

Original Report 15-4
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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	81	Press Mis.
Dated	20 1-	19 1871

Not to be folded or roughly handled

INDIA OFFICE;
London, the 6th October 1870.

Public
No. 91.

To His Excellency The Right Hon'ble The GOVERNOR
GENERAL of India in Council.

My LORD,—I forward herewith, for the information of Your
Letter from Foreign Office, 5th September 1870, and enclosure.
Letter to Foreign Office, 16th September 1870.
Excellency in Council, a copy of a correspondence which has taken place between this Department and the Foreign Office, relative to a scheme of recruitment for Queensland of contract-expired British Indian coolies in the French Colony of Réunion, proposed to be carried into execution by a French Merchant resident in the Island.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble Servant,
ARGYLL.

Dated Foreign Office, the 5th September 1870.

From—O. D. O. RUSSELL, Esq.,

To—H. MERIVALE, Esq., C. B., Under Secy. of State for India.

With reference to your letter of the 4th March last, I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Duke of Argyll, for any observation His Grace may have to make thereupon, a copy of a despatch* from Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion, requesting to be informed whether he is to give any encouragement to a scheme set on foot by a French Merchant resident there, for the recruitment in the colony of a limited number of British Indian coolies whose engagements have expired, with a view to employment under fresh contracts in Queensland.

I am to add that Lord Granville conceives that in any case it would be highly objectionable that the recruitment in question should have an official character.

No. 32, dated Réunion, the 13th July 1870.

From—W. SEGRAVE, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion,

To—The EARL of CLARENDON, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

A MONSIEUR DOWDIN, a French Merchant, residing in this place, informs me that he has been commissioned by a correspondent in Queensland to inquire whether there would be any Consular objection to the recruitment in this colony of a limited number of British Indian coolies, whose industrial engagements having expired, might be willing to enter into fresh contracts for Queensland.

I have informed M. Dowdin in reply, that providing the local Administration authorize his proceedings, that the Government of Queensland are willing to receive these people on the terms of their engagements, and finally, that the sanction of Her Majesty's Government be obtained, I shall afford him any facilities in my power for carrying out the objects he has in view.

I have addressed the Government of Queensland by the out-going mail with reference to M. Dowdin's proposal.

I have, therefore, now to solicit Your Lordship's instructions as to whether and what encouragement should be afforded by this Consulate in carrying out the proposed emigration.

As recruiting for the French Settlements in New Caledonia is being carried on in the colony with the knowledge and sanction of the local Administration, they can hardly object to French subjects entering upon the same business for Queensland.

Dated India Office, London, the 16th September 1870.

From—H. MERIVALE, Esq., Under Secretary of State for India,
To—The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Russell's letter of the 5th instant, forwarding, for any observations which His Grace may desire to offer, copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion, soliciting instructions as to whether any and what encouragement should be given by the Consulate to the execution of a scheme of recruitment for Queensland of contract-expired coolies at Réunion, proposed by a French Merchant in that colony to be put in force.

In reply, I am to request that you will inform Earl Granville, that in accordance with the views repeatedly expressed by this Department in the case of re-emigration of coolies from Réunion and other colonies, French or British, the Duke of Argyll in Council is of opinion that the function of British Consuls in Foreign Colonies under the Convention ceases when coolies re-emigrate. From thenceforth they are no longer under the stipulations, nor subject to the supervision, sanctioned by that instrument. How far the British Consul is justified in advising these people on the subject of re-emigration, not in his special duty under the Convention, but in his general character of Consular Officer, is a question which can only, as it seems, be dealt with by the Officer himself in the exercise of prudence and moderation. But any systematic interference to induce them to seek British rather than Foreign Colonies is, of course, to be avoided; and His Grace fully agrees with Lord Granville that it would be exceedingly objectionable to give an official character to any recruitment of coolies at Réunion for Queensland, or to allow such recruitment to be conducted under the superintendence of British Officers.

No. 5276

Copy forwarded to the Government of Madras for information.

By Order of the Governor General in Council,

FORT WILLIAM,
HOME DEPARTMENT,
PUBLIC;

The November 1870.

2 Decr.

Offg. Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Wm. Suttar

Public 1870 DEPARTMENT.

From *Offg. Under*
Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Home Department.

No. 5276

Dated *2nd Dec*
Received *15* / *70*
6 S. copies

No. 2141

*Forwarding correspondence
received from the Home Govt
relative to scheme of
recruitment for Queensland
of contract-expired British
Indian coolies in the French
Colony of Réunion proposed
to be carried out by a French
merchant resident in the Island*

With an order.

*20th Decy: 1871 No 81.
Communicated to the Public
of Emigrants -
N.
To the Protector of
Emigrants despatch
76-77.*

*C. 19/12 - C. 4/1/7.
R 24 - R 18*

4-8-85

Govt of India

Public
The Protector of Emigrants.

Dated Jan. 20.

Recd.

G. O. Jan. 21.

Nos. 76.77.

Coming. Correspondence from the
Home Govt. received thro' the Govt.
of India relative to a Scheme of
recruitment for Queensland of
Contract. Required British Indian
Coolies in the French Colony of
Reunion proposed to be carried
out by a French merchant re-
sident in the Island.