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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<i>299</i>	Press <u>Mis.</u>
Dated	<i>21-3-</i>	<i>1867</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers :—

No. 140. From J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Protector of Emigrants, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 6th February 1867.

I have the honor to inform you that the Proceedings of Government of the 22nd ultimo, No. 78, were duly sent to the British Consular Agents at Pondicherry and Karikal, as therein directed, and to forward their communications thereon.

2. It will be seen that Mr. Norfor cannot avoid believing that, notwithstanding all the precautions adopted, the Maistries or Recruiters do obtain a considerable portion of the three months' advance given to each emigrant before embarking. Mr Sam admits the same, but seems to consider it in the light of a legitimate discharge of a just debt.

3. From my knowledge of the working of the emigration system, I am perfectly satisfied that the Recruiters do possess themselves of the greater portion of the advances made. This, in fact, is their principal source of profit. A similar course was attempted at Madras, and, on its being stopped, emigration to the French Colonies from this port was abandoned.

4. The only effectual check to the evil would be not to allow advances to be given. There would then be nothing for the emigrant to be despoiled of.

From B. T. NORFOR, Esq., British Consular Agent at Pondicherry, to the Protector of Emigrants Madras; dated Pondicherry, 31st January 1867, No. 138.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Government Order, dated 22nd January 1867, No. 78, requiring explanation on the subject of complaints made by certain emigrants to Her Majesty's Consul at the Island of Réunion.

2. The accompanying correspondence will show that, immediately on receipt of the Consul's letter to me, I put myself in communication with the Authorities here, and am only just able to report on the subject, and was on the point of despatching this communication to you when I received the Government Order under notice.

3. You will see how far I have as yet proceeded, and my intention in forwarding the correspondence is to beg the Government to instruct me how they would wish me to act further in this matter.

4. I have only a few observations to make, which are—

That the men's story to the Consul is, like all other depositions by the Natives of this country, much exaggerated.

The men are perfectly sober when they get their money, as they are paid immediately after being inspected by the Doctor; direct from him they go to the pay table, a distance of a few yards. On settlement of their account, which is done before the Agent, they go immediately into the Dépôt, where no liquor is allowed; they have, therefore, no opportunity of getting intoxicated.

The Agent's Office, Doctor's room, and Dépôt are one building.

Before seeing the Doctor they are first examined by me, and carefully questioned, and warned respecting every thing that may possibly happen, and are distinctly told the advance they will get, and to pay no money away to any one unless they really owe it. Notwithstanding these precautions, they do, I fear, give away a great deal of their advance of pay, but if they will not make it a complaint to me, I cannot assist them.

The case alluded to in the Consul's letter was a Mussulman from Bangalore, who said he had been robbed of the value of 60 Rupees; so I advised him to remain and prosecute, as the person who robbed him could be punished. This he refused to do, but went on board abusing the whole Dépôt, saying they had stolen his sword and various other things; so, in my despatch, I cautioned the Consul on the subject.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
21st March 1867.

This was the only important accusation ever made. Now and then there have been trivial complaints made for two or three Rupees; but, at the moment of embarking, the Agent generally has paid them, and they have gone away satisfied.

Notwithstanding, however, I do believe the Maistries collect money from these people and the only remedy I can suggest is not to allow so much advance to be given. The emigrants formerly had only two months, or 10 Rupees' advance of pay; they now get three months, or 15 Rupees, which, of course, offers more temptation to the Recruiting Maistry.

The only remedy is to reduce the amount advanced to the old standard, and thus cut off the source from which alone the Maistry can hope to extract any perquisite.

At one time, I thought of proposing to the French Government that the emigrants should not be allowed to have accounts with the Maistry for more than half their advance; the objection is, it would not be legal so to interfere.

From Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul, Réunion, to the British Consular Agent, Pondicherry; dated Réunion, 28th September 1866, No. 28.

I have the honor, herewith, to transmit to you a copy of a letter, with its enclosure, which I forwarded to the Governor of this Colony, as likewise His Excellency's reply to the same.

2. It is out of my power to give you any further information on the subject, but, no doubt, you may be able to devise some means of arriving at the truthfulness of the petitioners' statement. The men who signed the petition appeared to me to be the most intelligent of their countrymen. I, therefore, did not consider it essential to obtain the signatures of the whole ship's crew in each case, all of whom complained of being treated the same.

3. From what I have been able to gather, my conviction is that fully nine-tenths are similarly treated out of each ship's crew. You will, I am sure, concur with me that such scandalous treatment, if true, should meet with the punishment it deserves.

4. I shall feel glad if you will make a point of giving the matter your earliest attention.

From Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul, Réunion, to His Excellency the Governor of Réunion; dated Réunion, 17th September 1866, No. 13.

I have the honor to bring under the serious consideration of Your Excellency the very distressing case, as set forth in the accompanying copy of a Petition which has been presented to me.

2. Allow me to assure Your Excellency that, on its receipt, I considered it my duty, prior to troubling you, to make a most searching inquiry among the emigrants here, in order to find out how far the statement of the petitioners could be corroborated.

Most deeply do I regret to state that, in the course of my investigations, such disclosures have been made to me, as leave no doubt on my mind that the allegations stated are substantially true.

3. I am sure, with this conviction expressed, and not made in haste, but after thoroughly sifting the matter, Your Excellency will take steps to cause an inquiry to take place, when involving so grave a charge against the Native Agents, and at the same time, to say the least, a charge of the grossest culpability against certain of the French Authorities at Pondicherry and Karikal, in the discharge of their public duties towards the emigrants coming to this Colony, for it is difficult to comprehend how such things could be perpetrated without being observed.

4. I have it from very reliable testimony that the acts stated by the petitioners have for years past been perpetrated.

5. I do not suppose for one moment that such misdeeds have been brought to the knowledge of the executive authorities at Pondicherry and Karikal, but, in the most respectful manner, do I call on Your Excellency, trusting and fully expecting that, on the representations now made to you, no delay will be allowed to take place by the Local Government at Pondicherry, and also at Karikal, in putting a stop to such cruel and infamous proceedings.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
21st March 1867.

We, the undersigned, do make oath before Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul for the Island of Réunion, that we were defrauded by the Maistries at Pondicherry and Karikal out of 13 Rupees each.

The French Government Agent had given us an advance of 15 Rupees each. The day we received the advance, the Maistries gave us something like Toddy to drink, telling us it was good for us. Soon afterwards we became quite insensible, and, on coming to our senses the next morning, we found we had been robbed of 13 Rupees each, and on complaining to the Clerk of the Dépôt he told us the Maistries had left, and that we had no means of getting our money back. We were locked up in the Dépôt until the departure of the ship for Réunion, and had no opportunity of telling any one of our grievance but the Clerk of the Dépôt.

We, the undersigned, from on board the ship *Segisbert Cezard*, from Pondicherry, do hereby affix our marks opposite to our respective names.

Their	No.
x Ramasawmy	560
x Dinga	556
x Veerasawmy	507
x Virapen	646
x Ramasawmy	474
x Mootoosawmy	534
x Rungasawmy	473

Marks.

We, the undersigned, from on board the ship *Samarang*, from Pondicherry, do hereby affix our marks opposite our respective names.

Their	No.
x Gungiahmeshy	856
x Veerapan	1111
x Ramen	1039
x Veerasawmy	1060
x Vassedevin Meshy	851

Marks.

We, the undersigned, from on board the ship *Santiago*, from Pondicherry, do hereby affix our marks opposite our respective names.

Their	No.
x Subabady Arrason	477
x Ramasawmy Mutoosawmy	752
x Ponnoosawmy Ravoolom	629
x Vurden Moonsawmy	805
x Mariamay Tandroyen	626
x Ramasawmy Narriana	705
x Narrainen Verabonny	291
x Pareomal Vengoodasalom	792
x Pavada Chinnatomby	296

Marks.

Certified true copy of the deposition made before me.

(Signed) J. McANDREW,
Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul.

From His Excellency the Governor of Réunion, to Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, Réunion; dated Réunion, 27th September 1866, No. 173.

TRANSLATION.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter under date the 17th September, in which you have transmitted a petition of a very serious nature, which has been addressed to you by the emigrants recently arrived in the Colony, on the subject of the thefts which had been committed on them by the Maistries at the time of their embarkation from India.

2. I shall forward this petition, without delay, to the Governor of the French Settlements in India, in order that it may receive all the attention which it deserves.
(True Translation).

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

From the British Consular Agent, Pondicherry, to Monsieur le Commissaire de la Marine, Ordonnateur, Pondicherry; dated Pondicherry, 20th November 1866, No. 168.

I have the honor, herewith, to transmit an original letter for your perusal, which I have received from Her British Majesty's Consul at Réunion.

2. The complaint made is of a very serious nature, and I feel sure you will take measures to correct what may be defective in the manner of paying the advances to these men.

3. You will perceive that the statement made before the Consul is somewhat exaggerated, and in many respects untrue.

First.—It is not true the men were given toddy or other liquor to intoxicate them.

Second.—It is not true that they had no opportunity of telling their grievance to any one, since my people go there almost daily, and they can complain to me if they wish.

4. Notwithstanding, I do believe these stupid people allow themselves to be persuaded to give presents to the Recruiters, and so part with their money. We cannot altogether prevent this; but, in the interests of the emigration it would (I think you will agree with me) be well to put some limit to this practice, which seems to have degenerated into an abuse. I understand, in Karikal, they do limit the amount which the emigrant is allowed to disburse, and I beg to suggest that it would be well to ascertain what is done there, with the view of correcting any practice that may exist here.

5. I am sure you will agree with me that it is in the true interest of the Colonies that the emigrants should be protected in these matters as far as possible, without undue interference with their perfect liberty of action in every respect.

From M. TRILLIARD, L'Ordonnateur, Pondicherry, to the British Consular Agent at Pondicherry; dated 23rd November 1866, No. 295.

TRANSLATION.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, under date the 20th instant, and the documents which accompanied it. The Governor had already received a communication from the Governor of Réunion, transmitting a copy of the same petition, and a letter from Her Britannic Majesty's Consul on the subject.

2. After having caused an investigation to be made as to what could have been the foundation for the charges laid against the Agencies of Pondicherry and Karikal, the Administration has been led to conclude that it is impossible to verify the correctness of the complaints in question, in the absence of those who preferred them, who cannot be confronted with the accused Maistries, who meet all the statements with explicit denials. The Administration has no doubt, moreover, concurring with you in this respect, that the statements are exaggerated and false, especially as regards the sale of spirituous liquors within the Dépôt, and the difficulty which these emigrants declare they met with in communicating with the authorities appointed for their protection. The inspection made at the time of their embarkation testifies to the incorrectness of this assertion; the visits you yourself made to the Dépôt will confirm you in this opinion. I do not care to say anything more on this point.

3. The Governor has replied in this view to the Governor of Réunion, and has expressed himself in the following terms:—

“These individuals, Monsieur le Gouverneur, have deceived the British Consul at Réunion, in telling him that they had only the Clerk of the Dépôt to whom to make their complaints. There is at Pondicherry an Emigration Commissioner, and a British Protector, the Honorable Mr. Norfor, who are perfectly accessible to the emigrants. Without referring to the action of these functionaries in the Dépôt, I shall mention that the emigrants pass individually before

“them at the time of their embarkation, and that they verify the descriptive lists which accompany the batches.”

4. I think that these explanations will suffice to convince the British Consul resident in Réunion of the bad faith of the complainants, and to assure him that every precaution is taken to prevent the abuses to which the emigrants may become victims.

5. Nevertheless, Monsieur le Consul, persuaded like yourself that one cannot be over careful in protecting the interests of this class of Indians, I have written to Karikal for information as to the manner in which they effect at the Dépôt the adjustment of the advances made to the coolies by the Recruiting Maistries. I am besides prepared to consider any other measures you may propose for the good of the emigration.

6. I can now offer you my thanks for the considerations passed, as well as for the wisdom and moderation that you have shown at the time, in assuring yourself of the genuineness of the regulations interposed between the emigrants and the Recruiting Agents.

7. I enclose, herein, the papers which you would endeavor to communicate to me.
(True translation).

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

From the British Consular Agent, Pondicherry, to Monsieur le Commissaire de la Marine, Ordonnateur, Pondicherry; dated Pondicherry, 28th November 1866.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 23rd instant, and to thank you for the immediate attention you have given to the subject.

2. I agree with you in admitting the impossibility of arriving at any just conclusion regarding the complaint of the individuals who have signed the deposition before the Consul of Réunion. It is also quite true they had every opportunity of making their complaint here, if they wished to do so. Why they did not do it, is what I find it difficult to understand.

3. I am happy to observe that you express your determination to do everything that lays in your power to protect the interests of these Indian Emigrants, and I shall be most happy to act with you in any way you may consider my services useful.

4. I shall be glad to know the result of the inquiries you have caused to be made in Karikal, whenever you may receive a reply from there.

From the British Consular Agent, Pondicherry, to Monsieur le Commissaire de la Marine, Ordonnateur, Pondicherry; dated Pondicherry, 17th December 1866.

I have the honor to request you will let me know if you have received any answer from Karikal regarding the manner of proceeding in the payment of emigrants at that Dépôt. I regret to have to trouble you; but the grave nature of the charges made require that the subject should be carefully looked into, as copies of this correspondence have doubtless been sent to Her British Majesty's Minister in London, who will not fail to inquire what I have done in the matter.

From M. TRILLIARD, L'Ordonnateur, Pondicherry, to the British Consular Agent at Pondicherry; dated Pondicherry, 22nd December 1866, No. 317.

TRANSLATION.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 122, and the documents which accompanied it. I return them under this cover.

2. I have communicated to Mr. Erny the instructions which have been addressed to you by the Government of Madras, and I have requested him to conform, in future, to the rules laid down by the regulations in force for the recruitment of emigrants.

3. I regret that I am not able to furnish you immediately with the information you desire to have as to the manner in which the payment of advances is made at Karikal to the coolies who

are engaged. I have written again to the Chief of the Service of that Dependency, asking him to reply to my letter as promptly as possible. On the receipt of his letter, I will hasten to communicate to you the explanations which shall have been given to me.

(True translation).

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

From M. TRILLIARD, L'Ordonnateur, Pondicherry, to the British Consular Agent at Pondicherry; dated Pondicherry, 16th January 1867, No. 13.

TRANSLATION.

I have received from the Chief of the Service of Karikal information as to the manner in which the payment of advances is made to the coolies recruited in that Dependency, and I hasten to report to you the forms used.

2. The advances are disbursed only in the presence of the Consular Agent of Her Britannic Majesty, or of his Deputy. It is also in the presence that an adjustment of account is made between each emigrant and the Recruiting Maistries for the expenses of maintenance, &c., of the coolies from the time of their departure from the Depot up to that of their admission into the Depot. The sums that are thus paid ordinarily range from 3 to 6 Rupees. They sometimes amount to 10 Rupees, when the cooly comes from a distant district, and seldom to 13 Rupees. This last case occurs when the coolies are accompanied by their relatives.

3. These are the explanations, Monsieur le Consul, which have been furnished to me relative to the question which engages your attention. They afford a fresh proof of the care which the Administration takes in looking after the interests of the emigrants, and prove what little foundation there is as to the statements made by the coolies who have been conveyed to Réunion.

(True translation).

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

From A. SAM, Esq., British Consular Agent at Karikal, to the Protector of Emigrants, Madras; dated Karikal, 30th January 1867, No. 117.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings and Order of Government, dated 22nd January 1867, No. 78, and to state that, as far as Karikal is concerned, there is not an iota of truth in the deposition and complaint made to the Acting British Consul at Bourbon by some of the emigrants who proceeded thither on the French Ship *Segisbert Cezard*, and for the following reasons:—

- 1st.—Because, except the French Emigration Agent, myself, and our Clerks authorized by us, no Maistry, or any other person (European or Native) is permitted to enter the Depot, or even to speak to the emigrants from the door or windows; and, consequently, there is no possibility of their being drugged and robbed after they go in there, which they do the moment they receive their advance.
- 2nd.—Because the advance they receive, of three months' wages, is given to them in my presence at the Depot; and they themselves, then and there, and with their own hand, give up to ten Rupees each to their respective Maistries; and when I interpose, and try to dissuade every one of them from giving so much, the answer I invariably receive is, "it is my own money, and I will give what I like."
- 3rd.—Because those very emigrants by the *Segisbert Cezard*, were, as usual, at the time of embarkation, questioned individually by me as to whether they were going of their own free will and accord, and if they had anything to complain of; and their answer was, that they were going willingly, and had no complaint whatever.
2. Hence, and under the foregoing circumstances, it is obvious that they made the complaint to the Acting Consul at the instigation of some designing person or persons on board the ship.

No. 141. From His Excellency the Governor of the French Settlements in India, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George; dated Pondicherry, 14th February 1867, No. 2.

TRANSLATION.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 22nd January 1867, and the documents which accompanied it, on the subject of the artifices, on the part of the Recruiting Maistries, to which the Indian emigrants have frequently been victims, if the complaints made by many of them to Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Réunion must be believed.

2. Monsieur le Gouverneur, I have already been informed of the matter by His Excellency the Minister of Marine and the Governor of Réunion, and I have to furnish them with the explanation that I have now the honor to make to you.

3. I do not conceal from myself, Monsieur le Gouverneur, that the recruitment of emigrants has afforded room for some abuses and extortion on the part of the Recruiting Maistries.

4. The Administration, in its powerlessness to prevent these abuses, can repress them only whenever they become tangible. It is with this view that the surveillance of the operations of emigration has been entrusted to a special Commissioner, who receives the complaints of the emigrants, inquires into their grievances, and then affords them satisfaction. On the other hand, the presence, in our Centres of Emigration, of a British Agent appointed for the protection of the emigrants, offers a desirable guarantee for the regularity of these operations.

5. As regards especially the adjustment of the advances made to the coolies by the Recruiting Maistries, no reimbursement is made without the consent of those concerned, and whenever there is a dispute among them, the intervention of the Emigration Commissioner and the British Protector is the proper course for settling the difficulty. I will not, however, affirm that some of the coolies, without admitting the alleged debts, do not give way to the pressure of the Maistries, and afterwards regret it. This was probably the case with the complainants at Réunion, and it is possible that they have actually been sufferers. But these emigrants had every opportunity to make their complaints before their departure, and would then have afforded the Administration the means of verifying them successfully; whereas, at this date, all the charges are met by explicit denials, in the face of which nothing can be done.

6. These emigrants have accordingly shaken the faith of the Consul for England at Réunion by telling him that they could find no one to whom to complain. The Emigration Commissioner and the British Protector frequent the Depôts, and are perfectly accessible to the emigrants. Even supposing that these emigrants were ignorant of the powers of these functionaries, they cannot deny that they appeared before them prior to their embarkation. As they verify the descriptive lists which accompany each batch, at the time of embarkation, the emigrants are individually interrogated, both by the Emigration Commissioner and the British Agent, "have you any complaints to make?" "do you abide by your engagement, and are you

"content to embark?" These are the questions which are addressed to all, and each in particular, in the Tamil language. Each one is embarked only on his reply, negative on the first point, and affirmative on the second. I can assure your Excellency that these formalities are carried out very conscientiously. I am personally satisfied after repeated inquiries.

7. It is proper to add that the majority of the emigrants, being of British birth, appear individually before the British Collector, or the Protector at the station of the Dépôt, previously to examination by the Surgeon; and once this examination is undergone, the emigrant is taken into the Dépôt. How can it be believed that the state of intoxication of an emigrant can escape the vigilance of the British Agent or that of the examining Surgeon? It is not necessary to dwell on the statements in this respect contained in the complaints made at Réunion. The emigrants do not leave the Dépôt before their departure, and it is hardly necessary to add that the prohibition against the use of any alcoholic liquors in the Dépôt is a measure of Police, indispensable for the maintenance of order amongst hundreds of persons, who are watched only by some peons. That is to say, the prohibition is rigorously carried out.

8. All these explanations will demonstrate to your Excellency that the Administration has not been able to evolve any decisive result from the charges that have been brought to its notice at so late a period. The Honorable Mr. Norfor fully concurs with the Administration on this subject.

9. I have taken advantage of this occurrence to renew my express instructions to the Emigration Agents to protect, as much as it lies in them, the morality of the operations on which they are employed, and I have desired the Emigration Commissioners to re-double their vigilance in the delicate duty which is confided to them. Moreover, in order to avoid a recurrence of complaints of the same nature, the Administration has adopted, in concert with the Agent of Her Britannic Majesty, some formal rules for the adjustment of the emigrants' accounts with the Maistries. At the time of each payment, the following questions are at present invariably put in Tamil to each emigrant of whom reimbursement is claimed by the Maistries:—

"Is the demand of the Maistry valid, and do you consent to pay it?" "Are you paying only what you really owe?" "The payment which you are about to make is conclusive, and you will not afterwards be able to get a refund, because that refund, for the best of reasons, will be impossible."

10. It is only after the affirmative reply of the emigrant that the payment of the Maistry is authorized. In future, then, there will be no difficulties in this way—I hope so at least.

11. Such are the explanations, Monsieur le Gouverneur, which I am able to give your Excellency. I hope that they will sufficiently testify to the pains that the Administration takes to protect the emigrants who enter our Dépôts.

(True translation).

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

No. 142. ORDER THEREON, 21st March 1867, No. 299.

Ordered that the letter from the Governor of the French Settlements in India be communicated, through the Protector of Emigrants, to the several British Consular Agents, with instructions to see that the Rules proposed in paragraph 9 of that letter, for the adjustment of the emigrants' accounts with the Recruiting Maistries, are strictly observed.

2. Ordered, also, that the following letter be addressed to the Governor of the French Settlements in India.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Protector of Emigrants.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

N^o 2

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

J'ai l'honneur d'accuser réception à Votre Excellence de sa lettre du 22 Janvier 1866 et des documents qui l'accompagnent, au sujet de mandats de prison dont les émigrants indiens seraient fréquemment victimes de la part des mestizos créoles, et il fallait en outre les plaintes portées par plusieurs d'entre eux à M^r le Consul de S. M. Britannique à la Réunion. Déjà, Monsieur le Gouverneur, j'ai été saisi de la question par S. E. le Ministre de la Marine & M^r le Gouverneur de la Réunion et

Votre Excellence le Très-honorable Gouverneur
de la Présidence du Port S^t Georges,
à Madras.

et j'ai dû leur fournir toutes les explications que je vais avoir l'honneur de vous donner.

Je ne me dissimule pas, Monsieur le Gouverneur, que le recrutement des émigrants ne puisse donner lieu à des abus et à des exactions de la part des mestres recruteurs.

L'administration, sans songer impuissante à prévenir ces abus, ne peut que les réprimer toutes les fois qu'ils deviennent saisissables. C'est dans ce but que la surveillance des opérations de l'émigration a été confiée à un Commissaire spécial, qui reçoit les plaintes des émigrants, examine leurs griefs et y fait donner satisfaction. D'un autre côté, la présence, dans nos centres d'émigration, d'un agent anglais préposé

à la protection des émigrants, donne toute garantie désirable à la régularité de ces opérations.

En ce qui concerne notamment le règlement des avances faites aux coolies par les mestres recruteurs, aucun remboursement n'est fait sans le consentement des intéressés et toutes les fois qu'il y a contestation, l'intervention du Commissaire de l'émigration et du protecteur anglais est de droit pour trancher la difficulté. Je n'affirmerai pas pourtant que des engagés cédant à la pression des mestres ne reconnaissent des dettes supposées, et n'en aient plus tard du regret.

C'est peut-être le cas des réclamants de la Réunion et il est possible qu'ils aient éprouvé un préjudice réel. Mais ces émigrants

émigrants avaient tous les moyens de
faire entendre leurs plaintes avant le
départ et de permettre ainsi à
l'Administration de les faire vérifier
utilement, tandis qu'aujourd'hui
toutes ces plaintes ne rencontrent que
des dénégations formelles contre les
quelles on ne peut rien.

Ces émigrants ont donc surpris
la religion de M. le Consul d'Angle-
terre à la Réunion en lui déclarant
qu'ils n'avaient trouvé personne
à qui se plaindre. Le Commissaire
de l'Emigration et le Protecteur
anglais fréquentent les dépôts, etc.
sont parfaitement accessibles aux
émigrants. En admettant d'ailleurs
que ces émigrants aient ignoré les
qualités de ces fonctionnaires, ils ne
peuvent nier qu'ils aient comparu
devant eux avant leur embarque-
ment. Ainsi que le constatent
les

les procès-verbaux qui accompagnent
chaque convoi, au moment de l'embar-
quement, les émigrants sont individuelle-
ment interrogés tant par le Commissaire
de l'Emigration que par l'agent
britannique: "avez-vous quelques
réclamations à faire"? Persistez-vous
dans votre engagement et êtes-vous
satisfait de partir?" Celles sont les
questions qui sont adressées à tous et à
chacun en particulier en langue ramouli.
Quicon n'est embarqué que sur son
réponse négative sur le premier point,
affirmative sur le second. Je puis
donner à Votre Excellence l'assurance
que ces formalités sont remplies très-
consciencieusement, je m'en suis
personnellement assuré à plusieurs
reprises.

Il convient d'ajouter que la
généralité des émigrants étant d'origine
anglaise

anglaise, comparait individuellement devant
le Collecteur anglais ou devant l'agent.
Le Protecteur, au lieu du dépôt, préalablement à
la visite du médecin: qu'une fois cette visite
opérée, l'émigrant est admis au dépôt. Com-
ment supposer dès lors que l'état d'ivresse
d'un émigrant puisse échapper à la vigi-
lance de l'agent anglais et à celle du médecin
visiteur? Il n'est pas possible de s'arrêter
sur ce point avec des assertions contenues dans
les plaintes faites à la Réunion. Les
émigrants ne sortent pas du dépôt avant
leur départ, et point n'est besoin
d'ajouter que la prohibition de l'usage
de toute liqueur alcoolique, dans le
dépôt est une mesure de police, indispen-
sable pour maintenir l'ordre parmi
des centaines d'individus qui ne sont
gardés que par quelques pions; c'est donc
qu'elle s'exécute rigoureusement.

Certes ces explications démontrent
à Votre Excellence que l'Administration
n'a pu donner aucune suite aux
plaintes

plaintes dont elle a été saisie trop tard.
Le honorable M. Noz est dans un
complet accord de vues et d'appréciation
avec l'Administration à ce sujet.

J'ai profité de cet incident pour
renouveler aux agents d'émigration
mes recommandations expresses de
surveiller, autant qu'il dépendra
d'eux, la moralité des opérations
dont ils sont chargés et j'ai prescrit
aux Commissaires d'émigration de
redoubler de vigilance dans la
mission délicate qui leur est confiée.
En plus, pour éviter le retour de plaintes
de même nature, l'Administration a
adopté, de concert avec l'agent de S. M.
britannique, des règles précises pour le
réglement des comptes des émigrants avec
les mestres recuteurs. Lors de chaque
paquet, les questions suivantes sont
aujourd'hui invariablement posées en-
semble à chaque émigrant auquel des
remboursements sont réclamés par les

mestres.

" La réclamation du mestry est-elle fondée et ?
" consentez-vous à le payer ?

" Vous ne devez payer que ce que vous devez
" réellement ?

" Le paiement que vous allez faire, est
" définitif et vous ne pourrez plus tard obtenir d'en
" être remboursé, parce que ce remboursement pour
" bien des motifs serait impossible ?

Ce n'est qu'après la réponse affirmative
de l'émigrant, qu'on ~~autorise~~ paiement du mestry.
Désormais donc, il ne saurait y avoir de
nouvelles difficultés de ce côté, je l'espère du moins.

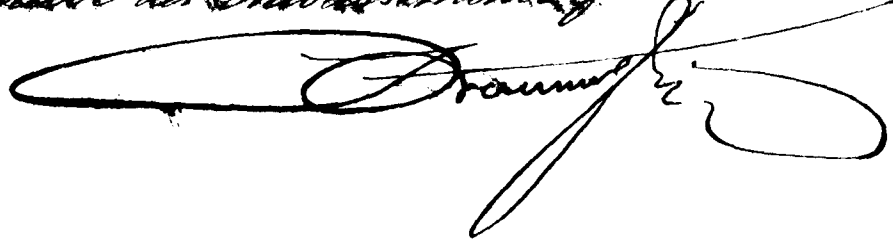
Celles sont, Monsieur le Gouverneur, les
éclaircissements que je puis donner à Votre
Excellence. J'espère qu'ils lui prouveront
suffisamment les soins que l'Administration
prend pour protéger les émigrants qui
passent dans nos dépôts.

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

De Votre Excellence,

Le très-obéissant serviteur,

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



Reçu
19-2-27
Sut.

Protector's Office.
Madras 8th Feby 1867.

From,
John J. Franklin Esquire.
Protector of Emigrants.
Madras.

To,
The Honorable A. J. Arbuthnot.
Chief Secretary to Government.
Fort Saint George.

Sir,
1. I have the honor to inform you that the Proceedings of Government of the 22nd ultimo, N^o. 78, were duly sent to the British Consular Agents at Pondicherry and Karikal as therein directed, and to forward their communications thereon.
2. It will be seen that Mr. Norfor can not avoid believing that, notwithstanding all the precautions adopted, the ~~agents~~ or recruiters do obtain a considerable portion of the 3 months advance given to each emigrant before embarking. Mr. Sam admits the same, but seems to consider it in the light of a legitimate discharge of a just debt.

3. From my knowledge of the working of the emigration system, I am perfectly satisfied that the recruiters do dispose themselves of the greater portion of the advances in a debt. This in fact is their principal source of profit. A similar

course

Public Office 29th June
1710 of 1867

Public Office 28th of 1867
1070 22.11

Public Office 1867

At the General Office
of the Government in India
102 Lth 1867

114th February 1867

12 22nd

These explanations in
respect of the complaints
received by certain
Emigrants at Pondicherry
against the French Re-
cruiting Agents at
Pondicherry.

15th June
1867

28

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter:

From the Protector of Emigrants. Dated 5th July 1867.

H.E. the Gov. of the French Settlements in India.

Order thereon 21st March 1867 No. 299.

Ordered that the letter from the Governor of the French Settlements in India be communicated through the Protector of Emigrants to the several British Consular Agents with instructions to see that the rules proposed in paragraph 9 of that letter for the adjustment of the emigrants' accounts with the recruiting bureaux are strictly observed.

Ordered

JP
WM

No 22 Aug 1867 No. 150 C 102.

Public Delta to Aug 29th June 1867

of 1867
Pub. No. 150 C 102 - 26. April
1870 92. 11

Protector of Emigrants

140

Rs. 8-2-67
32
218

Public 1867 No. 150 C 102.

March 21 March

Protector of Emigrants

No. 299

26 July 1867

Enclosure

No. 150 C 102.

Forwarded paper with sub-joint permission of Emigrants to the French Colonies, being in the hands of depriving the Emigrants of the above operation of the above they receive

course was attempted at Madras, and on its being stopped, emigration to the French Colonies from this port was abandoned.

4. The only effectual check to the evil would be, not to allow advances to be given. There would then be nothing for the emigrant to be despoiled of. -

I have the honor to be.

Sir
Your Most Obedt. Servant.

Protector of Emigrants

2. Ordered also that the following letter be addressed to the Governor of the French Settlements in India.

desp 25/2 To the Protector of Emigrants - desp 25/2

To His Excellency M. Bontemps
Govr of the French Settlements in India

Sir,

In the absence of
Sd Officer from the Pre-
sidency, I have the honor
to acknowledge the receipt
of your Excellency's letter
of the 14th ultimo, and
in transmitting for your
information the enclosed
copy of a letter from the
Protector of Emigrants at
Madras, to request that
your Excellency will be
good enough to consider
the expediency of adopting
Mr. Franklin's suggestion
that

that the system of making
advances to the emigrants
should be discontinued
or if this should not be
practicable whether the
amount of such advances
could not be reduced

Fort St. George
21st March/87

Public Letter to Cong 29th June 1867

of 1867
Dated 29th June 1867
1870 22nd 11

Public 1867. Department.

No. 299

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated. 21st March 1867.

29th June 1867

29th June 1867

140th 141

26