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M.R.O. 1-82,400-22-11-20

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	552	Press
	(6-7)	Mis.
Dated	4-5-	1870

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
4th May 1870.*

No. 6. Read the following letter from the Protector of Emigrants, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 4th March 1870, No. 26-W.

I have the honour to forward, herewith, copy of a letter from the British Consular Agent, Pondicherry, with reference to paragraphs 4, 5, and 6 of Mr. Reade's letter to Government of 11th January 1870, No. 9.

From the British Consular Agent, to the Protector of Emigrants, Madras, dated Pondicherry, 3rd March 1870, No. 455.

I have the honour to request you will forward to Government the following explanation of the 4th, 5th, and 6th paragraphs of Mr. Reade's letter, dated Chinna Salem, 11th January 1870, No. 9 :—

2. In Government Order of 30th November 1869, No. 1645, paragraph 10, it is said, "that by the latest report received from the Protector of Emigrants, dated 3rd instant, 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 Rupees 61 with them on boardship. Thus they spent Rupees 1893 whilst in the depôt, and, as Mr. Blair supposes, the recruiters got the best part of this also."

3. In explanation of this I beg to say the recruiters did not get a single pice of this money. The whole of the Rupees 3906 was paid into the hands of the coolies, and they before the Committee paid the maistries Rupees 1954, the balance Rupees 1952 they took into the depôt with them, and there they spent it for their own wants; for when once a cooly goes into the depôt, the recruiting maistry can have no communication with him, it is prohibited by the Police regulation referred to in paragraph 31 of the French Act of 1st July 1861, and if this order was not strictly carried out, the Agent would get into very serious trouble. The coolies have, however, every facility within the depôt for spending their money, as there are bazaars within the depôt as provided for in above-mentioned French Act, paragraph 23, where they may purchase provisions, wearing apparel, &c., &c., and if there is any thing the cooly wants that is not in the depôt, the bazaar-man sends for it. It will easily be understood from this how the Rupees 7 or 7½ on an average is spent by them, and, therefore, it is not probable they have any money left to take on boardship with them.

4. I must again repeat that the men never made any complaints to me, nor did they do so to Mr. Reade; so that to introduce the subject he was obliged to recur to the old complaints made by the Consul at Réunion. On looking at those complaints in their true light, what do they amount to?

5. That twenty-two ships sailed to Réunion, out of which there are complaints from only four, and on those four vessels the average of complaints amount only to three per cent.

Ship *Segisbart Casar*, 450 men, 7 complaints.

„ *Santiago*, 450 „ 5 „

„ *Samarang*, 450 „ 9 „

„ *Northumberland*, 450 „ 36 „

1,800 57, three per cent.

6. Surely this is rather a low average than otherwise allowing the complaints to have been true, but there was much doubt on the subject, and on some points positive proof to the contrary of what the coolies stated. In fact, the Consul's reports were very much exaggerated, in consequence of his evident ignorance of the untruthfulness of the class of natives from which these men are drawn.

7. The statement that the men of the *Eugenie* and *Anna* took so much money with them, as to make it a remarkable fact, has been shown to have no reliable foundation indeed; the Consul's report on the *Anna* points to the contrary. As to the *Eugenie* I have already

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

4th May 1870.

shown no inquiry was recently made, so that if those vessels are to be, as stated in paragraph 2, the practical test of a system, it cannot but be observed that this test has altogether failed.

8. My report to Mr. Blair has been "designated a serious mis-statement," and I have been called upon to retract. I, therefore, beg Government will give my explanation all the publicity that is due both to Mr. Blair and myself, and I beg Government to believe I am not so ignorant and negligent of my duties as that Memorandum to the Chief Secretary tended to show. I have doubtless my own way of conducting the duties, but latitude is given me by the Secretary of State himself, and so long as the general results are what

See para. 20 at foot.

Mr. Reade shows them to be in paragraph 20 of his Memorandum to the Chief Secretary of 7th September 1869, I consider that I am entitled to praise rather than censure, especially as the statements tending to my disadvantage are proved to be utterly without foundation.

Paragraph 20. (Mr. Reade's report to the Chief Secretary to Government.)

'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 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. 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.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. H. BLAIR,
Protector of Emigrants.

No. 7.

ORDER THEREON, 4th May 1870, No. 552.

Recorded with reference to Despatch to Secretary of State, dated 26th ultimo, No. 11, on the *Eugenie* and *Anna*, Emigrant ships.

(True Extract.)

R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

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Protectors Office
Madras 14th March 1870

From J. Hunter Blair Esq.
Protector of Emigrants

To J. S. Minchin Esq.
Acting Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George

Sir,
I have the honor to forward
herewith Copy of a letter from the
British Consular Agent Pondicherry
with reference to Paras 4, 5, & 6 of
Mr. Reade's letter to Government of
January 11-1870 &c. &c.

I have the honor to be

Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servt.

J. Hunter Blair
Protector of Emigrants

Govt. of 1870 Madras.

PUBLIC.

Dated May, 4th.
Recd.

G. O., 4th May 1870, No. 552.

MAY.
Nos. 6-7.

Receiving letter from the Protector of Emi-
grants enclosing one from the British Consular
Agent Pondicherry respecting the emigrants
per *Tyger* and *Alone*.

Sept 1870 del'd
from

The Selection of
Emigrants
to the N. W. Co.
Secretary to the
General Agent

Dated 12th } March 1870
Dyke & }
Reed 5th }
No 353. }
X

Forwards Copy

of a letter from the
British Consul
Agent London
with reference to
Hans 4. 5. 8 of 1870

Reader's letter to

Department of

Foreign Affairs
London
11th - 1870
No 353
12th March 1870
12th March 1870
12th March 1870

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Govt. of 1870 Madras.

Public.

Dated May. 4.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 4 May.

1870, No. 552

Nos. 6. 7.

Recording letter from the
Protector of Emigrants enclosing
one from British Consular
Agent at Pondicherry respecting
the Emigrants per Eugenie &
Anna.