

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<i>1504</i>	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	<i>2-12-19</i>	<i>1867</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
2nd December 1867.

No. 3. From His Excellency M. BONTEMPS, Governor of the French Settlements in India, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor of Presidency of Fort Saint George, Madras; dated Pondicherry, 22nd November 1867, No. 19.

TRANSLATION.

I have received the letter that your Excellency has done me the honor to address me on the subject of the Indian emigration to French Guiana.

2. I have not up to this time received from my Government any intimation of a nature to lead me to suppose that it is its intention to renounce, as far as Guiana is concerned, the stipulation of the International Convention, which provides in an absolute manner for the emigration of coolies (Indians) to that Colony. On the contrary it was with the co-operation and by the interposition of the Department of Marine that four shipments of emigrants were despatched to that Colony from the 13th November 1865 to the 15th March 1867.

3. While I appreciate the just solicitude which leads your Excellency to fear the possible effect of there being no British Consul at Guiana, I do not doubt but that your Excellency does not concur in the exaggerations which appear in the reports communicated to me in support of your letter. It is impossible for me not to protest against the imputation that, in a French country, emigrants placed under the protection of the Government of the country will be in danger of perishing for want of food.

4. Without dwelling longer on the opinions to which Mr. Norfor has committed himself, and which are based on a pretended commercial crisis which exists only in his imagination, so far at least as Guiana, with which we are at present engaged, is concerned, I am happy to be able to inform your Excellency that no shipments of emigrants for that Colony will take place during the present season.

5. Your Excellency's observations will be of use in so far as they will reach your Government in sufficient time to enable a Consul being appointed to Cayenne before the commencement of operations next season.

(True Translation).

(Signed) J. W. LYONS,
French Translator.

25th November 1867.

FROM

R. S. ELLIS, Esq., C. B.,

Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

HOME DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I am directed by the Governor in Council to submit, for the information of the Governor General in Council, copies of the correspondence which has passed between the Madras Government and the Governor of the French Settlements in India, on the subject of Emigration to Cayenne in French Guiana.

To His Excellency the Governor of the French Settlements in India, with enclosures, dated 13th November 1867, No. 1428.
From do. 22nd do. No. 19.

2. From the papers which accompanied the Despatch from the Secretary of State for India, forwarded by Mr. Under Secretary Harington on the 23rd August last for the information of this Government, it is evident that it was supposed by the Secretaries of State for India and for Foreign Affairs that the emigration of Natives of British India to French Guiana had ceased since 1862. It will be seen from the letter enclosed from the British Consular Agent at Pondicherry that emigration to Cayenne has been resumed, and that during 1865, 1866, and 1867, 1158 Indian emigrants have been sent from Pondicherry to Cayenne.

3. On receiving this information the Governor in Council addressed the Governor of the French Settlements, informing him that as emigration had been resumed to French Guiana, and as there was no British Consul at Cayenne, it was his intention to request His Excellency the Governor General in Council to suspend the emigration of Natives of British India to French Guiana until further information is obtained as to the actual position of the emigrants now in the Colony, and the prospects of those who may be sent hereafter, and until a British Consular Agent is appointed to Cayenne for the protection of the Indian emigrants. The assistance of His Excellency M. Bontemps was requested in preventing emigration from French ports in this Presidency to French Guiana, until an answer could be received from the Governor General in Council.

4. In reply, His Excellency M. Bontemps states that he has received no information that the French Government proposes to renounce emigration to French Guiana. He considers the reports received as to the condition of Indian coolies at Cayenne exaggerated and protests against the possibility of their being allowed, in a settlement under the French Government, to perish for want of food, as supposed by the Vice-Consul at Pondicherry. His Excellency states that no shipments of emigrants for Cayenne will take place from Pondicherry during the present season, and suggests that there will be time for the appointment by the British Government of a Consul at Cayenne before the commencement of the emigration operations of next season.

5. From the account given by Mr. Consul Perry of the condition of Indian coolies at Cayenne, at the time at which his letter was written, in 1862, and which has not been authoritatively contradicted, it appears that there had been a very severe mortality among the Indian emigrants on their arrival; that the climate of Cayenne is peculiarly unsuited to Natives of India; that Indian coolies are unsuited to the work required of them; and that the French Colonists at Cayenne were unable to find employment for the coolies who were there at that time.

6. Under these circumstances, the Governor in Council considers that until a British Consular Agent is appointed to Cayenne, and the real state of that Colony has been reported by a British official, the emigration of Natives of British India to French Guiana should not be continued. The Governor in Council proposes addressing the Secretary of State on the subject of affording to Indian emigrants at Cayenne Consular protection.

7. His Excellency M. Bontemps states that no shipments of coolies to Cayenne will take place this season, and therefore the formal suspension by the Governor General of the emigration to French Guiana is not emergently necessary. I am, however, directed to point out that His Excellency M. Bontemps has not in any way engaged himself to prevent emigration from the French ports in India to French Guiana until the appointment of a British Consul at Cayenne, and that it may be desirable, if information reaches the Madras Government that coolies are about to be sent to French Guiana, that the Governor in Council should be able to declare to the French authorities that the Governor General in Council has, under the power vested in him by the Emigration Acts, temporarily suspended the Emigration of Natives of British India to French Guiana.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
2nd December 1867.

Chief Secretary.

Edw J. Tulloch.

Gouvernement
des Etablissements Français
dans l'Inde

Administration
de l'Ordonnateur.

N° 10

Pondichéry, le 22 Novembre 1867

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

J'ai reçu la lettre que Votre
Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de
m'adresser au sujet de l'émigration
indienne à la Guyane française.

Je n'ai reçu jusqu'ici de
mon Gouvernement aucune informa-
tion de nature à me faire supposer
que son intention soit de renoncer,
en ce qui concerne la Guyane, à
la stipulation de la convention
internationale qui consacre d'une
manière absolue l'émigration des
indiens pour cette Colonie. C'est
au contraire, avec le concours et
par l'intermédiaire du Département
de

A Son Excellence le Très-honorable Gouverneur de la Présidence
au Fort St. Georges. à Madras.

de la marine, que quatre cents
émigrants ont été dirigés sur cette
colonie du 13 novembre 1865 au 15
mars 1867.

Cependant, je comprends la
juste sollicitude qui porte Votre
Excellence à s'occuper des effets
possibles de l'absence d'un consul
de S. M. Britannique à la
Guyane. Mais je ne doute pas
que son esprit élevé ne fasse la
part des exagérations qui ressortent
des rapports qui Elle m'a
communiqués à l'appui de sa
lettre. Il m'est impossible de
ne pas protester contre des imputa-
tions qui tendraient à établir
que dans un pays français des
émigrants, placés sous la

protection

protection de l'administration de
ce pays, soient exposés à mourir
de faim.

Sans m'arrêter davantage,
aux appréciations auxquelles se
livre Monsieur Boyer, et qui
ont pour point de départ une
pretendue crise commerciale qui
n'existe que dans son imagina-
tion, au moins en ce qui concerne
la Guyane dont nous nous
occupons spécialement, je suis
honteux de pouvoir dire à
Votre Excellence qu'aucune
expédition d'émigrants n'aura
lieu pendant la présente
campagne pour cette destina-
tion.

Les observations de Votre

Excellence pourroit donc
parvenir utilement à son
Gouvernement, de manière
qu'un consul puisse être
dirigé sur Cayenne avant
la reprise des opérations de
la campagne prochaine.

Je vous prie, Monsieur le
Gouverneur, l'assurance de ma
haute considération avec laquelle
j'ai l'honneur d'être,

De Votre Excellence,

Le très obéissant secrétaire,

Le Commissaire Général de la Marine,
Gouverneur des établissements de l'Inde,



No. 1554

To

The Secretary to the Government
of India,
Home Department.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor in Council to submit for the information of the Governor General in Council copies of the correspondence which has passed between the Madras Govt. and the Governor of the French Settlements in India, on the subject of emigration to Cayenne in French Guiana.

2. From the papers which accompanied the despatch from the Secretary of State for India forwarded by Mr.

Oct 24/12 in the
No. 1428. Left the
Grand French Cove, N. 19.

To, viz Ex^o the Governor of the
General Settlement on
behalf with enclosure—
13 March 1842

do do do on the subject of emigration.

Dec 14th 1890 by H. A. Myl
18th Apr " 1894

Public Works

Public Debt Office Aug 10th Dec 5 1877

Dear
 The Governor of the State
 Baltimore in Md. Dec
 No 19

N. L. 4^o 1574

Wm. J. Brown

26/9/20

State that there will
be no migration to
the old Guianathus
cavern

But Under Secretary
Harrington on the 23^d
August last for the
information of this
Govt, it is evident that
it was supposed by
the Secretaries of State
for India and for Foreign
Affairs that the emigra-
tion of natives of British
India to French Guiana
had ceased since 1862.

It will be seen from
the letter enclosed from
the British Consular
Agent at Pondicherry
that emigration to Cayenne
has been resumed, and
that during 1865, 66 & 67
^{Indian} 1158 emigrants have
been sent from Pondicherry
to Cayenne.

3. On receiving this
information

information the Governor
in Council addressed
the Governor of the French
Settlements, informing
him that as emigration
had been resumed to
French Guiana and
as there was no British
Consul at Cayenne, it
was his intention to
request H.C. the Governor
General in Council to
suspend the emigration
of Natives of British
India to French Guiana
until further infor-
mation is obtained as
to the actual position
of the emigrants now
in the Colony, and the
prospects of those who
may be sent hereafter
and until a British
Consular

Consular Agent is appointed to Cayenne for the protection ^{of the Indian ~~warrior~~ emigrants.} The assistance of His Excellency M. Boulenger was requested ~~for~~ ⁱⁿ preventing Emigration from French ports in this Presidency to French Guiana, until an answer could be received from the Governor General in Council.

11. In reply H. E. M. Boulenger states that he has received no information that the French Govt. proposes to renounce Emigration to French Guiana. He considers the reports received as to the conditions of Indian coolies at Cayenne exaggerated and protests against

3
against the possibility of their being allowed, in a settlement under the French Govt, to perish for want of food, as supposed by the Vice Consul at Pondicherry. His Excellency states that no shipments of emigrants for Cayenne will take place from Pondicherry during the present season, and suggests that there will be time for the appointment by the British Govt. of a Consul at Cayenne before the commencement of the Emigration operations of next season.

5. From the account given by Mr. Consul Perry

and therefore
season, the formal
suspension by the Governor
General of the Emigra-
tion to French Guiana
is not emergently neces-
sary;

I am however
directed to point out
that M. E. M. Bontemps
has not in any way
engaged himself to
prevent Emigration from the French ports in
India to French Guiana
until the appointment
of a British Consul
at Cayenne, and that
it may be desirable,
if information reaches
the Madras Govt. that
coolies are about to
be sent to French Guiana,
that the Governor in Council
should

should be able to declare
to the French authorities
that the Governor General
in Council has, under
the power vested in him
by the Emigration acts,
temporarily suspended
the Emigration of Natives
of British India to
French Guiana.

Fort St. George
28 Decr 1861

Public Affairs to Cong. 10th Dec. 1867
No 27 of 1867

Public Affairs to Cong. 10th Dec. 1867

No 1804

To
The Secy. for the
War & Navy

Public Affairs to Cong. 10th Dec. 1867

No 1804