

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	11	Press
		Mis.
Dated	25-1-	19 18/11

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 99.

FROM

THE HON. R. S. ELLIS, C.B.,

Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

HOME DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

In reply to the endorsement of the Government of India, dated 19th December 1870, No. 5580, I am directed to submit the following tabular statement showing the number of cases of suicide which have occurred in this Presidency, during the five years prior to 1870, among a population which, by the last census, amounted to 26,539,136:—

Year.	Suicides by males.	Suicides by females.	Proportion of cases of suicides to each million of the population.
1865	482	760	46.79
1866	594	794	52.30
1867	492	798	48.60
1868	516	784	48.98
1869	566	829	52.56

2. This calculation shows that the crime of suicide is less rife in the Madras Presidency than it is in England, and that the proportion of suicides to the entire population is far less than in the case of the emigrants at the Mauritius. But in India the poorest class, from which emigrants are supplied, is the class which is most prone to suicide, and this circumstance may partially account for the contrast between the two rates. Still the extreme prevalence of the crime in the Mauritius demands, in the opinion of this Government, rigid investigation.

3. A report on the subject indicated in the endorsement of the Government of India, dated 2nd September 1870, No. 4016, will be submitted hereafter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

FORT SAINT GEORGE,

25th January 1871.

Chief Secretary.

Ed. J. Wright.

June 1871 Dept

From Government of

Fort Saint George.

Dated 25th Jan. 1871. } No.
 } Enclosures
 } Spare copies

D. No. } D.
 } Procs.
L. No. 93. } No.

Submitting a tabular statement showing the number of cases of suicide which have occurred in this Presidency during the five years prior to 1870.

INDIA OFFICE;
London, the 10th November 1870.

Public.
No. 107.

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

MY LORD,—In continuation of my despatch of the 21st of July last, No. 79, transmitting the Report of the Immigration Agent of Mauritius for the year 1869, I forward, for the information of your Lordship in Council, copy of a letter* from the Colonial Office, with its enclosure, commenting on the frequency of the crime of suicide among the Indian laborers in Mauritius.

2. I desire that the attention of your Government may be directed to the question put by the Earl of Kimberley, and that your Excellency in Council will favor me with your opinion upon it.

I have the honor to be,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble Servant,

ARGYLL.

Dated Downing Street, the 15th October 1870.

From—ROBERT G. W. HERBERT, Esq.,
To—H. MERIVALE, Esq., C. B., Under Secretary of State.

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to transmit to you, to be laid before the Duke of Argyll, an extract from the Annual Report of the Officer of the Civil Status in Mauritius, commenting on the frequency of the crime of suicide among the Indian laborers in that Island.

Lord Kimberley would be glad to know whether the same tendency is observed in India among the class from which the Mauritius immigrants are derived.

Extract from the Report of the Acting Officer of the Civil Status for the year 1869 (Mauritius).

THE number of suicides was nearly the same in each quarter of the year, and is maintained year after year with deplorable regularity. I had been led into an error, when I stated in a previous report that all the suicides, with one exception, had occurred amongst the Indian population. A careful search into the registers gives the following results:—Eighty-one Indians, two Chinese, five Creoles, and two Europeans. Suicide has become a thing of such frequent occurrence among the Indians as to have ceased to cause a sensation. But certain questions naturally occur

to the reflecting mind—Are the Indians as a race in their own country prone to suicide? If not, what are the local circumstances and conditions which make the crime so common in Mauritius? The average annual number of suicides in England is 65 to 1,000,000 persons living against 270 in Mauritius.

No. 5580 *Madras*

Copy forwarded to the Government of *Madras* for report, in continuation of endorsement Nos. ~~4015-17~~ *4016*, dated the 2nd September last.

By Order of the Governor General in Council,

FORT WILLIAM,
HOME DEPARTMENT,
PUBLIC;
The 19 December 1870.

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

This copy of the report by the Madras Govt. is to be sent to the Secy. to the Govt. of India.

5580

6.12 10.22.30

Received from the Secy. to the Govt. of India the report on the frequency of the crime of suicide among the European laborers in Mauritius.

Under Secretary Secy. to the Govt. of India

Public. 1870 Report

Public Department.

No. 99.

To

The Secretary to the Government of India.

Home Department.

Sir,

In reply to the endorsement of the Government of India dated 19 December 1870 No. 5580, I am directed to submit the following Tabular Statement showing the number of cases of suicide which have occurred in this Presidency prior to 1870 during the last five years among a population which, by the last census, amounted to 26,539,136.

Year	Suicides by males.	Suicides by females.	Proportion of cases of suicides to each million of the population.
1865	482	760	46.79
1866	594	794	52.30
1867	492	778	48.60
1868	516	704	48.98
1869	566	829	52.56

2. This calculation shows that the crime of suicide is less ripe in the Madras Presidency than it is in England.

Memorandum
for the Secretary

18 . Department

No.

To

The Secretary to the
Government of
Department

Dated 187 .

91-92

Home 187. Dept.

From Government of

Fort St. George.

Dated *Aug 25* 187.

No.
Enclosures.
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R.

D. No.

Progs.

D.

L. No. *99*

No.

Nos. *91.92.*

Submitted by
Statement showing the number
of cases of suicide which
have occurred in this
Presidency during the five
years prior to 1870.