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 (2) Date of repair march 1887 ✓  
 (3) Initials of the Referencer \_\_\_\_\_

# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

*Sub* DEPARTMENT

*Core*

|          |               |        |
|----------|---------------|--------|
| G.O. No. | 1978A.        | Press. |
| B.P. No. |               | Mis.   |
| Dated    | 16. 11. 1881. | 197.   |

*Not to be folded or roughly handled*

*17*

1628

Sir J. A. Webb to the Earl of Kimberley

(Copy)

1978 A.

Straits Settlements

N<sup>o</sup>

Government House,

Singapore,

30<sup>th</sup> April 1881.

My Lord,

6 copies made 3/81

I have the honour to forward to  
your Lordship the annual report of the  
Protector of Indian Immigrants for the  
year 1880

I may state that the points raised  
by the Protector in this report will be  
dealt with as far as may seem  
advisable in the Bill to amend ordinance  
of 1871 which I propose to submit to  
your Lordship at an early date.

The Right Honourable

The Earl of Kimberley

1881

Colonial Office

3 The

3 The question of improving the registration of births and deaths and of granting additional facilities for education are being now considered.

4 I have not neglected to notice the high death rate on the Batu Kawan Estate and I enclose copies of the letter addressed to the Manager and his reply. I shall continue to watch the returns from this Estate.

5 Copies of the Protector's Report have been sent to the Government of India and the Government of Madras.

I have &c

(Sd) Fred. A. W. C.

Governor

The Colonial Secretary Singapore to J. M.  
Vermont, Manager, Batu Kawan Estate  
Province Wellesley. 1978A  
3

Copy

Peng: 1876  
81

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Singapore, 16<sup>th</sup> March 1881.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to state  
that His Excellency's attention has been  
drawn to the return for the half year  
ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 1880 of Deaths,  
Diseases &c on the Estates in Province  
Wellesley, from which it appears that  
there were 21 deaths among the Indian  
Coolies on Batu Kawan Estate during  
the half year.

2 His Excellency has called upon the  
Protector of Immigrants, and the  
Medical Officers for their opinions on

this

1978A  
24  
this subject, and they agree in  
recommending that the medical officer  
at his weekly visit, should pick out  
the sickly Coolies, and that they should  
be put on cooked rations and required  
to do only lighter work.

I His Excellency desires me to add  
that he concurs in the recommendation  
and trusts that you will be able to  
carry it into effect.

I have &c

(Sd) P. C. Smith

Colonial Secretary

J. M. Vermont, Province Wellesley, to  
Colonial Secretary, Singapore

Copy

1978  
5

Batu Karwan Estate,  
Province Wellesley,

25<sup>th</sup> March 1881.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge  
your letter P.G. 12968, dated 16<sup>th</sup> March  
1881, informing me that His Excellency  
the Governor's attention has been drawn  
to the Returns for the half year ended  
31<sup>st</sup> December, of Deaths, Dispositions &c,  
on the Estates in Province Wellesley --  
from which it appears that there were  
21 deaths among the Indian Coolies on  
this Estate during that period.

I do not regret, more than myself this

mortality,

Y

1978A

mortality, but, when the facts are known and impartially considered, it will be found that many of these deaths have been accelerated, if not brought on directly, by the indiscretion of the parties themselves.

3 Their morbid desire to steal and eat unwholesome things such as, unripe fruit, fish caught in the ... uncooked rice, and sweet potatoes, sugar cane dhole and coconut, drinking raw cane juice with lime juice, arrack or bad toddy, eating meat that has died from disease, shulking from work by hiding themselves in the fields and jungles, exposed to the vicissitudes of weather. I think that these things combined must tend to induce ... diarrhoea which they neglect to report until attention is called to it by their

& associated

1978A

emaciated appearance; the result is  
that, if of a naturally weakly nature  
they succumb to the disease from  
sheer debility, in spite of every care  
and attention. These statements are  
not mere idle ones; but can be verified  
by the Medical Officer as well as  
the Magistrate as not only applicable  
to Estates Coolies; but also free Coolies  
working on their own account.

4 It may be said, how is it that the  
same mortality from this cause does  
not occur on other Estates; my reply  
to this is, that fruit is <sup>more</sup> procured  
on this Estate than on the others, in  
fact I have been seriously thinking  
of destroying my ~~own~~ fruit gardens,  
if it would avail anything; but my  
neighbours have gardens as well from  
whence

whence they could pilfer.

1978A  
3

5 I beg to assure His Excellency that every care and attention is given and no parsimony shown on the part of the Estate so as to ensure the welfare and health of the people employed, all the employees in charge of the different gangs have strict orders to report any man appearing, or complaining of, - being ill besides at roll call daily, either myself or assistants are present, and are open to listen to any report or complaint; but, in spite of all these precautions, a certain proportion will hide themselves and their diseases until such time as they think they will have a long sojourn in Hospital.

6 To show the Government the cost incurred in the of the sick Indian

4

costs

197811

Coolies, I beg to enclose a statement  
marked, A.

7 Since Dr Rowell's inspection in  
January 1881; of my own accord -  
jointly with Dr McCosky at inspection  
those who appear not to be taking care of  
themselves are placed on rations. I am  
enabled to do so now that it has -  
received the sanction of the Protector that  
the cost incurred is to be deducted from  
their wages. I am afraid however that  
generally the men themselves will be  
opposed to it, and only the real skulkers  
will accept it as a boon. However, in  
this crisis may, I will, in conjunction  
with the Medical Officer, carry out  
the scheme desired to the best of my  
power.

8 I annex statement B to show the  
results attending those who were put

not sure

9

on

1978A  
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on ration, and so work by St Powell, it  
will be seen that several fell off, and  
others gained in weight; some on being  
discharged, as fit to resume work —  
positively refused to do so, some —  
deserted, or, are again loafing in  
the jungle, with a hope evident that  
they will undergo the same treat-  
-ment again. I have noted that  
the time so spent under treatment  
should be endorsed on the Contract  
as not labour, but up to this date  
have received no reply

I take this opportunity to state  
the actual monetary loss sustained  
last year by Deaths and Deserters 400.  
I am aware that an opinion pre-  
-vails in official circles in Singapore

W  
that

1978A  
that the remedy for desertion would be  
increased pay so as to put wages  
nearly on a par to that ruling in  
Sumatra or the native States; has it  
ever been considered by the advocates  
of more pay what our labour actually  
costs us, take interest of money on our  
advances, houses, hospital expenses,  
losses on death and desertion & none  
of which are the Colonies charged with,  
also bad and incapable workmen  
&c. it will be found that the cost  
is far above the market rates, the  
native States incurring none of these  
risks, can well afford to pay a  
higher, or rather, an artificial rate  
to induce people going there, besides  
I opine that, if the price of labour  
went up on the Establs, other persons  
and

and places would have to do the same until it became unbearable, and reliable Estates would have to be closed

10 He is; desertion for the purpose of getting off their debt and contract is ingrafted in the native character, they imbibe dishonest ideas from their childhood. We are not singular in our complaints on this point, in whatever part of the world Indian Immigration is, it is the same.

11 The remedy is in the hands of the Government, not stricter government discipline and some power to the employer; as things are at present Coolies prefer jail treatment to honest work and are actually more

masters than servants.

1978A  
13

Have tea

Signed J. B. Vermont.

Copy

a

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BH

Memo: of expenses incurred in Batu Kawan  
Hospital for Indian Immigrants

1879

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Medicines            | \$ 599.. 44       |
| Food & Comforts      | 2575.. 94         |
| Medical Officers     | 275 .. —          |
| Apothecaries         | 731 .. —          |
| Orderlies Wages &c   | 240 .. —          |
| Government Hospitals | 579 .. 61         |
| Boat Hire &c         | 15 .. —           |
|                      | <u>5015 .. 99</u> |

1880

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Medicines       | \$ 625.. 71 |
| Food & Comforts | 768 .. 60   |

10 Medical

1629

No 14

Copy Despatch from the Govt  
of the Straits Settlements  
dated 30<sup>th</sup> April 1881. 16 Encl

Public  
(Emigration)

No 21.

30. April 1881. 21<sup>st</sup> 1880  
Three enclosures



Referred to in Public (Emigration)  
Letter to Madras, No 21.  
dated 31<sup>st</sup> Augt 1881.

India Office,  
London. 31<sup>st</sup> August 1881.

CURRENT NO. 1978A

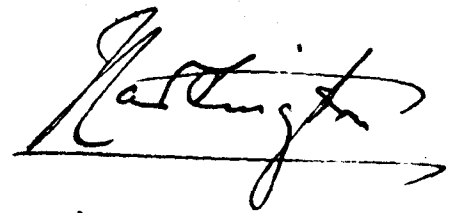
1978A  
15 16

Sir,

1. In continuation of my  
Despatch No. 15 of last year,  
I forward herewith copy of  
a Despatch and of its enclosure  
from the Governor of the Straits  
Settlements relative to the  
Report of the Protector of  
Indian Immigrants for  
that Colony for the year 1880  
2. Copies of the Report  
itself will have reached  
your Government direct  
from the Government of  
the Straits..

I have the honor to be  
Sir

Your most obedient  
humble servant.



10

His Excellency  
The Honorable  
The Governor in Council,  
Fort Saint George.



1978A  
~~17~~ 17

17

4  
No. 3

NOV 81  
BY G. O. NO  
Public  
(Emigration)

31st Aug 1881

The  
Letter to Lord St. George

No. 21

(16)

CURRENT No. 1978

Recorded  
M. 11/5/81  
We received copies of the  
Report  
M.