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[Despatch Abstract.]

Emigration - Assam.-

Recording report on the working of the Assam Labour
Board during the year ending June 1917.

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Papers of the department to which the current belongs.

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No. 494-D.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

(EMIGRATION.)

RESOLUTION.

Delhi, the 16th November 1917.

The following paper is published in accordance with Rule 29 of the Assam Labour Board Rules:—

Annual report on the working of the Assam Labour Board during the year ending the 30th June 1917.

I.—ADMINISTRATIVE.

1. Lieutenant-Colonel W. M. Kennedy, C.I.E., I.A., Chairman of the Membership of the Board and Executive Board, proceeded to England on deputation in April 1917, and Mr. R. W. Davies, I.C.S., Madras, was appointed to officiate as Chairman during his absence. Lieutenant-Colonel Kennedy did not resume charge of his duties as Chairman till the 10th September 1917, after the close of the year under report.

2. At the instance of the Board, rule 24 of the rules for the working of the Board was amended by notification of the Government of India in the Department of Commerce and Industry, No. 6534-Emi., dated the 9th June 1917. This rule, which deals with the collection of the cess, has now been much simplified: Superintendents of Emigration have been relieved of the duty of furnishing monthly returns of labourers in respect of whom cess is leviable except in the case of those recruited by garden-sardars working independently of a local agent, and Supervisors have been made responsible for checking, during the course of their tours, the cess collected through the medium of local agents.

3. Two meetings of the Board were held during the year under review namely, on the 18th September 1916 and 20th March 1917. The following members were unavoidably prevented from attending:—

September Meeting.—Messrs. N. M. Ross, E. H. Hannay and the Hon'ble Sir E. H. Bray.

March Meeting.—The Hon'ble Mr. H. B. Fox, the Hon'ble Sir E. H. Bray and Mr. R. T. Fraser.

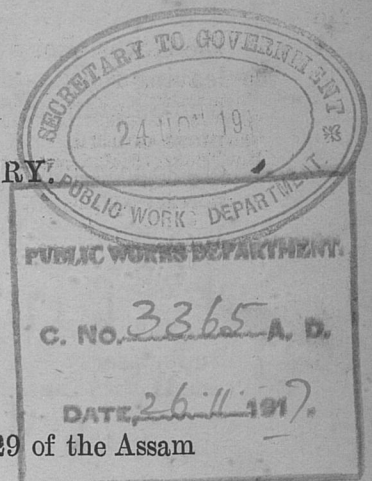
4. Two meetings of the Executive Committee attended by all the members were held, viz., on the 18th September 1916 and 20th March 1917.

5. Sanction was accorded to the strengthening of the Board's office establishment by the addition of one clerk on Rs. 60—4—80. A Provident Fund was established for the staff, and minor improvements were made in the prospects of the clerks.

During the year 2,646 letters were received and 4,668 letters issued.

6. The Chairman was on tour for 107 days, and the Acting Chairman for 51 days. In addition to interviewing Local Governments and District Officials, 20 local agencies and 4 transport agencies were inspected in the course of these tours.

In March the Chairman paid a visit to Delhi by desire of the Government of India.



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7. With effect, respectively, from the 25th and 12th April 1917, the services of Messrs. Craven and McPherson, Supervisors, were placed at the disposal of the Government of Bihar and Orissa for employment with Labour Corps, leaving the Board with one Supervisor only (Mr. C. E. Middleton Stewart), whose headquarters have been transferred temporarily to Calcutta as being more central. A single supervisor is insufficient for the adequate performance of the inspection, preventive and miscellaneous work of the Board, which is spread over six provinces, but it was felt that the claims of war work were paramount. Suitable substitutes for the two Supervisors, whose services have been relinquished, are not as yet forthcoming, and this, also, is largely due to the effect of the war.

The following table shows the touring and inspection work done by the Supervisors :—

Name.	No. of days inspected.	NUMBER OF STATIONS VISITED.		NUMBER OF LOCAL AGENCIES INSPECTED.		NUMBER OF TRANSPORT AGENCIES INSPECTED.	
		Once.	More than once.	Once.	More than once.	Once.	More than once.
Mr. J. McPherson, (from July 1916 to April 1917).	219	21	15	2	4	1	5
Mr. C. H. Craven, (from July 1916 to April 1917).	134	19	13	7	8	...	1
Mr. C. E. Middleton Stewart	251	18	16	5	8	...	1

In addition to the inspection of local agencies and transport agencies, the Supervisors were of much service in smoothing over local difficulties. They were, also, engaged, as before, in the detection and prevention of abuses and in several cases assisted at the prosecution of offenders in Court. They did much useful work, that of Mr. (now Captain) McPherson being especially meritorious.

II.—SUPERVISION OF LOCAL AGENTS.

8. There were altogether fifty-seven applications for the grant of licenses as local agents; in forty-eight cases the Board recommended that licenses should be granted, in five the applications were withdrawn, and in two cases the Board recommended that the applications should be rejected. The recommendations of the Board were accepted by Superintendents of Emigration in all cases except one, in which a license was issued to a person whom the Board were unable to recommend. The recipient has, however, recently resigned his license. Two applications were pending with the Board at the end of the year and have since been disposed of.

At the close of the year fifty persons held local agents' licenses, forty-four of them being employes of the Tea Districts Labour Supply Association, and six of individual employers or firms or combinations of firms. The special local agencies of Messrs. Barry and Company at Berhampore and of the Barduar Tea Estate at Ranchi ceased to work during the year.

9. Owing to the appointment of Supervisors the work of local agents was subjected to much closer supervision than in the previous year; it was, as a rule, satisfactory. The license of no local agent was cancelled, but one agent resigned his license in order to avoid cancellation. In one case, an application for the renewal of a license was not proceeded with, since the holder's conduct was not satisfactory in a matter outside his duties as local agent. As in the previous year, defects which came to light in the course of inspection were readily remedied on their being brought to the notice of those concerned.

10. Reference was made in paragraph 16 of last year's Report to the system of remunerating local agents. The Board are glad to be able to state that at the close of the year all local agents received fixed salaries only, with the

exception of one, who, in addition to a fixed salary, was granted a commission on each recruit. The local agent referred to has since ceased to work.

It is a matter for regret that, owing to financial stringency following upon the falling off in recruitment, the Tea Districts Labour Supply Association have been compelled temporarily to reduce the salaries of their staff, and to effect other economies. The Association have also been obliged to ask their constituents to come to their assistance with the object of enabling them to tide over a period of financial difficulty. This assistance, the Board understand, has been largely afforded. Over 90 per cent. of the recruitment for Assam is carried on under the auspices of the Association, and the Board would regard it as a great misfortune should the members decide to wind it up. A proposal is on foot to re-organise the Association by broadening the basis of membership in order that the tea industry, as a whole, may be more widely represented on the Committee. Any measure which could strengthen the Association would be welcomed by all persons interested in clean recruitment. A central recruiting Association of some description is a necessity, since if individual estates or companies or combinations thereof were to appoint their own local agents, the result would be chaos, and the competition among the garden-sardars of the different agencies to obtain recruits could not but give rise to abuses.

11. In paragraph 17 of the Report of the previous year allusion was made to the fact that the Government of India had been addressed with the object of securing to the Board a veto on the appointment of local agents. That Government, after considering the replies of Local Governments, decided to leave it to the latter to issue, if they so desired, executive instructions that no local agents' license should be granted without the favourable recommendation of the Board, this decision being, however, subject to the reservation that before the procedure is finally adopted it should be reconsidered by the Local Governments concerned after a year and a report made to the Government of India. The Governments of Bengal, Madras, the United Provinces and the Central Provinces have acceded to the request of the Board. In the province of Bihar and Orissa should a Superintendent of Emigration wish to issue a license to a person whom the Board are unable to recommend, he will refer the case to the Local Government for final orders.

III.—RECRUITMENT.

12. As was anticipated, the results for the year fell far short of those for the year 1915-16. From the 1st July 1916 to the 30th June 1917 cess was paid on 33,759 adult labourers, who were recruited by 28,317 garden-sardars, as compared with 56,588 adult labourers recruited by 37,849 garden-sardars between the 21st August 1915 and the 30th June 1916. (These figures do not agree with those given in paragraph 20 relating to realisations on account of cess, since cess accruing in June is not received by the Board till July and is, accordingly, accounted for in the year succeeding that under report.) In all areas the results compare unfavourably with those of the previous year; they were best in the districts of Ranchi and Singbhum, which (including the neighbouring Feudatory States) supplied about one-half the total recruits. It will be observed that the average number of recruits per garden-sardar diminished very considerably. The main reason for the falling off in numbers is the fact that agricultural conditions were generally good. The results, also, of the previous season having been unusually favourable, certain estates had a sufficiency of labour and consequently sent down fewer garden-sardars. In the latter half of the year recruitment for War Labour Corps was partly responsible for the diminution in the number of recruits, while the general financial stringency obtaining throughout the tea industry, consequent upon the difficulty of disposing of tea owing to shortage of freight, tended towards the restriction of recruiting operations.

Prospects for the year 1917-18 are still less favourable. Larger numbers of persons are being recruited for service for the combatant and non-combatant branches of the Army, agricultural conditions are generally good and the financial position of the tea industry is still unsettled. The numbers of absconding garden-sardars have increased considerably. This has rightly or wrongly led to

the impression that a good many of them have been recruited for Labour Corps, and concerns are, therefore, reluctant to risk further loss of labourers who have been imported at great expense. In this connection it may be mentioned that the recruiting authorities for war purposes in the provinces from which Assam chiefly draws its labour, have agreed not to accept absconding garden-sardars as recruits and to grant facilities for their identification. In view of the above-mentioned difficulties most of the larger Calcutta Agency Houses at one time issued instructions prohibiting recruitment altogether or drastically restricting it. It is hoped, however, that the difficulties of the financial situation may soon be surmounted and Agency Houses are issuing instructions that recruitment should be resumed, at any rate to a moderate extent. The tea industry have no desire to compete in any way with recruitment for war purposes, but it is necessary, with a view to the future, to maintain connection with the recruiting districts. Moreover, to cut off the coolies in Assam from communication with their old homes would be liable to arouse discontent on the tea estates.

The Tea Districts Labour Supply Association have offered to assist, in any way possible, in the recruitment of War Labour Corps, and the Board have also afforded such help in this matter as has been asked of them.

13. Difficulties have arisen in working the areas in the Madras Agency

Measures affecting recruitment.

Tracts lately thrown open to recruitment, the chief being that of determining whether coolies who wish to be sent down as garden-sardars originally came from villages in the open or closed areas. It is not easy for the tea-planters in Assam to distinguish between these areas, the boundaries being somewhat indefinite. It is understood that villages are not permanently located in the same place, and in some cases there are several hamlets bearing the same name, some within and some beyond the area thrown open. An additional complication arises owing to the fact that most of the coolies from these areas were obtained through contractors, before the areas were thrown open, with the result that their names and addresses are often incorrect. By arrangement with the Agent to the Governor in Ganjam, sardars for the open area are sent down and their names and addresses are tested locally, those belonging to the area still closed being returned in Assam. Objection was taken on the part of the Agency Tracts authorities to the emigration of single males without their families, who were liable to fall into a state of destitution. The authorities concerned were informed that in such cases, if necessary, an absolute guarantee would be given to return a male recruit after six months' residence in Assam in order to enable him to bring up his family or to remain at home should he not be satisfied with the work and prospects in Assam. The Acting Chairman, who had personal knowledge of local conditions, addressed the Agents to the Governor in the Vizagapatam and Godavari Tracts, explaining the difficulties of the existing system and suggesting further facilities, and a communication on similar lines will shortly be made to the Agent to the Governor in the Ganjam Agency Tract.

Closely connected with the above subject is the scheme sanctioned by the Government of Madras under which coolies in Assam recruited from the areas still remaining closed should be permitted to assist their immediate relatives to emigrate. Lists of such relatives were to be prepared in Assam, and verified locally by tehsildars, after which permission would be accorded to the coolies in Assam to come down and expatriate the persons named. Voluminous lists have been prepared, but here again great difficulty has arisen in identifying the names and addresses given, and the lists are still in process of verification.

The scheme for the regularisation of recruitment in the Feudatory States of Bihar and Orissa is still under consideration, but is approaching conclusion, and it is hoped that final orders will soon be issued.

14. This important subject was considered at length by a Sub-Committee

Cost of sardari recruitment.

appointed by the Indian Tea Association, of which the Chairman was a member. The Indian Tea Association referred the Report of the Sub-Committee for the opinion of the Board, who generally approved of the recommendations. The matter is still under the consideration of the Association.

In this connection, it may be mentioned, that the attention of the Board was drawn to the practice followed by a few concerns of consigning garden-sardars to local agents with instructions that no advances are to be paid but

that the garden-sardars are to be rewarded by *per capita* bonuses in respect of the recruits which they may bring in. Such garden-sardars generally bring down considerable sums of money with them. The Board consider that this method of recruitment is objectionable, that garden-sardars should be financed only by the local agents and that bonuses, if any, should not be paid till the return of the garden-sardars to the tea estates.

IV.—ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT.

15. Though the operations of *arkatties* have been circumscribed owing to the abolition of the system of recruitment by contractors, a number of them were still active, especially during the earlier portion of the year under review. By a ruse a Supervisor, assisted by the police, caught a gang of seven persons, two of whom held Colonial recruiting licenses, red-handed at Allahabad, all of them being convicted. By a similar ruse at Puri another Supervisor secured the conviction of a well-known *arkatti*. In Sylhet, thanks to the information given by the manager of a tea estate, an *arkatti*, who was hawking coolies for sale, was run to earth by one of the Board's Supervisors, convicted and sentenced to two months' imprisonment. In several instances *arkatties* supplied coolies to garden-sardars working independently of a local agent, some of whom were at large at the beginning of the year under report. An important case of this description was detected at Sewan in Chapra which ended in the conviction of a gang of four persons headed by a Marwari, who obtained coolies from the United Provinces for supply to the dummy garden-sardars. The manager of the tea estate would also have been prosecuted, but for the fact that he disappeared on leave. A similar case occurred at Arrah, resulting in the conviction of the offender. A notorious *arkatti* came down to the Ghazipur Agency of the Tea Districts Labour Supply Association with a sardar's certificate and collected a batch of coolies from the persons with whom he was in touch. His prosecution unfortunately failed owing to a technical error. In five cases offers were made to supply coolies to local agents, in two of which prosecutions were instituted and convictions obtained, but in one of these the accused persons were acquitted on appeal. In a third case the license of a Colonial contractor at Bahraich was cancelled. These are the more important cases in which the Board were concerned. There is reason to believe that the policy of harassing illegal recruiters is bearing fruit, as the number of offences reported diminished during the latter part of the year. So far as the Board are aware, there are now no garden-sardars working independently of a local agent; thus an easy channel for the commission of abuses has been blocked. The Central Provinces Administration has lately prohibited recruitment by garden-sardars not working under a local agent, and the Board will consider whether other Local Governments should not be asked to pass similar orders. The fact that the Government of the United Provinces has, as recommended in paragraph 26 of last year's Report, amended the notification published under section 91, Act VI of 1901, the certificates of all garden-sardars being now required to be countersigned in the labour districts, has facilitated control over those working *mala fide*. It may be added that in all cases in which there is reason to believe that the manager of a tea estate is concerned in the malpractices of his subordinates, he is called upon for an explanation and dealt with through the Indian Tea Association or his employer, and in an extreme case his prosecution is recommended.

16. For many years past it has been the practice on certain estates to grant leave *chits* instead of sardari certificates to coolies proceeding at their own expense to visit their old homes in the recruiting districts, it not being the intention of such persons to engage in recruiting. In practice, however, some of their relatives or friends not infrequently wish to accompany them back to Assam. Difficulties then arise. If the coolie brings these people to a local agent, the latter cannot send them forward unless there happens to be a certificated garden-sardar in the neighbourhood who can nominally recruit them. Indeed, the coolie who brought them in has probably already committed the technical offence of engaging or attempting to engage them. Or, perhaps, the coolie will take these persons back with him to Assam, without producing them before the local agent of the estate, and instances of this have occurred during

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illegal re-
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in Madras.
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1232 X
19-8-15
338 W
25-2-16

the past year. The latter practice is not only totally illegal but most objectionable, as in some cases the persons recruited by the coolie on leave would not have been passed by a responsible local agent, and complaints are subsequently received from the recruiting districts regarding their recruitment. The Tea Districts Labour Supply Association have advised their constituents to furnish coolies proceeding on leave with sardari certificates, and the Board strongly recommend to all employers the adoption of this advice. The possession of such a certificate not only obviates any trouble should recruits be obtained, but is an advantage in that it enables the local agent to keep touch with the coolie and to finance and otherwise assist him on his return journey.

17. No cases of coolies being recruited ostensibly for Chittagong and sent Recruitment nominally for Chittagong and the up to Assam came to light during the Duars. year, and there is no reason to suppose that this form of illegal recruitment is now being practised. There can be no doubt, however, that from the Ranchi district batches of coolies were smuggled up to Assam under the pretence that they were intended for the Duars. In consequence of the prevalence of rumours to this effect, a Supervisor was deputed specially to investigate the matter, and he eventually succeeded in tracing a batch to a tea estate in the Darrang district. The manager and recruiters were prosecuted, but the case was eventually withdrawn on the Directors of the Company satisfying the Chairman that they were ignorant of the manager's proceedings and on their undertaking to dismiss him and pay Rs. 500 to a war charity. In another case a different procedure was followed. The batch was taken to a plains district in Bengal, and there handed over to a garden-sardar who produced the coolies before the local agent of the Tea Districts Labour Supply Association, it being alleged by the parties that they had left their own district in search of work, and had been recruited locally by the garden-sardar. Subsequent investigation elicited the true facts. It is to be hoped that the action taken in the Darrang case has acted as a deterrent, since no further information of such cases has lately been received. On the other hand, however, this particular form of malpractice is not very easy to detect, and, owing to the depletion of the Board's staff of Supervisors, it has not been possible to maintain the same vigilance as formerly.

V.—FINANCIAL.

18. For the year under review the cess was again fixed at Rs. 2 on each garden-sardar and emigrant, *vide* Department of Commerce and Industry notification No. 2475-45, dated the 6th May 1916. The cess was collected punctually and without difficulty, that on garden-sardars, including those working in the United Provinces whose certificates are now required to be countersigned in the labour districts, being, since the 1st September 1916, realised by countersigning officers in Assam and remitted by them to the Board. The cess on labouring emigrants was, by the courtesy of the Tea Districts Labour Supply Association and the employers of local agents not belonging to that Association, entirely collected through local agents, to whom the Board beg to tender their thanks, no garden-sardars having been appointed to recruit independently of a local agent.

19. During the year under review a sum of Rs. 1,366 was refunded on account of cess erroneously paid, Rs. 202 being in respect of 101 sardars on whom cess was twice realised and Rs. 1,164 in respect of 582 emigrants who had not gone forward, who had absconded *en route* or who had been repatriated either *en route* or within a short time of their arrival on the tea estates.

20. The estimate of receipts provided for an income of Rs. 2,33,133, *viz.*, an opening balance of Rs. 81,000, a Government grant of Rs. 16,133 and Rs. 1,36,000-0-0 derived from cess on 27,000 garden-sardars and 41,000 emigrants. The actual credits amounted to Rs. 2,71,875-5-7, the excess being due to the fact that the opening balance (Rs. 1,20,243-2-1) was larger than was anticipated. The cess realised amounted to Rs. 1,31,912 (excluding the refund of Rs. 1,366-0-0) which was paid on 31,483 garden-sardars and 34,473 emigrants. In addition, Rs. 1,125 were received on account of interest on a sum of Rs. 75,000 which was placed on fixed deposit with the Bank of Bengal from the 5th of August 1916 to the 4th of February 1917. A further sum of

Rs. 1,485-13-8 was realised as interest on Rs. 75,000-0-0 invested in the 5½ per cent. Indian War Loan Bonds on the 4th of April 1917. The Board deemed it desirable to afford the War Loan this measure of support, providing Rs. 50,000-0-0 from the surplus funds at credit and borrowing Rs. 25,000 from the Bank of Bengal on the security of the fixed deposit of Rs. 75,000-0-0. The loan has since been repaid. The contribution payable by the Government of India for the months March to June 1917 has been received since the close of the year.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,12,461-4-9 as compared with the estimate of Rs. 1,18,190-3-0. The savings accrued principally under the heads travelling allowance of all classes (Rs. 9,160), and salary of Chairman (Rs. 3,257); while the chief excess payment (Rs. 4,000) was due to the grant of an advance to one of the Supervisors for the purpose of purchasing a motor car, a charge for which budget provision had not been made.

21. The budget estimate for 1917-18, which was passed at the meeting of the Board held in March 1917, provides for an opening balance of Rs. 1,59,000-0-0 (the actual opening balance being Rs. 1,59,414-0-10), a contribution from Government of Rs. 14,145-9-8, Rs. 1,18,000-0-0 as realisations from cess at Rs. 2 on 26,000 garden-sardars and 33,000 emigrants and Rs. 2,250-0-0 on account of interest. The latter item is likely to be exceeded as the investment in the War Loan bonds was made after the budget had been drawn up.

In view of the fact that a substantial balance has accumulated, the Board considered whether a recommendation should not be made to the Government of India that a reduction be made in the rate of cess. It was, however, deemed to be inadvisable to recommend that the rate should be reduced since recruiting prospects during the current year are very uncertain owing to the existence of war conditions, especially the recruitment of Labour Corps and the financial stringency consequent upon the restrictions on imports of tea into the United Kingdom, which are likely to react unfavourably on the receipts of the Board. The poor recruiting results up to date constitute a justification of the Board's attitude in this matter, as under present conditions there is every prospect of realisations on account of cess falling far short of the estimate. The budget provides for an expenditure of Rs. 1,21,116-7-9 and a closing balance of Rs. 1,72,279-1-11. Since it includes expenditure on account of the two Supervisors who have left the service of the Board considerable savings may be expected.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

22. The special Supervisor appointed to supervise the transit routes between Assam and the recruiting districts made frequent tours prior to his deputation to military duty, and did much useful work in drawing attention to defects and suggesting improvements which were brought to the notice of the railway administrations concerned with satisfactory results.

The Eastern Bengal Railway authorities have now completed their arrangements to facilitate coolie traffic, and they will be brought into operation when they receive an intimation from the Tea Districts Labour Supply Association that the volume of traffic warrants their adoption. At present comparatively few coolies are going up to Assam.

In consultation with the Sanitary Commissioner, Assam, improved measures for notifying the existence of epidemic diseases along the transit routes and for arranging for the vaccination of emigrants from areas infected with small-pox have been adopted.

23. The Board again wish to tender their thanks to the Local Governments and their officers, with whom they deal, for their courtesy and support, as also to the Indian Tea Association and Tea Districts Labour Supply Association for the assistance which has been so readily afforded them.

Statement of RECEIPTS and
RECEIPTS.

PARTICULARS.	Budget.	Actuals.	Short.	Excess.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Opening Balance	81,000 0 0	1,20,243 2 1	...	39,243 2 1
1. Cess received from employers on garden-sardars and emigrants	1,36,000 0 0	1,33,278 0 0	2,722 0 0	...
2. Contribution from the Government of India on account of Chairman's salary	16,133 0 0	*14,913 14 4	1,219 1 8	...
3. Balance of contribution from the Government of India towards salary of Chairman for the year ending 31st March 1916	...	2 0 0	...	2 0 0
4. Interest on the Fixed Deposit of Rs. 75,000	...	1,125 0 0	...	1,125 0 0
5. Interest on Rs. 75,000 invested in the 5½ per cent. War Bonds	...	1,485 13 8	...	1,485 13 8
6. Recoveries	...	†605 4 0	...	605 4 0
7. Recoveries from the salary of Mr. C. E. Middleton Stewart towards payment of Motor Car Advance	...	222 3 6	...	...
TOTAL	2,33,133 0 0	2,71,875 5 7	3,941 1 8	424,61 3 9

* Contribution by the Government of India towards the salary of Chairman from 1st April 1916 to 28th February 1917.

† Includes recovery of Rs. 600 given to Messrs. C. H. Craven and J. McPherson as permanent advance.

W. M. KENNEDY, *Lt.-Col.,*
Chairman, Assam Labour Board.

T. H. WORGAN,
Examiner, Outside Accounts, Calcutta.

EXPENDITURE for the year 1916-17.

EXPENDITURE.

PARTICULARS.	Budget as sanctioned by Government of India.	Reappropriation.	Budget after reappropriation.	Actuals.	Savings.	Excess.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1. Salary of Chairman	32,266 11 0	...	32,266 11 0	29,008 11 3	3,257 15 9	...
2. Travelling allowance of Chairman	5,000 0 0	—975 0 0	4,025 0 0	4,021 12 0	3 4 0	...
3. Travelling allowance of Members of the Board	5,000 0 0	—3,075 0 0	1,925 0 0	2,083 14 9	...	158 14 9
4. Salary of Board's office	3,489 8 0	...	3,489 8 0	3,301 8 5	187 15 7	...
5. Travelling allowance of Board's office	1,800 0 0	...	1,800 0 0	2,241 10 2	...	441 10 2
6. Grain compensation allowance of Board's office	48 0 0	...	48 0 0	48 8 3	...	0 8 3
7. Purchase of books and periodicals	500 0 0	...	500 0 0	368 4 0	131 12 0	...
8. Stationery and printing	500 0 0	+300 0 0	800 0 0	718 2 10	81 13 2	...
9. Forms	600 0 0	...	600 0 0	455 0 0	145 0 0	...
10. Postage and telegrams	600 0 0	...	600 0 0	531 5 0	68 11 0	...
11. Office rent	2,100 0 0	...	2,100 0 0	2,100 0 0	...	...
12. Telephone charges	250 0 0	+150 0 0	400 0 0	350 0 0	50 0 0	...
13. Electric lights and fans	150 0 0	...	150 0 0	70 2 3	79 13 9	...
14. Board's office contingencies	700 0 0	...	700 0 0	313 12 6	386 3 6	...
15. Purchase of furniture	200 0 0	+478 0 0	678 0 0	651 4 0	26 12 0	...
16. Temporary establishment and job typing	600 0 0	...	600 0 0	172 6 2	427 9 10	...
17. Liveries	50 0 0	+100 0 0	150 0 0	113 8 0	36 8 0	...
18. Tour charges	400 0 0	...	400 0 0	390 7 0	9 9 0	...
19. Unforeseen charges	1,000 0 0	—450 0 0	550 0 0	246 0 0	304 0 0	...
20. Refund of cess	...	...	1,700 0 0	1,366 0 0	334 0 0	...
21. Purchase of Typewriter	320 0 0	+372 0 0	692 0 0	372 0 0	320 0 0	...
<i>Supervisors.</i>						
22. Salary of supervisors including contribution towards pension and leave allowances	39,450 0 0	+4,100 0 0	43,550 0 0	43,500 12 1	49 3 11	...
23. Travelling allowance of supervisors	15,000 0 0	—3,500 0 0	11,500 0 0	10,067 1 3	1,432 14 9	...
24. Salary of supervisors' office	1,672 0 0	...	1,672 0 0	1,619 0 7	52 15 5	...
25. Grain compensation allowance	72 0 0	...	72 0 0	58 0 10	13 15 2	...
26. Travelling allowance of supervisors' office	2,400 0 0	+600 0 0	3,000 0 0	2,070 9 2	929 6 10	...
27. Contingent expenditure including stationery and tour charges	2,142 0 0	...	2,142 0 0	865 15 3	1,276 0 9	...
28. Office rent	1,080 0 0	...	1,080 0 0	975 0 0	105 0 0	...
29. Purchase of furniture	200 0 0	+200 0 0	400 0 0	380 9 0	19 7 0	...
30. Purchase of books	600 0 0	...	600 0 0	...	600 0 0	...
31. Motor Car advance	...	...	...	4,000 0 0	...	14,000 0 0
TOTAL	1,18,190 3 0	...	1,18,190 3 0	1,12,461 4 9	10,329 15 5	4,601 1 2
<i>Add</i>	...	...	...	*75,000 0 0	...	...
<i>Add</i>	...	...	...	†50,000 0 0	...	...
GRAND TOTAL	1,18,190 3 0	...	1,18,190 3 0	2,37,461 4 9	10,329 15 5	4,601 1 2

* Fixed deposit. † Part of War Loan. ‡ Sanctioned by the Board.

W. M. KENNEDY, *Lt.-Col.,*
Chairman, Assam Labour Board.

10

ORDERED that a copy of the above Resolution be forwarded to the Local
 Government of Bengal.
 Government of Bihar and Orissa.
 Government of the United Provinces.
 Government of Madras.
 Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner of the Central
 Provinces.
 Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

Governments and Administrations noted
 on the margin and that it be published in
 the Supplement to the *Gazette of India*.

A. H. Khan

Secretary to the Government of India.

M

NOTES.

AC
24/11

NOTES.

Page

Home (mis) Deptt.

Assam Labour Board

From the Govt of India, 494 D. G 16. 11. 1917.

U.S.

The annual report on the working of the Assam Labour Board during the year ending June 1917 (the second year of its existence) is submitted. The noticeable features are set out below.

2. There were altogether 57 applications for the grant of local agents' licences of which the Board recommended the grant in 48 cases. ^{In} Including one case in which a licence was issued to a person whom the Board were unable to recommend; the ~~to~~ percentage of licences to the no of apps. was about 86 against 93 during the previous years. In 1910 no 660. of 27. 6. 17, the Govt ^{have} directed that no local agent's licence should be issued to any person without the recommendation of the Labour Board.

3. Owing to the appointment of Supervisors, the work of local agents

para 8, p 2 CF

para 9 of the original with
Lyo 821 (F) (F)
30.5.17

para 9, p 2 CF

para 7, p 2 cf

The question referred to this
is under separate
disposal

para 12, p 3 cf.

"

"

para 21, p 7 cf.

was subjected to ^{much} closer supervision
than in the previous year. Out of three
Supervisors, two have gone on other duty
and the Board considers that a single
officer is insufficient for the adequate
performance of the duties which ^{are} spread
over six provinces. The question of
appointing a subordinate police officer
to assist the supervisor in his enquiries
as to ^{into} illegal recruitment is under the
consideration of the Board.

4 The number of recruits ^{of} the
garden raiders who recruited them
during the last two years are as under

	G. Raiders.	Recruit
1915-1916	37,849	56,588.
1916-1917.	28,317	33,789

The decrease is explained to be due
to the agricultural conditions during the
year and the results of the previous
season being good, financial stringency
and the recruitment for the war Labour
Corps. The prospects for the year 1917-8
are still less favourable, and it is
for this reason that the Board is
unwilling to recommend a reduction.

NOTES.

Para 18, p 6 CF

Para 21, p 7 CF

Para 13, p 4 CF

in the Cess (at present Rs 2) levied on every Garden Sindar and emigrant, ^{although a} ~~in spite of~~ the substantial balance ~~which~~ has accumulated. The actual opening balance at the beginning of 1917-18 was over 1½ lakhs of Rupees.

5. The Chairman points out certain difficulties in working in certain Agency tracts recently thrown open to recruitment. They are (a) the difficulty of determining whether the Coolies who wish to be sent down as Sindars originally came from villages in the open or closed areas, (b) the incorrectness ^{of} in the names and addresses of the Coolies who were obtained through Contractors, and (c) the objection taken by the authorities to the emigration of single males without their families who were liable to become destitute. The question is now under the Correspondence between the Assam Labour Board and the District Authorities, and no action on the part of this Govt is at present necessary. The Board will apparently address the Govt if it cannot come to terms

with the local authorities.

6. The report may be recorded and copies sent to the D. Ms Concerned. Draft only.

S.

AP
20.11.17
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para 3, p 2 CF.

(1) The licensee reports in para 2. above subsequently resigns so we need not remain on this.

file with copy

(2) The question of subordinate police officer assistance has been seen with. We thought it probably unnecessary but left it to the B.S.

para 21, 17 CF

(3) In view of the present depression in the labour market - the case of Rs 2/- on riders has been continued as proposed by the B.S.

para 13, 14 CF +
15, 13 ante

(4) We shall probably have to take up with the question of recruitment from Agency tracks - it wd. be desirable, I think, to have a uniform procedure here - but in this the B.S.'s action may be awaited.

(5) No special remark.

11.12.17

There is nothing special in the report about this Presidency in particular except para 13.

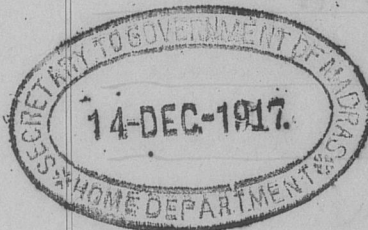
The report is very colourless.

Draft 'Reung' put up

11/12/17

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13/12/17



Home (mis) DEPARTMENT.

Recording report on the working of the Assam Labour Board
during the year ending June 1917

READ AGAIN G.O. No., dated 19

” ” ” ” ” 19

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 3906, From the Board, No. _____, dated _____ 19 ____
Revolution of the Board of India, Deptt of Commerce
& Industry. no 494. D. of 16. 11. 17.

” ” ” ” ” ” 19

” ” ” ” ” ” ” 19 .

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No. 1257, dated 14. 12. 1917.

Recorded

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30.11.17

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13/12/17

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