

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Police **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	<i>939</i>	Press Mis.
Dated	<i>11-9-</i>	<i>1965</i>

PSD NO= 64-65

Not to be folded or roughly handled

72

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

11th September 1865.

No. 64. Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart., Secretary of State for India; to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 30th June 1865, No. 47.

I transmit herewith, for the information of your Excellency in Council, a copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion, dated the 4th May last, and transmitted to this Department by the Foreign Office, containing remarks and suggestions with reference to the state and prospects of Indian Immigration into that Island.

From J. D. HAY HILL, Esq., Her British Majesty's Consul; to EARL RUSSELL, &c., &c., dated British Consulate, Réunion, the 4th May 1865, No. 15.

I have the honor to draw your Lordship's attention to the great labor requirements of this Colony. The supply from India has been as yet quite inadequate to meet the demands of the planters and others. The measures which have of late years been adopted to secure the protection of the coolies, have tended to make an extended immigration of British subjects to Réunion much more desirable.

2. The immigration from Calcutta has heretofore been certainly no great success; but I feel sure that, if good Agents were sent up in the North-Western parts of India, a superior class of men could be found in abundance, who, with proper care and kindness shewn to them here, would be as acceptable as any other laborers. Our own Government in Mauritius find no difficulty in disposing of Indians from the Bengal Presidency, and I do not see why any should be experienced here where, in some respects, greater provision is made for the Indian than in our own Colony.

3. I am totally opposed to the system of Commercial Houses in Calcutta or in Réunion being charged with the collection and eventual distribution of immigrants. I consider a properly paid and responsible Agent should be named by the French Government for the sole supervision of the immigrants before embarkation, and that a prolonged detention in Dépôt, whether in India or here, should be absolutely forbidden.

4. I have already expressed to the Réunion Government my opinion on the subject of Commercial Houses being charged with the reception and distribution of coolies, as causing delay and perhaps abuses; as I consider in the spirit, though not actually in the text of our Convention, the Government is alone responsible for all measures, up to the moment of the cession of the immigrants.

5. The detention of the Indians in Dépôt at Calcutta destined for this place, has already attracted the attention of the Government of India.

6. In my opinion the greatest possible facility should be given to the recruitment of Indians from Madras and the Coromandel Coasts, as the Malabar immigrants thrive here most perfectly, and are always acceptable. I should also recommend the adoption, as much as possible, of the system of special engagements made by properly licensed and sufficiently paid Agents in various Districts up-country, both in Madras and Bengal.

7. I should also be glad to see the abandonment of the present system of cash advances to Indians before their departure, and which are made re-payable by certain monthly deductions after arrival here. I consider the present system amounts to an abuse, as the money advanced is virtually of no good to the Indian, as it is, in nine cases out of ten, from all I can learn, taken away by the "Maistries," or Natives who conduct the intending emigrant to the Dépôt, on some frivolous pretext of expenses incurred for him *en-route*.

8. I feel also convinced that the Réunion Government are mistaken in not encouraging, under certain and proper precautionary measures, the settlement of the Indian in the Colony at the termination of his engagement, either as a free laborer, or, if possessed of means, as an independent member of the community.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
11th September 1865.*

9. It is with some apprehension for the laborial difficulties of Réunion that I look forward to the probable exit next year of a great number of the survivors of the six thousand Calcutta immigrants who arrived between 1860 and the end of 1861, and whose industrial engagements must then expire, as, however unacceptable the Calcutta immigrants may have been, the loss of any quantity of men who have naturally become acclimatised could not fail to be severely felt.

10. I cannot disguise from your Lordship my opinion, that a great amount of the abuse showered on what is called the failure of the Indian Immigration is encouraged by certain persons in this Colony, whose eyes are ever longingly directed to Madagascar and the Coasts of Africa for a supply of laborers, who, once landed, would probably never quit Réunion.

11. If an immediate supply of eight or ten thousand men could be obtained from India, and a yearly supply of six thousand more be almost counted on, the present difficulties would be removed.

12. Should Her Majesty's Government think it advisable to incur the expense of sending me on a special Mission for a few months to India, with a view to my reporting on and explaining the existing state of things here, with a view to measures being adopted for the immediate relief of the present laborial requirements of Réunion, I should of course be only too happy to accept the responsibility imposed upon me.

13. I have the honor to add, I have, with the exception of one paragraph, laid the present Despatch before His Excellency the Governor.

No. 929.

Copy forwarded to the Government of Madras for information.

(By Order.)

HOME DEPARTMENT, SIMLA,
11th August 1865.

(Signed) A. P. HOWELL,
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 65.

ORDER THEREON, 11th September 1865, No. 939.

Communicated to the Protector of Emigrants for information.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary

To the Protector of Emigrants.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

INDIA OFFICE;

London, the 30th June 1865.

PUBLIC.

No. 47.

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble the Governor General of India in Council.

SIR,—I transmit herewith, for the information of your Excellency in Council, a copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion, dated the 4th May last, and transmitted to this Department by the Foreign Office, containing remarks and suggestions with reference to the state and prospects of Indian Immigration into that Island.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) C. Wood.

BRITISH CONSULATE, REUNION.

The 4th May 1865.

No. 15.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to draw your Lordship's attention to the great labour requirements of this Colony. The supply from India has been as yet quite inadequate to meet the demands of the planters and others. The measures which have of late years been adopted to secure the protection of the coolies, have tended to make an extended immigration of British subjects to Réunion much more desirable.

The immigration from Calcutta has heretofore been certainly no great success; but I feel sure that if good Agents were sent up in the North-Western parts of India, a superior class of men could be found in abundance, who, with proper care and kindness shewn to them here, would be as acceptable as any other laborers. Our own Government in Mauritius find no difficulty in disposing of Indians from the Bengal Presidency, and I do not see why any should be experienced here where, in some respects, greater provision is made for the Indian than in our own Colony.

I am totally opposed to the system of commercial houses in Calcutta or in Réunion being charged with the collection and eventual distribution of immigrants. I consider a properly paid and responsible Agent should be named by the French Government for the sole supervision of the immigrants before embarkation, and that a prolonged detention in dépôt, whether in India or here, should be absolutely forbidden.

I have already expressed to the Réunion Government my opinion on the subject of commercial houses being charged with the reception and distribution of coolies, as causing delay and perhaps abuses; as I consider in the spirit, though not actually in the text of our Convention, the Government is alone responsible for all measures, up to the moment of the cession of the immigrants.

The detention of the Indians in dépôt at Calcutta destined for this place, has already attracted the attention of the Government of India.

In my opinion the greatest possible facility should be given to the recruitment of Indians from Madras and the Coromandel Coasts, as the Malabar immigrants thrive here most perfectly and are always acceptable. I should also recommend the adoption, as much as possible, of the system of special engagements made by properly licensed and sufficiently paid Agents in various districts up-country, both in Madras and Bengal.

I should also be glad to see the abandonment of the present system of cash advances to Indians before their departure, and which are made repayable by certain monthly deductions after arrival here. I consider the present system amounts to an abuse, as the money advanced is virtually of no good to the Indian, as it is, in nine cases out of ten, from all I can learn, taken away by the "Mestrys," or natives who conduct the intending emigrant to the depôt, on some frivolous pretext of expenses incurred for him *en route*.

I feel also convinced that the Réunion Government are mistaken in not encouraging, under certain and proper precautionary measures, the settlement of the Indian in the Colony at the termination of his engagement, either as a free-laborer, or, if possessed of means, as an independent member of the community.

It is with some apprehension for the laborial difficulties of Réunion that I look forward to the probable exit next year of a great number of the survivors of the six thousand Calcutta immigrants who arrived between 1860 and the end of 1861, and whose industrial engagements must then expire, as, however unacceptable the Calcutta immigrants may have been, the loss of any quantity of men who have naturally become acclimatised could not fail to be severely felt.

I cannot disguise from your Lordship my opinion that a great amount of the abuse showered on what is called the failure of the Indian immigration is encouraged by certain persons in this Colony, whose eyes are ever longingly directed to Madagascar and the Coasts of Africa for a supply of laborers, who, once landed, would probably never quit Réunion.

If an immediate supply of eight or ten thousand men could be obtained from India, and a yearly supply of six thousand more be almost counted on, the present difficulties would be removed.

Should Her Majesty's Government think it advisable to incur the expense of sending me on a special Mission for a few months to India, with a view to my reporting on and explaining the existing state of things here, with a view to measures being adopted for the immediate relief of the present laborial requirements of Réunion, I should of course be only too happy to accept the responsibility imposed upon me.

I have the honor to add, I have, with the exception of one paragraph, laid the present Despatch before His Excellency the Governor.

I have, &c.,

THE EARL RUSSELL,
&c., &c., &c.

(Signed) JOHN D. HAY HILL,
Her British Majesty's Consul.

No. 929.

COPY forwarded to the Government of *Madras*
for information.

HOME DEPARTMENT,
SIMLA,
The 11 August 1865.

By Order,
W. H. M. M. M.
Under-Secy. to the Govt. of India.

At the direction of the Secretary of the
Department of Immigration

Recd 26 Dec 1865
W.H.C.

Director of Immigration for information

Recd 29 of 1865

Communicated to the

64-65

SIMLA,
The 11 August 1865.

Public 1865 Department
From
Under Secretary to Govern-
ment of India, Home Dept.
No 929

Dated 11 } August 1865
Recd 31 }

5-5 page Copies

No 1104

Communicating correspondence
from the Secretary of State
respecting the state & prospects
of Indian Immigration in the
Island of Reunion

With an order

M. M. M.

Under-Secy. to the G.