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## TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

*Palh.* DEPARTMENT

|          |           |        |
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| Dated    | 31.1.1881 | 197.   |

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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INDIA OFFICE;  
London, the 30th November 1880.

Public—Emigration.  
No. 120.

To His Excellency the Most Honourable the GOVERNOR GENERAL of  
India in Council.

MY LORD MARQUIS,—I forward, for the information of Your  
Excellency in Council, copy of the Report of the Protector of Immi-  
grants in Natal for the year 1879, and, with reference to that  
part of it which touches on the question of the Law of Marriage  
and Divorce, I have to acquaint you that the matter is at present  
engaging the careful attention of Sir George Colley.

2. The Mauritius Immigration Report for 1879 has been  
received at this Office; but as copies of the Report for 1878 were  
received by your Government direct from the colony, I conclude  
that you are already in possession of the Report for last year.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD MARQUIS,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble Servant,

HARTINGTON.

Dated Natal, the 2nd June 1880.

From—S. GRAVES, Esq., Protector of Immigrants, Natal.  
To—The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the information of His Excellency the Lieute-  
nant-Governor, and for transmission to the Right Honourable the Secretary of  
State and to the Government of India, the following Report for 1879 upon the  
Indian immigrants in the colony:

*Arrivals during the year.*—During the past year three ships with emigrants  
from India have arrived. The numbers embarked and landed, and the deaths  
which occurred during the voyages, are shown by the following table:

| Ship.                     | Number<br>embarked. | Births on<br>voyage. | Deaths<br>on voyage. | Deaths on<br>voyage. | Number<br>landed. | Port of<br>embarkation. |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| York ...                  | 876                 | ...                  | ...                  | 1                    | 875               | Madras.                 |
| Vimeira, second voyage... | 874                 | ...                  | ...                  | 1                    | 873               | Do.                     |
| Carnatic ...              | 869                 | ...                  | ...                  | 1                    | 868               | Do.                     |
| TOTAL ...                 | 1,119               | ...                  | 1,119                | 3                    | 1,116             |                         |

The above ships were inspected on arrival and the provisions of the Indian  
Emigration Act (VII. of 1871) found to have been complied with, no complaints  
being made by the immigrants.

Only one Agency, that at Madras, has been at work during the past year. Our Agent there appears to have some difficulty in obtaining a sufficient supply of labourers, so much so that the Calcutta Agency has to be re-opened in order to furnish the numbers asked for.

The up-country farmers in this colony are much in want of labour, and have applied for coolies to meet this want. Instructions have been sent to the Agent in Calcutta to endeavour to obtain emigrants from the North-West Provinces, if possible, as the climates of that part of India and of Natal are somewhat similar in the cold seasons.

Mechanics are in great request, and a large field is open here for such trades as masons, carpenters, and blacksmiths.

**Births.**—Two hundred and thirty-one births have been registered during 1879.

**Deaths.**—One hundred and ninety-one deaths have been registered during 1879, being a little over ten per thousand.

**Marriages.**—Sixty-seven marriages have been registered during 1879, chiefly among newly-arrived immigrants.

**Increase and decrease of population since 1878.**—The following abstract shows the approximate number of Indians now in the colony:

|                                                    |     |     |        |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|--------|
| Estimated number in 1878                           | ... | ... | 17,862 |
| Arrived during 1879                                | ... | ... | 1,116  |
| Born in the colony                                 | ... | ... | 231    |
|                                                    |     |     | 19,209 |
| Deaths during 1879                                 | ... | ... | 191    |
| Left the colony                                    | ... | ... | 10     |
|                                                    |     |     | 201    |
| Estimated number in the colony, 31st December 1879 | ... | ... | 19,008 |

**Health.**—As will be seen from paragraph 3, the death-rate has been low. I attribute this chiefly to the salubrity of the climate, and also to the fact that the rainfall of 1879 has been greater than any for several years past. But although the death-rate has been small, such complaints as dysentery, diarrhoea, syphilis and skin-diseases are reported to be prevalent. The two first named are caused in a great measure by impurities in the drinking water. It is in the quality of the water a great evil exists. The effluvia refuse from the sugar mill and the poisoned drainage from the coolie village (the purest water may derive poison from either source) both pass into the nearest stream, and it is always from the nearest stream, as a rule, that the coolie takes his drinking water. In the dry season half the cases of illness may be traced to this source. It is a difficult matter to impress upon the Indians the necessity there is for them to avoid as much as possible the use of such water, as the class from which they are recruited is frequently of a low caste, and consequently most uncleanly in its habits.

It is much to be deplored that Indians (more particularly the Madrassees) are so addicted to the use of ardent spirits, to this vice may be attributed many evils from which they suffer. Notwithstanding all this, and also certain hardships which are almost inseparable from the life of the indentured Indian, yet I consider he is better off than were he to remain in his Native land. I have come to this conclusion from the fact that during the last six months of 1879 no less than three thousand persons have obtained their discharge certificates, and the completion of their term of indenture, and no complaint being made to any kind. These people were well dressed, and much improved in physique, and their appearance was most creditable, not only to themselves, but also to their employers.

**Hospitals.**—Two central hospitals are now in working order, viz., Verulam and Avoca, in the two main districts. These establishments are found to work well, and afford admirable accommodation for the more serious cases; while in Durban a large General Hospital has been erected, and separate wards are being assigned for Indians. Small hospitals have also been put up on some of the principal plantations. Institutions of this sort are becoming more general; these, together with increased precautions regarding the prevention of the pollution of streams, will have, it is believed, to say, a most beneficial effect on the health of the Indian population.

**Complaints.**—No cases of smallpox have been brought to my notice, and even cases of measles are infrequent. Unfortunately, however, on one estate, owing to some undue interference on the part of an outsider with a high-caste man from the Capetown District, the latter was set upon and beaten, his skull

being fractured, and from the effects of which he died in the course of a few days. The delinquents—four men—were brought to trial, the principal receiving a punishment of four years' imprisonment with hard labour.

**Visitation of Estates.**—The estates on the coast have been duly visited during the past year, and also many of the up-country farms whereon coolies are employed. I would beg to point out that, notwithstanding the fact that the same supervision cannot at present be bestowed upon the Indians in the upper districts, yet, owing to the very salubrious character of the climate, and after a short sojourn there, the people, as a rule, improve much in health and appearance, the nature of the employment being purely agricultural; together with their attribute to health may be added that no facility exists for obtaining strong drink.

The up-country farmers are fully alive to the necessity there exists for warm clothing and comfortable houses and wholesome food.

In consequence of the difficulty in regard to medical supervision, &c., it has been found necessary to place certain restrictions upon the employment of Indians in the up-country. They can now only be assigned to persons resident within twenty miles of a District Surgeon.

Desertions from detached places have been common, owing chiefly to a feeling of isolation at first on the part of the coolies, and also from a certain paucity of females amongst them, this very paucity causing dissensions and giving rise to dissatisfaction; but now that increased supervision can be bestowed, and as European settlers become more numerous, I am in hopes that all concerned will become more contented, as I feel certain that the Indians will be better off in many ways than on the coast, and that the colony will benefit by their labour most materially.

**Classification.**—I would like to again draw attention, if permitted, to the necessity there exists for the consideration of this subject. I have seen the need of this well exemplified during my term of office, more particularly within the last year, as not a few weakly men have arrived from Madras—such men as could never be expected to perform a fair day's work, and upon whom the planter looks as drones in the hive, and in some instances is glad to pay all expenses, so as to be relieved of them, and get them sent back to India. Some ten men who came from the above-named port never left the depôt, being too ill and weak to do so, and were sent back at the expense of the colony, as it would not be fair to assign such men to planters, who, in fact, could not be expected to take them, as naturally the employer expects to get at least a healthy subject and not an invalid. The Agent, Mr. Ross, has been written to very strongly on the subject.

**Education.**—I am unable, I regret to say, to report that any progress has been made in regard to education beyond what was stated in my last Annual Report, owing to the difficulty experienced in obtaining suitable teachers from India. The Superintendent-Inspector of Schools, Mr. R. Russell, favours me with the following memorandum:

"At present there are only four schools under Government inspection. All four are in Durban—two are day schools, and two are evening schools. One of each is connected with the Church of South Africa and the Wesleyan Church respectively. During the past year the average monthly collective attendance has ranged between 50 and 160 children and adults. The attendance is irregular and fluctuating, and the standard of attainment reached is low, only 15 per cent. being able to read and write fairly, and to cipher correctly in the four simple rules of arithmetic.

"Early in 1879 a circular was sent to the leading planters, asking what facilities they would give for the establishment on their estates of Government schools for the children of their Indian labourers. In reply, several planters were sure that education would prove only hurtful; many were quite indifferent and passive; while only three were prepared to find a rough school-room and masters' quarters. One of the first acts of the Indian Immigrant School Board appointed early in 1879 was to send to India for a duly qualified Inspector of Indian schools; considerable unavoidable delay has occurred in the selection of a suitable person. He may now, however, arrive at any time. His duties at first will consist almost entirely in selecting suitable men as teachers, and in establishing and fostering schools at as many centres as possible. Government will give each teacher £50 a year, and the estate on which the school is kept is expected to provide a school-room and house and garden ground for the teacher."

*Social States.*—The Indian population is rapidly becoming a power in the State. Time-expired coolies find themselves at once in a position of independence either by taking up land on their own account, or by doing job work in the towns for which high rates of pay obtain; only a moiety are found to re-engage as labourers on the plantations, though wages ranging from twenty-five to thirty shillings a month with food, &c., are offered.

*Return Passages.*—A certain number of Indians, who have completed an industrial residence of over ten years in the colony, are desirous of commuting their right to a return passage to India for the value in land, and steps are being taken by Government to grant their request; and I trust that the portions of land may be assigned to the people in question before long, as their applications are now of no recent date. A marked increase in the amount of land under cultivation by free Indians is noticeable, and shows what an industrious class they are. High rents are paid by them for land.

*Communication with India.*—Remittances by immigrants to their friends and relatives in India have amounted to £272 for the year.

*Interpreters.*—As Indians are now becoming more numerous in the upper districts, I would wish to point out the necessity there exists for the appointment of competent interpreters to each Magistracy.

*Laws.*—I am still of opinion that the Protector should have the power of granting divorce to Indians—the only mode of procedure now open to these people, viz., through the Supreme Court of the colony, causing relief to be practically out of the reach of those who seek it. In this way the Marriage Law (No. 12 of 1872) becomes the fruitful cause of the very ills it was expected to have cured.

*Conclusion.*—In conclusion, I desire to express my entire satisfaction with the manner in which the various officers of this Department perform their duties, and have much pleasure in bringing these gentlemen to the special notice of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.

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1880.

Home, Revenue & Agricultural

EMIGRATION.

FROM

HER MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF  
FO

*Dated the 30th November 1880.*

SUBJECT.

FORWARDS copy of the Report of the Protector of Immigrants in Natal for the year 1879, and states that the copy of the Law of Marriage and Divorce, which is referred to therein, is at present engaging the careful attention of Sir George Colley.

Observes that he concludes that copies of the Mauritius migration Report for 1879 have been received from the Government of India direct from the colony.

Progs. Dec., 1880, No. 41.

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1873

Copy forwarded to the Government of Canada

for information in continuation of endorsement No. 205 dated

the 19th December 1879.

Home, Dec. 18th 1879. Dept.

Emigration

By order

A. T. P. P. P.

1873

1873

1873

23 Home Office  
sent by parcel  
1873

5/1/80 No 20.

31st Jan  
Public (1881) DEPARTMENT.  
Emigration 110

(5)

From

The Govt. of India  
Home & Dept.

No. 3

Dated

6th January 1881.

Recd.

15th

No. 811

SUBJECT.

Forwarding copy of  
Secy. of State despatch  
including copy of report  
of Protector of Emigrants  
Katal, for 1879.

31st Jan 1881 No 110

Recorded.

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Ag. 18

Send space 18 per 6th

Protector of Emigrants  
British Consular Office, India

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