

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	720	Press
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	<i>12-16</i>	
Dated	<i>25-6-</i>	<i>19-185</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1720

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 30th June 1857.

Government. It is to supply this agency with coolies that the crimps carry on their operations, using, of course, artifice and fraud to gain their object when fair means is ineffectual. These crimps are paid by a premium on each person they produce after it is ascertained that he is willing to emigrate. There can be but little doubt, however, that many parties have been shipped, who have never really given their voluntary consent to go.

7. I must, however, bear testimony to the uniform readiness of the late Governor of Pondicherry, Admiral De Verninac, to give access to the godowns where coolies are placed preparatory to embarkation, whenever I have had occasion to ask him to do so, and in several instances, since I joined the district in 1854, persons have been released and handed over to me on the grounds of their not being willing to emigrate, although the formalities of taking a written assent and paying a bounty had been gone through.

8. I regret to state that I have altogether failed in my endeavours to collect the information called for by Government in para. 4. I have only been able to meet with two men who have returned from the colony of Bourbon. They state that they went there of their own free will in the hope of bettering their circumstances, that while there, they were engaged as labourers on an estate where sugar-cane was raised and that they only got Rs. 4 and Rs. 2½ respectively a month with rations, which was not sufficient for them. That they were kindly treated while in the colony, but that as the pay was not so high as they expected, they took leave and returned, bringing nothing with them beyond what was enough to pay their passage.

9. A very small proportion of the people who have emigrated to Foreign colonies ever find their way home again I imagine. Some few have, however, as far as I have been casually able to learn, amassed considerable sums of money and returned to their native villages, but it is difficult to distinguish between those persons who have emigrated to the Mauritius through the Madras authorities and those who have been taken to Foreign Colonies.

10. To whatever extent the poorer classes were formerly inveigled away by false promises to supply the demand for labor in Foreign colonies, they are now, as far as I can judge, not so easily led to abandon their kindred for such service, while the crimps themselves are deterred, more than they used to be, by fear of the consequences from resorting to fraud or violence to carry off the people.

11. It is impossible to say what has been the fate of the coolies who have not returned from the colonies to which they were taken from Pondicherry, but it is to be feared that many of them never reached their destinations, for there can be no doubt but that in many cases the treatment of the emigrants on board the ships in which they were embarked has been far from what it ought to have been.

12. I shall take this opportunity of circulating to every village in the District a warning to the inhabitants not to listen to persuasions to leave their own homes for Foreign colonies, and I will also repeat my cautions to the village officers to be vigilant in detaining any party who may visit the village for the apparent purpose of seeking for emigrants.

(Signed) ARTHUR HALL,
Magistrate.

No. 15. From H. D. PHILLIPS, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Tanjore; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 13th June 1857, No. 116.

SIR,

In reply to the requisition contained in Extract Minutes of Consultation dated 1st April 1857, No. 383, whether I have reason to believe that crimping of coolies for exportation to Foreign colonies is carried on to any extent in this district, and if so, what are the particulars that have come to my notice and what steps I have taken for repressing the traffic; I have the honor to state that crimping for Foreign colonies does not appear now to prevail within my range of jurisdiction.

As likely to be of some slight interest I beg to enclose translations of statements made before me by certain individuals now residing in Tanjore villages who have been at Bourbon and have returned to this country after a residence there, in each case, of five years.

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I also beg to submit a translation of a deposition given, voluntarily, by some native merchants who having visited Bourbon, are acquainted with the circumstances of that colony as respects the treatment of Indian Emigrants.

(Signed) H. D. PHILLIPS,
Acting Magistrate.

Translation of a statement delivered on the 18th May 1857, before H. D. Phillips, Esquire, the Acting Magistrate of Tanjore, by C. S. Woopillamanea Pillay of Velipolium in the Tranquebar Talook, and K. Mootoosawmy Pillay, M. Narayana Pillay, R. Subhapati Pillay, K. Cunnoosawmy Naik and G. Govindsamy Naik residing in the Fort of Tranquebar.

We are merchants and are in the habit of frequently going to the Mauritius. We have likewise visited Bourbon, where we have traded for some months and thence returned. So soon as we landed at Bourbon, we had to appear before the Police officer of that place, and register our individual calling. We must afterwards obtain from him first a certificate and then a license for carrying on trade, paying a certain fee to the Government for the latter. On the expiration of the date fixed on the license, we have to leave the Island. We do not undergo any inconvenience there. The laborers of the Company's territories, who are imported into that Island are engaged by the French gentlemen who are the holders of land there at 10 or 15 laborers each and are employed in works connected with the sugar-cane cultivation and other sundry works. They are not paid regularly though they are subjected to very hard labour and even to corporal punishment for refusal. True it is that Courts of Justice and Regulations for their guidance, are established there. But the officers are partial to the French landholders, and do not render justice to these laborers. It is only after the expiration of five years that the laborers are permitted to return home. We have witnessed the injustice done to the laborers at Bourbon. Moreover the merchant who collects the coolies in the Company's territories, on arrival at Bourbon, sells them at auction and they are purchased for prices varying with their individual capabilities, the minimum price per cooly being Rupees 150 and the maximum 200. The laborer is not permitted to work under the gentleman he chooses. At the Mauritius much justice is done to these laborers which is not the case at Bourbon. We have witnessed all these with our own eyes. Furthermore of the gentlemen who hold land at Bourbon each shows kindness to only two or three of the British subjects under him. He gives such men dainty food and the other necessities of life, sends him again into the Company's territories and gets laborers through them. The coolies are supplied sometimes with rice, sometimes with cholum and sometimes with roots for their food. As far as our knowledge goes, the laborers experience great hardships. Again we and the other merchants who go to Bourbon from British India are not allowed to remain there long, lest we should assist the coolies.

(Signed) C. S. WOOPILLAMANEYA PILLAY,
(„) SUBAPATI PILLAY,
(„) C. CUNNOOSAMY NAIK,
(„) M. NARAYANA PILLAY,
(„) G. GOVINDSAMY NAIK,
Mark of K. MOOTOOSAMY PILLAY,
(True translation.)

(Signed) H. D. PHILLIPS,
Acting Magistrate.

Translation of a statement made on the 28th April 1857, before H. D. PHILLIPS, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Tanjore, by Saivaroodian, son Chedombarattoodian of Cooroovadupputty in Talook Trivady, aged 45 years.

I hold 1½ valy of land in the above mentioned village. I was involved in debt to the extent of about Rupees 100 and had no means of discharging it; also I was unable to maintain myself and family. I therefore determined to proceed to the Mauritius, make some money there; and

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return home. Accordingly, about seven years, alone I set out from my village, without taking leave of my wife and my only child, a boy of 7 years of age, and proceeded taking the high road with a view of going to Madras. At the village of Audootoray in the Coottallum Talook, I was joined by four persons who had come from the north. I do not now recollect their names nor those of their villages. I entered into free communication with them. They said that they also were going to the Mauritius; took me with them, and together we reached Karrical in the French settlement. As soon as we arrived at Karrical, I learned that one (A) of my comrades was a resident of that place, and that he had brought thither the other three persons. I do not know whether he (A) belonged to the Vellala or Moodelly caste. He conducted the other three persons to a godown, left them there, and then asked me also to accompany him to some other godown. I had previously heard of coolies having been transported from Karrical to Bourbon, and of those who emigrated there suffering great hardships. I was therefore afraid that I too might be confined in the godown and thence be sent away to Bourbon. For five days I subsisted on what I had brought with me and lived in the house of my companion (A) a resident of Karrical whom I found to be a maistry. He then assured me that the coolies were to be conveyed not to Bourbon but to the Mauritius. This induced me to consent to his proposal, and I followed him. He let me into a godown which was enclosed on all sides by walls, and shut the door after me. There were already about one hundred, or one hundred and fifty, persons in this godown. We were made even to answer the calls of nature within the walls of the godown. We were not allowed to go abroad. I lingered in this godown about seven days. The very day that I was put into it, somehow or other, my wife accompanied by my boy, came to the godown in which I had been lodged, and called to me from outside. They refused to permit me to go out, or even to open the door. The same day, some gentleman came and visited the godown, informed me that Rupees 15 would be first advanced to me for proceeding to the Mauritius, and told me to accept the amount from the hand of the maistry. The maistry paid me Rupees 11. I had the amount in my hand. Out of it, I retained one Rupee, and, through a chink in the door, gave the remaining ten to my wife, she refused to take them, and threw them down on the ground, some persons, who were outside picked them up, and gave them into the hands of my boy. My wife then returned home with the boy. I continued in the godown seven days. I was afterwards, with the others in the godown, sent on board a ship. She contained about 160 passengers, and anchored at the port of Bourbon the thirtieth day after she sailed. Up to that time we had supposed that she was bound to the Mauritius. It was after we had reached the port, that we discovered that it was Bourbon. We all grieved for it, as soon as we landed, we were confined in a godown. Three days after, the French gentleman of that place and their agents came to the godown, examined the coolies as to their physical condition, and each took with him 5, 8 or 10 coolies, who were afterwards produced before a functionary called the "Police" in whose office their heights were taken and they were made over to the merchants that had produced them. I was likewise seized by a gentleman, taken to the Police, there measured, and then led to a cane garden, about 40 miles off. The gentleman supplying me with only rice and salt, I had to provide myself with all the other provisions and clothing. He said that my monthly wages were Rupees 4, for which I worked under him in his cane plantation. My works were of a very arduous nature, and kept me occupied both day and night. Five years, I continued to work in this manner. At the expiration of that period, the merchant sent me back on board a ship, paying the freight for me. When I returned, I brought with me Rupees 60, after having defrayed all the charges, at Bourbon, the coolies are not easily permitted to return to their homes after the expiration of five years. If they most earnestly entreat, a few of them are allowed to return. In such cases, the freight is also allowed. But to ensure this, a cooly must work under a merchant for a continuous period of five years. If, in the interval, he be employed under any other merchant, he loses the privilege of being allowed the freight for returning. During my stay there, some of the coolies, that worked with me, were beaten by the agent of the merchant. They went to the Police to complain of it, but, before they repaired, the merchant had sent letters to the Police laying some charges against them. No enquiry whatever was instituted by the Police. The very parties that went to seek for redress were sentenced to labor on the roads for 15 days, and were employed in breaking stones. These emigrants hardly obtain justice in that country; while I was there, I wrote two letters to my wife, and delivered them into the Post office of that place, paying postage at one rupee per letter. On my return here, I was informed by my wife that she never received them.

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Moreover, I have heard that at Bourbon the merchants purchase the coolies from the Police office. I do not know the particulars of the transaction. I heard that I was purchased by the merchant for Rupees 130.

It is now two years since my return home. The difficulties which one has to encounter, and the arduous nature of the works which one has to get through in that land, are so great, that he, who once visited Bourbon, will never wish to go there again.

Mark of SAIVAROODIAN.

Statement made on the 29th April 1857, by Vytilinga Naicken, the son of Appasawmy Naicken, residing at Goojilian tank-street in Caroottuttongoody, Trivady Talook, of the Vellala caste, and aged 32 years.

About 7 years ago, I set out for Madras in order to see my elder sister. On my way, I was attacked with fever at Pondicherry, and was lodged in a chatrum there. A person (name unknown) of the gentoo caste and belonging to that place, came thither, and gave me some hot water. He took care of me two days, and then led me to his own house, where he kept me about a month, and cured my sickness. He then heard my story, and said that I need not proceed to Madras, that if I went to Bourbon I could acquire money and return home, and that he would also accompany me. I consented to it, and embarked with him at the port of Pondicherry. After our embarkation, the said Naidoo returned to Pondicherry, on the pretext of bringing some goods. They then set the sails. While the ship was in full sail, I learned that she was bound to Bourbon.

(Signed) VYTILINGUM.

Statement of Caroopen, of Arcod, Trivady Talook, a pariah, aged 35 years, 29th April 1857.

I was a laborer here and subsisted on my earnings. About 9 years ago, I was hardly able to procure the necessities of life, having been at the time a bachelor, and having lost my parents, I thought it advisable to proceed to the Mauritius, acquire some wealth there, and then return. I accordingly set out, and prosecuted my journey to Madras. Near Combaconum, I was met by four persons, and questioned as to where I was going. I answered, to the Mauritius. They said that they were also proceeding to the same place, and asked me to accompany them. They then led me to a French gentleman at Karrical, left me with him, and disappeared. That gentleman said that he would send me to Mauritius. But ultimately he exported me and many others to Bourbon.

(Mark of) CAROOPEN.

Statement of Maury, of Arcod, of the Pulla caste, and aged 32 years, 29th April 1857.

I was a laborer here, and subsisted on my earnings. I was not able to procure the necessities of life. Ten years ago, my brother-in-law had gone to the Mauritius. He sent me a letter, by the hand of a person, inviting me and my wife Ammamootal to that place. Six or seven years ago, I and my wife, with a young daughter, set out for Madras, with a view to embark there. Near Combaconum, a paria met me, said that he was going to the Mauritius, and advised me to accompany him. We followed him, and were led to Karrical and confined in a godown there. Several others had been already confined in it. It was said that we all would be sent to Mauritius. We were however ultimately conveyed to Bourbon.

Mark of MAURY.

Note.—The wife of Maury corroborates the above statement.

Statement made on the 30th April, by Marooda, Conan of Trimalasamoodrum, Trivady Talook, aged 30 years.

Eight years ago, I was in my village tending a flock of sheep. Ramasamy Oodian of Iyanagarum, a village contiguous to mine, came there, and said that he had made a voyage to the Mauritius, that he was about to go there again, and that if I would follow him, I might acquire

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wealth. I was then a youth, and consented to his proposal. I set out with him, without taking leave of my parents, and reached Karrical, where I was confined three days in a godown, and then sent on board a ship. I was conveyed to Bourbon instead of to the Mauritius, and there disembarked. It is now three years since my return. I was five years there.

Mark of MAROODA CONAN.

Statement of Marooday, of Tondungoray, Trivady Talook, a Pulla, 30th April.

Ten years ago, I and three others of my village and caste, went to Pondicherry, with a view to proceed to Mauritius for acquiring money. We were thence exported and conveyed to Bourbon, where I was five years, and then returned home.

Mark of MAROODUN.

TRANSLATION.

Statement delivered on the 13th May 1857, by Nagamoottopadiatchy, the son of Tondavaroyapadiatchy, residing at the Vottoocaren street, in the village of Cornaud Myaveram Talook.

About 11 years ago, a quarrel ensued between myself and my father. Displeased with my father, I thought of going to the Mauritius, and accordingly went to the bazar street of my village. There was a man of the gentoo caste, seated in a bazar. He asked me as to what place I belonged to, and where I was going. I said that I was a native of the same place, and was proceeding to the Mauritius. The gentoo man said that he was a resident of Karrical and was come to collect coolies for Mauritius, and asked me to accompany him. I consented to it, and immediately set out from my village and followed him. He led me to Karrical via Tranquebar, took me to a French gentleman, received from him Rupees 11, and put them into my hands. The same day that I arrived at Karrical, I was with many others, sent on board ship. I know not the name of the gentoo man, or his features, or his residence at Karrical. After a voyage of 45 days, the ship was anchored at the port of Sendinipatam, in the Island of Bourbon. While on board ship, the owner of the ship supplied us with food; after disembarkation, we were taken to the Government office, where we were kept and our heights taken. The French merchants of the place then came to us, and each took with him 10 or 15 coolies, a gentleman named William took me to a hill, thirty miles off that place; and employed me in watching over a cane garden, paying me Rupees 5 a month and allowing me rice and other provisions of food. The work was of a very arduous nature, and corporal punishment was frequently inflicted. After a service of five years, I much begged of Mr. William, for three months, to permit me to return home. Then he sent me back paying the freight for me. It is now 6 years since I returned home. One is not allowed to return to his country unless one has completed a residence of full five years there. In this manner those that go to that Island and entangle themselves there, experience great hardships.

Mark of NAGAMOOTTOOPADIATCHY.

Statement delivered on the 13th May 1857, by Rengasamy Naicken, the son of Alagherry Naicken, residing at the Yakadian street in the village of Cornaud, Myaveram Talook.

Ten years ago, I quarrelled with my father and step-mother and proceeded to the house of my elder sister, at Trimulvassil, where I remained ten days and then took leave of my sister to return to my own village, taking the necessary provisions for my journey. But instead of returning home, I thought of going to the Mauritius and accordingly repaired directly to Karrical. In front of a chatrem at Karrical, was one Sowri Moottapillay of that place. He questioned me as to who I was. I answered that I was a native of Cornaud, and that having quarrelled with my father, I had gone thither, with a view to proceed to Mauritius. He took me to his house, kept me there one day, and the next day presented me a pair of cloths worth Rupees 3. He afterwards procured for me Rupees 15 from a French gentleman of that place, took Rupees 3 out of the amount for himself and sent me on board ship. Several others were exported in the same ship. The ship was anchored at the port of Bourbon and it was then only that it became known that it was not Mauritius. I was employed there in clearing sugar under a gentleman named Mossa Piadi Keeni. After I had been employed two years, my left leg got into the cane press, and the shin bone was fractured. I was sick 2½ years since, and was allowed half battah. I was then embarked and landed at the port of

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Pondicherry, the charges of freight having been borne by the gentleman named above at Bourbon, the emigrants undergo much inconvenience.

(Signed) RUNGASAWMY Naicken.

Statement delivered on the 16th May 1857, by Moottoosampillay, the son of Mareapillay, of Suttanadapoorum, in the Seally Talook.

Nine years ago, I went to Nagore in the Keevalore Talook, on account of the Kundri festival which took place in the mosque of Meera Sahib. As I was returning to my village via Karrical the French settlement, a gentoo man of the latter place, whose name I do not know, and who reported to be a maistry met me there, said to me that emigrants were sent to the Mauritius, and asked me whether I would also go there. I agreed to it. He immediately took me to a gentleman on the beach, procured for me Rupees 15 from him, and sent me on board ship. As soon as the money was delivered to me the maistry and some other persons took away Rupees 7 from me. The ship sailed, and after a voyage, she anchored at the port Bourbon. It was then only that I came to know that it was not Mauritius. Five years, I continued at Bourbon and afterwards returned home.

The work that is taken there is of a very hard character. I will not even think of going there again during the whole of the remainder of my life.

Mark of MOOTTOOSAMY Pillay.

Statement delivered on the 16th May 1857, by Ramalingapadiatchy, son of Kylasapadiatchy, of Yalatore, in the Seally Talook.

About nine years ago, having been unable to procure the necessaries of life in this country, I set out from my village and went to Karrical, with a view to proceed to the Mauritius and earn my livelihood there. A maistry of Karrical (name unknown) took me to a godown, lodged me in it, fed me a month, and then sent me on board ship. I was disembarked at the port of Bourbon, where I endured much hardship. I am not willing to go there again.

Mark of RAMALINGUM.

Statement made on the 16th May 1857, by Govinda Row, the son of Mahalingarow, of Madhearjoonum, Combaconum Talook, of the Mahrattah caste.

I am now aged 20 years. Ten years ago, the Rajah of Madhearjoonum died, and I suffered much from want of means of livelihood. Veeran and his wife Veeroy of my village of the paria caste, said that they were proceeding to the Mauritius. I therefore set out with them without the knowledge of my mother and other relatives, reached Pondicherry and embarked thence. The shipmen also said that they would convey me to the Mauritius. But I was at last disembarked at the port of Bourbon. I was there employed under a gentleman as driver on a monthly pay of Rupees 3. He was very harsh in taking work from me. I lived there five years and then returned to my village. I will never hereafter go again to that place.

Mark of GOVINDAROW.

Statement made by Ramasampadiatchy, son of Chockalingapadiatchy of Madhearjoon in the Combaconum Talook, on the 16th May 1857.

Seven years ago, displeased with my elder brother, I set out from my village, with a view to go to the Mauritius. My wife, named Letchimi urged that she would accompany me. I took her along with me and went to Karrical in the port whereof the people emigrating to Mauritius were assembled. We went there. A gentleman who was present there lodged us into a godown, and three days after exported us. Instead of conveying us to Mauritius, they disembarked us at Bourbon, where I was employed in a cane garden. There they take very hard work from the emigrants. I am no more inclined to go to that Island.

Mark of RAMASAYM.

Note.—Ramasamy's wife, Letchmi, corroborates the above statement.

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Statement delivered on the 16th May 1857, by Mahalinga padeatchy, the son of Maleapen of Madhearjoonum, Combaconum Talook.

Six years ago, some persons who passed by my village, said that they were going to the Mauritius. From ignorance, I followed them to Karrical, without taking leave of my father. I was exported, under an assurance that I would be conveyed to the Mauritius, but on the contrary, I was landed at Bourbon. I will not go there again.

Mark of MAHALINGUM.

Statement delivered on the 18th May 1857, by Rengasamy Naicken, Vesharepoogar No. 25 of the Tranquebar Talook.

I was formerly employed as sepoy under the Danish Government of Tranquebar. After the annexation of that settlement to the Company's territories, I obtained a Vesharipoogarship in the Tranquebar Talook. As my younger brother was living at Singapore, and as I was desirous of paying a visit to him, I resigned the Vesharipoogar's post, and proceeded to Singapore ten years ago. After the lapse of one year, I returned to my native land, and was without employment. A native of Karrical, of the Vellala caste, whose name I do not know, was acquainted with me during his visits to Tranquebar. He said that he was going to the Mauritius, and desired me to follow him. I consented to it, and went along with him to Karrical. He told me to embark first, and said that in the meanwhile he would bring provisions for the voyage. He accordingly sent me, with many others on boardship, but never returned. The ship sailed, and when arrived at the port of Bourbon, she was anchored; and her crew landed. The French gentlemen of the place came to us, and seized each as many of the emigrants as he wanted. A gentleman purchased me for Rupees 60, took me to his place, and told me to work in his cane garden. I refused to do that work, and held out for three months. Then he employed me in issuing battah to the labourers. I performed that duty for five years, at the end of which period I asked him to permit me to return home. He contumaciously refused to give me permission, and to discharge my pay. I complained of it to the Police. I then embarked on a ship, paying the freight out of my own pocket, landed at Pondicherry, and returned to my village. There is no saying to what degree of torture the laborers are subjected at that Bourbon. They indeed undergo great hardships. I was merely promised a pay of Rupees 14 a month, but never was a Rupee paid to me. The name of the gentleman who was as my master, is Kistop Manis.

(Signed) RUNGASAWMY.

(True translations.)

(Signed) H. D. PHILLIPS,

Acting Magistrate.

Ordered that the following letters be despatched.

No. 16. From E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George; to the Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 25th June 1857, No. 720.

SIR,

1. With reference to Mr. Chief Secretary Pycroft's letter of 1st April, No. 384 of 1857, From Magistrate of Malabar, dated 5th June 1857, No. 77. para. 3, I am directed by the Right Honorable Do. Canara, 12th May 1857, " 12. the Governor in Council to forward, for the Do. South Arcot, 23rd May 1857, " 154. information of the Government of India, the Do. Tanjore, 13th June 1857, " 116. replies of the Magistrates of Malabar, Canara, South Arcot and Tanjore, to the reference made to them, respecting the crimping of native laborers for service in Foreign Colonies.

2. The Government of the Mauritius have been asked to furnish information respecting the fate of the Coolies reported, by Mr. Cullin, to have been shipped for Golaga, Mauritius and Bourbon.

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3. No reply has yet been received from the Magistrate of Rajahmundry, but when it comes to hand, it will be duly transmitted to you.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Sept 1. 1857

Divisional Department

12720.

The Secretary to the Government of India

Handwritten initials and signature.

From Magistrate of Malabar
dated 5th June/57 N^o 77
do Cochin 12th May/57 N^o 12
do South Arcot 23 May/57. " 154
do Tanjore - 13 June/57. " 11

Sir,
1. With reference to Mr Chief Secretary Pycroft's letter of 1st April N^o 384 of 1857 para 3, I am directed by the Right Honble the Governor in Council to forward, for the information of the Govt. of India, the replies of the Magistrates of Malabar, Canara, South Arcot and Tanjore to the reference made to them respecting the employing of Native labor for service in Foreign Colonies.

2. The Govt. of the Mauritius have been asked to furnish information respecting the fate of the coolies reported, by Mr Cullen, to have been shipped for Kolaga, Mauritius and Bourbon.

3. No reply has yet been rec^d from the Magistrate of Rajahmundry, but when it comes to hand, it will be duly transmitted to you.

For the Secy, &
25th June, 1857

Handwritten signature.

Jul 2 1857 Aug 29 / 21. Oct 26
of 1857 Oct 26
Sept 26 in 1857 of 1857
- 2 - Dec 26 of 1857 1857

Archieval 1857 of 1857

Nov 1857

in 1857 Aug 26 30 Time

To
The Secretary to the State of
India
at 1857 Aug 26 1857

of 1857 1857
1270

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12016

Indy to Com: 7th Apr 1857 No 70.
19th May No 30 & 31.

Indy to Com: 29/10 Act No 26
of 1857 Act 5.

Repts to in No 5 of 1853 & 7.
see Feb 9/59.

Indy from: 30th Jan
No 4 1857

From the Acty Collector
of Canara

To The Acty Chief Secretary
to Government
Port St. George

Dated 12th }
Recd: 18 } May 1857

No 12.

12016-1124

No 804

13
Informs with reference to
the concluding para of Ex: Min:
Con: of the 1st Octo, that the
practice of crimping Coolies
for exportation to foreign Colonies
does not appear to have ever been carried out
in this District.

C 20th June 12
P 23 "

to be over until the 15th
the further communication
has been received from the
Collector of Canara
Rue

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Read the following papers.

No. 12. From W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Malabar; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Fort St. George, dated Calicut, 5th June 1857, No. 77.

SIR,

With reference to para. 4, of the Extract Minutes Consultation under date the 1st April No. 333. last, I have the honor to state that returns of information called for from the Talooks, do not show an extensive clandestine emigration from this province to foreign places.

2. As far as British ports are concerned the trade has been chiefly confined to Cochin, where it appears that for years the Manilla Captain Roman Rodriguez who figures in the recent (Six Islands) Seychelles' case, has carried on a trade in coolies to Seychelles, &c., very few of whom seem to have returned.

For facts as to their treatment there, see proceedings in that case.

3. The attempts to obtain coolies through the French Settlement at Mahé for "Reunion" (Bourbon) if they did not commence entirely this year, are only now reduced to system by the arrival of Monsieur de Bellmare, an accredited Agent of an association of the Island of Reunion, who is still at Mahé.

4. With reference to the trade from Cochin, I submit the report of the Joint Magistrate, dated 20th April and 13th May 1857, together with my reply. Mr. Cullin submits a list of 23 individuals who have emigrated. Their friends in general have heard nothing further about them. This emigration has been to the Seychelles (Six Islands) Galaga, and Mauritius, and perhaps to Reunion, but no instance has occurred of coolies being taken to the West Indian Islands.

5. Information has been difficult to procure and it is given with reluctance, as it is the interest of the village officers, whose remissness is thus brought to light, to suppress it. Steps are however taken to prevent the breach of the Law in future.

6. With regard to the active complicity in the trade of the public establishments, I agree with Mr. Cullin in acquitting them of this, but I am satisfied that gross remissness is chargeable on the Sea Custom establishment, for not bringing to light what I can scarcely believe escaped their knowledge, and more so on the Police who for years have allowed this illegal and discreditable traffic to go on, under their eyes without let or hindrance. It is the more reprehensible as the Police of Cochin may, as things go, be considered to be peculiarly strong, the Fiscal (Mr. Green) draws the full pay of a head of Police with a jurisdiction of 3 square miles, within and around which it should be quite competent to him to keep up a vigilant and effective watch.

The Sea Custom Manager's name is John Pinto.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Acting Magistrate.

From E. CULLIN, Esq., Joint Magistrate of Cochin; to W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Malabar, dated 20th April 1857, No. 76.

SIR,

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 14th Instant, No. 1087, I have the honor to state that, I am making every exertion in my power to obtain the information required by the Government, and I hope at an early date to be able to furnish you with a full report on the subject.

2. The man who was the "chief crimp" in the Six Islands case is not the Cochin Pilot. He is an old Mahomedan of the name of Abdernan, known as the Ghaut Syrang. He earns a livelihood by providing Lascars for vessels. I held him on bail, but abandoned, for the time, the idea, of proceeding against him, and released his securities.

3. I was influenced in this proceeding by a feeling that the man was a tool in the hands of others. I was, moreover, not certain that he acted with a guilty knowledge, that is that he knew that he was infringing the Law when he brought coolies to Roman Rodriguez; and the evidence against him, I apprehended, would be defective. For these reasons I did not bring him at once to trial.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 30th June 1857.

4. I have, however, obtained information within the last few days, since the re-agitation of the subject, subsequently to the receipt of your letter under acknowledgment, which leads me to think that the Ghaut Syrang, Abderman, was far more deeply implicated in the illicit removal of coolies from the Coast than I had supposed, and I am now of opinion that he should, if possible be made an example of. The Police Fiscal is at present, under my orders, adopting measures, if practicable, to bring before me a clear case against him. I shall let you know the result hereafter.

5. It is very probable that the enquiries now going forward may lead to others being brought to trial as well as the Ghaut Syrang.

6. I shall reserve my report on the officers of the Sea Customs' Department for a future opportunity. I am at present engaged in endeavouring to discover the extent to which illicit emigration has been carried on at Cochin, and to frame as far as it may be possible a descriptive list of the persons who have been taken from the Coast and the places to which they have been taken.

(Signed) E. CULLIN,
Joint Magistrate.

From E. CULLIN, Esq., Joint Magistrate, Cochin; to W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Malabar, dated 13th May 1857, No. 93.

SIR,

Extract Minutes of Consultation, Judicial Department, 1st April 1857, No. 383.

In continuation of my letter of the 20th April 1857, No. 78, I proceed to furnish all the information which I have been able to collect respecting the exportation of Indian labourers from Cochin for service in Foreign Colonies and to report generally on the subject.

2. Immediately on the receipt of your letter of the 14th of April 1857, No. 1087, I issued a Proclamation, inviting the friends and relations of persons who had gone from Cochin by Sea, to foreign places to attend at my office. Many came and from information furnished to me, I have been enabled to frame the accompanying list.

3. I do not think the list exhibits the whole of the labourers who have of late years left Cochin. It is not in this respect perfect, but it is as perfect as circumstances will permit.

4. I am of opinion that the exportation of labourers from Cochin has been confined to the Mauritius, the Six Islands and other Islands in the Indian ocean, where settlements have been established, including probably the French Island of Reunion (late Bourbon.)

5. The Island of Galaga, which is said to be situated between the Six Islands, and the Mauritius, has been particularly mentioned by the men who returned by the Schooner "Alexander Auguste," as a place to which Indian labourers have been taken.

6. I am of opinion that no labourers have been taken from the Coast to the West Indies, or to any place west of the Cape of Good Hope.

7. The 4th paragraph of my letter to your address of the 20th of April 1857, No. 78, was written under the impression conveyed to me by a paper which was shewn to me by the Police Fiscal, that a French vessel had sailed from Cochin in 1856 with 42 labourers, supplied by Abderman, the Ghaut Syrang. I have since ascertained that the paper in question referred to coolies employed on board the vessel in the river, and that the said coolies did not proceed to Sea in the vessel.

8. I have been forced finally to abandon the idea of proceeding against Abderman, the Ghaut Syrang, there was no evidence to sustain the charge of crimping. It is true that many of the persons who returned from the Six Islands per "Alexander Auguste," stated that they had been taken to Roman Rodriguez the master of the vessel by Abderman, the Ghaut Syrang, but in no case was the statement supported by the evidence of a single witness. I enclose two reports from the Police Fiscal on the subject, both dated the 3rd April 1857 Nos. 59 and 60.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 30th June 1857.

9. I shall now advert to the Manager and the servants of the Sea Customs' Department.

10. After much consideration, I have arrived at the conclusion that the Manager and servants of the Sea Customs' Department are not to blame. I do not think that they are in any way implicated in the exportation of Coolies from Cochin.

11. I can well understand that in a rural District, a member of a village community cannot disappear without attracting the attention of the Mookesthens and village authorities, but the case I submit is different at a place like Cochin, where there is always a number of strangers coming and going.

12. I enclose a deposition from Mr. Pinto, the Sea Customs' Manager. He does not appear to have exercised any control over vessels beyond the shipment of goods. Lists of passengers do not appear to have been furnished to him.

13. I have not had much to say to Mr. Pinto, during his service at Cochin, but I believe him to be a respectable, well conducted man.

14. Since the subject of illicit emigration has occupied my mind, it has frequently occurred to me, when viewing from the bank of the river the animated scene before me, how difficult, if not impossible it would be for the public servants at Cochin, with the means at their disposal, to ascertain that none of the many vessels and boats which may be seen going out of the river, did not convey from the port, labourers intended for Columbo service.

15. Fishing boats may take out a few extra men, without attracting observation and embark them in English or Foreign vessels, on the roads. Again, a vessel may heave to an appointed place in the Rajah's country, a few miles north or south of Cochin, and take on board any number of emigrants. I may here remark, that in many cases, I doubt not, men shipped as Lascars to navigate the vessel are by compulsion or persuasion, on their arrival at the Islands, engaged to serve on shore.

16. I venture to suggest, that Captain Castor, the Master Attendant, who is an energetic officer, and who has a well manned boat at his command, could do more to stop the practice under consideration, than any other public servant at Cochin.

17. Captain Castor complains, I think with justice, that there are no Port Regulations; and that consequently, he knows nothing about the shipping. I think it highly desirable, that a few rules bearing on important points, should be at once established by authority, and that it should be made the particular duty of the Master Attendant to prevent in every way in his power illicit emigration.

18. I have suggested the establishment of "a few rules," because I do not think it desirable, that all the provisions of the Act XXII of 1855, should be made applicable to the Port of Cochin. The strict observance of some of the rules in that Act would, I conceive, be unnecessarily irksome to the masters of vessels in a small port like Cochin, but a few simple rules bearing on important points would be valuable, as they would maintain the Master Attendant in his proper position, and strengthen his hands in preventing illegal and improper proceedings.

19. The Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, Judicial Department, 1st April 1857, is herewith returned.

(Signed) E. CULLIN,
Joint Magistrate.

The Deposition of Mr. John Pinto, Manager of Sea Customs at Cochin.

When a ship clears out, what information The number of officers and men, forming the crew is given me. Whether right or wrong, I have you regarding the said ship, number of know not. I never inspect the vessel. No list crew, &c.? of passengers has ever been furnished to me. I never knew or heard of coolies, &c., being taken away. I knew there was a law against it, I have exercised no control over ships or vessels leaving this Port, except granting them their port clearances. Some times of a morning, five or six pattamars, two or three square rigged vessels and a great number of boats of all sizes leave the river and go outside. The Custom House

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 30th June 1857.

where I do business is about two miles up the river. I have no Government boat at my disposal. In fact, I have no means whatever at my disposal for checking illicit emigration.

(Signed) J. PINTO.

Taken before me at Cochin, this 25th day of April 1857.

(Signed) E. CULLIN,
Joint Magistrate.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Acting Magistrate.

From W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Magistrate; to E. CULLIN, Esq., Joint Magistrate of Cochin; dated Calicut, 19th May 1857, No. 1553.

SIR,

In thanking you for your report dated 13th Instant, (No. 63,) I beg to inform you, that shall take an early opportunity of submitting to Government, the information therein supplied by you.

I do not feel so satisfied on the subject of the conduct of the Sea Customs' establishment in regard to this forbidden trade. There is a Writer placed in two different positions in Cochin from which things of this kind should be watched and provided against. It is true that there are facilities for evading detection at Cochin, but I do not gather from the deposition that there was any peculiar secrecy or care observed in the matter and it was their duty to have prevented the breach of the Law from taking advantage of these facilities. It is not difficult for me in the position of Sea Custom Managers to say that they did not hear what was going on, but it was their duty, I consider, to take care to learn. These disclosures reflect great discredit on the conduct of the port management at Cochin under Mr. Pinto, and his establishment. I should have considered it my duty to have removed him at once and possibly shall do so still, had I not looked to the protection of the port, from such illegal acts, to Captain Castor, for the future. His surveillance will be an active real thing.

The conduct of the Police has been reprehensible likewise.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Acting Magistrate.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Acting Magistrate.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 30th June 1857.

List of certain Indian Labourers exported within the last few years, from Cochin for service in Foreign Colonies.

Name.	Age.	Relations at Cochin.	Date of leaving Cochin, and on what vessel and place of embarkation.	In what capacity engaged.	Term of engagement.	Rate of wages.	Destination.	Whether returned or not.	Remarks.
Vychian	22	Anna of Cochin who brought him up.	Embarked from Cochin about five years ago on board the Schooner "Alexander Auguste" Captain Roman Rodriguez.	Labourer.	Not known.	Supposed to be 3 Rupees per month.	The Island of Galaga about 8 days' sail from the Mauritius and 4 or 5 days' from the "Six Islands."	Not returned.	The three men Vychian, Anthony and Devastee embarked at the same time. They sent word to Anna by some persons who returned, that they were suffering dreadful hardships, and that she should take steps to get them back to Cochin. It is stated by one of the returned Indian labourers now in custody, by name Moiden Cooty, that there were 40 persons landed on the Island of Galaga, about midway between the "Six Islands" and the Mauritius.
Anthony	23	God-mother Anna, and brother Ambrose.	do.	Cook.	3 years.	6 Rupees per month.	Mauritius.	...	Not heard of since.
Devastee	25	God-mother Anna.	do.	Labourer.	2 years.	4 Rupees per month.	do.	...	Sent two letters to Anthony from Mauritius, but made no complaint.
Antha	25	Brother Miguel	Ditto about 4 years ago.	do.	3 years.	4 Rupees per month.	do.	...	Twelve others embarked with him, most of them were natives of Cochin.
Thomen	18	Uncle Anthony.	Ditto about 4 years ago.	Not known.	Not known.	Not known.	do.	...	Some were from other places.
Paschal	18	Brother-in-law Barrido.	Ditto about 4 years ago.	Labourer.	2 years.	6 Rupees per month.	do.	...	Sent a letter to Bastian from the Mauritius that he was employed under a Gentleman there. No complaint.
Pachee	15	Brother Bastian.	Ditto about 4 years ago.	Not known.	2 years.	6 Rupees per month.	do.	...	Not heard of since.
Thomen	12	Brother	Ditto about 4 years ago.	Labourer.	Not known.	Not known.	do.	...	Not heard of since.
Paranjy	11	Pedro Cooty.	Ditto about 4 years ago.	Not known.	Not known.	Not known.	do.	...	Four other boys were shipped with him one of the boys was called Bucky and another Aleixo Coonjan sent a letter last year from the Mauritius saying he was forced to remain longer than the term of his engagement.
Bucky	25	His late master Chitrapootren, a washerman	Embarked from Cochin on board Captain Roman Rodriguez vessel about 2 years ago.	Not known.	1 year.	3 Rupees per month.	do.	...	
Bapoo	22	His late master Chitrapootren, a washerman	Ditto some time last year.	Labourer.				...	
Manoel	21	Sister-in-law Mingina.	Ditto about 5 years ago.					...	
Coonjan	18	Mother Ca-roombee.						...	

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 30th June 1857.

Name.	Relations at Cochin.	Date of leaving Cochin, and on what Vessel and place of embarkation.	In what capacity engaged.	Term of engagement.	Rate of wages.	Destination.	Whether returned or not.	Remarks.
Bucky..... (mentioned in the remarks on the last case.)	18 Mother Mariom.	Embarked from Cochin on board Captain Roman Rodriguez's vessel about 5 years ago.	Labourer.	Not known.	Not known.	Mauritius.	Not returned.	His brother Chakoo went about 1 year ago with Roman Rodriguez to the Mauritius to bring him but has not returned. Both brothers wrote to their mother Mariom about six months ago that they would try to come back to Cochin.
Chakoo brother of ditto.	16 do.	Ditto about 1 year ago.					do	Not heard of since.
Aguita (female.)	16 Sister Mariom.	Ditto about 3 years ago.	Ayah to look after Captain Roman Rodriguez's children.	To return to Cochin with the vessel.	Not known.	do.	do.	do.
Therisia (female.)	10 Mother Anna.	Ditto about 5 years ago.	do.	Not known.	do.	Mauritius or some other place.	do.	do.
Lonen.....	25 Mother Mariom by adoption	Ditto about 4 years ago.	Labourer.	2 years.	4 Rupees per month.	Mauritius.	do.	do.
Vyshian.....	30 Wife Esho.	Embarked from Cochin on board Captain Gerard's vessel 18 years ago.	Butler.....	Unknown.	6 Rs. do.	do.	do.	Sent a letter to his wife last month from the Mauritius, enquiring after his family. No complaint.
Barrid.....	16 Bucky who brought him up.	Embarked from Cochin on board Captain Roman Rodriguez's vessel 3 years ago.	Unknown.....	3 years.	4 Rupees per month payable to Bucky at Cochin.	do.	do.	Not heard of since.
Paroo.....	15 Brother Mariam.	Ditto about 7 years ago.	Private servant.	To be brought back to Cochin in the vessel each voyage.	4 Rupees per month.	do.	do.	do.
Chekoo.....	15 Mother Thanda.	Ditto about 1 year ago.	Not known.	2 years.....	do.	do.	do.	do.
Bustian.....	15 Vicente.	Embarked 8 or 9 years ago in Captain Davis' ship.	do.	Not known.	Not known.	Burmah.	do.	do.

(True Copy.) (Signed) W. ROBINSON, Acting Magistrate. (Signed) E. CULLIN, Joint Magistrate.

Cochin, 11th May 1857.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 30th June 1857.

No. 13. From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Collector of Canara; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Mangalore, 12th May 1857, No. 12.

SIR,

With reference to the concluding para. of Extract Minutes Consultation, dated the 1st Ultimo, No. 383, I have the honor to state for the information of Government that I have consulted the Sea Customs and Police Records, and made enquiries among those residents and Government servants here, who would be most likely to know something of the matter, but can learn nothing, that would seem to indicate that the practice of crimping coolies for exportation to foreign colonies is, or ever has been, carried on in this district.

2. I beg at the same time to state, that I have issued circulars to the several Sea Customs Officers along the coast, with the view of procuring the information desired by Government, in para. 4 of the Extract Minutes under acknowledgment, and shall, on receipt of their reports, duly communicate to you the result of my enquiries.

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,
Acting Collector.

No. 14. From ARTHUR HALL, Esq., Magistrate of South Arcot; to EDWARD MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Cuddalore, 23rd May 1857, No. 154.

SIR,

In reference to para. 6 of Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, No. 383, dated 1st April last, I have the honor to state, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, that I have reason to believe that the system of crimping coolies for foreign Colonies is much less extensive now than it formerly was in this district. By all the accounts I receive of the state of the emigration operations carried on at Pondicherry, I am led to the conclusion, that considerable difficulty is now experienced there in obtaining men and women to supply the demand at the French Settlements.

2. Crimps are still doubtless about the district, but from all I can learn they do not meet with much success, partly from the fear they are in of being detected and punished, and partly from the unwillingness of the people to leave their homes now that the reduction in the assessment on the land has opened such a much finer field for their labor than there used to be in this part of the country.

3. The following statement shows the number of cases of crimping coolies for French colonies, which have been brought before the Magistracy during the last 5 years, distinguishing those in which the parties have been convicted and those in which they have been released for want of proof.

Years.	No. of cases.	No. in which conviction was obtained	No. in which no conviction was obtained
A. D. 1852	54	30	24
1853	13	8	5
1854	87	41	46
1855	25	18	7
1856	25	12	13
Total...	204	109	95

4. It must however be remarked that in several of these cases, the parties who were crimped, belonged to North Arcot, and that in a few others they came from Tanjore and Trichinopoly.

5. A great check was given to the exportation of coolies by the vigorous measures which were adopted in 1851 and 1852, to suppress this traffic; since then, however, there has been no occasion to take any unusual steps beyond a strict enforcement of the penalties provided by the law against crimping.

6. Emigration to the French colonies at Bourbon, (now Reunion) and Guiana (in the West Indies) is carried on at Pondicherry by constituted agents, subject to the supervision of