are able to pay for.

13. It must not be forgotten also that in the case of this Colony the whole of the expense of immigration is borne by the planters themselves. The general revenue is not charged with any portion of it, but a special fund is provided by a tax on the export of sugar and cocoa.

14. Under these circumstances it is to the interest of the employers to maintain in robust health by kind treatment the labourers who are procured at such a heavy cost to themselves, and the cases of neglect and ill-treatment which have occurred have been most entirely on the estates of Messrs. Hankey and Co., through the culpable neglect of their agents.

15. Had the Protector of Immigrants done his duty and nipped these abuses in the bud, by taking proceedings promptly against offending parties and removing the immigrants from unhealthy situations, a great deal of the suffering which has occurred could have been prevented.

16. With reference to the old Coolies, although it may be true that there are now only 112 of them located on estates, there are a great many of them scattered over the island, and making an independent livelihood by trading and by planting cocoa, either on small freeholds or on land which they rent in small holdings. I am told also that a very great number of them have gone to Trinidad. They have not "run away" there, but have preferred to go there to claiming their return passage to India.

17. I have made inquiries, but I have been unable to find either that the Coolies have been driven from the estates, or that any of them have died of yaws and other diseases on the roads.

18. I do not think it necessary to follow Mr. Denham in his sensational statements, which appear to be founded neither on facts nor on reason.

19. Even in the case of the manager of Beausejour, who has been fined 50% for ill-treatment of the Coolies, and has since been dismissed from the estate, Mr. Denham has exaggerated by saying "he has beaten the Coolies to get them to work," and expresses surprise at the magistrate only fining him 10s. I have a copy of the proceedings in that case before me. Mr. Denham was not present at the hearing, as he ought to have been. It was only proved, however, that the manager in a bad temper gave one man, with whom he had an altercation, a slight blow with his horsewhip; and the punishment seemed to me to be quite sufficient.

20. On the whole I trust that the difficulties respecting the Coolie labourers are nearly at an end. A better Immigration Ordinance is under consideration by the Secretary of State. And the new Medical Ordinance, which I send by this mail for your Excellency's consideration and approval, will provide at once for efficient medical aid to the immigrants under the direct control of the Government.

21. Much must depend on the character and exertions of the Protector of Immigrants, and I fear that Mr. Denham from the spirit which seems to actuate him, as evinced by his report and from his unwillingness to move about constantly among the estates, which I have insisted on, is unfitted for his present post. Perhaps his health is not equal to the constant travelling which is necessary, as after any exposure or fatigue he is laid up for a week or more with rheumatism.

22. Should I not have been sufficiently explicit in this report, I take the liberty of asking your Excellency to refer the Secretary of State to the Despatches which I have referred to in paragraph 2. Much trouble would have been avoided had Mr. Denham adopted the usual course and sent his report through me in the first instance.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

T. KERR,

Administrator.

His Excellency Governor Dundas, C.M.G.,
Barbados.

Enclosure 2. in No. 8.

Administrator KERR to Lieutenant-Governor DUNDAS.

SIR,

Government House, November 27, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that since my last Despatch (210, 8th November instant) on the condition of the Indian immigrants, I have been able to

send a good many of those who were in hospital to the estates from which they were removed.

2. The Coolies from Grand Bras estate who were sent to St. Andrew's Central Hospital, on the 4th September last (as reported in my Despatch 174, 7th September, paragraph 11), were returned to the estate on the 16th November instant, and now occupy the new quarters which I approved of.

3. The new barracks at Calivigny have been completed, and 27 of the Coolies taken from that estate to the Richmond Hill Hospital have been sent back to work.

4. There are still 35 Coolies at the hospital, of whom only seven are sufficiently recovered to go to work; of these, five are allotted to Mr. Horn's estate in St. Andrew's, and will proceed there at once.

5. I am informed that the new houses at Beausejour, on the spot which I approved of, are being proceeded with, and I hope by the time they are completed to be able to send 15 there from the hospital. This will reduce the number in hospital to 15, who for the most part are suffering from tedious ulcers.

6. The Protector of Immigrants was laid up all last week with rheumatism, and is again unable to proceed this week upon the weekly visits of inspection which I insisted on. He complains that the work is too much for him. He has not gone to live in the Windward district, where most of the immigrants are, and indeed the person whose house I had engaged has refused to give possession on finding who it was required for.

7. I am informed that Mr. Denham has been very indiscreet in speaking offensively of persons with whom he is brought in contact, which, with his brusque manner generally, causes him to be very much disliked.

8. I think it would be desirable to effect an exchange between Mr. Denham and one of the immigration agents in the other Windward Islands, but this I only suggest for your Excellency's consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. KERR,
Administrator.

His Excellency Governor Dundas, C.M.G.,
Barbados.

No. 9.

THE RIGHT HON. SIR MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, BART., to LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR DUNDAS, C.M.G.

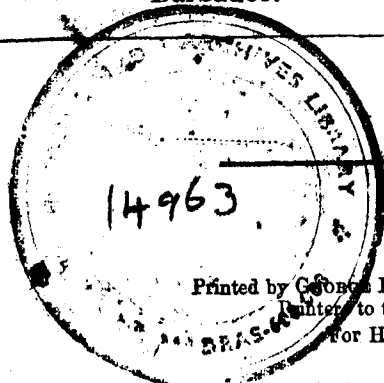
SIR, Downing Street, January 16, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 3rd of December last,* transmitting a Despatch from the Administrator of Grenada, in which he reports upon a letter addressed direct to Colonel Harley by the Protector of Immigrants, on the subject of the condition and ill-treatment of the Coolies in that Colony. Having fully considered the matter, I have come to the conclusion that Mr. Denham, partly, perhaps, through ill-health, has not so discharged the duties of his office as Protector of Immigrants, as to justify me in confirming him in the appointment provisionally held by him. I will endeavour to find a more suitable officer for the post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. E. HICKS BEACH.

His Excellency Governor Dundas, C.M.G.,
Barbados.

* No. 8.



LONDON:

Printed by GEORGE EDWARD EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty,
for Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

U426.56
M79

23.7.87
 26.8.88

21.9.88

21.9.88

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக்காப்பக நூலகம்,
 எழும்பூர், சென்னை-600 008.

துவணைத்தாள்.

சே. எண் :

ப. எண் :

வழங்கிய நாள். (1)	திரும்பிய நாள். (2)	வழங்கிய நாள். (1)	திரும்பிய நாள். (2)
20.9.88		24/12/88	
21.9.88			
22.9.88			
23.9.88			
24.9.88			
25.9.88			
26.9.88			
27.9.88			
28.9.88			
29.9.88			
30.9.88			
1.10.88			
2.10.88			
3.10.88			
4.10.88			
5.10.88			
6.10.88			
7.10.88			
8.10.88			
9.10.88			
10.10.88			
11.10.88			
12.10.88			
13.10.88			
14.10.88			
15.10.88			
16.10.88			
17.10.88			
18.10.88			
19.10.88			
20.10.88			
21.10.88			
22.10.88			
23.10.88			
24.10.88			
25.10.88			
26.10.88			
27.10.88			
28.10.88			
29.10.88			
30.10.88			
31.10.88			
1.11.88			
2.11.88			
3.11.88			
4.11.88			
5.11.88			
6.11.88			
7.11.88			
8.11.88			
9.11.88			
10.11.88			
11.11.88			
12.11.88			
13.11.88			
14.11.88			
15.11.88			
16.11.88			
17.11.88			
18.11.88			
19.11.88			
20.11.88			
21.11.88			
22.11.88			
23.11.88			
24.11.88			
25.11.88			
26.11.88			
27.11.88			
28.11.88			
29.11.88			
30.11.88			
1.12.88			
2.12.88			
3.12.88			
4.12.88			
5.12.88			
6.12.88			
7.12.88			
8.12.88			
9.12.88			
10.12.88			
11.12.88			
12.12.88			
13.12.88			
14.12.88			
15.12.88			
16.12.88			
17.12.88			
18.12.88			
19.12.88			
20.12.88			
21.12.88			
22.12.88			
23.12.88			
24.12.88			
25.12.88			
26.12.88			
27.12.88			
28.12.88			
29.12.88			
30.12.88			
31.12.88			

S.F. 552A-6-1,60,000-30-1-84.