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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<i>864</i>	Press
		Mis.
Dated	<i>16-6-</i>	<i>19 1871</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department.

16th June 1871.

No. 145. 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, 12th April 1871, No. 29 (Public):—

In continuation of my despatch of the 9th ultimo, No. 18, I forward, for the information of your Excellency in Council, a copy of a despatch* from the Officer superintending the Government of Mauritius, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with its enclosure,† on the subject of the proposal of the Government of Bengal for the transmission of indents from the Colonies for labourers a year in advance. I also enclose a copy of a letter,‡ addressed by desire of the Earl of Kimberley to this Department, containing the substance of His Lordship's reply to Governor Smyth's despatch on this question.

* Dated 1st February 1871, No. 20, Miscellaneous.

† Protector of Emigrants, Mauritius, 21st January 1871.

‡ Dated 24th March 1871.

From Major-General E. SELBY SMYTH, to the Right Honourable the Earl of Kimberley, &c., &c., dated Mauritius, 1st February 1871, No. 20.

With reference to the instructions contained in your Lordship's Despatch, No. 66, of 27th October last, directing me to report whether indents on India for labourers might not in future be forwarded with advantage a full year in advance, I have now the honour to enclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a report§ on the subject from the Protector of Immigrants.

§ Dated 21st January 1871.

2. I quite concur with the Protector in thinking such an arrangement undesirable. It would be, in fact, as observed by the Protector, a return to the system which was adopted here previous to 1859, and which was abandoned in consequence of the inconvenience that it occasioned. The demand for labour is so dependent on the prospects of the crops, which are influenced principally by the greater or less quantity of rainfall, that it would be impossible to calculate the requirements of agriculture so long beforehand. The supply of labour received would, as was formerly the case, be found either to be altogether insufficient, or Government would experience some difficulty in disposing of the surplus, whose services, owing to a season of drought, might not be required by the planter.

From H. U. D. BEYTS, Esq., Protector of Immigrants, Mauritius, to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, dated 21st January 1871.

Adverting to the Assistant Colonial Secretary's letter, No. 301-D, dated 30th ultimo, enclosing copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State, and extracts from a report of the Emigration Commissioners on the subject of emigration from India to the British Colonies in 1869-70, I beg to submit the following remarks.

2. The Protector of Emigrants at Calcutta, with the view of reducing mortality amongst emigrants at sea, has proposed in his last annual report that the numbers of emigrants to be embarked in future be limited to 3,000 souls for places west of the Cape of Good Hope, and to 4,000 for places east of the Cape.

3. The Government of Bengal, to whose consideration the proposal was submitted, immediately recognised the inexpediency of giving effect to it, and declared that "no case had been made out for a change in the existing system."

Vide letter of Secretary to Government of Bengal, to Protector of Emigrants, Calcutta, dated 29th October 1870.

4. The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, however, called upon the Emigration Agents at Calcutta to bring the matter to the notice of their respective Colonies, with a view to a year's notice being given of the number of emigrants required by each of them.

5. The Secretary of State, referring to the matter in his despatch, desires that the attention of importers of labour in this Colony be drawn to "the advantages which may be expected to arise

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

16th June 1871.

from their forwarding their indents a full year in advance," and requests that a report be forwarded to him as to the possibility of carrying out such an arrangement.

6. I beg to state that I do not think it advisable to adopt any such arrangements. It would hardly be possible to say, with any degree of certainty, a full year in advance, what the requirements of the Colony are likely to be in regard to labour. The requirements fluctuate very much; they are wholly dependent on the prospects held out by the weather. When the plantations assume a promising appearance, more labour is naturally bestowed on them than when the outturn seems likely to be unremunerative.

7. Even were it not so, I should, for other important reasons, deprecate a return to the system of arbitrarily fixing beforehand the number of immigrants to be introduced. This system was tried here before 1859, and was found to be attended with great disadvantages. The numbers of labourers imported either fell short of the actual wants of the Colony, which created well-founded discontent, and checked the development of agriculture when its development was certain to be profitable, or exceeded the actual wants, which led to endless embarrassments. Such being the effects of introducing labour in anticipation of demands, the system was renounced, and to revert to it now would not only be a retrograde step, but one which most certainly would either again involve the Government in difficulties, or prove quite unsatisfactory to the planters of the Island.

Nor can we think of making it a rule that the requisitions for immigrants shall be filed, *i. e.*, presented a year in advance when the varying circumstances to which our agriculture is liable do not allow its wants to be measured so long beforehand.

From ROBERT GEORGE HERBERT, Esq., to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated Downing Street, 24th March 1871.

With reference to my letter, dated the 26th of October last, I am directed by the Earl of Kimberly to transmit to you, for the information of the Duke of Argyll, the copy of a despatch* from the Officer administering the Government of Mauritius, enclosing a letter from the Protector of Immigrants in that Colony, stating the objections which exist to the proposed system that requisitions for immigrants from India should be prepared in Mauritius a year in advance.

2. Having regard to the views thus expressed by Mr. Bayts, and after reference to the Emigration Commissioners, Lord Kimberley has informed the Governor that he will not insist upon the proposed modification, but that care should be taken, as far as possible, so to distribute the demand for immigrants as to avoid any crowding in the Indian depôts.

No. 2468.

Copy forwarded to the Government of Fort St. George, for information, with reference to previous correspondence ending with endorsement, No. 2046, dated the 27th April last.

(By order of the Governor-General of India in Council.)

HOME DEPARTMENT, PUBLIC, (Signed) J. GEOGHEGAN,
SIMLA, 19th May 1871. Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 146. ORDER THEREON, 16th June 1871, No. 864.
Communicated to the Protector of Emigrants.
(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Protector of Emigrants.
Exd. J. Wright.

INDIA OFFICE;
London, the 12th April 1871.

P u b l i c .

No. 29.

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

MY LORD,—In continuation of my despatch of the 9th ultimo, No. 18, I forward, for the information of your Excellency in Council, a copy of a despatch* from the Officer Superintending the Government of Mauritius, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with its enclosure,† on the subject of the proposal of the Government of Bengal for the transmission of Indents from the Colonies for laborers a year in advance. I also enclose a copy of a letter‡ addressed by desire of the Earl of Kimberley to this Department, containing the substance of his Lordship's reply to Governor Smyth's despatch on this question.

I have the honor to be,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble Servant,

ARGYLL.

No. 20, dated Mauritius, the 1st February 1871.

From—MAJOR-GENERAL E. SELBY SMYTH.

To—The Right Hon'ble the EARL OF KIMBERLEY, &c., &c., &c.

WITH reference to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 66 of 27th October last, directing me to report whether indents on India for laborers might not in future be forwarded with advantage a full year in advance, I have now the honor to enclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a Report* on the subject from the Protector of Immigrants.

2. I quite concur with the Protector in thinking such an arrangement undesirable. It would be, in fact, as observed by the Protector, a return to the system which was adopted here previous 1859, and which was abandoned in consequence of the inconvenience that it occasioned. The demand for labor is so dependent on the prospects of the crops, which are influenced principally by the greater or less quantity of rain-fall, that it would be impossible to calculate the requirements of agriculture so long beforehand. The supply of labor received would, as was formerly the case, be found either to be altogether insufficient, or Government would experience some difficulty in disposing of the surplus, whose services, owing to a season of drought, might not be required by the planter.

Dated the 21st January 1871.

From—H. U. D. BEYTS, Esq., Protector of Immigrants, Mauritius.

To—The Hon'ble the Colonial Secretary.

ADVERTING to the Assistant Colonial Secretary's letter No. 301D, dated 30th ultimo, enclosing copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State, and extracts from a report of the Emigration Commissioners on the subject of emigration from India to the British Colonies in 1869-70, I beg to submit the following remarks.

2. The Protector of Emigrants at Calcutta, with the view of reducing mortality amongst emigrants at Sea, has proposed in his last annual report that the numbers of emigrants to be embarked in future be limited to 3,000 souls for places West of the Cape of Good Hope, and to 4,000 for places East of the Cape.

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PUBLIC

THE PROTECTOR OF EMIGRANTS

Dated June, 1677.

Recd.

G. O., 16th June 1871, No. 864

Free

JUNE

Nos. 145-146

Communicating copy of papers from the Home Government, forwarded by the Government of India, on the subject of the proposal of the Bengal Government for the emancipation of indentured labourers a year in advance.

3. The Government of Bengal, to whose consideration the proposal was submitted, immediately recognised the inexpediency of giving effect to it, and declared that "no case had been made out for a change in the existing system."

Vide letter of Secretary to Government of Bengal, to Protector of Emigrants, Calcutta, dated 29th October 1870.

4. The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, however, called upon the Emigration Agents at Calcutta to bring the matter to the notice of their respective Colonies, with a view to a year's notice being given of the number of emigrants required by each of them.

5. The Secretary of State, referring to the matter in his despatch, desires that the attention of importers of labor in this Colony be drawn to "the advantages which may be expected to arise from their forwarding their indentments a full year in advance," and requests that a report be forwarded to him as to the probability of carrying out such an arrangement.

6. I beg to state that I do not think it advisable to adopt any such arrangements. It would hardly be possible to say, with any degree of certainty, a full year in advance, what the requirements of the Colony are likely to be in regard to labor. The requirements fluctuate very much; they are wholly dependent on the prospects held out by the weather. When the plantations assume a promising appearance, more labor is naturally bestowed on them than when the outturn seems likely to be unremunerative.

7. Even were it not so, I should, for other important reasons, deprecate a return to the system of arbitrarily fixing beforehand the number of immigrants to be introduced. This system was tried here before 1859, and was found to be attended with great disadvantages. The numbers of laborers imported either fell short of the actual wants of the Colony, which created well founded discontent, and checked the development of agriculture when its development was certain to be profitable, or exceeded the actual wants, which led to endless embarrassments. Such being the effects of introducing labor in anticipation of demands, the system was renounced, and to revert to it now would not only be a retrograde step, but one which most certainly would either again involve the Government in difficulties or prove quite unsatisfactory to the planters of the Island.

Nor can we think of making it a rule that the requisitions for immigrants shall be filed, *i. e.*, presented a year in advance when the varying circumstances to which our agriculture is liable do not allow its wants to be measured so long beforehand.

Dated Downing Street, the 24th March 1871.

From—ROBERT GEORGE HERBERT, Esq.

To—The Under Secretary of State for India.

WITH reference to my letter dated the 26th of October last, I am directed by the Earl of Kimberley to transmit to you, for the information of the Duke of Argyll, the copy of a despatch* from the Officer administering the Government of Mauritius, enclosing a letter from the Protector of Immigrants in that Colony, stating the objections which exist to the proposed system that requisitions for immigrants from India should be prepared in Mauritius a year in advance.

2. Having regard to the views thus expressed by Mr. Beyts, and after reference to the Emigration Commissioners, Lord Kimberley has informed the Governor that he will not insist upon the proposed modification, but that care should be taken, as far as possible, so to distribute the demand for immigrants as to avoid any crowding in the Indian depôts.

No. 2468

COPY forwarded to the Government of *Fort George* for information, with reference to previous correspondence ending with endorsement No. 2046, dated the 27th April last.

By Order of the Governor General of India in Council,

HOME DEPARTMENT,

PUBLIC;

Simla, the 19 May 1871.

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Indians.

16 June 1871 No 864.
 Communicated to the District
 of Immigration. *W. H.*
 W. H. District of Immigration
 145-146.

Public 1871 Department
 Under Secy. of State
 Home Department
 No 2468.

27th 28th May/71.
 S.C. No 1063

Towards Secy of
 Treas. received from the
 Home Secy. on the subject
 of the proposal of the Bengal
 Govt. for the transmission
 of students from the Province
 for education & for in return

With an order..

Govt. of 1871 Madras.

Public

The Protector of Emigrants.

Dated June. 16.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 16 June , 1871, No 564

Nos 145. 146.

Commng. Copy of papers from the
Home Govt. forwarded by the
Govt. of India, on the subject of
the proposal of the Bengal
Govt. for the transmission of
Indents from the Colonies for
labours a year in advance.