

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	79	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	22-1-	1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
22nd January 1867.*

No. 160. Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George; dated India Office, London, 31st October 1866, No. 38.

I forward, for your information, a copy of a letter from the Foreign Office, with its enclosures, relative to the arrival of Emigrant Ships at Réunion from Pondicherry and Karikal, and to the allegations of some of the emigrants as to frauds practised on them at the Ports above mentioned.

Dated 20th October 1866.

2. I have to request that you will make such communications to the Governor of Pondicherry, and to the British Consular Agents at that Port and at Karikal, as may seem to you most likely to lead to the repression of the practices complained of, should they be found to have existed.

From E. HAMMOND, Esq., Under Secretary of State, Foreign Office, to the Under Secretary of State for India; dated Foreign Office, 20th October 1866.

I am directed by Lord Stanley to enclose, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India in Council, copies of two Despatches from the Acting British Consul at Réunion, reporting the arrival at that Port of

Mr. Andrews, No. 23, 1866.
Do. „ 27, „

three French Emigrant Ships, and the frauds practised on the Immigrants by the Native Commissioners at Pondicherry and Karikal.

2. I am to request that you will acquaint the Secretary of State for India that Lord Cowley has been instructed to communicate these Despatches confidentially to the French Government.

From J. W. ANDREWS, Esq., Her Majesty's Acting Consul, Réunion, to the Right Honorable Lord STANLEY, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; dated British Consulate, Réunion 10th September 1866, No. 23.

I have the honor to report to Your Lordship the arrival of the French Ship *Sigisbert Cezard*, with 424 Immigrants from Pondicherry and Karikal.

2. I personally inspected them within an hour of their arrival at the Dépôt, and I regret to have to inform Your Lordship that they complained sadly of the manner in which they were robbed by the Native Commissioners, or as they are called "Maistries", at Pondicherry and Karikal.

I have not a question of a doubt that this system of extortion has been carried on for years past. Their tale is a very simple one, and has been corroborated by others who arrived here years ago. It is as follows: a short time after their arrival at the Immigration Dépôt, they are drugged by the "Maistries", this being done after their examination by the Doctor, and having received from the French Government Agent 15 Rupees each, they are then again handed over to the "Maistries", who, immediately after they leave the Agent, under a variety of ways, get the advance from them. They are then locked up in the Dépôt till the departure of the ship. One Immigrant informed me that he was robbed in this way of 60 Rupees.

3. I have forwarded to our Agent, Mr. Norfor, at Pondicherry, and also to Mr. Sam at Karikal, depositions from some of the most intelligent of the Immigrants, with a view to those gentlemen making a searching inquiry thereon.

I should add that Mr. Norfor, in a despatch of June last, mentions having heard it rumoured that the Immigrants were being defrauded of the money advanced, but that he had not charge of the payment, and that the men did not complain to him; he, therefore, could not interfere.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
22nd January 1867.*

4. I have likewise addressed the Governor of Réunion, transmitting to him a copy of a deposition signed by 30 of the most intelligent of the immigrants who were defrauded in the manner above stated, and requesting His Excellency to cause steps to be taken, without loss of time, by the authorities at Pondicherry and Karikal, in order to put a stop to so ——— and nefarious a practice.

* Word omitted in original.

From J. W. ANDREWS, Esq., Her Majesty's Acting Consul, Réunion, to the Right Honorable Lord STANLEY, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, dated Réunion, 19th September 1866, No. 27.

I have the honor to report to your Lordship the arrival from Pondicherry and Karikal of the French Ships *Santiago* and *Lamarang*, the former with 321 immigrants and the latter with 261. One death occurred in the former, and two in the latter, during the voyage.

2. I have only to add that the same complaints that were made to me by the immigrants who arrived by the *Sigisbert Cezard*, as reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 23, were also made by numbers of the men in both these ships.

No. 161. ORDER THEREON, 22nd January 1867, No. 78.

Ordered that copies of the foregoing despatch, and of its enclosures, be furnished to the Governor of the French Settlements in India, with a request that the complaints preferred by the emigrants from the Madras Presidency, who have proceeded to Réunion, against the recruiting Maistries at Pondicherry and Karikal, may receive His Excellency's early attention, and that, should it appear from the inquiries that may be instituted that the allegations are well founded, the necessary steps may be taken to repress the practices complained of.

2. Ordered that the despatch, and its enclosures, be, also, communicated, through the Protector of Emigrants, to the British Consular Agents at Pondicherry and Karikal, in view to their inquiring into the matter, and furnishing the Government with the result of their inquiries.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 162. To His Excellency M. BONTEMPS, Governor of the French Settlements in India, dated Fort Saint George, 22nd January 1867, No. 79.

I have the honor to forward to your Excellency the accompanying copies of a Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India and of its enclosure, relative to complaints preferred by Emigrants from the Madras Presidency, who have proceeded to "Réunion," against the recruiting Maistries of Pondicherry and Karikal.

2. I feel assured that the subject will receive your Excellency's early attention, and that, should it appear from inquiries that may be instituted that the complaints are well founded, the necessary steps will be taken to repress the practices complained of.

Accept Sir, &c.,
(Signed) NAPIER.

Edw. J. H. Burns.

Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

*Read the following despatch
from the Right Honorable the Secretary
of State for India.*

(Here enter 31st October 1866 No. 38)

Order thereon 22nd January 1867 No. 78.

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foregoing despatch and its enclosures
be furnished to the Governor of the
French Settlements in India, with
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may

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may be taken to repress the prac-
tices complained of.

Ordered that the Despatch
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through the Protector of Emigrants, to
the British Consular Agents at
Pondicherry and Karikal, in view
to their ^{inquiring into} ~~reporting the~~ ^{the} ~~master of~~ ^{master of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~steps that may be taken in~~ ^{steps that may be taken in}
the matter in future.
with assent and approval.

by A

the result of their
inquiries.

To the Protector of Emigrants

Public Letter to Gov. 29 June 1867

John C. P. J. J.

Public 1867. Department.

No. 40.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated. 22 January 1867.

744/2115 of 1869

Letter from the Secy of State 1912-163-229-395-567-609
8722 of 1867.

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Public Department.

N^o 79.

To

His Excellency M. Bontemps
Governor of the French Settlements
in India.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward to your Excellency the accompanying copies of a Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India and of its enclosure, relative to complaints preferred by Emigrants from the Madras Presidency, who have proceeded to "Réunion," against the recruiting Masters of Pondicherry and Karikal.

2. I feel assured that the subject will receive your Excellency's early attention, and that, should it appear

appear from inquiries that may
be instituted, that ~~these allegations~~ ^{the complaint}
are well founded, the necessary
steps will be taken to suppress the
practices complained of.

Fort St George
22nd Jan any 1867

Public Delta to Aug 29 - June 10 of 1867

Philip J. Kelly

James M. K. K. K.

1879

James M. K. K. K.
of the firm of K. K. K.
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