

(1) Number of pages 38
(2) Date of repair 7-11-86
(3) Initials of the Referencer bm

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Public DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	622	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	4-4-1881.	1872

622
18+1.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

308 -

for carrying out the law,

(d) any general statistics
which may be available.

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Note.

Straits immigration is
coming on now frequently
in the current work, and
there is nothing about it
in the volume of "Standing
Information" for the assistance
of Members of Government
or Secretaries.

2. I propose that when
convenient opportunities arise
papers be got into the records
illustrating points mentioned
in the "Standing Information".
They will be useful to go
round with current papers.
Mr. Austin is well acquainted
with the immigration question.

3. The first edition of "Standing
Information" was written
without

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without reference to the
departmental officers. In the
second edition the proofs
were corrected (under G.O.)
by the officers concerned. In
the third edition, whenever
that is written, I propose
that all new matter should
be contributed by the
officers themselves. Papers
such as that here proposed
will go towards the next
edition of "Standing
Information".

164
8.2.81

Copied by
Kominar

Philip

Wm. C. Hector

Statement showing the number of Colored that emigrated to the United States and
since emigration to the United States stopped

Remarks.

[illegible]

The number shown in the column
shows those that actually embarked.
The figures that were registered
as emigrants are much larger
in each year.

1029 2248 1878 1896 2423 3396 1195 960 1230

Wentworth
My Dear Collector

$$\frac{622}{3}$$

Statement showing the number of immigrants that returned from the Straits Settlements since Oct. 1 of 1877 came into force

Remarks.

1878	1879	1880
103	57	

All these Coolies were returned as unfit for labor; most of them did not even stay in the Straits Settlements for one-fourth of the period for which they were contracted here.

was the
Agent Collector

In Encl: 431-81

Statement showing the number of emigrants that were registered and admitted in the Strait Settlements Emigration Report at Singapore and of those that were actually shipped from that port from January 1872 to December 1880.

1	2	3	4	5
As registered and admitted in the depot	Numbers embarked	Numbers not embarked	Total	Remarks
3472	3056	416	3472	Column 3 shows the number of such of the emigrants as deserted the depot of their own accord and of those as were rejected by the Emigration agent and the Medical Officer as unfit for embarkation

1	2	3	4	5
3472	3056	416	3472	

Column 3 shows the number of such of the emigrants as deserted the depot of their own accord and of those as were rejected by the Emigration agent and the Medical Officer as unfit for embarkation

5

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47

Wm. T. W.
City and Port Collector

Int. Fiscal: 42

Statement showing the establishment of the Trade Settlements Protector
of Emigrants at Copenhagen.

name of office	monthly pay	Remarks
1 Clerk	20 ..	
1 Clerk	7 ..	
Total	27 ..	

5

Quarterly
expenses collector

622
45

Submittal

Statement showing the Costs of the United States Emigration
Agency at the port of Georgetown.

Name of office	Amount		Remarks
	General	Special	
1. Emigration agent		\$600	
2. Medical Officer		1000	
Part of the Emigration Agent		1400	
Agents' Extra Allowance			
of a Superintendent, Clerk, persons and others		2000	
	Total	\$3000	

522
6

Warrant
of Agent Collector

In Faint, under the

Statement showing the number of persons licensed under Act No. 1897
to permit salaried for the Office of Clerk.

1898	1899	1900
20	8	20

Warrant
Agent & Collector

published a notice in the District Gazette drawing the attention of the public to the punishment provided by law for illegal emigration.

The Friend of India thereupon seems to have taken the matter up and the Collector of Sanyore was called on by Government to report on the subject. That officer called on the then Sub-Collector Mr. Stokes for all available information on the subject. Mr. Stokes supported to a great extent Mr. Hake-ways' view and stated that undoubtedly a vast amount of illegal emigration did go on from Stegapatnam accompanied to a great extent by kidnapping and abduction. Mr. Hake-ways energetic measures had, however it appears, put down the practice to some extent, as well-to-do owners of vessels shrank from incurring a criminal prosecution. Mr. Stokes also seems to have done his best to suppress this Cooly traffic by refusing to

to license vessels if there was the least reason to suspect that they were intended to carry emigrants and not ordinary bona fide passengers.

Shortly after this it was brought to the notice of the Sub Collector by the Chef de Service of Karikal that a suspicious heavy passenger traffic had suddenly sprung up in Karikal and that these passengers were all British Subjects from Stegapatnam and other places. Mr. Stokes in reply explained the nature of this to the Chef de Service and suggested him to assist the British Agent in putting it down as far as possible.

The question of Emigration from India has been discussed in the House of Commons in 1871 from the Government of India to the Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley it would seem that the British Government

while

while appreciating the efforts of the
Madras Government, suggested
admitted the occurrence of irregularities
in the system of emigration. Considered that
the proposals of the Madras Government
met the exigencies of the case in a liberal
and reasonable manner suggested a
sort of compromise between the perfect
liberty allowed to emigrate to Ceylon
and the complete prohibition which the
provisions of Act 13 - (the then
emigrations Act) would entail and
proposed that a special Act should
be passed by the Government of India
legalizing, on certain conditions, the
emigration to the Straits.

In 1872 the Collector of Ceylon was ordered to report on the steps to be taken for the emigration from Ceylon of the then proposed (and has since the Straits Government expense) that the Sub-Commissioner appointed Protector of Emigrants that a depot be established and agent and

2/c and the necessary staff. (sent by the
Strait Government) he appointed.
He also appended some further minor
suggestions. In June of this year (1872)
pending legislation the Madras Government
removed, on certain conditions, all restric-
-tions on emigration from Peguapatan.

A Bill for regulating emigration from British India was then brought forward by the Straits Settlements Government under the title of the "Immigrant Labourers' Protection Ordinance of 1872" and was submitted to the Sub-Committee for his remarks. This Bill however does not appear ever to have become law and nothing further seems to have been done on this subject until 1875 when Ordinance II of 1875 was passed which was however repealed by Ordinance I of 1876, the present Immigration Law of the Straits Settlements. The law which now regulates Emigration to the Straits is Act II of 1877. Since then and up to date emigration has been steadily progressing.

(B.) The practical situation of the

The Indian emigrant under the existing laws is very fair but might, I venture to think, be much improved and the interests of emigration be (ultimately) greatly furthered by rendering it illegal to recover from his monthly pay any portion of the advances made to him in India for charges at the depot and cost of passage and by ensuring to him a return passage free of cost at the expiration of his term of servitude. To compensate the planters for the additional expense thus thrust upon them, it would be necessary to reduce slightly the present rate of pay and to increase the term for which the Cooly contracts to serve from 3 to 3½ or 4 years. I am convinced from personal knowledge of the class of Cooly that emigrates, that this reduction of pay and increased term of labor would not deter one man in a hundred from emigrating while the certainty of freedom from debt and a free return passage would induce many to emigrate who now hesitate to do so. The spectacle of a constantly returning stream

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10

stream of emigrants with their savings would operate more effectually to increase emigration than the present system of high pay with the chance of never being able to get home again. 622
11

At present now should the emigrant is thoroughly well-cared for till he reaches the Straits he is lodged in a healthy depot, has the best medical attendance the place can afford and every opportunity of communication with the Protector and thus the real nature of his Contract. That his actual situation is when he reaches the Straits it is not possible for me to say. The fate of the emigrating Cooly is, in some rare cases, a blank. The law of the Straits Settlements should protect him amply, but whether he really derives the full benefit of that law is a doubtful point, judging from the miserable condition which, as Government are aware, certain batches of return Coolies presented on arrival here. I should fear that the law of the Straits Settlements is more theoretic than

then practically beneficial to the emigrant.

There is one particular in which I think the Act fails in its care of the emigrants. No provision is made to secure for them medical treatment on their voyage to the Straits, nor are they accompanied by any responsible officer. From the moment they go on board they are left to shift for themselves and often I fear have a very hard time of it. On the other hand the ~~Act~~ provides no punishment for emigrants who having received advances refuse without due cause to embark for the Straits.

(C) The provisions of the Emigration Act are carried out in this country by the Protector and the Agent. But the respective duties and responsibilities of these officers are not ~~to my~~ mind sufficiently well defined. A stricter definition of the relative position of the Protector and the Agent and their respective duties and responsibilities to the emigrant and his employer would tend greatly to ~~improve~~ the

the workings of the Act. ⁶²²/₁₂
[D] I append memo of all available statistics.
I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
W. Hunter
Acting Sub Collector

Public (1881) Dept
(Emigration)

From

The As Subcollector
of Tanjore
S.

The Chief Secretary
to Government
Madras

Dated 28 Feb. 81

Received 3 March —

No: 431 / No: 124
Enc 6.

Submits a memorandum
stating the history of
Emigration to the
Straits and the nature
of the present work
on a charge for
protection.

Public Department.

Offl Memo: 453

The Chief Secretary
requests Mr. Austin will
be good enough to revise
his remarks under the
heads (B) & (C) in his
letter dated 28 February
1881 No. 124. Under the
former head is required
a detailed résumé
of the present position,
under the Law of the
two countries and under
the rulings of Govern-
ment of the Contracting
labours, showing the
principal provisions
in his states, and

5/2

a comparison of this
with that of other Emi-
grants. Under head
C is required a detailed
résumé of the procedure
under the law, rulings,
and local practice.

2. An early reply
to this reference is re-
quested.

pg. 28

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7.3.81

Fort St George }
10 March 1881 }

To the Agent Collector } Despo 11/3
Laujine }
with letter

Public Dept

Memo. No. 266 of 1881
No. 431

Memo No 483
of 10th March 1881.

Junjeb Sub Collector's Office,
No. 201. Camp, Piruthanamangai, 19th March 1881.

✓
CURRENT No. 622.
From The Acting Sub Collector of
Junjeb.

622
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To The Chief Secretary to Government,
Madras.

Sir. I have the honor to acknowledge
your official memorandum of the 10th
Instant and to submit as directed
a revised statement under heads
B and C.

B. Present position of the Emigrant
under the law of the two Countries
and under the rulings of
Government.

The intending emigrant is recruited
by an agent appointed for that pur-
pose by the proprietor of the Estate
for which he is recruited and holding
a licence from the Protector of Emigrants.
When recruited the emigrant is taken before
a

a Magistrate who enters in his register his name, place of Residence and other particulars. The emigrant then enters into an engagement with the recruiter to proceed to the Straits Settlements and there work for 3 years and to bear all expenses of Recruiting and Passage to Penang. Such Contracts are according to the Straits Settlements Ordinance taken in triplicate each copy bearing a stamp of annas 8.

The wages the emigrant contracts for commences with Rs 8 and rises to Rs 10. The emigrant to the Straits Settlements is not liable to punishment for breach of Contract, should he refuse (or is often the case) to proceed to Penang. On arrival at the Straits Settlements the emigrant is received by the Protector and if found fit for labor, is at once sent on to the Estate for which he is intended. Arrived there he is found lodging and if ill, medical treatment. No emigrant is required without his consent,

ON
622/16

in writing to work for ⁶²²more than 6 days per week or more than 6 hours consecutively or more than 10 hours per diem in all. No deduction from pay is made for the 7th day provided he has worked for the 6 days previous. For refusal to work the emigrant is liable to imprisonment. If on arrival at the Straits Settlements the Protector finds an emigrant to be unfit for work owing to disease or debility he is detained in hospital. The Conditions under which emigrants embark for the French Colonies are slightly different.

- (1) The rate of wages is Rs 5 and rations
- (2) An advance of 3 months' pay is given
- (3) Term of service is for 5 and not 3 years.
- (4) The hours of work differ slightly. The emigrant is required to work for only 7 hours if employed in field labor and for 10 hours if employed within a building.
- (5) Refusal to embark on the part of

an emigrant who has contracted to serve in the Colonies is made an offence punishable under the Penal Code.

C. Each estate in the Straits Settlements engages its own recruiter. The recruiter then applies to the Protector for a license to recruit. Unless the recruiter is previously known to the Protector an inquiry into his general character is made and if the result is satisfactory he is granted a license on payment of a fee of Rs 5. The recruiter then picks up his Coolies wherever he can and produces ^{them} with a medical Certificate (for which he pays a rupee per head) before the Magistrate in whose District they are recruited. The Magistrate explains the terms of the Contract to the Cooly and ascertains if he is willing to go and fit for work. If fit for work and willing to emigrate he is then passed on payment of a fee of

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M of Anna S. This name is registered and a copy of the register is given to him. The Coolies are then sent on to Emigration Depot at Negapatam and are then again examined in their 48 hours of their arrival by the Protector who scrutinizes these Contracts and ^{again} ascertains so far as he can their fitness for work and willingness to go abroad. An extract from the register of the Magistrate is passed to the intending emigrants and also submitted to the Protector.

The emigrants are then made over to the Emigration Agent under whose immediate charge they remain until

they are shipped for the Straits. Before the emigrants are allowed to be received on board of any vessel the Master of such vessel must receive a Certificate from the Protector. This Certificate is granted on a Certificate given

given by the Master Attendant to the effect that the vessel in question is adequately supplied with provisions and water &c.

The average cost of each emigrant is about Rs 4. This is recovered by monthly deductions from his pay.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obed^t servant,

W. Hunter
Acting Sub-Collector.

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11. (1881) 1/2 p. 6
Emigrants 1

From ^{DE} ~~Check~~ Sub Collector
San Jose

DISPOSED OF
4 APR 81
To The Chief Secretary
& Government
Madras.

Dated 19th } March 1881
Received 2 :

No. 201

Enclosures - 7

~~URGENT~~ No. 622

Submitting revised
remarks on the present
position of Emigrants
as directed.

Revised.

Ch.

30.3.81.

Art. 61 is amended by
the Government for
"Standing Information".
1881

With order