

(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை

(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள்

(3) ஆதாரக் குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம்

①

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய

அரசாணை எண். 232 -	அச்சகம்
மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.	பலவகை
நாள் : 5 - 3 - 1889	199

மடிக்கவோ தண்டப்படி கையாளவோ கூடாது.

ஆவண. கா. 1-18,006-69-90.

1. April

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No. 125 (Emigration), dated Paramaribo, the 8th December 1888.

From—W. WYNDHAM, Esq., *British Consul, Cayenne and Surinam,*

To—The Secretary to the Government of India, REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPT.

I HAVE the honour to forward, enclosed herewith, copy of a report on Immigration to French Guiana, forwarded by me this day to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

This report could not be made out earlier, as the yellow fever prevailed at Cayenne; and when I was able to go to that Colony, I found the immigration registers required a complete overhauling.

Report on Immigration for French Guiana, prepared up to the 23rd November 1888, by Consul Wyndham.

THE figures in this report will be found to be different from all the reports previously received from French Guiana, for this reason, that for years the administration of the Immigration Department at Cayenne has been in the hands of an employé of the Department of the Interior, an old gentleman who, although very willing and obliging, was not physically able to look after the immigrants, and consequently the books were kept up in the office from such official information as reached it; beyond this, the immigration of free Indian labourers from other Colonies, and the emigration of Indians, whose contracts in Cayenne had expired, was not in any way controlled, and consequently day by day the registers kept of immigrants became more and more valueless, and immigrants were shewn as present who years before had emigrated, and totals given of immigrants in the Colony which were totally fictitious, as no record was kept of incoming free immigrants. During my late visit to Cayenne I found this out, and Mr. Larenzac, the lately appointed Protector of Immigrants, informed me it would be necessary to make a fresh start, revise the registers, collect information from chiefs of districts and the police, as to the immigrants in their several charges, and to make out fresh registers, and it is from this revision that the present figures are taken. I have also a copy of the new register preparing for this Consulate, and as quarterly reports of all changes are to be made to me, I hope that for the future the immigration statistics will be on a proper footing and be accurately rendered.

Owing to the stoppage of immigration to French Guiana there are only 66 immigrants in the Colony who have not completed their contracts; of these 54 are men and 12 women who are employed as below:—

EMPLOYMENT.	Men.	Women.	TOTAL.
Agriculture	50	11	61
Domestic service	...	...	...
Workshops	1	...	1
Gold-digging	3	1	4
TOTAL	54	12	66

In consequence of my late negotiations with the Government of Cayenne, the four employed in the gold fields have been withdrawn, and are to be placed at the disposition of the Protector of Immigrants for employment as agricultural labourers.

Of this class there are still 2,625 in the Colony; of these 1,718 are men, and 907 women. It is almost impossible to give a detailed account of the employment of these people, many of whom have been from 15 to 20 years in the Colony, and several are free immigrants from other Colonies who have been attracted to the Colony by the gold fields, in which immigrants were formerly allowed to obtain work. It may safely be estimated that at least 80 per cent. are employed at the *placers*, and the remaining fifth are settled as agricultural labourers, domestic servants, and small shopkeepers.

பாதுகாப்பு மதிப்பு-1

செய்தியைப் பெயர்: J. M. (W. Wyndham) செயல்

செய்தியைத் தாது எடுத்தல்-12/07 - 4/08
கொள்வெப்பல் தாது

27/5/88
செய்தியைப் பெயர்
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Among those counted as employed in the gold fields, I may mention that 89 are proprietors of gold *placers*, some of them very rich men, and all in good circumstances; others are working *placers* in shares and are doing well.

The general health of the immigrants is very satisfactory, in spite of the bad repute of the mining districts as places full of fever, and I am very much inclined to think that the statistics now forwarded

disprove the reports that have reached me, and before me my predecessors in this Consulate, of the terrible sufferings of the Indian immigrants in the gold fields. There are doubtless many abuses in the mines; and also where the *placers* are situated, far in the interior and far away from regular supervision, there may be cases of ill-treatment and neglect, but the Indians know these things better than the Consul, and take good care not to engage with owners who have a bad reputation for their treatment of their workmen; and as labourers are scarce, I think *placer* owners find it to their own advantage to keep on good terms with their labourers.

The following are the statistics of admission to hospital among the immigrants for the years 1886 and 1887:—

Years.	At the expense of employer.	At the expense of Government.	TOTAL.
1886	73	144	217
1887	33	97	130
GRAND TOTAL	106	241	347

The deaths numbered in all 50 in the two years, and the causes are given in the following table:—

Nature of sickness.	1886.	1887.	TOTAL.
Insanity	...	1	1
Bronchitis	3	3	6
Bronchitis, chronic	1	...	1
Anæmia	1	1	2
Dropsy	4	...	4
Anasarca	1	...	1
Diarrhæa	7	...	7
Dysentery	4	...	4
Fevers	2	5	7
General Debility	2	1	3
Sporadic Cholera	1	...	1
Heart Complaints	...	1	1
Pneumonia	4	3	7
Phthisis	2	...	2
Gangrene	...	1	1
Tetanus	2	...	2
TOTAL	34	16	50
The number of admissions to hospital	217	130	...
The proportion of deaths to admissions	15.5%	12.3%	...

In addition to these deaths there were in the Colony, in the year 1886, 23 deaths, and in 1887, 39 deaths, among the Indian immigrants, making a percentage of deaths as follows: in 1886 there were in all 3,180 immigrants in Cayenne, and the deaths amounted to 57 or nearly 1.8 per cent., and in 1887 the number of immigrants known to be in the Colony was

3,086, of whom 55 died, or about 1.8 per cent.; these, however, do not include the deaths that have occurred outside of the regular colonial possession of Cayenne, that is to say, the disputed territory where hundreds of Indians went to work, and as no laws existed in that part of the country, nothing is known of what passes there.

Labour of this kind has been prohibited by Articles 19 and 20 of the law of June 13th 1887, which was communicated by me to the Foreign Office in my despatch No. 61 of October 23rd 1888; but the execution of the law is temporarily suspended as regards immigrants now in the Colony, pending a reply to my despatch; in the meantime no fresh engagements for gold field labour is sanctioned, and no permission to work gold *placers* are given to Indian immigrants, existing rights, already acquired, alone being left untouched.

Employment of contracted immigrants. The few immigrants now remaining under contract are employed as follows:—

Locality.	Distance from town.	Agriculture.	Domestic.	Industry.	Placers.	TOTAL.
St. Pierre de Cayenne	...	32	...	1	...	33
Macourty	4 kilom.	1	...	...	...	1
Montigny	30 "	4	...	...	...	4
Roura	40 "	...	...	...	4	4
Maroni	280 "	23	...	...	...	23
Kourou	42 "	1	...	...	...	1
TOTAL	...	61	...	1	4	66

The distances given in the above table are from the town of Cayenne.

Hospital Treatment. The provisions made for the care of sick immigrants are as follows:—

Those employed on the island of Cayenne are treated at the Hospital of Camp St. Denis, those employed at Maroni, in all 23, are on the same estate "Ilet-Portal," and are treated in the estate hospital.

For the future by the new law, "Article 17" of 13th June 1887, every estate employing 20 and over that number of immigrants is required to have a properly-established hospital.

There have been 20 convoys of immigrants to French Guiana between 1856 and 1877, in all 8,418 immigrants have arrived there. Of these only 518 have renounced their right to a return-passage, or 6.5 per cent. Up to the present time only those who have become

cancelment of agreement for return. proprietors of land or houses in Cayenne have been granted compensation in lieu of passage on their renouncing their right thereto.

Wages. The average rate of wages earned is as follows, exclusive of clothing supplied:—

AGRICULTURE.		DOMESTIC.		INDUSTRY.		PLACERS.	
Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
12-6 to 25 per month.	8-4 to 16-8 per month.	12-6 to 25 per month.	8-4 to 16-8 per month.	12-6 to 25 per month.	8-4 to 16-8 per month.	3-4 to 5 per day.	1-3 to 2-1 per day.

Article 29 of the Law of 13th June 1887 fixes a minimum of wages under which no engagements can be made.

The above is, however, the regulation rate, and there are very few immigrants who do not actually earn higher wages, which arises from the natural competition where labour is very scarce.

There are, as has been said, 2,625 free immigrants left in the Colony. Of these only 518 have given up their right to a return-passage, so that 2,107 remain to be returned; a number of them are to be repatriated in 1889, as stated in my despatch to Foreign Office above quoted.

As regards the return-passage to India the law of French Guiana is even more liberal than that of Dutch Guiana, and I have no doubt that, if immigration were renewed, the supply of labour being assured, many more immigrants would return to India than has hitherto been the case. I also think the want of hands, particularly for domestic service, causes employers privately to offer inducements to immigrants to remain in the Colony, which the Colonial Government knows nothing of. Again, the immigrants from Madras, which form the majority of those sent to Cayenne, are less tied by caste prejudices than the Bengal immigrants, and, as a rule, acclimatize themselves better, mix more freely with the natives, and more readily adopt the customs of the country in which they reside; this may also be regarded as a reason for their residing in Cayenne after their agreements have terminated.

The climate of Cayenne, which is so deadly to Europeans, in consequence of the prevalence

of yellow fever epidemics, does not appear to be so injurious to the Indian immigrants who escape from the disease for the greater part, as do the Mulattoes, Creoles, and Blacks.

There is no reason to believe that the immigrants are not well treated by their employers

in Cayenne, as it is not in the interest of the employer to quarrel with an indentured labourer, especially when the labourer is protected by the regular Protector of Immigrants, and has also a second Protector in his country's Consular Agent. In regard to the latter officer, I think it necessary to urge that if immigration is renewed, a regular salaried non-trading officer should be appointed as Vice-Consul; it is useless to suppose that a merchant in business will either spare the time to look after the immigrants and their interests and just treatment, or that he will risk falling into dispute with the Colonial authorities, and so perhaps lose certain advantages and privileges by fighting for the rights of those he should protect; and unless the Consul was diligent to watch over the immigrants, all the laws on earth will not prevent abuses, and foreign Protectors will always require supervision.

Labour in the gold *placers* being interdicted for indentured immigrants, I am of opinion that the five years' indenture being completed, the restriction from such employment should be rescinded and the immigrant be allowed to engage his free labour to his best advantage; he has by that time acquired an independence and self-reliance quite different to his condition on leaving India, and is not likely to throw himself or his chances away. If his return-passage remains secured to him, as is the case in the law of Cayenne, I look upon him as a highly favoured individual, free to earn a living, a fortune if he can, and yet retain his right to a free passage to his native country, which he could ask for also in case of ill-health or a desire to return home. This is an advantage no other class of immigrants enjoy.

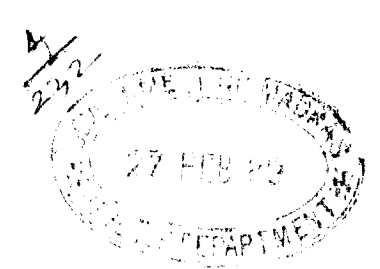
The Colony of Cayenne requires immigration to develop its agricultural resources, now entirely neglected for want of hands, and the Colony is consequently dependent for everything on importation; vegetables are not grown, and farm produce is ruinous in price; a fowl costs 5s. to 6s., a duck 9s. to 10s., eggs 2½ to 4d. each, milk 1s. 8d. a quart bottle; meat is imported, and even fruit is scarce.

The climate is not bad for natives of British India, and the Colony is rich in gold, which it is the wish of the Colonial Government to see invested in developing the agricultural and forest lands and the other resources of the Colony; the laws for the protection of the immigrants are good, and their treatment can easily be made the same if these laws are properly executed; but, as I have already said, to ensure this, a salaried Consular Officer, whose duties are not interfered with by commercial pursuits, must be there.

Free Labour,

Conclusion.

4/232



No. 34 6
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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

(Emigration)

Calcutta dated the 22nd February 1889.

Copy of the following forwarded to the Government of
Madras for information with
reference to its letter No. 79 dated
23rd January 1888, and previous
Correspondence.

4/232

By order,

Ed. Suck

Secretary to the Government of India.

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From

The Government of India.
Min. of Agriculture

No. 32

Dated

Received

Enclosures

SUBJECT.

For forwarding
a copy of a report on
Investigation to French Guiana

Order 5th March 1907 No. 232

Recorded
6/3/07

1/3-

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No. 232.

When given for copying

[Despatch Abstract.]

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