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Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1645

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

30th November 1869.

Read the following papers:—

No. 189. From C. W. READE, Esq., Collector in charge of the Consular Agent's Office, Pondicherry, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Pondicherry, 7th September 1869.

I have been in charge of the Office of the Consular Agent for Emigration during the past three months, and I directed my attention at once to the abuses which I was aware had so long been subject of complaint from the French Colonies and by the Colonial Office in England, in connexion with the system of advances made to the emigrants at the ports of embarkation in India; and having acquainted myself with all that had passed between the Home and Madras Governments, I had the opportunity of introducing certain changes in the *modus operandi* of registering and examining the emigrants which has, in my belief, effectually put a stop to the abuses spoken of, and which it had been supposed were in reality beyond the reach of any actual remedy.

2. I have drawn up a Memorandum* on the subject, the prolixity of which will, I trust, be pardoned in consideration of its importance

* Enclosure No. 1.

and the end aimed at. It was difficult to be clear and intelligible without entering into details explanatory of the course I had adopted in substitution of that which Mr. Norfor had already described at length, and which will be found recorded in Government Proceedings, under date the 17th June 1868, No. 736, Public Department, and I have submitted this Memorandum to Government in the belief that it was my duty at once to apprise them of my having hit on a system of procedure in carrying out international emigration which will, I am sanguine, entirely correct those abuses heretofore deemed more or less to be out of the reach of correction; and it also struck me that a remedy so simple might, with equal success, be put in force or tried at other French ports where emigration is carried on, and where similar abuses may have been found to exist, while in regard to emigration to our own Colonies which, so far as recruiting goes, is conducted, I believe, very much in the same manner as with the French, the suggestions contained in my Memorandum might likewise be advantageously adopted in correction of like abuses to which the hitherto system may have been exposed.

MEMORANDUM.

It has for long been the subject of discussion in connexion with the system of emigration to the French Colonies as to how the large payments by the emigrants to the Recruiting Maistries may be checked or put a stop to. It has been throughout assumed and finally accepted that the abuses which have arisen consequent on these voluntary payments were beyond the reach of remedy, and could not be put down.

2. In 1866 the emigrants shipped for the Island of Réunion complained* to the Consular

* Vide Proc., Madras Govt., 22nd Jan. 1867, with Orders thereon, No. 78.

Agent there on arrival that they had been cheated out of their advance wages by the Maistry Recruiters. This complaint went Home and led to a reference by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Secretary of State for India by whom the matter was referred for inquiry to the Government of Madras, and it was replied by the local Departments, English and French at Pondicherry, that the payment to the Maistries by the emigrants was a voluntary matter after due inquiring, questioning and warning, and with which, therefore, no further interference could be had, and that the European Officers could do nothing

beyond ascertaining the wishes of the emigrants to make the payments to the Maistries and then and there witnessing the delivery of the money by the one to the other out of the three months' advance (Rupees 15) paid to each emigrant as he was admitted into the Depôts.*

3. The result of the inquiry was the Order† of Government recorded on the Proceedings just quoted, and from this it will be seen that the Government accepted the explanations, and directed their Consular Agents at the French Ports to see that the rules mentioned by His Excellency the Governor of Pondicherry, as quoted in the preceding paragraph, were strictly observed, thus accepting those rules as the remedy for the abuses in respect to the misappropriation of the emigrants' advances.

4. Subsequently, on a further Despatch from the Secretary of State for India, it was ordered

"Order thereon, 22nd February 1868, No. 229.
"Resolved that the foregoing Despatch, with its enclosure, be furnished to the Protector of Emigrants, for communication to the several Consular Agents, and that they be requested to conform to the instructions of the Secretary of State to discontinue giving advances of money to emigrants prior to their departure from India."

(True Extract.)

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

by Government in their Proceedings, under date the 22nd February 1868, that the advances to emigrants be discontinued as recommended by Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion.—*Vide* Order, No. 229, of the above date, entered in the margin.

5. It was then pointed out by the local Officers that the Consular Agents had nothing to do with the advances, that they were made by the French Emigration Agent only, and all that the Consular Agent could do was to inform him of the orders of the Madras Government. On this the Government of Madras addressed† His Excellency the Governor of Pondicherry seeking his co-operation in giving effect to the wishes expressed by the Secretary of State.

† *Vide* Procs. of Govt., 18th March 1868, Public Dept., and Orders thereon of same date, No. 354.

§ *Vide* Procs. of Madras Govt., 23rd April 1868, with Orders thereon, No. 504.

6. The request of the Madras Government for co-operation by the French Governor, as above, was answered by His Excellency stating that advances were a necessary part of the conditions made with the emigrant under the Convention, and that any cessation of the system would, in effect, put a stop altogether to recruiting for the French Colonies, and consequently the Governor declined to act on the suggestion, except under instructions from his own Government in France, to whom he stated the matter would be referred, and on this letter§ the Madras Government observed that it was not, at present, possible to carry out the instructions of the India Secretary of State for the discontinuance of the system of advances, but that, in the opinion of Government, much of the evils

* *Vide* Proceedings of the Madras Government of 21st March 1867, No. 299, from which is extracted paragraph 9 of the Pondicherry Governor's letter of the 14th February 1867, No. 2:—

Paragraph 9.—"I have taken advantage of this occurrence to renew my express instructions to the Emigration Agents to protect, as much as it lies in them, the morality of the operations on which they are employed, and I have desired the Emigration Commissioners to re-double their vigilance in the delicate duty which is confided to them. Moreover, in order to avoid a recurrence of complaints of the same nature, the Administration has adopted, in concert with the Agent of Her Britannic Majesty, some formal rules for the adjustment of the emigrants' accounts with the Maistries. At the time of each payment, the following questions are at present invariably put in Tamil to each emigrant of whom disbursement is claimed by the Maistries.

"Is the demand of the Maistry valid, and do you consent to pay it? Are you paying only what you really owe? The payment which you are about to make is conclusive, and you will not afterwards be able to get a refund, because that refund, for the best of reasons, will be impossible."

† *Order of Government, 21st March 1867, No. 299.*

"Ordered that the letter from the Governor of the French Settlements in India be communicated, through the Protector of Emigrants, to the several British Consular Agents, with instructions to see that the rules proposed in paragraph 9 of that letter, for the adjustment of the emigrants' accounts with the Recruiting Maistries, are strictly observed.

2. "Ordered also that the following letter be addressed to the Governor of the French Settlements in India.

(True Extract.)

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

of that system might be prevented by more constant communication between the Consular Agents and the coolies when in the Depôts, and Government added that, if the system of extortion continued, it would become necessary to remove the Consular Agent at the settlement where it was practised.

7. To the above order Mr. Norfor submitted a letter in defence of his proceedings and position accompanied by a Memorandum of the *modus operandi* in force in regard to the advances made to emigrants, and of his proposals for increased checks on the abuses connected therewith, and on this Government recorded* that "it will be sufficient if the system in force at Karikal is introduced at Pondicherry," as noted in page 6, Proceedings of Government, 21st March 1867, No. 299, and it was added that this system, with greater vigilance on the part of the Consular Agent while the coolies were in the Depôt, should be sufficient to prevent frauds by the Recruiting Maistries.

8. When I took charge of the Office of the Consular Agent for Emigration about the end of June last my attention was naturally drawn to this important subject, and I found that, on the 18th of that month, Mr. Norfor had addressed to the Ordonnateur Mr. Trilliard a letter, No. 347, of that date in which he drew the Ordonnateur's notice to the very large amount stopped from the advances made to the emigrants during the previous season, and all of which had been paid to the Recruiting Maistries, and Mr. Norfor suggested, in modification of the system obtaining, that the emigrants be hereafter prohibited paying the Maistries more than five Rupees each, and further that no stoppages be made on account of purchase of cloths, &c. To this letter the Ordonnateur replied on the 13th July pointing out that it was impossible for the French Government to interfere in the matter, and that the circumstances under which the emigrants were recruited precluded the fixing of any maximum payment to the Maistries.†

† Copies of these letters are attached, E. and F.

9. Being new to the office, and not clearly seeing my way to a remedy for what appeared capable of so great abuse, on the two first occasions of passing emigrants I merely followed the routine from which seemed to be stereotyped from the moment the emigrants were brought before me up to the moment they were passed into the Depôt.

10. The routine I speak of is described pretty accurately by Mr. Norfor in his Memorandum, recorded in Proceedings of Government, Public Department, of the 17th June 1868, No. 114, and in its working the result was usually that the emigrant was mulcted in about ten or twelve Rupees or even more at times, which sum he had to pay to the Maistry out of his three months' salary advanced to him for his prospective labour in the Colonies. The account was ordinarily made out and adjusted in this fashion:—

Rupees 4 to Maistry for maintenance.

„ 5 to do. as a present, or for like sum alleged to have been advanced to some member of the emigrant's family.

—

Rupees 3 for cloths, standing charge when furnished.

—

12

—

	RS.	A.	P.
Due emigrant three months' wages in advance.....	15	0	0
Deduct as above.....	12	0	0
Balance...	3	0	0

which said balance was then paid to the emigrant, and the matter ended.

11. I varied the routine a little from that followed and described by Mr. Norfor. Each emigrant was called before me by himself after his name, age, and other particulars had been entered

in the Register. I then interrogated him alone, and finally questions very much as follows were put to each individually, not collectively, in the presence of the Recruiting Maistry :—

- I. Do you wish to emigrate, and why ?
- II. Do you know where you are going, and what the conditions of your emigration ?
- III. Where and when were you recruited, and by whom ?
- IV. What have you received from the Maistry, and do you owe him anything besides the subsistence given you ?

I then compared the respective statements of the recruiter and the recruited as to the sum paid and received for subsistence or other cause when I fixed the amount really due, and immediately entered it against the emigrant's name in the Register in final adjustment of the account between them.

12. The above were the four cardinal questions put by me, and of course any others arising out of the answers given. To question III. a man would say ten or fifteen days ago he had come to Pondicherry, and since then had been supported by the Maistry, and in answer to IV. the emigrant would possibly reply that he had received three or four Rupees as maintenance, and wished to pay him an additional four or five Rupees or even more as a present for his good offices in obtaining him the employment, but this of course I did not for one moment allow ; or he would say that he owed the Maistry that amount for the equivalent advanced by him to the emigrant's mother, brother, or some other relative, who, it was stated, had accompanied the emigrant to Pondicherry, but had since left. This demand I also repudiated, or I threatened to test its truth by at once sending for the relative, detaining the recruit meanwhile, when the claim was, in every instance, abandoned by both parties, and the man was registered.

13. The inquiry thus made by me had not ever been instituted hitherto until the emigrants came before the Committee or Board when being passed into the Depôt, and this Committee ordinarily assembles on the very same evening of the registration, and before it, the advance is paid to the emigrant, and the claims of the Maistry are finally settled. This Committee or Board consists of three European Officers, the Secretary to the French Government, the Agent for French emigration, and the British Consular Agent.

14. I was anxious to see for myself all these details in their entire working, and accordingly on my first visit, after I had passed a number of recruits in the morning, I took my seat at the Emigration Board about 4½ p.m., where Mr. Erny, the French Agent, and Mr. DeChamp Mourin, the Government Secretary, were also seated. The first emigrant on appearing before the Committee said that he owed six Rupees to the Maistry over and above what he had distinctly admitted to me the same morning, and on my objecting he declared that it was his wish to give this additional sum to the Maistry as a present for having got him the employment. To this I strongly objected, when it was urged by my co-members of the Board that the man had a perfect right to do what he liked with his own ; that we had not the slightest power or authority to control or prevent him ; that it was perfectly voluntary on his part ; and, therefore, as heretofore that whatever sums the emigrants wished to give to the Maistries, no matter on what account, they ought to be allowed to pay them. I rose and protested, and said I would not be a party to any such gross imposition or abuse as I considered it. I added that the man might throw his advance of 15 Rupees into the gutter if he liked after he had got it, but that I would not consent to be made a fool of and allow an ignorant cooly to give up one-third and more of his advance, equivalent to one month of his labour, as a present to a man (Maistry) who already received from the Emigration Agency ample remuneration, and that it was the duty of the Agency, and not of the emigrants, to remunerate these servants (the Maistries). Some warm discussion followed, but I persisted and threatened to leave the Committee if I were over-ruled, and my wishes in the protection of British Indian emigrants were not acted upon. The point was then yielded. The occurrence caused no little stir among the Maistries and emigrants who were all in the next room awaiting their turn, and it was some time before any one followed the first man who had been passed. At length, other emigrants appeared, and one wanted to give some additional Rupees, (four or five I think it was) to his Maistry for the

equivalent which he declared had been given to a relative. I would not allow this either, and my protest was accepted subject to the condition of the relative's appearance, and proof of the gift; but the whole story being false no one appeared, and in this way all were eventually passed into the Depôt, and with the exception of three or four more instances of attempted extortion the dodge of getting more out of the emigrants than I had noted down in the morning was altogether abandoned as the Maistries had then no leisure to substitute any other scheme in place of that which they found would now no longer succeed.

15. The experience thus gained opened my eyes, and I fancied that, by firmness, I had over-reached the Maistries, but on my next visit men were brought, before me who were declared to have been for several weeks and upwards of a month in Pondicherry receiving all the time maintenance at the rate of four to five annas a day, and a demand was accordingly made by the Maistry, and admitted by the emigrant, of six or seven Rupees and even more. I then asked why these persons had not appeared before, when it was urged that sickness and need for medical attendance had kept them back. I at once saw the course of action to take, and I sent for all the Maistries, head and petty ones, and Mr. Erny, the French Emigration Agent, being present, I addressed them and stated that, as recruits were passed by me regularly every Wednesday in each week, that I would not allow payments for maintenance for any longer period than one week, and at no higher rate than four annas per diem, and, further, that, if the Maistries had any sick persons as intending emigrants, they were at once to be brought before me, and that I would not permit the excuse of sickness as a ground for claiming maintenance money for a longer period unless the emigrants were produced before me. They replied there were then no more sick, and they promised obedience to my order in future, and since that time, at my subsequent visits on four or five occasions, there has been no difficulty whatever; the Maistries have only claimed four annas a day and only for six or seven days, being the interval of my going over; and with the exception of a few instances when the sum was 2½ Rupees, no more than from 1 to 1½ Rupees has been paid by any emigrant; and thus with very little trouble, and by simple firmness and registering at fixed intervals, the payment to the Maistries has been reduced to a minimum,*

* Mr. Norfor proposed a maximum of Rupees 5. I have reduced it without any interference to Rupees 1-12-0 ordinarily. and while it may be possible that some other dodge or scheme may yet be hit upon in order to regain what the Maistries have for the

present lost by the arrangements adopted by me, it is still satisfactory to know that these arrangements have been perfectly successful in checking and stopping the abuses to which the attention of the Local and Home Governments had been so earnestly, yet unsuccessfully, directed, and which were supposed to be beyond reach, and it is gratifying to record that, at the last embarkation of emigrants to Réunion on the 2nd of July, very many of the coolies on examination were found to have from seven to ten Rupees in hand an unprecedented fact since French emigration commenced.

16. Attached are four statements, marked A., B., C., and D., showing, for the periods they embrace, the amount of money stopped from the emigrants, and it will be seen that, while that stoppage exceeds 3½ Rupees per head of "unaccounted for payments," in the case of the first three, it

† Rupees 0-13-0.

is below one Rupee† in the fourth statement, but it must be borne in mind that I could not all at

once devise on the mode of action to meet or grapple with the evil, and thus I had passed many emigrants under the old system of inquiry before adopting my own ; and I am quite convinced that if the same stand be maintained, and the same punctual system of recruiting at fixed intervals, the like good results will continue. The Consular Agent is permanently stationed at Pondicherry, so that in his case the registering may always take place twice a week, or oftener if necessary, when the sums to be paid by the emigrants to the Maistries will again be proportionately diminished.

17. In the interest of emigration, Mr. Erny has since objected to my not allowing the emigrants to pay what they like to the Maistries, and he considers that what I have insisted on is needlessly scrupulous and inquisitorial ; he argues that Maistries have many risks and many expenses, and that it is hard to deprive them of that which from goodwill the emigrants may choose to give them ; but it

must be remembered that six Rupees is paid to the Head Maistries for every emigrant passed into the Depôt, and surely this is tolerable remuneration one would think, but it is wholly forgotten that what an emigrant gives to the Maistry is the price of his hard-earned labour and toil in the Colonies. Of course a common cooly looks upon 15 Rupees as a large sum to get all at once, and he is tutored in every way beforehand what to say and what to do with his money, and he is easily persuaded to any terms in prospect of this large advance besides the food and clothing given to him; and it is a monstrous insult to one's common sense and understanding to allow presents of a month's and more salary to be given by a common cooly, the sweat of his brow, to a low employee as most of these petty Maistry towters are. They have for long driven a very profitable trade at the expense of the emigrants, and it is high time it should be put a stop to. I simply declined in my position as Officiating Protector of Emigrants being a party to any such proceedings as had been permitted heretofore, and under my protest and expressed resolve to quit the Committee room, the practise referred to at once ceased; and it has now been agreed that nothing beyond the amount entered by me opposite to each emigrant's name when primarily registering them in the morning is to be deducted from his or her advance, except where cloths are wanted, and which with other articles are furnished at a fixed rate of 3 Rupees, but the taking these cloths I found to be quite optional, and several who came before me when passing into the Depôt refused to receive or pay for them.

18. It would thus seem only necessary that the Consular Agent do follow the practise I have introduced of a more strict and careful interrogation of the emigrants and Maistries when first appearing before him, and that he be firm as I have been, in resisting any such unjustifiable demands whether as a present or on any other pretext. If it be stated that money has been paid by the Maistry to the family of the emigrant, Mr. Norfor has merely to refuse passing the cooly until proof of such payment is adduced when the plea will speedily be abandoned as it is invariably false, and with me the plea has never been made since I discovered its falsity at first starting in one or two instances where I temporarily rejected the cooly and sent him to his village to bring the member of his family said to have received the money. All that is really required is, therefore, firmness in dealing with the demands of the Maistry, and punctuality in registering the emigrants with the understanding now fully enforced by me that only for the intervals between the recruiting days will subsistence be allowed, and that only at the rate of four annas per diem.

19. There are unquestionably other abuses existing in connexion with emigration, but they are difficult to reach, much more to correct. It is significant of something wrong that recruiting has ceased in this and the neighbouring districts for the last two or three years, and yet somehow all the emigrants from my own and other districts find their way into Pondicherry of themselves and are picked up within French limits. The same tale is told by all, that they heard of the opportunity of gaining a livelihood and being destitute had availed themselves of it. But the secret is that the Head Maistries who are licensed, and who get six Rupees a head for each emigrant, find it easier and more profitable to employ a number of low persons, who, in my belief illegally, go about in the district picking up persons here and there, and carry them off without detection while these towters, so to designate them, swear that they meet with the coolies within the French territory, and being French subjects themselves there are no means whatever of detecting the imposition thus practised or of checking its continuance especially since they are supported by the coolies themselves, and are not informed against either by the Police or village officers who, it is quite possible, are in ignorance of the existence of such personages, however strange such ignorance may appear.

20. But while I say this I do not infer that any grave injustice or evils are the consequence of the system obtaining. My experience satisfies me that no one is ever embarked against his or her will, and any one applied for by their family is released from the Depôt without the slightest objection or hinderance any time before the embarkation takes place, and without any demand for refund by the Agency; and considering how well the existence of emigration is now known to all, it is remarkable that no case of oppression or force has ever come to notice, and there can be no question that, in seasons such as we have had the past two or three years, emigration has been an

undoubted boon to the poorer classes, and the condition of those I have passed, with one or two solitary exceptions, amply attested the truth of their assertion of poverty, and that they were only doing what their best friends would advise them under the difficulties presented to them in this country of gaining an honest and adequate livelihood, and I mention this to disabuse the minds of those who, unacquainted with the system of French emigration and its results, are disposed to object to it on grounds which, the strictest test if applied, would show to be wholly mistaken and without any real foundation.

PONDICHERRY,
7th September 1869.

(Signed) C. W. READE,
Collector in charge of the Consular Agent's Office.

Referred to the Protector of Emigrants for any remarks he may have to offer.
FORT SAINT GEORGE,
29th September 1869.

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Under Secy. to Govt.

No. 190. From J. H. BLAIR, Esq., Protector of Emigrants, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 20th October 1869, No. 25-W.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a letter addressed to you by C. Reade, Esq., Collector in charge of the Consular Agent's Office, Pondicherry, on 7th September 1869, also a Memorandum on the subject of advances to emigrants and enclosures, referred for my remarks.

2. On the 27th September, Mr. Norfor, the Consular Agent, who has since resumed charge, wrote on the same subject, forwarding a letter received from the French Government, and remarking on several of the statements contained in Mr. Reade's Memorandum.

3. I entirely coincide with Messrs. Reade and Norfor in the application of the word "prolix" to the Memorandum. Paragraphs 1 to 8 are simply a history of what occurred regarding advances to emigrants from 1866 to July 1869, when Mr. Reade took charge.

4. In paragraphs 9 and 10, Mr. Reade accuses Mr. Norfor of carrying on a "stereotyped routine," and subsequently describes the routine in a condemnatory manner. Examination of emigrants must have a good deal of sameness about it, and must be carried out on some regular system. The Pondicherry system was twice reported on to Government by Mr. Norfor, and orders* finally passed thereon, to carry out the Karikal system of payment of advances, which has since been done.

* See Order, Madras Govt., Public Dept., 21st March 1867, No. 299, also Proc., Madras Govt., Public Dept., 17th June 1868 Order, Madras Govt., 17th June 1868, No. 736.

5. In paragraphs 11, 12, and the first few lines of paragraph 13, Mr. Reade gives a detailed account of what he considers the improved system of examining the emigrants, and an additional examination, which appears to me to be very much the same as that described by Mr. Norfor in Proceedings,† Madras Government, 17th June 1868, as usually taking place in his office, previous to the final examination of Committee, and payment of advances at the Depôt.

† Para. 2, Memo. in letter from British Consular Agent, to Protector of Emigrants, 20th May 1869, No. 257.—See Proc., Madras Govt., Public Dept., 17th June 1868.

6. In paragraphs 13 and 14 Mr. Reade goes on to show how the examination, payments, &c., were conducted at the Dépôt, and enters at very great length into what occurred on his first visit. From his own statements, his proceedings appear to me to have been *illegal*. Mr. Norfor has apparently always been careful to give every information to emigrants, and warn them against paying money to the recruiters which they did not owe, or did not wish to present to them, and it appears that it was only on Mr. Reade's threatening to leave the Committee that the other members gave way, and agreed to prevent the coolies paying recruiters the sums they wished to give.

7. On the point of illegality, I would further beg to refer to Mr. Norfor's letter* of May 20th, 1868, No. 257, paragraphs 1 and 3; paragraph 6 his letter† of 27th September 1869, No. 377, also clauses 2, 3, 4, and 5, paragraph 1, letter‡ of October 6th, 1869, No. 379; also letter§ to Mr. Norfor from Mr. Trillard of 22nd September 1869, No. 49. A copy of the Act|| of July 1st, 1862, art 18, clause 2 of which is referred to in Mr. Trillard's letter is sent, to show that the Protector cannot interfere with the legal right of the emigrants to pay what they please, and there is also nothing in the Convention to prevent their doing so. Mr. Trillard also states in paragraph 2¶ that the Act of July 1st, 1862, was approved by the Madras Government. Mr. Norfor had previously proposed in his letter** of June 18th, 1869, No. 317, to make an uniform charge of Rupees 5 for each emigrant. To this the French authorities demurred in Mr. Trillard's letter†† of July 13th, 1869. Mr. Reade's statements in his Memorandum, paragraphs 14 and 17, also show that the French authorities consider his action illegal, and I must say I entirely agree with them.

8. The point should, I respectfully submit, be referred to the Advocate-General, if the Government have any doubts upon the subject.

9. In paragraph 15, Mr. Reade reports subsequent enlistment of emigrants on the system introduced by him, and finishes with this statement: "It is gratifying to record that, at the last embarkation of emigrants to Réunion on the 2nd July, very many of the coolies on examination were found to have from 7 to 10 Rupees in hand—an unprecedented fact since French emigration commenced."

On this point I beg to refer the Government to the distinct statements‡‡ of Mr. Norfor in paragraph 7. No emigrants embarked at Pondicherry in July at all; two§§ ships left on the dates marginally shown; Mr. Reade was not present at the embarkation of emigrants in either ship; Mr. Gribble, Assistant Collector, arrived after three-fourths of the emigrants had embarked in the *Eugenie*; no assistant was present when *Anna* embarked her emigrants; and on neither occasion were the men examined as to what money they had in hand.

10. The records||| of my office prove that no emigrants embarked in July, and only the two ships named, left in August 25th and September 7th. It is possible Mr. Reade may have made some mistake about dates, but I confess I am at a loss to understand on what

* See Procs., Madras Govt., Public Dept., 17th June 1868.

† Copy sent, A.

‡ Copy „ B.

§ Original in French, 22nd Sept 1869, C.

|| Act I. of July 1862, G.

¶ Letter of 22nd Sept. 1869, No. 19.

** Copy sent, D.

†† Original sent, E.

‡‡ British Consul's letter to Protector of Emigrants, No. 877, of Sept. 27th 1869; copy sent, A.

§§ *Eugenie*, Aug. 25th, 1869.
Anna, Sept. 7th, 1869.

||| Copy sent, F.

grounds he assumes that the emigrants shipped for Réunion under the new system were found on examination to have from 7 to 10 Rupees each, if *no examination took place at all*, as appears from Mr. Norfor's statement above referred to.

11. There is another important point to be considered as regards the efficiency of the new system, admitting its legality. The balance of advance, as settled, say 7 to 9 Rupees, is paid to each emigrant when he is admitted into the Dépôt, where he remains for days, weeks, sometimes months. There is no means of preventing him paying the recruiter whatever sum he thinks proper, after his admission to the Dépôt. It is clear that the French authorities consider that emigrants have an undoubted moral right to do what they like with their advances, and to pay recruiters not only for food and clothing, but also to present them with a bonus for enlistment, and as long as three months' pay in advance, Rupees 15, is given to emigrants, so long will they pay some gratuity to the recruiter, who brings them to the Dépôt.

12. Paragraphs 17 to 20 of the Memorandum do not appear to call for any comment.

13. There are, in my opinion, only two ways of preventing payments by emigrants to recruiters; one, stopping the system of giving three months' advance, Rupees 15, and reducing it to one month, Rupees 5, the same ~~is~~ is given to emigrants to the British Colonies; the other, not paying the advance to the emigrants until they are on boardship, when they would not ask for it, or want it to take with them.

14. Emigrants for French Colonies are also obliged to repay the cost of their maintenance to recruiters, while en route to the Dépôt. The expenses of British emigrants are paid by the Emigration Agents from the day of recruitment.

15. I would beg to suggest that the systems be assimilated, either that only one month's advance be given to all emigrants, French and British, and that all Emigration Agencies pay the cost of maintenance of emigrants en route to the Dépôt; or that British Agents be allowed the same privileges as the French, viz., to give three months' advance, and recover the travelling expenses from the emigrants, if they think proper to do so.

16. Under present laws the competition is most unfair to the British Agents, and if the same system were made applicable to all, they would then work on an equal footing. I only propose the second course, as there seems little probability of the advance system (always productive of many evils) being put a stop to.

17. I regret the delay that has occurred in forwarding these remarks, but I was obliged to wait for a copy of the French Act of July 3rd, 1862.

No. 191. From J. H. BLAIR, Esq., Protector of Emigrants, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 3rd November 1869, No. 26-W.

With reference to paragraphs 9 and 10 of my letter of the 20th October 1869, No. 25-W, I have the honour to forward copies of a letter, and two statements, received from the British Consular Agent, Pondicherry, on the 27th ultimo.

2. From Statement A., it appears that 210 men received Rupees 15 each (advance) or Rupees 3150 = 84 women received Rupees 9 each total Rupees 756, total advance paid Rupees 3906, of this amount Rupees 1952 were paid to the Maistries, leaving a balance of Rupees 1954 in possession of the emigrants, when they entered the Depôt.

3. Statement B., however, shows that when the emigrants embarked, they only had Rupees 61, having spent the other Rupees 1893, during their sojourn in the Depôt.

4. Three men who had only been a few days in the Depôt owned Rupees 25 out of the Rupees 61 belonging to the 294 men and women embarked.

5. The above statements prove, I think, very clearly that the emigrants do get rid of their balance of advances after entering the Depôt, and very probably the Recruiters, or Maistries received the larger portion of the Rupees 1893 referred to in paragraph 3.

6. This letter would have been sent in sooner, but the statements had to be returned for correction.

No. 192. ORDER THEREON, 30th November 1869, No. 1645.

With his letter, dated 7th September last, Mr. Reade, the Collector of South Arcot, submits a Memorandum describing the efforts he made, when in charge of the Consular Agency at Pondicherry, to prevent the wholesale robbery of intending emigrants by the Recruiting Maistries, and suggesting that the steps he took with success may be continued by Mr. Norfor, the Consular Agent.

2. The steps taken by Mr. Reade were carefully to examine the intending emigrant on the subject of monies owing by him to the Recruiting Maistry, and to reject all improper charges. Mr. Reade appears to have disallowed all advances alleged to have been made by the Recruiting Maistry to the families of the intending emigrants, all maintenance charges for more than a week, and all presents offered by the intending emigrants to the Maistries for having recruited them.

3. Mr. Reade made these inquiries at the preliminary examination which is always held by the Consular Agent before the coolies are formally registered at the Depôt in the presence of the French Officials and the Consular Agent.

4. The sums Mr. Reade considered justly due by each emigrant to the Recruiting Maistry were noted down, and, at the examination at the Depôt, Mr. Reade refused to sanction any further payment, although the coolies, tutored by the Maistries, were willing to pay.

5. Mr. Reade met with great opposition from the French authorities, who, however, yielded on the occasion, and this batch of coolies seem to have got off with a payment, in the presence of the authorities, of two or three Rupees per man, instead of, as usual, nine or ten. How much they were afterwards fleeced cannot be known, but Mr. Reade supposes they carried away on boardship 10 out of the 15 Rupees advance. The French authorities have since formally objected to Mr. Reade's proceedings as an undue interference with the coolie's liberty, and as being likely to impede the recruiting which is recognised by treaty.

6. The Government consider that Mr. Reade was clearly right at his preliminary examination in doing all he could to prevent the intending emigrant being cheated, and he would have been justified in refusing to sanction, at the formal meeting at the Depôt, presents alleged to be willingly made by the coolies to Maistries as a reward for having recruited them, for, the Maistries are very sufficiently paid for this work. An unreasonable delay in bringing the coolies for examination before the Consular Agent and for registration at the Depôt by which the maintenance charges are swollen for the profit of the Recruiting Agency might also be reasonably objected to. Mr. Reade seems to have been wrong in refusing altogether to sanction re-payments of monies, which the coolies themselves admitted both before Mr. Reade when alone, and before the Committee, to have been made to their families at the time they were recruited. It would be, in many cases, impossible for the Maistry to prove the advance to the family of the recruit, except by the recruit's own admission.

7. It must also be remembered that the system of advances is much insisted on by the French authorities as being essential to their success in obtaining emigrants, and that it has been recognised by the Secretary of State for India in the Despatch, dated 9th July 1868, which was communicated to the Protector of Emigrants in Proceedings of Government, 19th August 1868, No. 1026. It does not seem necessary, at present, to add to the instructions contained in the G. O. which was issued on the 17th June 1868, No. 736. The course then prescribed will, if carefully and energetically observed, afford to the intending emigrants all the protection which can be reasonably accorded to them.

8. The Government approve Mr. Reade's suggestion that the examination and registration of coolies should be carried on punctually twice a week by the Consular Agent while emigration is actively carried on, so that the charges for their maintenance previous to being placed in the Depôt may not be unnecessarily heavy.

9. His Excellency the Governor in Council notices with much satisfaction the great interest that Mr. Reade has taken in the protection of the interests of the coolies from British territory during the time he was in charge of the Consular Agency. His Excellency must also point out to the Protector of Emigrants that he was wanting in official courtesy in describing Mr. Reade's communication as prolix. Mr. Norfor, the Consular Agent, in making use of the same expression has shown a want of proper respect to his superior Officer.

10. That Mr. Reade's laudable efforts to check a system of extortion practised on the coolies were necessary and well-timed, is sufficiently shown by the latest report received from the Protector of Emigrants, dated 3rd instant, from which it appears that, of Rupees 3906 advanced on a late occasion to a batch of emigrants, 1954 Rupees were paid to the emigrants before the Committee, and that when the coolies left the Depôt they only took 61 Rupees with them on boardship. Thus they spent Rupees 1893 while in the Depôt, and, as Mr. Blair supposes, the recruiters got the greater part of this also.

11. An active Consular Agent, mixing freely and constantly with the coolies at the Emigration Depôt, should be able to prevent such gross frauds, and the Government take this opportunity of repeating to Mr. Norfor what has already been communicated to the Consular Agents in the Government Order, dated 23rd

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
30th November 1869.

April 1868, No. 504, "that the greatest importance is attached by the Government to the performance of this part of the Consular Agent's duties, and that, should it appear that the system of extortion on the part of the Maistries continues, it will be necessary to remove the Consular Agent at the settlement where such extortion is practised, and to nominate, in his stead, an Officer who is better able to perform the duties required of him."

(True Extract.)

To the Protector of Emigrants, with enclosures returned.
,, Collector of South Arcot, with five enclosures returned.

Cont. of 1869 Emigrants.

PUBLIC.

To

THE PROTECTOR OF EMIGRANTS.

Ac.

Ac.

Ac.

Dated November, 30th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 30th November 1869, No. 1645.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 189—192.

Passing orders on the system proposed by Mr.
Reade for preventing the exactions of Emigration
Recruiting Masters.

15

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
30th November 1869.*

No. 193. Read the following letter from the President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 16th November 1869, G. No. 469.

In continuation of my letter of the 29th of September last, No. 430, I have now the honour to forward, herewith, the Minutes of the Proceedings of an adjourned General Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners held on the 10th instant.

2. Government will observe from these Minutes that the Commissioners do not consider the addition to this Department of a Professional Health Officer, recommended in the Proceedings of Government noted in the margin, desirable.

11th Aug. 1869, No. 1117, Pub. Dept.

No. 194. ORDER THEREON, 30th November 1869, No. 1646-A.

Ordered that the Minutes, received with the foregoing letter, of the Proceedings of the Municipal Commissioners of Madras be published in the *Fort Saint George Gazette*.

(True Extract.)

R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

Manassas July 1872

My dear Sir
As Mr. Blair is anxious
to see the Branch Act of
1st July 1862 which was
forwarded to Govt in a
letter to the Chief of Govt
under date the 20th Oct 1862.
He ^{is} 2nd. I request you
will have the kindness
to send me the same for
reference as the Protection is
being made in want of it
I am ever a true friend
J

Govt. of 1869: 204 adras.

PUBLIC.

Dated November, 30th.

Recd.

Enc.

G. O., 30th November 1862, No. 1646-A.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 193-194.

Directing that the Minutes of the Proceeding
in adjourned General Meeting of the Madra
sicipal Commissioners, held on the 10th instan
published in the Gazette.

Memo

It has for long been
the subject of discussion in
connection with the system
of Emigration to the French
Colonies as to how the large
payments by the Emigrants
to the Recruiting Ministries
may be checked or put a
stop to. It has been thoroughly
examined and finally accepted
that the abuses which have
arisen consequent on these
voluntary payments were
beyond the reach of remedy
and could not be put down.

In 1866 the
Emigrants shipped for the
Islands

on
Tunisia & Algeria
A. D. 1866

Island of St. Helena complained
to the Consul Agent there on
arrival that they had been
cheated out of their wages
by the Recruiting Recruiters
this complaint was then
sent to a reference by the
Secretary of State for Foreign
Affairs to the Secretary of State
for India by whom the matter
was referred for enquiry to the
Government of Madras and
it was replied by the local
Department English and
French at Pondicherry that
the payment to the Recruiters
by the Emigrants was a
voluntary matter after the
enquiry, questioning was made
and with intent therefore
no further interference could

+ filed
Proceedings
Madras Court
22 January 1867
with 1051 and
thereon May 8

21 5

he said and that the European
Officers could do
nothing beyond
ascertaining the
wishes of the
Emigrants to make
the payments to the
Recruiters. & then
there witnessing
the delivery of the
money by the one
to the other out of
the 3 months
advance / Rs 15
paid to each
Emigrant as he
was admitted
into the Depot.

3. The result
of the enquiry
was the order
of

* File Proceedings of the
Madras Government of 27th
March 1867, from which
is extracted Para 9. of the
Pondicherry Governor's letter of
the 14th February 1867, No. 2.

Para 9. "I have taken
"advantage of this occurrence
"to renew my express
"instructions to the Emigration
"Agents to protect, as
"much as lies in them,
"the morality of the operations
"in which they are employed,
"and I have desired the
"Emigration Commissioners
"to redouble their vigilance
"in the delicate duty which
"is confided to them. Moreover,
"in order to avoid a recurrence
"of complaints of the same
"nature, the Administration
"has adopted, in concert
"with the Agent of Her
"Britannic Majesty, some
"formal rules for the adjustment
"of the Emigrants' accounts
"with the Recruiters. At the
"time of each payment, the

advances, that they were
made by the French Emigration
Agent only and all that the
Consular Agent could do was
to inform him of the orders
of the Madras Government.

On this the Government of
Madras advised His Excellency
the Governor of Pondicherry
seeking his co-operation in
giving effect to the wishes
expressed by the Secretary
of State.

The request of the
Madras Government for
co-operation by the French
Governor as above was
answered by His Excellency
stating that advances were
a necessary part of the
conditions made with the
Emigrant.

Emigrant under the Convention
and that any cessation of the
system would in effect put
a stop altogether to recruiting
for the French Colonies, and
consequently the Governor
declined to act on the suggestion
except under instructions
from His own Government
in France to whom he stated
the matter would be referred.

On this letter the Madras
Government observed that it
was not at present propitious
to carry out the instructions
of the India Secretary of State
for the discontinuance of
the system of advances, but
that in the opinion of
Government, much of the
evils of that system might
be

* Vide Proc of
Govt 18 March
1868 P. Dept
Advances
Done on 11/5/68
Same date
M: 354.

* Vide Proc
of Madras
Govt 23
April 1868
with orders
Done on 11/5/68

be prevented by more
constant communication
between the Consular Agents
and the Coolies when in
the Depots, & Government
assess that if the system
of extortion continued it
would become necessary
to remove the Consular
Agent at the Settlement
where it was practised.

To the above Com.
Mr. Norfor submitted a
letter in defence of his
proceedings and position
accompanied by a Discom-
pensation of the mode of
operation in force in regard
to the advances made to
Emigrants and of his
proposals for revenue
checks

3.

checks on the abuses connected
therewith, and on this subject
recorded that "it will be
sufficient if the system is
forced at Karikal is introduced
at Pondicherry" as noted in
the same Page 6 Proceedings of Government
date 18:736. 21st March 1867, 18:299, and it

* Vice Pres.
of Govt
P. Dept
17 June/68
and Cessers
thereon of
the same

was added that this system
with greater vigilance on
the part of the Consular
Agent while the Coolies
were in the Depots should
be sufficient to prevent
frauds by the Recruiting
Masters.

8.

When I took charge
of the Office of the Consular
Agent for Emigration about
the end of June last my
attention was naturally
drawn to this important
subject

subject, and found that on
the 18th of that month
Mr. Hooper had referred
to the Ordinations
Mr. Trillard a letter,
the 3rd of that date in
which he drew the Ordina-
tions' notice to the
very large amount stopped
from the advances made to
the Emigrants during the
previous season and all
of which had been paid
to the Recruiting Ministries,
and Mr. Hooper suggested
in modification of the
system obtaining that the
Emigrants be permitted to
prohibit paying the
Ministries more than 5th
each and further that...
stoppages

x Copies of
these letters
are attached
E & F.

stoppages to ~~make~~ on
account of purchase of
Clothes, &c. To this letter
the Ordinations replied on
the 13th July pointing out
that it was impossible for
the French Government to
interfere in the matter, &
that the circumstances ~~under~~
which the Emigrants were
recruited precluded the fixing
of any maximum payment
to the Ministries.

9. Being new to the
office, and not clearly seeing
any way to a remedy for
what appeared capable of
so great abuse, on the 2nd
first occasions of seeing
Emigrants I carefully followed
the routine form which
seemed

seemed to be stereotyped from
the moment the Emigrants
were brought before me up
to the moment they were
passed into the Dépôt.
10. The routine I
speak of is described pretty
accurately by Mr. Rippe
in his Memoirs recorded in
Proceedings of Government
Public Dept of the 17th June
1868, No. 114, and in its
working the result was
usually that the Emigrants were
arrived in about 10 or 12
Rupes, or even more at
times, which were to be
to pay to the Ministry, and
after 3 months salary
advanced to him for his
prospective labor in the
Colonies

5/

13--

when the claim was in every
instance abandoned by both
parties the man was registered.

The enquiry thus
made by me had not ever
been instituted hitherto
until the Emigrants came
before the Committee or Board
when being passed into the
Dépôt, and this Committee
ordinarily assembles on the
very same evening of the
Registration, and before it
the advance is paid to the
Emigrant and the claims
of the Ministry are finally
settled. This Committee
or Board consists of 3
European officers, the Secretary
to the French Government, the
Agent for French Emigration
and

and the British Consul
Agent.

14. I was anxious
to see for myself all these
details in their actual
working, and accordingly
on my first visit aft. I
had passed a number of
Recruits in the morning
I took my seat at the
Emigration Board about
4 1/2 P.M. where Mr. Ey
the French Agent and
Mr. Dr. Champ, Secretary
the Government, Secretary
were also seated. The 1st
Emigrant on appearing
before the Committee
said that he was a
C. Paper to the Ministry

over and above what
he had distinctly
admitted to me the same
morning, and on my
objecting he declared that
it was his wish to give
this additional sum to
the Ministry as a present
for having got him the
employment. To this I
strongly objected, when it
was urged by my Co. members
of the Board that the
man had a perfect
right to do what he liked
with his own, that we
had not the slightest
power or authority to
control or prevent him,
that

that it was perfectly
voluntary on his part,
and therefore he thought
that whatever sums the
Emigrants wished to give
to the Minister were
matters in which account
they ought to be allowed.
They thought them selves
protected, and said - I
would not be a party
to any such gross
imposition or abuse.
as I considered it. I
added that the man
might throw his advance
of 15 Pp. into the
Gutter if he liked after
he had got it, but
that I would not consent

4/

Colonies. The account was
ordinarily made out and
adjusted in this fashion:-

R. 4 to Ministry for maintenance.

" 5 to 9th as a present for like
sum alleged to have been advanced
to some members of the Emigrants
family.

R. 3⁹ for Cloths, standing charge
when furnished.

12

Due Emigrant 3 months wages in
advance Pp. 15 - - -
Deduct as above Pp. 12 - - -

Balanced - 3 - - -

which said balance was
then paid to the Emigrant
and the matter ended.

11. I varied the routine
a little from that followed &
described by Mr. Porter.
Each Emigrant was called
before

before me by himself after
his name and other
particulars had been entered
in the Register. I then
interrogated him alone,
and finally questions were
much as follows were put
to each individually and
collectively in the presence
of the Recruiting Society.

- I Do you wish to emigrate
and why?
- II Do you know where you
are going & what the
conditions of your emigration?
- III When and where were you
recruited & by whom?
- IV What have you received
from the Ministry, and do
you owe him anything
besides the subsistence
given you?

I then compared the
respective statements of
the Recruits & the Recruiters

as to the sum paid & received
for subsistence or other cause
when I fixed the amount
really due & immediately
entered it against the Emigrant's
name in the Register in
final adjustment of the
account between them.

12 The above were
the 4 Cardinal questions put
by me & of course any others
arising out of the answers given.
To question III a man would
say 10 or 15 days ago he had
come to Pondicherry and since
then had been supported
by the Ministry, and in
answer to IV the Emigrant
would possibly reply that
he had received 3 or 4 Rs
as maintenance & wished
to

to pay him an additional
4 or 5 Rupees or even more
as a present for his good
offices in obtaining him
the employment, but this
of course I did not for
one moment allow; as he
would say that he was
the Ministry that concerned
for the equivalent advanced
by him to the Emigrants
Brother, as the other person
other Relative, who it was
stated, had accompanied
the Emigrant to Pondicherry
but had since left. This
demand I also repudiated
or I threatened to test its
truth by at once sending
for the Relative, detaining
the Permit meanwhile,
when

39
to be made a fool of &
allow an ignorant Cooly
to fine up one third ^{2 days} of his
advance equivalent to one
month of his labor, as
a present to a man (Maistry)
who already received from
the Emigration Agency
ample remuneration, & that
it was the duty of the
Agency and not of the
Emigrants to remunerate
these servants / the Maistries.
Some warm discussion followed,
but I persisted & threatened
to leave the Committee if I
were overruled and my
wishes in the protection of
British Indian Emigrants were
not acted upon. The point
was then yielded. The
occurrence

occurrence caused no little
stir among the Ministers
and Emigrants who were all
in the mess room awaiting
their turn, and it was
some time before any one
followed the first man
who had been spared.
At length, other Emigrants
appeared and one presented
to five some additional
Rupees, 4 or 5 I think it
was, which Ministry for the
equivalent which he declared
had been given to a Relative.
I would not allow this either
and my protest was
accepted subject to the
condition of the Relative's
appearance & proof of the
gift, but the whole story
being

6/

being false as one appeared
and in this way all were
eventually passed into the
Depot and with the exception
of 3 or 4 more instances of
attempted extortion the dodge
of getting more out of the
Emigrants than I had noted
down in the morning was
altogether abandoned as the
Ministers had then no desire
to substitute any other scheme
in place of that which they
found would now no longer
succeed.

15. The experience thus
gained opened my eyes, and I
perceived that by firmness
I had overreached the Ministers,
but on my next visit every
one brought before me who
were

In the interest of
Competition Mr. King has
since rejected the idea of
allowing the Company to
pay what they like to
the Ministers, and he considers
that what they are entitled
to is amply satisfied
and is quite liberal, he
argues that Ministers have
many risks and many
expenses, and that it is better
to deprive them of that
which from good will the
Company may choose
to give them, but it must
be remembered that the
is paid to the House of Commons
for every Company paper
into the Department.

49
This is a valuable remuneration
one would think, but it is
wholly forgotten that what
an Engineer gives to the
Ministry is the price of his
hard earned labour and toil
in the colonies. As compared
a common Cooly looks
upon 15 Rupees as a large
sum to get all at once, and
he is tutored in every way
before hand what to say
and what to do with his
money, and he is easily
persuaded to long terms
in prospect of this large
advance besides the food
& clothing given to him,
and it is a monstrous
insult to one's common
sense & understanding to
allow

allow presents of a month's
senior salary to be given
by a common Cook.
The denial of his law,
to a low employee, is
most of these petty details
to which are. They have for
long driven a very profitable
house at the expense of the
Emigrants, and it is high
time it should be put a stop.
I simply declined in my position as
officiating Protector of
Emigrants being a party
to any such proceedings as
had been permitted heretofore,
and under my protest and
expressed resolve to quit the
Committee room, the practice
referred to, at once ceased; and
it has now been agreed that

nothing beyond the amount
entered by me opposite
to each Emigrant's name
when primarily registering
them in the morning is to be
deducted from his or her
advance, except where cloths
are wanted and which with
other articles are furnished
at a fixed rate of 3 Rupees,
but the taking these cloths
I found to be quite optional,
and several who came before
me when passing into the
Depot refused to receive or
pay for them.

18.

It would thus
seem only necessary that
the Consular Agent do follow
the practice I have
introduced of a more
strict

strict and careful investigation
of the emigrants & Ministers
when first appearing before
him and that he to find
as I have been resisting
any such unjustifiable
demands whether in a
present or in any other pretence.
If it be stated that money
has been paid by the Ministry
to the family of the emigrant
Mr. Norra has consented to
refuse paying the Court
until proof of such
payment is adduced when
the plea will specially be
abandoned as it is invariably
falsely, and with me the
plea has risen from ground
since I discovered its falsity
at first starting in an

63
or two instances where I
temporarily rejected the plea
and sent him to his village
to bring the members of his
family said to have received
the money. All that is
really required is therefore
his unness in dealing with
the demands of the Ministry
& punctuality in registering
the emigrants with the under-
standing now fully enforced
by me that only for the intervals
between the Recruiting days
will subsistence be allowed
and that only at the rate
of 4 annas per diem.

There are unquestionably
other abuses existing in
connection with emigration
but

but they are difficult to
reach, much more to correct.
It is significant of something
wrong that recruiting has
ceased in this and the
neighboring Districts for
the last 2 or 3 years and
yet somehow all the
emigrants from my own
and other Districts find
their way into Pondicherry
of themselves and are
picked up within French
limits. The same tale is
told by all, that they heard
of the opportunity of gaining
a livelihood and being
distraught had availed
themselves of it. But the
secret is that the Head
Ministries

Ministries who are licensed
and who get 6 Rupees a
head for each emigrant
find it easier and more
profitable to employ a
number of low persons, who,
in my belief illegally, go
about in the District
picking up persons here
and there & carry them off
without detection while
these towlers, so to designate
them, swear that they meet
with the Coolies within the
French Territory, and being
French subjects themselves
there are no means
whatever of detecting the
imposition thus practiced
or of checking its continuance
especially since they are
supported

supported by the local line
themselves are not informed
against either by the Police
or Village officers who, it
is quite probable, are in
ignorance of the existence
of such persons however
strange such ignorance
may appear.

20. But while I say
this I do not infer that
any frame injustice or
evils are the consequence
of the system obtaining.
My experience satisfies
me that no one is ever
embarked against his
her will, and every one
applied for by their family
is released from the Depot
without

without the slightest objection
or hindrance any time
before the embarkation takes
place, and without any
demand for refund by the
Agency; and considering
how well the existence of
Emigration is now known
to all, it is remarkable that
no case of oppression or
force has ever come to
notice, and there can be
no question that in seasons
such as we have had the
past 2 or 3 years, Emigration
has been an undoubted
boom to the poorer classes,
and the condition of those
I have named, with one or
two solitary exceptions,
amply attested the truth
of

of their ascription of poverty
and that they were only
doing what their best
friends would advise
them under the difficulties
presented to them in this
Country of gaining an
honest & adequate livelihood
and saving them the dis-
ease the ruin of those
who are engaged with
the system of French
immigration and its results
are disposed to object
to it on grounds which
the strictest test if
applied would show to
be wholly mistaken &
without any real foundation.

Consular Agent Office
Pondicherry
7th Sept. 1869.

Charles Leade
Collector in charge
Consular Agent Office

61
Enclosure No.
In a letter from
the Collector in
charge of the
Consular agents
office - Pondicherry.
dated 7 September
1869 - No. 341.

Means of the
changes introduced
in the mode of
registering & examining
the emigrants for the
French Colonies.

In No. 2215/69

From, C. H. Deane Esq.
Collector in charge of the
Consular Agents office
Pondicherry.

To
Honble R. S. Ellis Esq.
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George

Sir,
I have been in
charge of the office of the
Consular Agent for Emigration
during the past 3 months, &
I directed my attention at
once to the abuses which I
was aware had so long
been subject of complaint
from the French Colonies.

(enc)

and by the Colonial office
in England in connection
with the system of ~~licenses~~
made to the ~~Licensees~~ at
the Ports of Embarkation
in India; and having
acquainted myself with all
that had ~~passed~~ ^{been} before
the Home and Madras
Governments, I have the
opportunity of introducing
certain changes in the
modus operandi of
registering and examining
the ~~Licensees~~ which has,
in my belief, effectually
put a stop to the abuses
spoken of, and which it
had been supposed were
in reality beyond the reach
of any actual remedy.

2. I

2. I have drawn up
a ⁺ Memo on the subject ~~the~~
prolixity of which will,
I trust, be pardoned in
consideration of its importance
and the end aimed at. It
was difficult to be clear
and intelligible without
entering into details —
explanatory of the course
I had adopted in substitution
of that which Mr. Norfor
had already described at
length and which will be
found recorded in Government
Proceedings under date the
17th June 1868, No. 736, P. Sept.,
and I have submitted
this Memo to Government
in the belief that it was
my duty at once to
apprize

~~It is not~~ ~~the~~ ~~idea~~ ~~of~~ ~~any~~ ~~having~~
~~been~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~idea~~ ~~of~~ ~~proceeding~~
in carrying out international
agreements which will,
unhappily, entirely
correct those abuses so
heretofore deemed more
or less to be out of the
reach of correction; and
it also struck me that
a remedy so simple might,
with equal success, be put
in force at all the French
Ports where Emigration is
carried on, & where similar
abuses may have been found
to exist, while in regard to
Emigration to our own
Colonies which, so far as
recruiting goes, is conducted.

I believe, very much in
the same manner as with
the French, the suggestions
contained in my Memoir
might likewise be un-
hesitatingly adopted in
correction of like abuses
to which the hitherto system
may have been exposed.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant

1774, Charles Dore

Colonel in Charge of the
Colonial Agents Office

Pro 17 June 1868

- 23 April - 144-145
- 18 August - 154-155
- 22 Sept - 155-156
- 17 August - 165-166
- 3 Sept - 167-168
- 25 March 1869 - 140-141
- 22 June

Defences to the Protector of Emigrants
for any remarks he may have to make
14 E. J. John
The Protector of Emigrants
24 September 1869

Collector in charge
of the Consular Agency
Pondicherry

The Chief Secretary
of Government
Fort St. George

Dated 7th
Sept 1869
Received 17th

No 2115-4-371. 6 lines
Forwarding copy of
Memo drawn up
by him describing
the changes introduced
in the mode of
registering & examining
the Emigrants for the
French Colonies which
have just been effected
at the request of
the French Ministry

Public Depart

67

Memorandum for Orders.

W. H. B. L. L.

2 copies in the
present number
made in this
memorandum

N. A. A.
W. H. B. L. L.

Mr. Reade the
Collector of South Arcot sub-
mits a Memo describing
the efforts he made when
in charge of the Consular
Agency at Pondicherry to
prevent the wholesale re-
cruiting of intending Emigrants
by the recruiting Masters,
and suggesting that the
steps he took with success
may be continued by Mr.
Norpois, the Consular Agent.

2 The steps taken by
Mr. Reade were carefully
to examine the intending
Emigrant on the subject of
monies owing by him to the
recruiting Master and to
reject all improper charges.
Mr.

Mr. Reade appears to have disallowed all advances alleged to have been made by the recruiting Maistry to the families of the intending emigrant, all maintenance charges for more than a week, and all presents offered by the intending emigrants to the Maistries for having recruited them.

3. Mr. Reade made these enquiries at the preliminary examination which is always held by the Consular Agent before the coolies are formally registered at the Depot in the presence of the French Officials and the Consular Agent.

4. Mr. Reade noted the sums ^{he} considered justly

justly due by each emigrant to the recruiting Maistry, and at the examination at the Depot refused to sanction any further payment, although the coolies, tutored by the Maistries, were willing to pay.

5. Mr. Reade met with great opposition from the French authorities who however yielded on the occasion and this batch of coolies, ~~who~~ seem to have got off with a payment in the presence of the authorities, of 2 or 3 Rs per man, instead of as usual 9 or 10. How much they were afterwards fleeced cannot be known, but Mr. Reade supposes they

Carried

carried away on board
ship 10 out of the 16 R
advance. The French
authorities have since
formally objected to Mr.
Reade's proceedings as an
undue interference with
the coolie's liberty and as
being likely to impede
the recruiting which is
recognized by treaty.

b. Mr. Reade was clearly right at his preliminary examination in doing all he could to prevent the intending emigrant being cheated, and he would have been justified in refusing to sanction at the formal meeting at the Depot, presents to "hairdressers," ~~coolies~~, for the hair.

= tries

Maistries are paid for recruiting. An unreasonable delay in bringing the coolies for examination before the Consular Agent and for registration at the depot by which the maintenance charges are swollen for the profit of the recruiting agency, might also be reasonably objected to. Mr. Reade seems to have been wrong in refusing altogether to sanction repayments of monies, which the coolies themselves admitted both before Mr. Reade ~~himself~~ when alone and before the Committee.



to have been made to their families at the time they were recruited.

It would be in many cases impossible for the Ministry to prove the advance to the family of the recruit except by the recruit's own admission. ^{system of} ~~the~~ advances to families is much insisted on by the French authorities as being essential to their success in obtaining immigrants.

Mr. Reade may, I submit, be informed to this effect, being told at the same time that the Government recognize and approve of the great interest he took

and has been recognized by the ~~Grand~~ Secretary of State for India - in the despatch dated 9th July 1868, which was communicated to the Protector of Immigrants in Po: of S.W. 19th August 68 No 1021. It does not seem necessary to add to the instructions contained in the 2^d

which was issued on the 17th June 68. No 736. The course then prescribed with if carefully and energetically observed appert to the intending emigrants in the protection which can be reasonably accorded to them

took while in charge of the Consular Agency in the protection of the interests of the coolies from our territories. Mr. Reade's action con- trasts favorably with Mr. Morf's proceedings as noticed formerly by Government. Mr. Morf's attention should again be called to strictly carrying out the instructions of the Government by frequent communications with the coolies while in the Depot.

8. The Government may think fit also to approve Mr. Reade's suggestion that the examination and registration of

of Coolies should be car-
ried on punctually twice
a week by the Com-
= lar Agent, so that the
^{while immigration is actively carried on}
charges for their main-
tenance previous to
being placed in the de-
pot may not be un-
necessarily heavy.

9. Beyond this, no
innovation seems neces-
sary. The Government
Orders of the 23rd April
and 17th June 1878 seem
sufficient. Mr. Reade's
action in this matter
may have been a little
impulsive, but I submit
that Mr. Blair has
been wanting in courtesy
in his official capacity
of Protector of Emigrants.
and.

The Govt. in Council
noted with much satisfaction
the great interest that
Mr. Reade has taken
in the protection of the
interests of the coolies
from British Territory.
The time he was in charge
of the Vice Consular Agent
His Excellency must
also point out to the
Protector of Emigrants that

and Mr. Hooper as Com-
= lar Agent is wanting
in proper respect for his
superior officer in descri-
bing Mr. Reade's memo-
= randum as prolix. Such
communication as prolix, a remark should, if
Mr. Hooper the Vice Consular Agent in making use of
the same expression, ~~was~~
has shown a want of
proper respect to his
superior superior officer.
That Mr. Reade's laudable
efforts to check a system
of extortion practised on the
coolies is ~~unhappy~~ were
to any & well-timed
undoubtedly is improvement
shown by

That gross abuses
exist still and are not
checked by Mr. Hooper
are sufficiently shown
by the latest report, ~~see~~
^{received from the P.O. of Emigrants}
Mr. Blair's letter dated
3rd November, from which
it appears that of Rs 3906
advanced on a late occa-
sion to a batch of Emi-
grants, 1954 Rs were
paid to the Emigrants
before the Committee
and

Meridian.

I hope the account
will do as well satisfy the
fact that it is not I
who do not tell them the
truth. I got to know said
a great deal more. How
in the case the Eugene the
quicker expressed drinking
and taking notes from
the Captain, to make the
vehicle he sent to the
quarry. I forgot
all the really curious
about. I saw the head
reversing in the car as
it started. The practical
test of the system. Then
they did not the trial
the examination.

and that when the
of C. Cooks left the depot
-ie they only took 61 Rs with
a " them on boardship. Thus
-la they spent Rs 1893 while
Cha in the Depot, and as
-ter Mr Blair supposes the
per-recruiters got the greater
-p part of this also. ¹¹ An
-u active Consular Agent mixing freely & constantly
might prevent a good with the cooks at the
9. Deal of this cheating, Emigration depot would
in and the tone, assumed should be able to check
-t by the Protector of Emi- prevent such gross frauds
Or grants and the Con- and the Govt take their
as sular Agent ^{in respect of} Mr. Reader's opportunity of repeating
-e laudable efforts to frus- ^{to Mr. Norton} that has already been
a -trate the Ministries, ^{inadequate} communicated to them
under the circumstances - Consular Agents in their
-es, uncalled for.

W.E.

and that should it appear
that the system of exclusion
on the part of the Minister
continues it will be necessary
to remove the Consular Agent
at the settlement where
such extortion is practised
and to nominate in his
stead an officer who is
better able to perform
the duties required of him.

attack the subject ~~and~~
hesitates. Some Gent. has
determined against
me, and I felt that
she quoted with the
whole affair.

Mr. Meade at home, it was
I... to stay - trying to
suffering to get up
early for exercise,
appears to get pleasure
therefore do not delay
deciding on this letter.

Yours faithfully
W. M. Garrison
Mr. Gribble should see he
calls in for an opportunity
if things are done fairly.

91
My dear Herrick
I received the
letter from Knapp,
which had not
gone, also his personal
note to me; I do
not know Knapp,
but it is best you
should know his
real ideas; as he
seems to feel strongly

on the point, I use
strong language.
Yours sincerely
Hunter Blair
22/2/70

Official memo 45

with reference to Memo. No. 47
of the 24th inst. from the Under
Secretary & Government Public
Sec. Departments, the Protector
of Immigrants, beg. to forward
the letter from the British Consul
Agent, Pondicherry of 27th Sept.
1869, No 377. Therein called for
copy of this letter has already
been sent. see Para 9. P. of
Immigrants letter to, Chief
Secretary & Government of
Oct. 20th 1869 No 25.

* returned to
the Protector
with P.O. No 30 Nov/69

Hunter Blair
Pr. of Immigrants

Madras

Feb. 25th 1870

1870
 From
 The Protector of Emigrants
 To The Madras Secretary
 to Government

Saturday 25th } February 1870
 No. 37

Forwards the letter from
 the ~~British~~ Consul
 Agent at Pondicherry
 Dated 27 Sept. 1869 No 377

N^o 377

From
 B. J. Norfor Esq^r
 British Consul Agent
 Pondicherry
 To
 The Protector of Emigrants,
 Madras.

Sir,
 I have the honor to enclose a copy
 of a letter which I have received from the
 French Government, and request instructions
 thereon. I am obliged to mention this reference
 to the correspondence of Mr. Rander's letter to
 the Chief Secretary to Government
 dated 7th September 1869. This letter
 Mr. Rander advises in a private, that
 taking a brief order would be giving me
 necessary trouble. But in justice to myself
 I must leave the question to the
 Government, and I am, Sir,
 Very respectfully,
 Yours,
 B. J. Norfor

any attention at once to the abuses which
I was aware had at long been subject of
Complaint &c - and from Para 2 to 7
including the recapitulation all that passed
regarding certain Emigrants sent to Penmion.
Now we should bear in mind, that the original
plan was from the Consul in 1866. &
measures were immediately taken to prevent
its recurrence. In 1868, an Order certainly
came from the Secretary of State, but it
was on the very same subject of Complaint
made in 1866. and which seems to have
lain two years in the Colonial Office. There
never was any other but the one above mentioned.

3. With respect to Para 8 I refer
to the Ordinance and I mention it also
in my Annual Report No 343. April 6th
1869. The proposal was not made by me
in the course of Complaints, but to see if any
improvement might be arrived at, as I had
just heard respecting the Penmion was
likely to recommence and which you are
aware had been arrested for some time.

In Para 9 Mr. Renter's answer
is of putting what he calls the money
into the hands of the Emigrants. The time
the complaint from Penmion I thought
it was not a matter of questions to

be invariably put, but with any common
sense would not raise these questions when
there was a necessity, and which in fact in-
variably occurs and is of course acted on in
every respect much in the same way as
Mr. Renter did - so where he got his in-
formation to the contrary is impossible
for me to say.

5. In Para 12 in regard to the
Emigrants proposal to give the Ministry
5 and 6 Rupees as a present he says, that
"I did not for a moment allow" &c. I do
not recollect one instance where any man
proposed to give this sum - 2 to 3 Rupees
have sometimes been named, and the only
when questioned "how come you to send the
Ministry a certain sum?" they would re-
ply, they had received so much on different
accounts, and that he promised to give the
Ministry 2 or 3 Rs. - and in reply I would
always make the Emigrant understand
he had only to pay his just debts, and was
not obliged to make a present, if he did
I would not help him if he afterwards com-
plained - beyond advising and warning
the Emigrants, I could not legally prevent
him - In Para 17 on the same subject

Mr. Reade calls it a "monstrous insult to common sense" but with reference to his Para 20. one can only suppose the men were really grateful for the honest livelihood offered them.

6. It is to submit that it would be well to get the opinion of the Advocate General, as to whether Mr. Reade's proceeding can be legally carried out. The French Government as you will see consider the interference illegal, by the letter herein submitted.

7. In Para 15. Mr. Reade says "It is gratifying to record that at the last embarkation of Emigrants to Réunion on the 2nd July* very many of the Coolies on examination were found to have y the 10. * Perfect in hand. An unprecedented fact since French Emigration commenced. How he can be so positive on this score seems very strange, when I understand that he himself was not present at either shipment. Mr. Gribble his Assistant, arrived so late at the first shipment that the men, three parts of them, had already embarked. and at the last shipment Mr. Gribble or no other Assistant was present at the embarkation - and on neither occasion were the

men examined as to what they had in hand.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant

Consular Agents Office,
Pondicherry.
27 September, 1869.

J. M. M. M.
British Consular Agent.

* The Register
was 25 Aug 1869
last of the ship
of Sept. 1869

Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the

Collector in charge of the
Consular Agent's Office, *Memorandum 7th Sept. 69. No 371*
Pondicherry

Protector of Emigrants. *— 20th Oct. 69. and*
3rd Nov. 69. Nos 11/25 and 11/26.

Order thereon November 1869. No 1545

With his letter
dated 7th September last,
Mr. Reade, the Collector
of South Arcot, submits
a Memo describing the
efforts he made, when in
charge of the Consular
Agency at Pondicherry, to
prevent the wholesale rob-
bery of intending Emigrants
by

*Collector in charge of the
Consular Agent's Office,
Pondicherry*
27th Sept 69
28th Sept 69
29th Sept 69
30th Sept 69
1st Oct 69
2nd Oct 69
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by the recruiting Maistries,
and suggesting that the steps
he took with success, may
be continued by Mr. Norfor
the Consular Agent.

2. The steps taken by
Mr. Reade were carefully
to examine the intending
Emigrant on the subject
of monies owing by him
to the recruiting Maistry,
and to reject all improper
charges. Mr. Reade appears
to have disallowed all
advances alleged to have
been made by the recruit-
ing Maistry to the fami-
lies of the intending emi-
grants, all maintenance
charges for more than a
week, and all presents of-
fered by the intending
emigrants to the Maistries
for having recruited them.

3. Mr.

3. Mr. Reade made
these enquiries at the pre-
liminary examination
which is always held by
the Consular Agent be-
fore the coolies are for-
mally registered at the
Depôt in the presence of
the French officials and
the Consular Agent.

4. The sums Mr. Reade
considered justly due by
each emigrant to the re-
cruiting Maistry were
noted down, and, at the
examination at the Depôt,
Mr. Reade refused to sanc-
tion any further pay-
ments, although the coolies,
tutored by the Maistries,
were willing to pay.

5. Mr. Reade met with
great opposition from the
French

French authorities, who, however, yielded on the occasion, and this batch of coolies seem to have got off with a payment, in the presence of the authorities, of 2 or 3 Rs per man, instead of, as usual, 9 or 10. How much they were afterwards fleeced cannot be known, but Mr. Reade supposes they carried away on boardship 10 out of the 15 Rs advance. The French authorities have since formally objected to Mr. Reade's proceedings as an undue interference with the coolies' liberty, and as being likely to impede the recruiting which is recognized by treaty.

6. The Government consider that Mr. Reade was clearly right at his preliminary examination

examination in doing all he could to prevent the intending migrant being cheated, and he would have been justified in refusing to sanction at the formal meeting at the depot, presents alleged to be willingly made by the coolies, as a reward for having recruited them - for, the Maistries are very sufficiently paid for this work. An unreasonable delay in bringing the coolies for examination before the Consular Agent and for registration at the depot by which the maintenance charges are swollen for the profit of the recruiting Agency might also be reasonably objected to. Mr. Reade seems to have been wrong

wrong in refusing altogether
to sanction repayments of
monies, which the coolies
themselves admitted both
before Mr. Reade when
alone, and before the Com-
mittee, to have been made
to their families at the time
they were recruited. It would
be, in many cases, impossi-
ble for the Ministry to prove
the advance to the family
of the recruit, except by
the recruit's own admission.

7. It must also be re-
membered, that the sys-
tem of advances is much
insisted on by the French
authorities as being essen-
tial to their success in
obtaining emigrants, and
that it has been recognized
by the Secretary of State
for India in the despatch
dated 9th July 1868, which

was

was communicated to the
Protector of Emigrants in
Proceedings of Government
19th August 1868, No 1026. It
does not seem necessary, at
present, to add to the instruc-
tions contained in the
G.O. which was issued on the
14th June 1868, No 736. The
course then prescribed will,
if carefully and energetically
observed, afford to the intend-
ing emigrants all the pro-
tection which can reason-
ably be accorded to them.

8. The Government ap-
prove Mr. Reade's sugges-
tion that the examina-
tion and registration of
coolies should be carried
on punctually twice a week
by the Boundary Agent
while emigration is ac-
tively carried on, so
that

that the charges for their maintenance previous to being placed in the depot may not be unnecessarily heavy.

G. His Excellency the Governor in Council was pleased with much satisfaction the great interest that Mr. Reade has taken in the protection of the interests of the coolies from British territory during the time he was in charge of the Consular Agency. His Excellency must also, point out to the Protector of Immigrants that he was wanting in official courtesy in describing Mr. Reade's communication as prolix.

Mr. Horner, the Consular Agent, in making use of the same expression has shown

shown a want of proper respect to his superior officer.

H. That Mr. Reade's laudable efforts to check a system of extortion practiced on the coolies were necessary and well timed, is sufficiently shown by the latest report received from the Protector of Immigrants, dated 3rd Instant from which it appears that of Rs 3906 advanced on a late occasion to a batch of immigrants, 1954 Rs. were paid to the immigrants before the Committee, and that when the coolies left the depot they only took 21 Rs with them on board ship. Thus they spent Rs 1893 while in the Depot

and, as Mr. [redacted]
[redacted], the [redacted] for
the greater part of this
also.

11. An active Consular
Agent, mixing freely and
constantly with the broo-
-lies at the Immigration
depot, should be able to
prevent such gross frauds,
and the Government has
this opportunity of repetition
to Mr. Porfirio, what has
already been communica-
-ted to the Consular
Agents in the Govern-
-ment Order dated 23rd
April 1868, No 504, "that
the greatest importance
is attached by the Gov-
-ernment to the per-
-formance of this part
of the Consular Agents
duties and that, should

it appear that the
of extortion on the part
of the Authorities continues
it will be necessary to
remove the Consular A-
-gent at the settlement
where such extortion is
practised, and to nominate
in his stead, an officer
who is better able to per-
-form the duties required
of him."

To the Protector of Immigrants.

Collector S. H. [redacted] with [redacted]

1868

No 15 ~~Order~~ by the 30th Nov 69
 - 1869
 - 77 July - 131-132
 - 15 - 70-71

Article 1869 Sept

from
 Acad. Studies Bureau
 separately
 No 1869

1869 & 1870

1869

1) French's Proceedings
 of the French Republic
 the International
 Conference held at
 Paris

No 1869 A 30 Nov 69.
 reviewed with the foregoing
 Order that the Minutes of the Proceedings
 of the Municipal Commissioners of Madras
 be published in the Fort St. George Gazette.
 HCL

Proceedings published 30/11

Madras Order

193 & 194