

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

997.

Press
Mis.

Dated

15-8-

1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

15th August 1868.

Read the following :—

No. 114. 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, 18th June 1868, No. 111, (Public.)

In continuation of my Despatch of the 11th of March last, No. 57, I forward herewith, for the information of your Excellency in Council, a copy of a letter* from the Foreign Office, enclosing a

Despatch† from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Copenhagen, together with a note‡ from the Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs, respecting the return to India, from the Island of St. Croix, of the coolies whose contract for service in that Island would expire in the present month. Your Government will perceive from this correspondence that these Indian immigrants had no reason to fear that any obstacles would be placed in the way of their return to India, and that, on the contrary, all steps would be taken by the Governor of St. Croix, with a view to their conveyance to Calcutta under the requisite conditions.

From E. C. EGERTON, Esq., to the Under Secretary of State for India ; dated Foreign Office, 26th May 1868.

With reference to my letter of the 27th of February last, I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you, to be laid before Sir Stafford Northcote, copy of a Despatch§ from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Copenhagen, enclosing a note from the Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating that arrangements have been made for the return to India, from St. Croix, of the coolies whose contract for service in that Island expires this year. The Despatch from the Indian Government, enclosed in your letter of the 21st instant, referred to the contingency of the sale of St. Croix to the United States, and the information as to the treatment of the coolies was applied for in the supposition of such a sale being in contemplation ; but, though the rumour of the transfer appears to be without foundation, Lord Stanley considers that it may be interesting to the Indian Government to learn that the Danish Government are acting in good faith as regards the return of the coolies to*their native land.

From G. STRACHEY, Esq., to Lord STANLEY ; dated Copenhagen, 14th May 1868, No. 33.

Referring to your Lordship's Despatch, No. 7, of February 27th, I have the honor to enclose a copy of a note which Count Frijs had addressed to me on the subject of the coolies in the Island of St. Croix. Your Lordship will perceive that, according to the Count's assurances, no difficulty need be expected on account of resistance, on the part of the planters, to the discharge of the coolies at the expiration of their engagement. The Governor of St. Croix has, it seems, already taken the matter into his own hands, having made the due arrangements for the return of the coolies to Calcutta.

From the COUNT FRIJS, to G. Strachey, Esq. ; dated Copenhagen, le 12 Mai 1868.

J'ai l'honneur de vous adresser en date du 24 Février dernier, un rapport sur l'affaire des coolies de l'île de St. Croix au sujet de l'affaire dont il est question dans votre office, les coolies qui au mois de Juin 1863 ont quitté les possessions anglaises aux Indes Orientales pour se rendre à la dite île, n'ont pas la moindre raison de craindre que les planteurs, au service desquels ils travaillent, ne mettent obstacle au stricte accomplissement des dispositions que contiennent les contrats relativement à leur rapatriement.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
1st August 1868.*

D'après ces contrats, les coolies peuvent exiger qu'à l'expiration des cinq ans pour lesquels ils se sont engagés, donc au mois prochain, ils soient transportés à Calcutta conformément aux stipulations des contrats et aux règles qui, à l'égard de tels transports, sont observées par les autorités des colonies anglaises aux Indes Occidentales, et c'est pour faire cesser sur ce point toute incertitude chez les coolies, que déjà au mois de Mars dernier le Gouverneur du Roi à St. Croix a fait réunir les coolies devant l'inspecteur de l'immigration et le consul Britannique afin de leur donner occasion de déclarer s'ils desirent repartir pour leur pays natal au mois prochain, ou s'ils sont disposés à renouveler les contrats avec leurs patrons. La grande majorité des coolies, le nombre total sauf une vingtaine de personnes, ayant demandé d'être ramenés à Calcutta à l'expiration du terme fixé dans les contrats, le Gouverneur du Roi a incessamment fait des démarches pour que le transport des coolies à Calcutta puisse avoir lieu dans les conditions requises.

No. 3148.

Copy, together with a copy of the Despatch from Secretary of State, No. 57, dated the 1st March 1868, and of the Despatch to Secretary of State, No. 3, dated 6th January 1868, forwarded to the Government of Fort Saint George for information, in continuation of communication hence, No. 1095, dated the 17th February 1863.

By Order of the Governor General in Council.

HOME DEPARTMENT, PUBLIC,
SIMLA, 29th July 1868.

(Signed) A. P. HOWELL,
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

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, 11th March 1868, No. 57, (Public.)

I have to inform you that I communicated to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the letter from your Excellency in Council, dated the 6th of January last, No. 3, relative to the sale of the Danish West India Islands to the Government of the United States of America, in connection with the emigration of natives of India to the Island of St. Croix. Lord Stanley has stated, in reply, that that Island was not included in the arrangement referred to, but still forms an appanage of the Crown of Denmark, the Island of St. Thomas and St. John's only, so far as is known in this country, having been ceded to the United States.

From the Government of India, to the Secretary of State for India, dated 6th January 1868, No. 3.

It has been brought to the notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief that it has been publicly stated, and apparently on good foundation, that the Danish West India Islands have been sold to the Government of the United States of America.

2. The emigration of natives of India to one of these Islands (St. Croix) has been authorised, as you are aware, by Act VII. of 1863, and the Notification of the Government of India, dated the 17th February of that year.* The terms and conditions on which such emigration was legalised, were communicated to us in Sir Charles Wood's Despatches noted on the margin.†

*Public Proceedings, 17th February 1863, No. 37.
Public, No. 1 of 1863, dated 9th January.
" No. 66 of 1862, dated 7th August.
" No. 83 of 1862, dated 13th November.

3. We shall feel obliged by your informing us whether the report of the sale of the Islands is true; and if so, what arrangements, if any, have been made with the Government of the United States as to the treatment of the coolies now on the Island. We further beg to be informed of the pleasure of Her Majesty's Government, and of that of the United States, as to the continuance of emigration to St. Croix for the future.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
15th August 1868.*

No. 115. ORDER THEREON, 15th August 1868, No. 937.

Communicated to the Protector of Emigrants, in continuation of G. O. of the 11th March 1863, No. 271.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Protector of Emigrants.

Ex. J. J. Talloch

No. 3, dated 6th January 1868.

From—The Government of India,
To—The Secretary of State for India.

It has been brought to the notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief that it has been publicly stated, and apparently on good foundation, that the Danish West India Islands have been sold to the Government of the United States of America.

2. The emigration of natives of India to one of these Islands (St. Croix) has been authorised, as you are aware, by Act VII. of 1863, and the Notification of the Government of India, dated the 17th February of that year.* The terms and conditions on which such emigration was legalised, were communicated to us in Sir Charles Wood's Despatches noted on the margin.†

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† Public, No. 1 of 1862, dated 9th January.
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Public.
No. 57.

INDIA OFFICE;
London, the 11th March 1868.

To His Excellency the Right Hon'ble the Governor General of India in Council.

SIR,—I have to inform you that I communicated to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the letter from your Excellency in Council, dated the 6th of January last, No. 3, relative to the sale of the Danish West India Islands to the Government of the United States of America, in connection with the emigration of natives of India to the Island of St. Croix. Lord Stanley has stated, in reply, that that Island was not included in the arrangement referred to, but still forms an appanage of the Crown of Denmark, the Island of St. Thomas and St. John's only, so far as is known in this country, having been ceded to the United States.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

*In Pub. 1687
No. 1453*

Public.
No. 111.

INDIA OFFICE;
London, the 18th June 1868.

To His Excellency the Right Hon'ble the Governor General of India in Council.

SIR,—In continuation of my Despatch of the 11th of March last, No. 57, I forward herewith, for the information of your Excellency in Council, a copy of a letter* from the Foreign Office, enclosing a Despatch† from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Copenhagen, together with a note‡ from the Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs, respecting the return to India, from the Island of St. Croix, of the coolies whose contract for service in that Island would expire in the present month. Your Government will perceive from this correspondence, that these Indian immigrants had no reason to fear that any obstacles would be placed in the way of their return to India, and that, on the contrary, all steps would be taken by the Governor of St. Croix with a view to their conveyance to Calcutta under the requisite conditions.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

Dated Foreign Office, 26th May 1868.

From—E. C. EGERTON, Esq.,

To—The Under Secretary of State for India.

WITH reference to my letter of the 27th of February last, I am directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you, to be laid before Sir Stafford Northcote, copy of a Despatch§ from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Copenhagen, enclosing a note from the Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating that arrangements have been made for the return to India, from St. Croix, of the coolies whose contract for service in that island expires this year. The Despatch from the Indian Government, enclosed in your letter of the 21st instant, referred to the contingency of the sale of St. Croix to the United States, and the information as to the treatment of the coolies was applied for in the supposition of such a sale being in contemplation; but, though the rumour of the transfer appears to be without foundation, Lord Stanley considers that it may be interesting to the Indian Government to learn that the Danish Government are acting in good faith as regards the return of the coolies to their native land.

No. 33, dated Copenhagen, 14th May 1868.

From—G. STRACHEY, Esq.,

To—Lord STANLEY.

Referring to your Lordship's Despatch No. 7 of February 7th, I have the honor to enclose a copy of a note which Count Frijs had addressed to me on the subject of the coolies in the Island of St. Croix. Your Lordship will perceive that, according to the Count's assurances, no difficulty need be expected on account of resistance, on the part of the planters, to the discharge of the coolies at the expiration of their engagement. The Governor of St. Croix has, it seems, already taken the matter into his own hands, having made the due arrangements for the return of the coolies to Calcutta.

Copenhagen, le 12 Mai 1868.

From—Count FRIJS.

To—G. STRACHEY, Esq.

En me référant à l'office que vous m'avez bien voulu m'adresser en date du 24 Février dernier, il m'est agréable de pouvoir vous informer que, d'après les renseignements que mon collègue, le ministre de l'intérieur, sur ma demande, s'est fait remettre par les autorités du Roi à l'île de St. Croix au sujet de l'affaire dont il est question dans votre office, les coolies qui, par suite de la vente de l'île, ont été envoyés en Angleterre aux Indes Orientales pour se rendre à la dite île, n'ont par la moindre raison de craindre que les planteurs, au service desquels ils travaillent, ne mettent obstacle au strict accomplissement des dispositions que

St. Croix 1868
20/11/53

D'après ces contrats, les coolies peuvent exiger qu'à l'expiration des cinq ans pour lesquels ils se sont engagés, donc au mois prochain, ils soient transportés à Calcutta conformément aux stipulations des contrats et aux règles qui, à l'égard de tels transports, sont observées par les autorités des colonies anglaises aux Indes Occidentales, et c'est pour faire cesser sur ce point toute incertitude chez les coolies, que déjà au mois de Mars dernier le Gouverneur du Roi à St. Croix a fait réunir les coolies devant l'inspecteur de l'immigration et le consul Britannique afin de leur donner occasion de déclarer s'ils désirent repartir pour leur pays natal au mois prochain, ou s'ils sont disposés à renouveler les contrats avec leurs patrons. La grande majorité des coolies, le nombre total sauf une vingtaine de personnes, ayant demandé d'être ramenés à Calcutta à l'expiration du terme fixé dans les contrats, le Gouverneur du Roi a incessamment fait des démarches pour que le transport des coolies à Calcutta puisse avoir lieu dans les conditions requises.

No. 3140P.

COPY, together with a copy of the Despatch from Secretary of State, No. 57, dated the 11th March 1868, and of the Despatch to Secretary of State, No. 3, dated 6th January 1868, forwarded to the Government of Port St. George for information, in continuation of communication hence No. 1095, dated the 17th February 1863.

By Order of the Governor General in Council,

HOME DEPARTMENT,
PUBLIC;
Simla, the 29th July 1868.

William H. Wood
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

*Public Secy Dept
From
Under Secy to Govt of India
Home Dept
29/7/68*

*2 Encl 1232 of 1868
12/10/68
29/7/68*

*Communicate papers
from Home Secy. regarding
the return of certain Indian
emigrants who were sent
to the Island of St. Croix*

W. H. Wood

997 of 15 August 1868. 4
*Communicated to the Secy
of State
14. 11. 1868*

No. 935.-28-7-68.-30.

14. 11. 1868

14. 11. 1868