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2. Date of receipt. *27-1*
3. Initials of Reference. *Q*

M.R.O. 1-50,000-16-10-28

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

1342

Press

Mis.

Dated

27-9-19/869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

FROM

R. A. DALYELL, Esq.,

Acting Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

HOME DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I am directed, with reference to the docket in the Home Department, No. 3079, dated 5th July 1869, to state that, in the opinion of this Government, it is not desirable to discontinue the British Consular Agents appointed to protect the interests of the coolies, British subjects, who are sent as emigrants to French Colonies from the French ports in this Presidency.

2. With reference to this question, I enclose a letter received from the Acting Protector of Emigrants, from which it will be observed that formerly the Agencies were maintained at the ports of Pondicherry, Karikal, Mahé, and Yanam, but that the last two ports have been abandoned as ports for the embarkation of emigrants, and the establishments discontinued. Those still kept up at Pondicherry and Karikal, it will be seen, involve an annual expenditure of Rupees 9120.

3. With reference to the question of raising the emigration fees, adverted to in your letter of the 2nd May last, No. 2027, I am to state that a communication on the subject will be addressed to the Government of India on the receipt of certain information which the Accountant General has been called on to furnish.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
27th September 1869.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Actg. Secy. to Govt.

From the Acting Protector of Emigrants, to the Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 5th August 1869, No. 74.

With reference to the Order of Government, dated 19th July 1869, No. —, calling for the views of the Protector of Emigrants on the question of the withdrawal of the special establishment for watching over the interests of British emigrants at French ports, I have the honour to make the following observations:—

2. Establishments were at one time maintained for the ports of Pondicherry, Karikal, Mahé, and Yanam, but the last

two ports have been abandoned as ports for the embarkation of emigrants, and the establishments broken up. Those still maintained at Pondicherry and Karikal are shown in the margin, together with the statistics of emigration during the last five years.

3. It would appear that, previous to the appointment of Special Agents, repeated complaints were made by Her Majesty's Consular Agents at the various

Establishments.	Pondicherry.		Karikal.	
	Pondicherry.	Karikal.	Date.	Emigrants.
Consular Agent....	350	250	1864-65	5 1,401
Writer.....	40	25	1865-66	6 1,166
Do.	15	10	1866-67	22 6,097
Stationery.	5	6	1867-68	3 894
Two Peons.	10	9	1868-69	5 1,511
Office rent.	20	20		
Monthly ...	440	320		
Yearly.....	5,280	3,840		

French Colonies as to the inconvenience resulting from the want of such officers. In his letter printed with Government Order, 21st May 1862, No. 613, the Consul at Reunion brings the subject prominently to notice, and shows that, in the absence of officers on the spot to make detailed lists, the Consul at the Colony has no means of distinguishing Indian British subjects from other emigrants; and in a letter addressed to Lord Russell, under date 2nd April 1862, he states that there are probably 30,000 Indian British subjects emigrants from Pondicherry in the Island regarding whose nationality, terms of engagements, &c., he is but imperfectly informed—vide Proceedings of Government, 19th July 1862, No. 854. More serious consequences still are pointed to in a letter from Her Majesty's Consul at Martinique, printed in Proceedings of Government, 19th July 1862, No. 855, in which he speaks of upwards of 400 emigrants landed, the majority of whom were not aware that their real destination was the West Indies, but had been led to believe that they were being conveyed to the Mauritius. What may be anticipated as the result of freeing the French port of emigration from the safeguards now maintained may be inferred from a letter written by the Magistrate of Malabar, printed in Proceedings of Government, 2nd September 1862, No. 1057, in which he records the formal application by the Chef-de-Service at Mahé for the return to French custody of twenty-seven British subjects who had the strongest objections to emigrate, and who had escaped from the imprisonment of the French Dépôt.

4. It must be concluded from these instances, which would probably be corroborated by the experience of Magistrates who have served in districts adjoining French territory, that the protection of British emigrants at French ports is no mere form, and the only alternative in the event of the special establishment being abolished would be to provide for the duties being performed by the staff of the adjoining district, but to this difficulties would probably present themselves in connexion with the requirements of their other duties.

5. In his letter of 23rd June 1869 my predecessor suggested the abolition of the Dépôt at Karikal as a means of effecting a saving in the expenses of Emigration Agency; but the Convention does not give any power to the British Government to restrict the number of French ports, and the consent of the French Government would be necessary to the measure.

6. From the favourable situation of Karikal with reference to the Western and Central Districts connected by railway with the neighbouring terminal station of Negapatam, and from its greater convenience for the Southern Districts of Madura and Tinnevely, it is not probable that the closing of this Dépôt would be agreed to.

7. The figures given in the margin of paragraph 2 show that the shipments therefrom bear a considerable relative proportion to those from Pondicherry.

8. The real difficulty in making the French Emigration establishments pay their expenses arises from the fees being fixed at the amount payable in the case of British emigration, whereas additional expense is entailed owing to the absence of the ordinary establishments at Foreign ports, and to the more onerous nature of the duties involved. As pointed out by the Secretary of State in his despatch of the 24th December 1861, No. 147, the post of agent is one of delicacy demanding firmness and impartiality as well as the tact requisite to prevent the needless excitement of irritation. The Government of India have ruled that a knowledge of French is indispensable, and acquaintance with the vernacular is equally essential. Such establishments cannot be temporarily organized to suit the fluctuations of recruitment, so that while the returns, being so much per emigrant, are uncertain, the expense of establishment is necessarily constant.

9. In paragraph 17 of his letter of the 23rd June 1869, my predecessor states that "by the Convention it is agreed that the charges are to be the same." I question, however, whether the terms of the Convention bear this interpretation.

10. Article III. provides that "recruitment shall be effected conformably with the regulations for British Colonies," and Article IV. says that "the French Agent shall, with regard to the operations of recruitment which are intrusted to him, enjoy the same facilities and advantages afforded to the Agent for British Colonies."

11. This scarcely amounts to a provision that the rate of fees shall be the same. From the letter quoted above, it will be seen that while the receipt from British emigration for

	RS.
Five years were.....	17,995
The expenses.....	27,586
The excess thus.....	9,591
the fees from French emigration during the same period	
Amounted to only.....	30,429
The expenses.....	61,946
And the excess therefore	31,517

Exd. J. Wright.

Public.
No. 46.

INDIA OFFICE;
London, the 27th May 1869.

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

My LORD,—I forward herewith, for the consideration of your Excellency in Council, a copy of a correspondence noted in the margin between Her Majesty's Treasury, the Foreign Office, and this Department, on the question of continuing the special staff of British Consular Agents appointed to protect, in the French ports of embarkation in India, the interests of Indian coolies emigrating to the French colonies.

2. I desire that your Excellency in Council will report to me your views on the suggestion of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury for discontinuing the employment of the Agents in question.

I have the honor to be,

My LORD,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble Servant,

ARGYLL.

Dated Treasury Chambers, London, the 13th March 1869.

From—ARTHUR S. AYRTON, Esq.,

To—The Under Secretary of State for India in Council.

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you that they have directed the Paymaster General to pay to the credit of the Secretary of State for India in Council the sum of £773-11-10, in discharge of the claim of the Indian Government for expenses incurred for the service, in 1867-68, of coolie-emigration.

I am at the same time to state that the Convention entered into in 1860 provided for the emigration of 6,000 coolies, and that, although no time was fixed for the purpose, it is apparent that it was not intended that it should be spread over an indefinite period.

As the emigrants appear now to have diminished to a very small number, I am to request that you will inform the Secretary of State that it appears to their Lordships that it is no longer necessary to maintain a special staff of officers to watch over the emigrants, but that it may be left to the Indian Government to protect the welfare of Her Majesty's subjects under that Government.

Dated India Office, London, the 22nd April 1869.

From—M. E. GRANT DUFF, Esq.,

To—The Under Secretary of State, Foreign Office.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to forward to you a copy of a letter addressed, on the 13th ultimo, by desire of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, to this Office, regarding expenses connected with the emigration of coolies from India to the French colonies.

I am to request that, with reference to Articles 5, 6, 11, 12, 14, 17 and 25 of the two Conventions with the French Government, dated, respectively, the 25th of July 1860 and the 1st of July 1861, relative to the emigration of labourers from India to Réunion and other French colonies, the Earl of Clarendon will favor the Duke of Argyll with His Lordship's views respecting the proposal of the Lords of the Treasury, that the employment of a special staff of British Agents to watch over the interests of the coolies should be discontinued.

Some 1869 Sent

From Government of

[]

Port St. George.

Dated 27th Sept. 1869.

No.

R.

Enclosures
Spine copies

D. No.

Progs.

L. No. 1812.

D. No.

SEPTEMBER.
NOV. 1869-70.

Intimating that it is not desirable to discontinue the British Consular Agents appointed to protect the interests of coolies, British subjects, sent as emigrants to French Colonies from the French ports in this Presidency.

I am further directed, with reference to the second paragraph of Mr. Ayrton's letter, to request that you will call Lord Clarendon's attention to the 26th Article of the Convention of the 1st of July 1861, which regulates the duration of the emigration.

Dated Foreign Office, London, the 8th May 1869.

From—E. HAMMOND, Esq.,

To—The Under Secretary of State for India.

I HAVE laid before the Earl of Clarendon your letter of the 22nd ultimo, enclosing a copy of one from the Treasury, referring to the question of coolie-emigration from India to the French colonies, and in which their Lordships observe that it was not intended that such emigration should be indefinitely extended, and express their conviction that it is no longer necessary to maintain a special staff of officers to watch over the emigration whose welfare might be otherwise provided for by the Indian Government.

2. In reply to the request of the Duke of Argyll to be furnished with Lord Clarendon's opinion on these points, I am to observe, in the first place, that the Convention with France of the 25th of July 1860 was not limited as to time, but only to the number and destination of the coolies: the provision as to numbers being that not more than six thousand should be taken from India, and that these should be shipped to Réunion only.

3. The Treasury, however, in referring to this Convention appear to have overlooked the fact that the Convention of 1860 was superseded by that of 1st July 1861, which gave power to France to obtain labourers to any amount from India, and to convey them to any French colony. This later Convention, as the Duke of Argyll is aware, was fixed to take effect from 1st July 1862, and was to remain in force for three years and a half, and it was to continue effective if notice for its termination were not given in July of the 3rd year, or in any subsequent July. No such notice having been given since the arrangement of certain difficulties between France and England, which at one time led the French Government to denounce the Treaty, it still remains in force.

4. It provides that Her Majesty's Government shall confide to British Consular Agents in French ports the duty of looking after the interests of the coolies, and in virtue of this provision Consular Officers have been appointed by the India Office at French ports of embarkation in India.

5. It is to be observed, however, that those Agents are in no respect Consuls properly so called, but are merely Coolie Shipping Agents, to whom, for that purpose only, a sort of consular rank is given, and who are paid by the Indian Government, which annually claims from the Treasury the re-payment of this outlay on the ground that the Convention was concluded for Imperial and not for Indian purposes, namely, the suppression of the traffic in slaves.

6. Lord Clarendon is therefore disposed to think that as these Agents are only employed for Indian purposes, that is to say to protect Her Majesty's Indian subjects from improper treatment at the hands of French Agents in the matter of emigration, the question of their continuing to be so employed is in fact one for the consideration of the Indian Government alone, for it is evident that the French would willingly dispense with this check upon their proceedings.

7. If, therefore, the Duke of Argyll should decide that he can properly dispense with those Agents, the Imperial Exchequer would be the gainer to the extent of the amount annually expended for their service, whilst the French Government would have no cause for complaint.

8. In regard to the duration of the Convention to which your letter calls attention, Lord Clarendon is of opinion that it would be undesirable for Her Majesty's Government to raise any questions on this point. The immigration of coolies into Réunion has much diminished, and it appears not unlikely that at no distant period the Treaty may become a dead letter; but if Her Majesty's Government were to meet with that of France, the question of terminating the Treaty, it might revive all the discussions which arose previously to 1860, and not improbably set on foot another Regis contract.

9. Lord Clarendon is of opinion that for the foregoing reasons, it would be expedient to postpone the consideration of terminating the Convention, until in any future July the French Government might give Her Majesty's Government notice of their intention to close the existing arrangement on the expiration of the ensuing eighteen months.

Dated India Office, London, the 18th May 1869.

From—J. COSMO MELVILL, Esq.,

To—The Secretary, Treasury Chambers.

I AM directed, &c., to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th of March last, No. 3227, advising the payment to the credit of the Secretary of State of £773-11-10 in discharge of the claim of the Indian Government for expenses of coolie-emigration to the French

Home Department,

(Public)

The 2 September 1869.

No. 4533

To

*The Secretary to
the Govt of Madras*

SIR,

Subject.

*Proposed discontinuance
of the employment
of British Consular
Agents at French
Ports to protect
the interests of
Indian coolies -*

I AM directed to invite attention to the communication marginally noted,* and to request an early reply thereto.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

W. H. Melville

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

* No. 3079 dated 5th July/69
subsequent reminder
No. dated

Received Mr. G. D. D. D.
From Mr. G. D. D. D.
Under Secy Govt of
India, Home Dept.
No 4033

2/2 } Sep.
1/13 }

1/13/2

No 2084

Request for reply
to the reference under
the discontinuance
of British Consular
Agents at French

Colonies in 1867-68, and further conveying the opinion of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury that, for the reasons adduced in your letter, it is no longer necessary to maintain a special staff of officers to watch over the British Indian labourers emigrating to those colonies.

In reply I am to state, for the information of the Lords Commissioners, that the Duke of Argyll having submitted the latter question for the opinion of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the accompanying answer* has been addressed to this Office by desire of the Earl of Clarendon, and I am to add that the Duke of Argyll will transmit a copy of the correspondence to the Government of India, and invite the opinion of His Excellency the Governor General in Council on the question raised in your letter with regard to the continuance of the British Consular Agents appointed to protect the interests of the coolies in the French ports of embarkation in India.

* 8th May 1869.

No. 3079.

Copy forwarded to the Government of Fort St. George, with a request that a report may be submitted on the proposal made by Her Majesty's Government.

By Order of the Governor General in Council,

HOME DEPARTMENT,
PUBLIC;
Simla, the 5th July 1869.

Verlyan

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Public Department.

No. 1342.

To

The Secretary to the Government
of India.

Home Department.

Sir,

I am directed with
reference to the ^{in the Home Dept.} docket
^{dated 5 July 1889} No 3079 from the Under
Secretary to Government,
to state that in the opinion
of this Government it is
not desirable to discontinue
the British Consular
Agents appointed to
protect the interests of
the coolies, British subjects,
who are sent as Emigrants
to French colonies from
the French ports in this
Presidency.

2. With reference
to this question I enclose
a letter received from the
Acting Protector of Emigrants
from

dup 7/10

WMA

A.A.

Referred for

the views of the

Acting Protector

of Emigrants

19 July 1889
WMA
By Secy to Govt

1889
15 July
1890

Under Secy to Govt
Home Dept
No 3079

1889
15 July
1890

Concerning papers from France
sent calling for a report
on the discontinuance
of the Convention Agent
at French ports to protect
the interests of coolies
emigrating thence from

Recd 19/7
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Referred for

from which it will be observed that formerly the agencies were maintained at the Ports of Pondicherry, Karikal, Diaké and Yanam, but that the last two Ports have been abandoned as ports for the embarkation of Emigrants and the Establishments discontinued. Those still kept up at Pondicherry and Karikal, it will be seen, involve an annual expenditure of Rs 9/20.

3. With reference to the question of raising the Emigration fees, adverted to in your letter of the 2nd May last
No 2027

No 2027, I am to state that a communication on the subject will be addressed to the Government of India on the receipt of certain information which the Accountant General has been called on to furnish.

For M. P. 100/2
27 Sep/89.

Home 1869 Dept.

From Government of

Fort St. George.

Dated *Sept. 27*

No.
Enclosures.
spare copies.

D. No.

Progs.

L. No. *1342*

{ D.
No.

155. 157.

292. 2292.

*Intimating that it is not
desirable to discontinue the
British Consular Agents
appointed to protect the
interests of Cochin British
Subjects, sent as immigrants
to French Colonies from
the French Ports in this
Presidency.*

186 . Dep'tment.

No.

To

The Secretary to the
Government of

Department

Dated

186 .

292. 2292.

6 From the favorable situation of Karikal with reference to the Western & Central Districts connected by railway with the neighbouring terminal station of Negapatam and from its greater convenience for the Southern Districts of Madras and Tinnevely it is not probable that the closing of this Depot would be agreed to.

7 The figures given in the Margin of para 2 show that the shipments therefrom bear a considerable relative proportion to those from Pondicherry.

8 The real difficulty in making the French Emigration establishments pay their expenses arises from the fees being fixed at the amount payable in the case of British

are uncertain, the expense of Establishment is necessarily constant.

9 In para 17 of his letter of the 23^d June 1869 my Predecessor states that by the Convention it is agreed that the charges are to be the same. I question however whether the terms of the Convention bear this interpretation.

10 Article III provides that "recruitment shall be effected conformably with the regulations for British Colonies" and Article IV says that "the French Agent shall with regard to the operations of recruitment which are entrusted to him enjoy the same facilities and advan-

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French Port of Emigration from the safe guards now maintained may be inferred from a letter written by the Magistrate of Malabar printed in Proceedings of Government 2^d Sept 1862 n^o 1057 in which he records the formal application by the Chief de Service at Mahr for the return to French Custody of 27 British Subjects who had the strongest objections to Emigrate and who had escaped from the imprisonment of the French Depot. -

4 It must be concluded from these instances which would probably be corroborated by the experience of Magistrates who have served in districts adjoining French territory that the protection of British Emi-