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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

1066

Press
Mis.

Dated

24-8-1870

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

24th August 1870.

No. 125. Read the following Despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 30th June 1870, No. 71, (Public) :—

The Despatches of your Excellency in Council, dated the 25th of January and 15th of March, Nos. 9 and 32 of 1870, on the subject of the proportion of female to male emigrants, has been considered by me in Council.

2. In reply, I forward, for the information of your Lordship in Council, copy of a letter, dated 9th June 1870, with accompaniments, which I have received from the Colonial Office on the subject. The concession made by Earl Granville will probably be of service; but with the reservation thus indicated, I must express my concurrence with the view of your Excellency in Council, that it is undesirable to make any further change in the relative numbers of male and female emigrants.

From Sir F. ROGERS, *Bart.*, to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated Downing Street, London, 9th June 1870.

I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, to be laid before the Duke of Argyll, copy of a letter, dated 26th May 1870, from the Emigration Commissioners having reference to the correspondence with the Government of India on the subject of the proportion of females to males in coolie ships, enclosed in your letter of 5th ultimo.

2. Adverting to the concluding paragraph of Mr. Walcott's letter, I am desired to enclose copy of a letter to the Emigration Commissioners, dated the 1st February 1869, expressing Lord Granville's consent to allow the existing regulation to be relaxed under certain conditions.

From S. WALCOTT, Esq., to Sir F. ROGERS, *Bart.*, dated Emigration Board, 26th May 1870.

I have to acknowledge your letter of 11th instant, with a letter from the India Office, enclosing a correspondence with the Indian Government relative to the proportion of females to males in coolie ships.

2. This is a continuation of the correspondence on the same subject which has been for some time past in progress. The Government of Bengal, in December last, called upon the Emigration Agents at Calcutta for their opinions on the working of the rule which fixes the proportion of female to male emigrants at 40 to 100, and their replies are now sent home.

3. Mr. Eales, the Emigration Agent for Mauritius, thinks that the only remedy against the shipment of prostitutes, or women of loose character, is to revert to the old rate of twenty-five or thirty per cent. of females, with an injunction to the Agents to increase the proportion wherever practicable.

4. Mr. Anderson, the Jamaica Agent, states that, since the despatch of the *Patrician* in December 1868, he has had little or no difficulty in procuring the required number of women, and that it is entirely a matter of money, as, by paying an extra commission of from four rupees to six rupees for each female, he got as many as he wanted.

5. Mr. Warner says that the past and present seasons have in no way altered his views as expressed in the previous correspondence, and that any absolute rule fixing the proportion between the sexes would be impolitic, and for some reasons injurious to emigration.

6. Mr. Jeffrey, the British Guiana Agent, states that he has little to add beyond what is contained in the previous correspondence, except that Earl Granville's decision, which was conveyed

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
24th August 1870.

to us in Sir Francis Sandford's letter of 1st February 1869, and by us communicated to the Agents in India, seems so fair and reasonable a settlement of the question, that he sincerely trusts the Government of India will not disturb it. That decision, which does not appear to have been officially communicated to the Government of India, so far relaxed the existing practice as to allow ships to be despatched with less than the prescribed proportion of females (40 to 100 males) on condition that the proportion should be made up before the close of the season, or, should any deficiency then exist, that it be made good in the first ships of the following season, the number of males being reduced until the balance be restored.

7. Mr. Jeffrey, in accounting for the increased proportion of females recently shipped, added that one of the chief influences which operated in that direction was the necessity imposed on the Agents to receive whole families, which not unfrequently enforced the acceptance of persons both of more advanced and more tender ages than would be considered judicious if labour considerations were alone regarded. He refers to a table in the correspondence, which shows that, from 1859 to 1868, the proportion of females shipped to British Guiana was 25·72 per cent., or nearly thirty-four women to every 100 men. In the season ended March 1869 it had increased to over thirty-seven women.

8. I append a table of the aggregate emigration to the three importing colonies—British Guiana, Trinidad, and Jamaica—for the whole of the season 1869-70, which shows a further increase of females and a further justification of the rule. Out of 10,544 coolies despatched, 3704 were females, or in the proportion of 54·15 to every 100 males.

9. Mr. Grant, the Officiating Protector of Emigrants, commenting on a passage in Mr. Jeffrey's letter, points out as a drawback to the existing rule that the enforced acceptance of families increases the rate of mortality from the additional number of comparatively aged and infirm people and young children who must be taken. This is no doubt true to a certain extent; but a careful selection of the emigrants and judicious treatment on boardship will reduce this evil to a minimum, and the counter-balancing advantages in a moral and social point of view of family emigration form a strong argument in its favour.

10. The Government of India, in forwarding home the present correspondence, adhere to the opinion expressed in their Despatch of 25th of January last, (referred to us in your letter of 9th March last,) that the prescribed proportion of 40 females to 100 males should, at any rate for the present, be maintained.

11. This proportion was fixed by the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos after much deliberation, and I see nothing in the present papers to call for its further relaxation. It is clear that, during the last season, the proportion has not only been reached apparently without much difficulty, but considerably exceeded; and although the mortality of the season has been large in the case of two or three ships to British Guiana, as the *Shund*, *Sophia Joakim*, and *Olive*, that is mainly due to other causes.

12. I would venture to suggest that if Earl Granville's decision of February 1869, relaxing the existing practice, has not already been notified to the Secretary of State for India, it should now be officially communicated with a view to its transmission to the Government of India.

Particulars of Coolie Emigration from Calcutta to the British West Indies for the Season 1869-70.

	Total embarked.	Males.	Females.	Proportion of females to males.
British Guiana	6,685	4,373	2,312	52·86
Trinidad	2,935	1,831	1,104	60·29
Jamaica	924	636	288	45·28
Total...	10,544	6,840	3,704	54·15

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
24th August 1870.

From Sir F. ROGERS, *Bart.*, to the Emigration Commissioners, dated Downing Street, London, 1st February 1869.

I am directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th ultimo, reporting upon Governor Hincks' Despatches, in reference to the rules now in force in regard to the coolie emigration from India.

2. Lord Granville is prepared to sanction the existing practice being so far relaxed as to allow the Agents in India to despatch ships with less than the prescribed proportion, on condition that the proportion is made up before the close of the season. If, in any season, it should appear that this has not been done, the Agent must be required to provide the deficiency in the first ships of the following season, and to reduce the number of male emigrants till the proportion of females has been restored.

3. The Governors of the several West India Colonies interested in the coolie immigration will be informed of this decision of His Lordship by the mail of the 1st instant.

No. 3668.

Copy forwarded to the Government of Fort Saint George for information, with reference to previous correspondence terminating with letter to that Government, No. 162, dated 12th January 1870.

(By order of the Governor-General in Council,)

HOME DEPARTMENT, PUBLIC,
SIMLA, 5th August 1870.

(Signed) W. M. SOUTTAR,
Offg. Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 126. ORDER THEREON, 24th August 1870, No. 1066.

Communicated to the Protector of Emigrants in continuation of G. O., dated the 16th February 1870, No. 181.

(True Extract.)

R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

To the Protector of Emigrants, Madras.

Exd. J. Wright.

Communicating copies of certain papers from the
Home Government on the subject of the proportion
of female to male emigrants.

AUGUST.
Nos. 125-126.

G. O., 24th August 1870, No. 1086.

Recd.

Dated August, 24th.

THE PROTECTOR OF EMIGRANTS.
Madras.

To

PUBLIC.

Cont. of 1870; 30th Aug.

Public.
No. 71.

INDIA OFFICE:
London, the 30th June 1870.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council.

MY LORD,—The despatches of your Excellency in Council, dated the 25th of January and 15th of March, Nos. 9 and 32 of 1870, on the subject of the proportion of female to male emigrants, has been considered by me in Council.

2. In reply, I forward, for the information of your Lordship in Council, copy of a letter,* with accompaniments, which I have received from the Colonial Office on the subject. The concession made by Earl Granville will probably be of service; but with the reservation thus indicated, I must express my concurrence with the view of your Excellency in Council, that it is undesirable to make any further change in the relative numbers of male and female emigrants.

I have the honor to be,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servant,

ARGYLL.

Dated Downing Street, London, the 9th June 1870.

From—SIR F. ROGERS, Bart.,

To—The Under Secretary of State for India.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, to be laid before the Duke of Argyll, copy of a letter* from the Emigration Commissioners having reference to the correspondence with the Government of India on the subject of the proportion of females to males in coolie ships, enclosed in your letter of 5th ultimo.

Adverting to the concluding paragraph of Mr. Walcott's letter, I am desired to enclose copy of a letter to the Emigration Commissioners, dated 1st February 1869, expressing Lord Granville's consent to allow the existing regulation to be relaxed under certain conditions.

Dated Emigration Board, the 26th May 1870.

From—S. WALCOTT, Esq.,

To—SIR F. ROGERS, Bart.

I HAVE to acknowledge your letter of 11th instant, with a letter from the India Office, enclosing a correspondence with the Indian Government relative to the proportion of females to males in coolie ships.

2. This is a continuation of the correspondence on the same subject which has been for some time past in progress. The Government of Bengal in December last called upon the Emigration Agents at Calcutta for their opinions on the working of the rule which fixes the proportion of female to male emigrants at 40 to 100, and their replies are now sent home.

3. Mr. Eales, the Emigration Agent for Mauritius, thinks that the only remedy against the shipment of prostitutes, or women of loose character, is to revert to the old rate of 25 or 30 per cent. of females, with an injunction to the Agents to increase the proportion wherever practicable.

4. Mr. Anderson, the Jamaica Agent, states that since the despatch of the *Patrician* in December 1868, he has had little or no difficulty in procuring the required number of women, and that it is entirely a matter of money, as by paying an extra commission of from four Rupees to six Rupees for each female he got as many as he wanted.

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T. Warner, Esq.
W. J. Jeffrey, Esq.
W. M. Anderson, Esq.

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7. Mr. Jeffrey in accounting for the increased proportion of females recently shipped, added that one of the chief influences which operated in that direction was the necessity imposed on the Agents to receive whole families which not unfrequently enforced the acceptance of persons both of more advanced and more tender ages than would be considered judicious if labor considerations were alone regarded. He refers to a Table in the correspondence, which

Males	...	...	6,840
Females	...	...	3,704
Total	...	...	10,544

shows that from 1859 to 1868 the proportion of females shipped to British Guiana was 25.72 per cent. or nearly 34 women to every 100 men. In the season ended March 1869 it had increased to over 54 women.

8. I append a Table of the aggregate emigration to the three importing colonies—British Guiana, Trinidad, and Jamaica—for the whole of the season 1869-70, which shows a further increase of females and a further justification of the rule. Out of 10,544 coolies despatched, 3,704 were females, or in the proportion of 54.15 to every 100 males.

9. Mr. Grant, the Officiating Protector of Emigrants, commenting on a passage in Mr. Jeffrey's letter, points out as a drawback to the existing rule, that the enforced acceptance of families increases the rate of mortality from the additional number of comparatively aged and infirm people and young children who must be taken. This is no doubt true to a certain extent; but a careful selection of the emigrants and judicious treatment on board ship will reduce this evil to a minimum, and the counter-balancing advantages in a moral and social point of view of family emigration form a strong argument in its favor.

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11. This proportion was fixed by the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos after much deliberation, and I see nothing in the present papers to call for its further relaxation. It is clear that, during the last season the proportion has not only been reached apparently without much difficulty, but considerably exceeded; and although the mortality of the season has been large in the case of two or three ships to British Guiana, as the *Shand*, *Sophia Joakim*, and *Clive*, that is mainly due to other causes.

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Trinidad	2,035	1,831	1,104	60.29
Jamaica	924	636	288	45.23
Total	10,544	6,840	3,704	54.15

Dated Downing Street, London, the 1st February 1869.

From—SIR F. ROBERTS, Bart.,
To—The Emigration Commissioners.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th ultimo, reporting upon Governor Hincks's despatches, in reference to the rules now in force in regard to the coolie emigration from India.

Lord Granville is prepared to sanction the existing practice being so far relaxed as to allow the agents in India to despatch ships with less than the prescribed proportion, on condition that the proportion is made up before the close of the season. If, in any season, it should appear that this has not been done, the agent must be required to provide the deficiency in the first ships of the following season, and to reduce the number of male emigrants till the proportion of females has been restored.

The Governors of the several West India colonies interested in the coolie immigration will be informed of this decision of His Lordship by the mail of the 1st instant.

No. 3608

COPY forwarded to the Government of *Port St. George* for information, with reference to previous correspondence terminating with letter to *His* Government, *10. 62. 27 12. January 1870.*

By Order of the Governor General in Council,

HOME DEPARTMENT,
PUBLIC;
Simla, the 5th August 1870.

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India

16 Aug 70 66-61

Order. Acknowledged 24. August 70. No 1066.
Communicated to the Protector
of Emigrants in continuation of G. O.
of the 16. January 70. and 6. 187.

To the Protector of Emigrants.
London, 24. 8. 70

MR
20 Columns

Article (18. 70) No 1066

15
To the
the Off. Sec. Sec. the
your duties, these days
No 3668

dated 5. August
No 1066

Transmitted, for information
a statement from the
Secy. of State Department
in letter, with its details
transmitted received from
the Colonial Office in
the subject of the
Porter & female
male emigrants

10/10/70
10/11/70

Not in order

Cont. of 1870: 30 Adams.

Public

The Protector of Emigrants.
Madras.

Dated Aug. 24.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 26 Aug. 1870, No. 125.

Nos. 125, 126.

Comm. Copies of certain papers
from the Home Govt. on the subject
of the proportion of female
to male Emigrants.