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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<i>442</i>	Press Mis.
Dated	<i>4-4-</i>	<i>1968.</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department.

4th April 1868.

Read the following :—

No. 49. Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council ; dated India Office, London, 16th January 1868, No. 4.

I herewith forward copy of a letter from the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, dated November the 1st, relative to a negotiation with the Government of the Netherlands, for a Convention to regulate the recruiting of coolies in British India for service in the Dutch Colony of Surinam.

2. I forward also a copy of my reply,* and desire that your Excellency in

Council will take the subject into early consideration, and place me in possession of your views on the whole question.

* Dated 10th January 1868.

No. 877.

COPY of this Despatch, and of its enclosures, forwarded to the Government of Fort Saint George for early report.

HOME DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM,
21st February 1868.

(By Order),
(Signed) J. GEOGHEGAN,
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

From the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to the Under Secretary of State for India ; dated Foreign Office, London, 1st November 1867.

I have laid before Lord Stanley your letter of the 13th of September last, on the subject of a proposition made by the Netherlands Minister at this Court, to renew a negotiation which was set on foot in the year 1862 for the conclusion of a Convention to regulate the recruiting of coolies in British India for service in the Dutch Colony of Surinam.

The negotiation in 1862 appears to have broken off for two reason,—*First*, because the Draft Convention offered by the Netherlands Government, and based upon the Convention with France of 25th July 1860, contained certain modifications of that Convention which could not be accepted ; and *secondly*, because the Secretary of State for India saw no reason, on the part of the Indian Government, for effecting the proposed arrangement by means of a Convention, and would have been content with the sanction of a law to be passed by the proper authority, as in the then recent case of the Danish Colonies. He stated, at the same time, that he was nevertheless ready to concur in the conclusion of a Convention, if the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs should think that course desirable on account of the connection of the scheme for recruitment with the then contemplated emancipation of slaves in the Dutch Colonies.

Earl Russell, however, did not think that the question of emancipation of Dutch slaves rendered a Convention necessary ; and as the emancipation took place in July 1863, that consideration now no longer exists.

Lord Stanley has now, in consequence of the renewed representations of the Netherlands Government, taken the whole subject into his consideration, and he directs me to state to you that he inclines to the opinion that, in the interest of the cooly emigrant himself, it would be best to regulate the engagement of coolies for service at Surinam by means of a Convention. If their emigration to, and service at, Surinam be allowed to proceed simply under Regulations to be laid down by the Government of India on the one side, and the Netherlands Government on the other, the Indian Government would, it is true, have it in their own power to put a stop to emigration in case those Regulations were infringed. This would no doubt be an effectual safeguard for the future ; but with regard to such coolies as might already be in the Dutch Colony, there would in that case be no international obligation which would enable Her Majesty's Government to insist upon their good treatment, or their release and conveyance back to their own country.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
4th April 1868.*

Lord Stanley desires me to request that you will submit these observations to Sir Stafford Northcote; and if he should concur in the expediency of proceeding in the matter by means of a Convention, if at all, that you will move him to acquaint Lord Stanley whether he would now be satisfied if the Netherlands Government would accept the conditions insisted upon in 1862, that is, the same conditions, *mutatis mutandis*, as are contained in the Convention with France of 1860. Lord Stanley is quite of opinion that Her Majesty's Government could not grant to Holland conditions less stringent on behalf of the cooly than those granted to France.

From the Under Secretary of State for India, to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; dated India Office, London, 10th January 1868.

I am directed by Sir Stafford Northcote to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st of November, on the subject of a proposition made by the Netherlands Minister to renew a negotiation for the conclusion of a Convention to regulate the recruiting of coolies in British India for service in the Dutch Colony of Surinam.

2. I am directed to state that Sir Stafford Northcote has given this subject his best consideration, and with every disposition to meet the views of the Netherlands Government, he is unable to authorize the conclusion of the proposed Convention without, in the first instance, consulting the Governor General of India in Council. He has, therefore, determined to send the correspondence to the Government of India, with directions that it may be taken into early consideration.

Referred to the Protector of Emigrants for an early statement of his views.

(Signed) C. G. WALKER,

11th March 1868.

Under Secy. to Govt.

No. 50. From the Protector of Emigrants, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 16th March 1868, No. 7 M.

I have the honor to return the correspondence noted in the margin, referred to me under date the 11th instant, on the subject of the proposed emigration of British Native subjects to the Dutch Colony of Surinam.

Despatch from Secretary of State for India, to the Governor General in Council, dated 10th January 1868, No. 4.

2. There appears to me no objection to emigration to this Colony under similar rules and conditions as are prescribed in the Convention with the French Government; but as that Convention gives to their Colonies advantages which are not enjoyed by the British, I would submit whether the time has not arrived when it may be thought advisable to amend it.

3. Article 26 of the Convention declares that it shall take effect from the 1st September 1861, and shall continue in force for three and a half years; after which notice of termination can only be given in the month of September of each year; the actual cessation to have effect eighteen months after.

4. Operations did not commence before July 1862, but sufficient time has elapsed to enable the Government to give the notice next September, unless the alteration I am about to recommend be adopted.

5. The condition requiring revision is that regarding space. Article 15, paragraph 2, provides that vessels carrying emigrants from ports in India (British as well as French), with the exception of those in Bengal, shall furnish each adult

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4th April 1868.

with 60 cubic feet on the lower deck, or other covered space, without specifying the amount of superficial area for each.

Section 47, paragraph 2 of Act XIII. of 1861.

The corresponding Section of the Act relating to our Colonies requires for each adult 10 square and 72 cubic feet.

6. Emigrant ships range from six to eight feet in height of lower deck. Take the mean; 7 feet high with a length of 150 feet, and 30 feet beam.

$$150 \times 30 = 4500 \times 7 = 31,500.$$

We should have a superficial area of 4500 feet and a cubic volume of 31,500 feet. At 10 square feet for each adult,

a vessel bound to a British Colony would take 450 adults; but she has to furnish 72 cubic feet to each, which would reduce her complement to 437½; while if bound to a French Colony, having to provide but 60 cubic feet for each, she would legally carry 525.

7. This is clearly an advantage of one-fifth in favor of the French Colonies, which of course sensibly affects the passage money. I therefore suggest that the conditions as to space should be alike; but as I would not advocate any reduction in that, cubic or superficial, applicable to the emigration to our Colonies, I think the Convention should be amended in this respect.

No. 51. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Fort Saint George, 4th April 1868, No. 442.

I am directed by the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of the docket, No. 877, dated 21st February last, giving cover to a Despatch addressed to the Government of India by the Secretary of State for India, dated 16th January 1868, on the subject of a Convention to regulate the recruiting of coolies in British India for service in the Dutch Colony of Surinam. It is proposed that the conditions of the Convention with the Netherlands Government should be assimilated *mutatis mutandis* with those contained in the Convention with the French Government of 1860.

2. To this proposal the Governor in Council sees no objection, but I am desired to annex copy of a letter received from the Protector of Emigrants for Madras, to whom the correspondence has been referred, and to request attention to an amendment which that Officer suggests in the Convention with the French Government in respect of a more complete definition of the space to be allotted to coolies on emigrant ships. The Protector of Emigrants points out that Article XV., paragraph 2 of the Convention with the French Government provides that vessels carrying emigrants from ports in India, British as well as French, (except those in Bengal,) shall furnish each adult with 60 cubic feet on the lower deck, or other covered space, without specifying the amount of superficial area for each emigrant, whereas Section 47, paragraph 2 of Act XIII. of 1861, relating to emigration to British Colonies requires for each adult emigrant 10 square and 72 cubic feet. The Governor in Council thinks it probable that there may be difficulties in amending the existing Convention with the French Government, but that in any Convention

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
4th April 1868.*

which may in future be made with other Governments, it is very desirable that the provisions for the accommodation of coolies on emigrant ships should be assimilated to those contained in Act XIII. of 1864.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

India Office,
London, 16th January 1868.

Public
No. 4.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable the GOVERNOR GENERAL of India in Council.

SIR,

I HEREWITH forward copy of a letter from the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, dated November the 1st, relative to a negotiation with the Government of the Netherlands, for a Convention to regulate the recruiting of coolies in British India for service in the Dutch Colony of Surinam.

2. I forward also a copy of my reply,* and desire that your Excellency in Council will take the subject into early consideration, and place

* Dated 10th January 1868.
me in possession of your views on the whole question.

I have, &c.,
STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

COPY of this Despatch, and of its enclosures, forwarded to the Government of Fort St. George for early report.

FORT WILLIAM;
HOME DEPARTMENT,
The 21st February 1868.

By Order,

W. J. P. M.

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India

6

dep 8/11

Read.

Resolved that the following letter be addressed to the Govt of India

No 642.

To the Secretary to the Govt of India Home Dept

Sir I am directed by the Govt in

Council to acknowledge the receipt of
d/21st Feb. last
despatch No 877. giving cover

to a despatch addressed to the Govt of India, by the Secretary of State for India, dated 16th

Jan'y 68/ on the subject of ^{a Convention to regulate the} recording

of copies in British India for transmission in the Dutch Colony of Surinam.

It is proposed that the conditions of the Convention with the Netherlands Govt should be assimilated mutatis mutandis with those contained in the con-

N
by R

Public Works Dept

Surinam 16/1

Home

Wednesday 17th Feb 1880

No 877

referred to the
despatch of 17th Jan'y 68/ in an
early statement of the

17th Feb 1880

W. A. R.

Public Works

No 642.

Request a report on the

question of procuring of

recording copies in the Govt

for service in the Dutch

20 March
1880

Surinam 16/1

Convention with the French Govt
of 1860. -

To this proposal the Govt.
in Council sees no objection, but
I am desired to ^{annex copy of} ~~insert~~ a
letter received from the ^{Port of} Madras to
whom the correspondence
has been referred and
to request attention to an
amendment, which ^{that officer}
~~was desirable~~ to Mr. Gordon
suggests in the convention
with the French Govt in respect
of a more complete definition
of the space to be allotted to
cooks on emigrant ships.

The Port of Madras
points out that the space

I am very doubtful
whether it is to the advantage
of the nation of this proceeding
that we should approve any
project for extending the
facilities for emigration to
French or Dutch possessions
there is, I believe, little or
no difference in the climate
of these two unhealthy territories
and we have lately seen
the miserable result of sending
emigrants to the former
colony. W.W.

required of the Convention with the French
Art xv. para 2. provides
that vessels carrying emigrants
in the case of emigrants from

Ports in India, British as
well as French (except those
in Bengal) shall ~~be~~ ^{shall} furnish each adult with
50 cubic feet on the lower
deck or other covered space without
specifying the amount of
superficial area for each
emigrant, whereas Sec 47. para
2 of Act xiii of 1864. relating
to emigration to British Colonies
requires for each adult emigrant
ten square and 72 cubic feet.

The Governor in Council ^{think} ~~consider~~
^{it probable} that there may be difficulties
in amending the existing con-
vention with the French Govt
but that in any convention

which may in future be made
 with other goods it is very
 desirable that the provisions
 for ^{the} accommodation of coolies
 on emigrant ships should
 be appointed to those
 contained in Act XIII of
 1864. which regulates
 the condition in regard
 to British colonies

R.C.

F. H. J. G. J.
 4 April 1868

Public 1868 Report

Vol. 112.

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 of India

Noted 11 April 1868

7 Apr 1868 of 1868
 the provisions of the
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Source in the British
 colony of Australia

To the Under Secretary of State for India,—Dated Foreign Office, London, the 1st November 1867.

SIR,

I HAVE laid before Lord Stanley your letter of the 13th of September last, on the subject of a proposition made by the Netherlands Minister at this Court, to renew a negotiation which was set on foot in the year 1862 for the conclusion of a Convention to regulate the recruiting of coolies in British India for service in the Dutch Colony of Surinam.

The negotiation in 1862 appears to have broken off for two reasons,—*First*, because the Draft Convention offered by the Netherlands Government, and based upon the Convention with France of 25th July 1860, contained certain modifications of that Convention which could not be accepted; and *secondly*, because the Secretary of State for India saw no reason, on the part of the Indian Government, for effecting the proposed arrangement by means of a Convention, and would have been content with the sanction of a law to be passed by the proper Authority, as in the then recent case of the Danish Colonies. He stated at the same time that he was nevertheless ready to concur in the conclusion of a Convention, if the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs should think that course desirable on account of the connection of the scheme for recruitment with the then contemplated emancipation of slaves in the Dutch Colonies.

Earl Russell, however, did not think that the question of emancipation of Dutch slaves rendered a Convention necessary; and as the emancipation took place in July 1863, that consideration now no longer exists.

Lord Stanley has now, in consequence of the renewed representations of the Netherlands Government, taken the whole subject into his consideration, and he directs me to state to you that he inclines to the opinion that, in the interest of the coolie emigrant himself, it would be best to regulate the engagement of coolies for service at Surinam by means of a Convention. If their emigration to, and service at, Surinam be allowed to proceed simply under Regulations to be laid down by the Government of India on the one side, and the Netherlands Government on the other, the Indian Government would, it is true, have it in their own power to put a stop to emigration in case those Regulations were infringed. This would no doubt be an effectual safeguard for the future; but with regard to such coolies as might already be in the Dutch Colony, there would in that case be no international obligation which would enable Her Majesty's Government to insist upon their good treatment, or their release and conveyance back to their own country.

Lord Stanley desires me to request that you will submit these observations to Sir Stafford Northcote; and if he should concur in the expediency of proceeding in the matter by means of a Convention, if at all, that you will move him to acquaint Lord Stanley whether he would now be satisfied if the Netherlands Government would accept the conditions insisted upon in 1862, that is, the same conditions, *mutatis mutandis*, as are contained in the Convention with France of 1860. Lord Stanley is quite of opinion that Her Majesty's Government could not grant to Holland conditions less stringent on behalf of the coolie than those granted to France.

I am, &c.,
E. C. EGERTON.

To the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Foreign Office,—Dated India Office, London, the 10th January 1868.

I AM directed by Sir Stafford Northcote to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st of November, on the subject of a proposition made by the Netherlands Minister to renew a negotiation for the conclusion of a Convention to regulate the recruiting of coolies in British India for service in the Dutch Colony of Surinam.

2. I am directed to state that Sir Stafford Northcote has given this subject his best consideration, and with every disposition to meet the views of the Netherlands Government, he is unable to authorize the conclusion of the proposed Convention without, in the first instance, consulting the Governor General of India in Council. He has, therefore, determined to send the correspondence to the Government of India, with directions that it may be taken into early consideration.

I am, &c.,
HERMAN MERIVALE.

N^o M
7.

Protector's Office
Machras 16 March 1888

From John J. Franklin Esq^r
Protector of Immigrants

To The Honorable W. P. S. Ellis Esq. M. P.
Chief Secretary to Govt.

Sir,

I have the honor to return the
correspondence noted in the margin
Disputes from Dept^y of State for India to
the Govt. Genl. in Council
dated 10. June 1888. N^o 4. referred to me under date the
11th instant, on the subject of the
proposed emigration of British
Native Subjects to the Dutch Colony of
Surinam.

2. There appears to me no objection
to emigration to this colony under
similar rules and conditions as
are prescribed in the Convention with
the French Government; but as the
Convention gives to their Colonies advan-
tages which are not enjoyed by the
British, I would submit whether the
time has not arrived when it may
be thought advisable to amend it.

3. Article 26 of the Convention
declares that it shall take effect
from the 1st September 1881 and
shall continue in force for 3 1/2
years after which notice of termination
can only be given
of September of each year; the
actual cessation to have effect 18
months after.

4. Operations did not commence
before July 1882, but sufficient time

has

has elapsed to enable the Government to give the notice now September, unless the alteration I am about to recommend be adopted.

5 - The condition requiring provision is that regarding space. Article 15, para 2, provides that vessels carrying emigrants from ports in India (British as well as French) with the exception of those in Bengal, shall furnish each adult with 60 cubic feet on the lower deck or other covered space, without specifying the amount of superficial area for each corresponding section of the Act relating to our Colonies requires for each adult ten square and 72 cubic feet.

6 - Immigrant ships range from 6 to 8 feet in height of lower deck. Take the mean; 7 feet high with a length of 150 feet, and 30 feet beam. We should have a superficial area of 4,500 feet and a cubic volume of 31,500 feet. At 10 square feet for each adult, a vessel bound to a British Colony would take 450 adults, but she has to furnish 72 cubic feet to each, which would reduce her complement to 437½: while if bound to a French Colony, having to provide but 60 cubic feet for each, she would legally carry 525. -

7. This is clearly an advantage of one fifth in favor of the French Colonies, which of course sensibly

affects

affects the passage money. I therefore suggest that the conditions as to space should be alike; but as I would not advocate any reduction in that, cubic or superficial, applicable to the emigration to our Colonies, I think the Convention should be amended in this respect.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedt Servant.

Am. Thomson

Protector of Emigrants

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Still
much observation re:
young recruitment of
enterprises in the
West Colony of American

20-1885
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23-1885

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