M.R.O. 14—5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 383-384 Press ~~Mis.~~

7-9

Dated 7-4-1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

383-4

25.10.29

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 7th April 1857.

Read the following Papers.

No. 7. From W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Malabar; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, dated Calicut, 20th February 1857, No. 27.

SIR,

With reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 11th Instant, I have the honor to state that on learning that crimps had been sent from Mahè to secure Coolies for two ships then lying in harbour there, I issued proclamations warning the people, and offering rewards for the conviction of the crimps, and the steps taken have had the desired effect.

Several crimps have been convicted and the misled Coolies having their minds disabused of the false impressions under which they had engaged, have been dismissed to their homes. Other cases are pending. In the mean time the ships have taken their departure, and quiet seems restored. They took off some 96 Coolies.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Acting Magistrate.

No. 8. From W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Malabar; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, dated Calicut, 27th February 1857, No. 30.

SIR,

95 men registered by the Police of Mahè;

In continuation of my letter of the 20th Instant, I have the honor to state that an Emigrant Ship, "the Caprice" is reported to have left Mahè on the 22nd Instant, taking, it is believed, about 125 Coolies, by far the greater part of whom have been crimped in the Company's Territories, large rewards having been paid by the Cooly Agency at Mahè for each Cooly.

2. The unscrupulous lying and misrepresentation resorted to by these mercenary crimps to get Coolies, has transpired in several Police enquiries and many friends and relations of young men seduced away have applied to me, on missing the unfortunate dupes, and hearing that they had been last seen in company of crimps on their route to Mahè, I have sent several of these representations to Mr. Hayes, the Chief of Mahè, and have received courteous and kind replies, but in no instance has a man crossed the border again who had been applied for.

I have &c.
(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Acting Magistrate.

No. 9. ORDER THEREON, No. 383; dated 1st April 1857.

In the first of the letters above recorded, the Acting Magistrate of Malabar states that on learning that crimps had been sent from Mahé to secure Coolies for two ships then lying in harbour there, he issued proclamations warning the people, and offering rewards for the conviction of the crimps and that the steps taken had had the desired effect. Several crimps have been convicted and the misled Coolies having their minds disabused of the false impressions under which they had engaged, have been dismissed to their homes. Other cases are pending. In the mean time the ships have taken their departure, and quiet seems restored. They took off some 96 Coolies.

2. In his second letter however written a week after his first, Mr. Robinson gives a far less satisfactory account. He reports that the "Caprice" is stated to have left Mahè on the 22d Instant, taking, it is believed, about 125 Coolies, by far the greater part of whom have been crimped in the Company's Territories, large rewards having been paid by the Cooly Agency at Mahè for each Cooly. The unscrupulous misrepresentation resorted to by these mercenary crimps to get Coolies, has transpired in several Police enquiries, and many friends and relations of young men seduced away have applied to the Acting Magistrate on missing the unfortunate dupes, and hearing that they had been last seen in company of crimps on their route to Mahé The Magistrate has sent several of these representations to Mr. Hayes, the Chief of Mahé, and

has received courteous and kind replies, but in no instance has a man crossed the border again who had been applied for.

To Government of India, 11th February 1857, No. 182, para. 4.

3. The above letters will be communicated to the Government of India in continuation of the former papers regarding the murder at Six Islands. Mr. Robinson appears to have adopted all the means in his power for the repression of the practices which he reports, and his proceedings are fully approved. He will continue to use the utmost exertions to put down the traffic, and he is authorised to incur any expense that may be requisite for obtaining information. He may also, if he finds it necessary, entertain any temporary extra Establishment for watching the roads leading into Mahé and the country around that Settlement, reporting the expense hereafter for sanction.

4. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council likewise thinks it very desirable that the extent to which laborers have of late years been exported from Malabar for service in Foreign Colonies should as far as possible be ascertained, as well as the proportion that have returned, the terms held out to induce them to engage, the time for which they originally contracted, and that which they actually served, and the treatment which they received. Such information it will no doubt be difficult to obtain, but endeavours should be made to procure from the relatives or friends of such emigrants particulars as to their names, date of departure, place of embarkation, and whether they have or have not returned to India. Those who may have returned, if any, on assurance that their disclosures could not operate to their prejudice, would probably not object to state the circumstances under which they were induced to quit India, the promises made to them and how far they were redeemed, the Colony to which they were taken, employment, and treatment there, with the circumstances of their return. The information thus obtained would be useful both as illustrative of the probable fate of the Coolies who have not returned and as furnishing clues towards checking the traffic.

5. On a former occasion in 1851-2 when crimping was in full activity in the District of South Arcot, it was found that many of the public servants and some of high rank lay under strong suspicion of being concerned in the contraband trade. It is not probable that the exportation of Coolies from Mahé could have occurred without similar complicity on the part of some of the Malabar Native Officials. The Magistrate should caution them not to lend themselves to such acts, and should warn them that any delinquency of the kind if established against them will subject them not only to the most rigorous punishment that the law allows, but to permanent exclusion from the public service.

6. This extract will also be communicated to the Magistrates of Canara, Rajahmundry, South Arcot and Tanjore, and they will be called upon to state whether they have reason to believe that crimping of Coolies for exportation to Foreign Colonies is carried on to any extent in their Districts, and if so, what are the particulars that have come to their noticeand what steps they have taken for repressing the traffic. They will also institute for their Districts the inquiry ordered above in para. 4 for Malabar, and report the result.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Ordered that the following letter be dispatched.

No. 10. From T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George: to the Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 1st April 1857, No. 384.

Sir,

20th and 26th February 1857, Nos. 27 & 30.

In continuation of my letter under date 11th February last, No. 182, para: 4, I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to forward, for submission to the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council, the accompanying two further letters from the Acting Magistrate of Malabar.

2. From the first of these the Government were led to hope that the export of Malabar Coolies from Mahè to the French Colonies was abating, but Mr. Robinson's second letter seems to show that it is still in full activity. There appears little reason to expect that any effectual check will be placed on it, by the French authorities. Mr. Robinson however appears to have

adopted all the means in his power for the repression of the practices which he reports, and his proceedings have been fully approved. He has been ordered to continue his utmost exertions to put down the traffic, and has been authorized to incur any expense that may be requisite for obtaining information, as also, if he finds it necessary, to entertain any temporary extra Establishment, for watching the roads leading into Mahè and the country around that settlement.

3. It has appeared to this Government to be very desirable that the extent to which laborers have of late years been exported from Mahè or from any other ports on the Coasts of India for service in Foreign Colonies, should as far as possible be ascertained, as well as the proportion that have returned, the terms held out to induce them to engage, the time for which they originally contracted, and that which they actually served, and the treatment which they received. Such information will no doubt be difficult to obtain, but the Magistrates of the Districts in the vicinity of Foreign Settlements, Malabar, Canara, Rajahmundry, South Arcot and Tanjore have been directed to procure as far as they are able from the relations or friends of such emigrants particulars as to their names, date of departure, place of embarkation, and whether they have, or have not returned to India. Those who may have returned, if any, on assurance that their disclosures could not operate to their prejudice, would probably not object to state to the Magistrates, the circumstances under which they were induced to quit India, the promises made to them, and how far they were redeemed, the Colony to which they were taken, employment, and treatment there, with the circumstances of the return. The information thus obtained, will be useful both, as illustrative of the probable fate of the Coolies who have not returned and as furnishing clues towards checking the traffic.

To Secy to Govt. of India, 14th July 1851.
" " " " 19th Augt. 1851.
" " " " 14th Sept. 1852.

4. On a former occasion in 1851, 1852, when crimping was in full activity in the District of South Arcot, it was found that many of the public servants and some of high rank lay under strong suspicion of being concerned in the contraband trade. It is not probable that the exportation of coolies from Mahè could have occurred without similar complicity on the part of some of the Malabar Native Officials. The Magistrate has therefore been instructed to caution his servants not to lend themselves to such acts, and to warn them that any delinquency of the kind if established against them will subject them, not only to the most rigorous punishment that the law allows but to permanent exclusion from the public service.

5. The Magistrates of the adjoining District of Canara, and of the Districts above enumerated in para: 3, have also been called upon to state whether they have reason to believe that crimping of Coolies for exportation to Foreign Colonies is carried on to any extent in their Districts, and if so, what are the particulars that have come to their notice, and what steps they have taken for repressing the traffic.

From Secy. to the Govt. of India, 6th Augt. 1852.
To " " 21st Decr. 1852.
From " " 14th Octr. 1853.
To " " 19th May 1854.

6. In reporting these proceedings, I am however instructed to express the conviction of this Government that such practices will never be effectually put down unless by some understanding with the French Government, whereby the exportation of Coolies for their Colonies should be legalized under such arrangements between the two nations, as will afford the emigrant to the French, the same protection which is now afforded to the emigrant to British Colonies. This question, it is observed, has already formed the subject of correspondence between the Supreme and the Madras Government, the last letter from the Government of Madras bearing date 19th May 1854.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

I do not see that anything more effective can be done at present with respect to this case – than the measures already adopted by Mr Robinson.

I do not know how far the British Govt. may be disposed to ~~interfere~~ either into communication with the French Govt. respecting the system of crimping, which is

[illegible]

permitted ~~to~~ within their possessions in India - by which some hundreds of British subjects are annually exported to the ~~[illegible]~~ islands of Bourbon & of the French West Indies. But I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without expressing my conviction that it is a duty incumbent on us to ~~[illegible]~~ obtain correct information 1st as to the fate of these emigrants who are by these means induced to leave their Country - 2nd as to the conditions on

which these British subjects agree to serve in a foreign land - 3rd as to the manner in which those conditions are fulfilled.

I am strongly of opinion that the British Govt shd consent to no system of emigration of which the principles & provisions are not similar to its own.

Whether that system shd be modified may be a question - I am disposed to think - that it requires no change except with respect to the quantity of space on board-ship ~~required~~ ~~allotted~~ allowed for each Cooly - which is perhaps unnecessarily large -

I would also call Lewis's attention to this fact - that there is by no means an excess of labour in Southern India - & if free scope is given to the industry of the people by allowing them to rent land at a fair rate - & by their employment on public works - there is no want for finding occupation for them elsewhere.

That is actually the case is now being proved in South Arcot.

I hear from good authority that the Emigration from that district - which was formerly considerable in consequence of its propinquity to Pondicherry has nearly ceased.

How strongly does this show the urgent necessity for a speedy settlement of the many Department Questions

1-4-81 R.H.

I believe the happiness & well being of millions to be dependent upon them. & yet these subjects have ~~[illegible]~~ been for ~~thirteen~~ years in circulatory ~~[illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible]~~

I am no advocate for preventing the natives of this country from Emigrating ~~but~~ If they please - so long as there is a certainty of their being properly treated - but I think every endeavour shd be made to ascertain whether that is the case.

One measure ~~instead~~ might be worth adoption as likely to assist in procuring such information - viz - for the collectors

6

~~[illegible]~~ to call upon the Emigrants themselves - their parents - relations - or friends to notify their proposed or actual departure - & the terms on which they have consented to leave the country - & also to ask parents relations or friends to report the fact of any one being missing -

Lists of the names of such persons with ~~[illegible]~~ any particulars respecting them - which may be obtained - shd be kept - & their return or continued absence after a certain number of years ~~accepted~~ chanced to be reported to Govt.

Harris.

Guindy. I entirely concur in these views.

March 19/57. Edw. Maltby

I concur in these views. I would endeavour to obtain all possible information regarding those emigrating to French settlements, but the apathy of the public is such that they will not voluntarily assist the Collectors to this end. Intending Emi=grants to our own Colonies should appear before the Collectors to state that they do so with their own free will. They however evade such appearance so completely for their own benefit whenever they can —

March 19 — 1857 H. C. Montgomery

The surest way to check emigration is to make it worth the peoples while to stay at home. The introduction of a system of free labor ~~with~~ in Malabar and a proper rate of remuneration will have this effect. The land tax is so light in Malabar & ~~is light~~ that no improvement can be expected in this respect

But these poor people are evidently spirited away under false expectations and I dont see why the police shd not watch the proceedings of the crimps & if they detect them in the act of misrepresenting the advantages of the service both they invite the coolies to proceed agst them I imagine the law wd suffice to procure ~~a~~

convictions involving penalties sufficient to check their proceedings

These are the measures proposed of the Rt Hble the Presdt; sho have the effect of opening the peoples eyes & of making them more cautious in lending themselves to such invitations

23/3/57

Walter Elliot

8

Papers to be circulated at once - accidentally omitted from the box received & despatched last Evg.

H.

March 28/57.

8. a m.

Memo

I was about despatching Mr Robinson's letter of the 20th ulto to the Govt of India in continuation of the previous correspondence prior to this in connection with the Captn of Kate Augusta and the Murder in the Fiji Islands, when I recd his second letter showing that matters were not so satisfactory as the Actg Collector had supposed - & the Vessl with the 125 Coolies having left Mali on the 22d ulto or subsequent to his first letter & kidnapping being apparently in full activity—

I have in consequence kept back my letter to the Imperial Govt, but have delayed sending the papers out until I could acquaint myself with what passed on former occasions in 1849 & 1852 — when things however were very much worse than they seem to be now —

I have gone as well as my time would permit thro' the voluminous papers connected with those occasions & have marked the most important ones. I do not however find much in point. It is clearly useless now as it was in 1852 to expect any thing from the French authorities. — Has It seems to have been hoped ~~[illegible] that year~~ in that year that the practice might be abated by the French Cooly trade being legalized by arrangements concerted between the two nations but Mr Carmichael's memo with

show that all the discussions on that subject have had no result & I presume are not likely to have any. —

JP

11

Judicial Depart

No. 383

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Dated 1st April 1857.

Read the following letters from the Acting Magistrate of Malabar.

Here enter 20th & 26th Feby/57
Nos 27 & 30/

with attention

In the first of the letters above recorded, the Acting Magistrate of Malabar states that on learning that crimps had been sent from Mahe to secure Coolies for two ships then lying in harbour there he issued proclamations warning the people, and offering rewards for the conviction of the crimps and that the steps taken ~~had~~ had

the

C 18 March
R.P. 31 "
C – 31 "
R 1 Apl

the desired effect. Several crimps have been convicted and the misled Coolies having their minds disabused of the false impressions under which they had engaged, have been dismissed to their homes. Other cases are pending. In the mean time the ships have taken their departure and quiet seems restored. They took off some 96 Coolies —

2 In his second letter however written a week after his first Mr Robinson gives a far less satisfactory account. He reports that the "Caprice" is stated to have left Mahe on the 22d instant, taking it is believed, about 125 Coolies, by far

far the greater part of whom have been crimped in the Company's Territories large rewards having been paid by the Cooly Agency at Mahe for each Cooly. The unscrupulous ~~lying~~ ~~and~~ misrepresentation resorted to by these Mercenary crimps to get Coolies, has transpired in several police enquiries and many friends and relations of young men seduced away have applied to the Actg. Magte. in missing the unfortunate dupes, and hearing that they had been last seen in company of crimps on their route to Mahe. The Magte. has sent several of these representations to Mr Hayes the Chief of Mahe and has received courteous and kind replies but in no instance has a man crossed the border again who had been applied for.

To Govt of India 11 Feby 1857 No 182 P4

3. The above letters will be communicated to the Govt. of India in continuation of the former papers regarding the murder at Six Islands. Mr. Robinson appears to have adopted all the means in his power for the repression of the practices which he reports, and his proceedings are fully approved. He will continue to use the utmost exertions to put down the traffic, and he is authorised to incur any expense that may be requisite for obtaining information. He may also if he finds it necessary entertain any temporary extra Establishment for watching the roads leading into Mahe and the country around that settlement reporting the expence hereafter for sanction.

[illegible] sh this
who are
and there
coast but
parts from
emigrants

4. The Right Honble the Governor in Council likewise thinks it very desirable that the extent to which laborers have of late years been exported Pondy & Malabar ~~from Mahe & other ports on the Western Coast~~ for service in Foreign Colonies should as far as possible be ascertained, as well as the proportion that have returned, the terms held out to induce them to engage, the time for which they originally contracted, and that which they actually served, and the treatment which they received. Such information it will no

doubt be difficult to obtain but endeavors should be made to procure from the relatives or friends of such emigrants particulars as to their names, date of departure place of embarkation, and whether they have or have not returned to India - Those who may have returned if any on assurance that their disclosures could not operate to their prejudice would probably not object to state the circumstances under which they were induced to quit India - ~~The~~ the promises made to them and how far they were redeemed - ~~The~~ the Colony to which they were taken, employment and treatment there, with the circumstances of their return - The information thus

+ who have not returned

thus obtained would be useful both as illustration of the probable fate of the ~~lately shipped~~ Coolies + and as furnishing clues towards checking the traffic -

5 On a former occasion in 1851-2 when crimping was in full activity in the District of South Arcot, it was found that many of the public servants and some of high rank lay under strong suspicion of being concerned in the contraband trade. It is not probable that the exportation of Coolies from Mahe could have occurred without similar complicity on the part of some of the Malabar Native Officials - The Magistrate should be

caution them not to lend themselves to such Acts, and ~~tell~~ should warn them that every delinquency of the kind if established against them will subject them not only to the most rigorous punishment that the law allows, but to permanent exclusion from the public service-

6 This extract will also be communicated to the Magistrates of Canara + and they will be called upon to state whether they have reason to believe that crimping of coolies for exportation to Foreign Colonies is carried on to any extent in their Districts and if so what are the particulars that have

come

Rajahmundry
South Arcot &
Tanjore Ld [illegible]

Do any here
from Karikal

come to ~~his~~ then notice and what steps they have taken for repressing the traffic.— They will

x for their Districts
also institute the
enquiry ordered above for Malabar
in para 4 & report
the result

Ordered that the following letter be despatched —

To Govt of India

20 Copies

Copy to the Mag: of Malabar
do — Canara
do — Rajahmundry
do — S. Arcot
do — Tanjore

spare copies ✓

Dispd 7th

✓
✓

Judl Lr to Engd D/20th Octr No 26
of 1857 Para 8-
Repd to in No 5 of 1858 P.7
— See Fd No 940/59.

Jn D4 to Cons: 7th Apl.
Judicial 1857 Dept.

No 383

Extract Mins: of Cons

D/1st April /57.
Fd No 804-842-909-1124.

7 @ 10

Disp'd 7th

16

Judicial Department

No 384

To
The Secretary to the Government
of India

Sir,

In continuation of my letter under date 11th Feby last No 182, P4 I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to forward, for submission to the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council, the accompanying two further letters from the Actg Magistrate of Malabar-

20 and 26 Feby 57- Nos 27 & 30

2. From the first of these the Govt were led to hope that the export of Malabar Coolies from

Mahe to the French Colonies was abating - but Mr. Robinson's second letter seems to show that it is still in full activity. There appears little reason to expect that any effectual check will be placed on it, by the French Authorities - Mr. Robinson however, appears to have adopted all the means in his power for the repression of the practices which he reports, and his proceedings have been fully approved - He has been ordered to continue his utmost exertions to put down the traffic - and has been authorized to incur any expense that may be requisite for obtaining information, as also if he finds it necessary to entertain any temporary extra establishment, for watching the Roads leading into Mahe and the Country around that settlement.

from any ports -

3. It has appeared to this Government to be very desirable that the extent to which laborers have of late years been exported from Mahe or from any other ports on the ~~Western~~ Coast of India for Service in Foreign Colonies, should as far as possible be ascertained - as well as the proportion that have returned the terms held out to induce them to engage - the time for which they originally contracted, and that which they actually served, and the treatment which they received - Such information will

Magistrates of the Districts in the vicinity of Foreign settlements. Malabar Canara. Rajahmundry. S Arcot Tanjore

will no doubt be difficult to obtain, but the ~~Actg.~~ + ~~Magistrate~~ have been directed to procure as far as they are able from the relations or friends of such emigrants particulars as to their names, date of departure, place of embarkation, and whether they have, or have not returned to India. Those who may have returned, if any, on assurance that their disclosures, could not operate to their prejudice, would probably not object to state to the Magistrate, the circumstances under which they were induced to quit India, the promises made to them, and how far they were redeemed, the Colony to which they were taken, employment, and treatment there, with the circumstances

circumstances of the return. The information thus obtained, will be useful both, as illustrative of the probable fate of the Coolies who have not returned ~~lately exported from Mahe~~, and as furnishing clues towards checking the traffic.

To Secy to Govt. of India 14th July/51
" — do — do - 19th Augt/51.
" — do — do - 14th Septr/52.

4. On a former occasion in 1851/52 when crimping was in full activity in the District of South Arcot, it was found that many of the public servants, and some of high rank lay under strong suspicion of being concerned in the Contraband trade. It is not probable that the exportation of Coolies from Mahe could have occurred without similar complicity on the part of some of the Malabar

native Officials - The Magistrate has therefore been instructed to caution his servants not to lend themselves to such acts, and to warn them that any delinquency of the kind if established against them will subject them, not only to the most rigorous punishment that the law allows but to permanent exclusion from the public service.

5. The Magistrate of the adjoining District of Canara,+ have also been called upon to state whether they have reason to believe that crimping of Coolies for exportation to Foreign Colonies is carried on to any extent in their District and if so what are the particulars that have come to their

+ and of the Districts above enumerated in para 3

notice, and what steps they have taken for repressing the traffic.

6. In reporting these proceedings I am however instructed to express the conviction of this Government that such practices will never be effectually put down unless by some understanding with the French Government, whereby the exportation of Coolies for ~~Bourbon~~ their Colonies should be legalized under such arrangements between the two nations, as will afford the emigrant to ~~that Island~~ the French, the same protection which is now afforded to the Emigrant to ~~the Mauritius~~ British Colonies. This question it is observed has already formed the subject of correspondence ~~with~~ between the Supreme, and the

to their Colonies

[illegible]

to British Colonies

From Secy to the Govt. of India 6th Augt/52
To — " — do — 21st Decr/52.
From — " — do — 14th Octr/53
To — " — do — 19th May/54.

the Madras Government
the last letter from the Govt.
of Madras bearing date
19th May 1854.

JP

Fort St. George,
1st April, 1857

RZiephir

C 27 March
R 30 —
C 31 —
R 1 Apl.

Judl. Lr. to Engd. D/20th Octr. No. 26
of 1857 Paras 8.

Reply to ND No. 5 of 1858 P. 7.
" — See Fl. No. 9400/59.

In Dr. to Cons: 7th Apl.
Judicial 1857 Dept.

No. 384

To
The Secy: to the Govt. of
India

D/1st April 1857.
Fl. No. 909

10