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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Public* DEPARTMENT.

|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| G.O. No. <i>446</i>       | Press<br>Mis.     |
| Dated <i>6</i> — <i>4</i> | <i>1868</i><br>19 |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*1/8*

No. 66. Read the following letter from J. D. HAY-HILL, Esq., Her Britannic Majesty's Consul for Réunion, to His Excellency the Governor General of India ; dated 9th January 1868, No. 2, (Miscellaneous).

I have the honor herewith to transmit, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a Report which I have addressed to Lord Stanley on the Coolie immigration to this Island during the year 1867.

Immigration Report for 1867.

From J. D. HAY-HILL, Esq., Her Britannic Majesty's Consul for Réunion, to the Right Honorable Lord STANLEY, dated — January 1868.

I have the honor to state, for your Lordship's information, that, during the year 1867, there have been no arrivals in Réunion of British coolies from India.

Non-arrival in 1867 of coolies.

This circumstance is mainly, if not wholly, attributable to the present disastrous monetary state of the Colony.

Departure of coolies,

The departures hence for India of time-expired laborers have been, according to official information supplied to me, as follows :—

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Calcutta...                | 324 |
| Madras, via Pondicherry... | 497 |

Total ... 821

A great disposition has lately been shown by the Indians to proceed to Mauritius under industrial engagements sanctioned at my Consulate, or at their own private expense. No less than 332 men, women, and children, having absolutely declared their intention to work in the neighbouring Colony in preference to re-engaging here, or availing themselves of the return passage to India even at the expense of the Réunion Government. I attribute this movement to two causes, viz. :—

1st.—The irregularity of payment of wages in Réunion.

2nd.—The charms which Mauritius, an imaginary *El Dorado*, is represented to hold out to the immigrant.

I am compelled to confess there are many arrangements connected with the employment of coolies in Mauritius, which might, with great advantage, be adopted in Réunion.

I have every reason to believe that His Excellency the Governor and other chief authorities of this Island are generally disposed to form such Rules and Regulations as might be calculated to suit the Indian's requirements, and I have much pleasure in stating that propositions, emanating from Her Majesty's Consul, as far as they are consistent with the laws and public safety of the Colony, are most courteously entertained.

I regret, however, to inform your Lordship that, in spite of perpetually renewed promises on the subject of the delivery of the "Livret" or Book of Identification, and engagement to the Indian laborer, no effective measures have been taken to that effect.

Livret question.

Your Lordship will, on reference to correspondence which I have on previous occasions addressed to the Foreign Office, remark the importance I have ever attached to this right of the coolie immigrant—a right which is in fact distinctly conferred upon him by the local Government. *Arrete* made on the occasion of the first operation of the Convention of July 1860.

6th April 1868.

During the year 1867 nearly 400 complaints were made at the Consulate, principally on the subject of non-payment of wages, and were duly forwarded, under proper forms, to the authorities for investigation; but as the statements of the complainants, and very frequently, I fear, those of many of the masters, are but little to be relied upon, an exact arrival at the truth is a matter of considerable difficulty.

As a rule, I have ever remarked that an Indian, except his general character be a very bad one, who is regularly paid and well treated, will not prefer mendacious complaints against his employer.

The number of deaths registered at the Consulate, occurring amongst British Indians during the year 1867, amounted to 131, as specified below—

|                         |                      |    |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----|
| Amongst immigrants from | {Bengal... ..        | 81 |
|                         | {British India... .. | 50 |

Total... .. 131

The foregoing statement does not, of course, include deaths which have occurred amongst the larger number of Indians now in this Colony who came before the Convention, of whose mortality no account, as a rule, is furnished to this office.

GENERAL REMARKS.

I would here beg to state that most accurate alphabetical and numerical lists of all the British Indians are kept by me, and the details as to the date of their deaths and departures to all destinations are entered opposite to their names for reference on all necessary occasions.

I have thus endeavoured to forward to your Lordship, in as brief a form as possible, my Annual Report on the subjects bearing on the interests of the Indian immigrants during 1867, and I venture to hope your Lordship will be satisfied that every care and attention has been paid to all details connected therewith, not only by myself, but by Major Andrews, who was Acting Consul here for nearly twelve months during my leave of absence, and whose careful attention to the Consular duties I hope I may be allowed to bring to your Lordship's notice, bearing as it does on the special object for which a British Consulate has been mainly established in Réunion.

No. 1233.

Copy forwarded to the Government of Madras for information.

FORT WILLIAM,  
HOME DEPARTMENT,  
10th March 1868.

(By Order.)

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

No. 67. ORDER THEREON, 6th April 1868, No. 446.

Communicated to the Protector of Emigrants, and to the Collectors of the several districts.

(True Extract).

*Chief Secretary.*

To the Protector of Emigrants.  
 „ Collector of

Exd. J. Tulloch.

From JOHN D. HAY-HILL, Esquire, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul for Réunion,  
to His Excellency the GOVERNOR GENERAL of India,—No. 2, (Miscellaneous),  
dated the 9th January 1868.

I HAVE the honor herewith to transmit, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a Report which I have addressed to Lord Stanley on the coolie immigration to this Island during the year 1867.

## IMMIGRATION REPORT FOR 1867.

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the Right Hon'ble Lord STANLEY,—Dated the—January 1868.

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|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Caleutta                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 324 |
| Madras <i>via</i> Pondicherry | ... | ... | ... | ... | 497 |

|       |     |     |
|-------|-----|-----|
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|-------------------------|---------------|-----|-----|
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|                         | British India | ... | 50  |
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No. 1233

COPY forwarded to the Government of Madras for information.

By Order,

FORT WILLIAM;  
HOME DEPARTMENT,  
The 18 March 1868.

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

5 April 1868

Communicated to the Secretary  
of Immigrants, and to the Collector  
of the several Districts.

WMA

LB

NP

By Order of the Secretary to the Govt. of India

For the Secy to the Govt. of India

For the Secy to the Govt. of India

For the Secy to the Govt. of India

No 534

For the Secy to the Govt. of India

For the Secy to the Govt. of India