

ORDINARY, MS.

✓
Public DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED 23-10-91
No. 896 ✓

INDEXED.

When given for copying

[Despatch Abstract.]

Correspondence
clandestine emigra-
tion of Indians -
Remission via Man-
chester -

CURRENT No. 2997

Public DEPART

[9]

Hui.

Order 23 Oct 91 - 896

From

*The Government of the
Rev. & Agri. Dep.*

*bound: to the British
consular agent, Pondi-
cherry & Karikal in
contn. of G.O. of 27.5.91,
No. 414.*

11/22 Oct

75B

17/1

No. 2057

6

*Dated 7
Received 12*

Cash

Enclosures

50 pms.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding copy:

consular Agent,

Pondicherry & Karikal M.S.

28 OCT 91

*affairs regarding the clandestine
migration of Indians to Penang
Malacca*

W.O.

PAPER, No.

of 18

OR PAPER, No.

of 18

READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
18, No. , MISCELLANEOUS.

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DISPATCH
IN ORIGINAL (not paged).

S.B.-

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.

INDIA OFFICE,
London, 20th August 1891.

Public (Emigration).
No. 86

To His Excellency The Most Honourable The Governor General of India
in Council.

MY LORD MARQUIS,—With reference to your Emigration Letter No. 32 of
the 25th of March last, regarding the
Dated 22nd June 1891, No. 227. clandestine emigration of Indians to
Réunion *via* Mauritius, I transmit copy of a Despatch from the Governor of
Mauritius complying with the wishes of Your Excellency in Council on the
subject.

Foreign Office to India Office, 11th July 1891, and
enclosures.
India Office to Foreign Office, 31st July 1891. 2. I also forward copy of correspond-
ence with the Foreign Office in connection
with this matter.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord Marquis,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servant,

CROSS.

No. 227, dated Mauritius, 22nd June 1891.

From—SIR CHARLES LEES, Governor of Mauritius,

To—The Right Honourable LORD KNUTSFORD, G. C. M. G., &c., &c.

Your Lordship's despatch marked Emigration of the 4th May last has
been communicated by me to the Protector of Immigrants, the Collector of
Customs, and the Harbour Master, and, in compliance with the wishes of the
Indian Government, conveyed in the 2nd paragraph of their despatch No. 32
of the 25th March 1891, early information will be sent to the Consular Agent
at Pondicherry and to Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion whenever emigrants
from India who are believed to have obtained their passports at Pondicherry
upon the representation that they were not going further than Mauritius, go
on to Réunion.

Dated Foreign Office, 11th July 1891.

From—SIR T. V. LISTER,

To—The Under-Secretary of State, India Office.

I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you, to be laid
before the Secretary of State for India in
Council, copy of a despatch from Mr.
Bennett, Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion, with its enclosures, respecting the
case of Govinden, a British Indian who has arrived in that island from Mauri-
tius, and who has undergone three successive terms of imprisonment for failing
to pay the license called a "permis de séjour."

The Consul also draws attention to the difficult position in which destitute
British Indians are placed by the action of the local law of Réunion, and he
requests guidance in the present and similar cases.

Mr. Bennett seems to have taken a wise course in asking the Government of Mauritius to warn British Indians in that island of the conditions to which they would be subject in Réunion; and His Lordship proposes to approve his letter to Sir Charles Lees on the subject; but before doing so, His Lordship would be glad to be favoured with Lord Cross's views on the points raised in the despatch.

No. 19, dated Réunion, 8th June 1891.

From—C. W. BENNETT, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul, Réunion,

To—The MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, K.G., &c., &c.

In the conversation which I had the honour to hold with Monsieur Lounnon, the Acting Governor, on the 2nd instant, I touched upon the question of free British Indians who arrive here *via* Mauritius, generally from Pondicherry, but sometimes from Calcutta.

Your Lordship is aware that by the Decree passed by the Réunion Conseil Général on January 10th 1887, all persons (except immigrants and French subjects) of Asiatic or African extraction are liable to an annual tax of from twenty-five to five hundred francs a year, upon payment of which they receive a "permis de séjour."

Any person who ought to take out a "permis de séjour" and fails to do so, no matter for what reason, is liable to a fine of one hundred francs and fifteen days' imprisonment.

A case having come under my notice in which a British subject has been subjected to four consecutive imprisonments of fifteen days each, I addressed a note to Monsieur Lounnon in support of the Indian's prayer for a free permit.

6th June 1891.

I enclose a copy of His Excellency's reply objecting to issue one.

Govinden must therefore now either pay the tax levied on him, leave the country, or go to prison. He can do neither of the former without assistance, and I hesitate, in view of the instruction from your Lordship, to relieve him or repatriate him as a distressed British subject, as he came here in speculative search of employment.

The Government are ready to accept such persons as immigrants, and allow them to engage, and thus obtain a right to repatriation at the end of five years' service, if Her Majesty's Consul will consent thereto; but it appears to me to be highly undesirable to sanction any such proceedings.

I venture respectfully to ask that I may be favoured with instructions as to how such cases are to be dealt with.

Meanwhile with a view to discouraging the movement, I have addressed a despatch to Sir Charles Lees, asking His Excellency to let it be generally known in Mauritius what fate awaits any British Indians who may be tempted to leave Mauritius for Réunion.

8th June 1891.

I have the honour to enclose a copy of my despatch to Sir Charles Lees on the

subject.

Dated Saint Denis, 6th June 1891.

From—MONSIEUR LOUGNON,

To—Monsieur le Consul de La Majesté Britannique St. Denis.

Par lettre du 26 Mai dernier No. 11 vous m'avez fait l'honneur d'appeler mon attention sur une requête présentée par l'Indien Govinden Andalapadeatchy à l'effet d'obtenir un permis gratuit, en égard à son indigence et à sa mauvaise santé, en me faisant remarquer que cet Indien, sujet anglais n'était pas un immigrant, mais un passager libre.

C'est précisément parcequ'il n'est pas ancien immigrant qu'il n'a aucun droit ni à une réduction du permis de séjour, ni à un permis gratuit.

Il appartient au Consulat de la Majesté Britannique de la rapatrier s'il est indigent et dans l'impossibilité de gagner sa vie. Je vous prie, en effet, de vouloir bien remarquer qu'il est de pratique constante dans les Consulats de rapatrier aux frais du Gouvernement intéressé la nation aux dénués de ressources.

Pour répondre au paragraphe de votre lettre relatif à l'emprisonnement qu'aurait subi Govinden pour non paiement de la taxe, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que cet Indien a, en effet, subi trois condamnations à cent francs d'amende chacune, pour avoir été trouvé par la police non porteur d'un permis de séjour. Les emprisonnements successifs qu'il a subis ont eu pour objet le paiement de ces amendes.

J'ajoute en terminant que d'après les renseignements les plus précis, recueillis par la police, Govinden est en situation de payer la taxe à laquelle il est soumis, il a, en outre, à St. Denis, des parents dans une situation aisée et qui se livrent au commerce de détail. C'est par paresse et par mauvaise volonté qu'il persiste à se maintenir dans une position irrégulière, et la police ne fait que son devoir en la combattant.

Dated Réunion, 8th June 1891.

From—C. W. BENNETT, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul, Réunion,

To—His EXCELLENCY SIR C. CAMERON LEES, K.C.M.G., &c., &c.

With a view to discouraging Asiatic and African subjects of Her Majesty from coming to Réunion from Mauritius or from India *via* Mauritius, I have the honour to draw Your Excellency's attention to a Decree which was issued by the Bourbon Conseil Général on January 10th 1887, under which no foreigner (that is no person not of French nationality by birth or adoption) of Asiatic or African origin, is allowed to reside in the Colony unless he is furnished with a "permis de séjour."

Under Article 5 of the Decree, "Every person who is bound to take a 'permis de séjour' and has neglected to provide himself with this document in the prescribed time will be condemned to one hundred francs fine and may besides be condemned to a maximum imprisonment of fifteen days."

The price of a "permis" varies from twenty-five to five hundred francs a year.

The law is being rigidly enforced, and any person not paying the quatum placed against their names are subjected to consecutive terms of fifteen days' imprisonment until they can manage either to raise the necessary sum or to quit the island. Poverty is not accepted as a valid plea for non payment.

I earnestly beg Your Excellency to give the widest publicity to this letter and to discourage by all means in your power any British subjects of Asiatic or African origin from coming to Réunion.

Dated India Office, 31st July 1891.

From—SIR JOHN E. GORST,

To—The Under Secretary of State, Foreign Office.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of Sir T. V. Lister's letter of the 11th instant transmitting copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul in Réunion dated the 8th ultimo, No. 19, regarding the arrival in that Colony of destitute Indians from Mauritius.

In reply I am desired to say that Viscount Cross approves the action taken by Mr. Bennett in this matter and trusts that the Government of the Mauritius

will discourage by all means in its power the departure thence for Réunion of destitute Indians.

In connection with this subject, I am to suggest that the attention of Mr. Bennett may be called to Acting Consul Bell's letter to the Protector of Immigrants at Mauritius, dated the 14th of August 1888, No. 41, relative to the clandestine emigration of Indians to Réunion *via* Mauritius. I am also to transmit [to be forwarded for Mr. Bennett's information] a copy of a recent

25th March 1891, No. 32.

Despatch from the Government of India, which was duly communicated to the Colonial Office with a suggestion that the Governor of Mauritius should be requested to comply with the wishes of the Government of India.

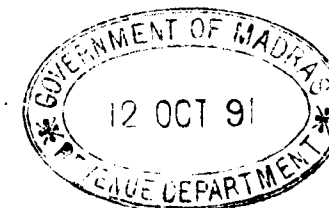
The Governor of Mauritius, I am to add, has expressed his readiness to act on this suggestion.

No. 2057
6

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

(Emigration)
Simla, dated the 7th October 1891.



Copy of the following forwarded to the Government of Madras
for information in continuation of this
Department's endorsement No. 805 E. of the
25th April last.

By order,

Munir Krishna Rao

Under-Secretary to the Government of India.

INDIA OFFICE,

London, 20th August 1891.

Public (Emigration).
No. 86

To His Excellency The Most Honourable The Governor General of India
in Council.

MY LORD MARQUIS,—With reference to your Emigration Letter No. 32 of
the 25th of March last, regarding the
Dated 22nd June 1891, No. 227. clandestine emigration of Indians to
Réunion *via* Mauritius, I transmit copy of a Despatch from the Governor of
Mauritius complying with the wishes of Your Excellency in Council on the
subject.

Foreign Office to India Office, 11th July 1891, and
enclosures. 2. I also forward copy of correspond-
ence with the Foreign Office in connection
India Office to Foreign Office, 31st July 1891. with this matter.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord Marquis,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servant,

CROSS.

No. 227, dated Mauritius, 22nd June 1891.

From—SIR CHARLES LEES, Governor of Mauritius,

To—The Right Honourable LORD KNUTSFORD, G. C. M. G., &c., &c.

Your Lordship's despatch marked Emigration of the 4th May last has
been communicated by me to the Protector of Immigrants, the Collector of
Customs, and the Harbour Master, and, in compliance with the wishes of the
Indian Government, conveyed in the 2nd paragraph of their despatch No. 32
of the 25th March 1891, early information will be sent to the Consular Agent
at Pondicherry and to Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion whenever emigrants
from India who are believed to have obtained their passports at Pondicherry
upon the representation that they were not going further than Mauritius, go
on to Réunion.

Dated Foreign Office, 11th July 1891.

From—SIR T. V. LISTER,

To—The Under-Secretary of State, India Office.

I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you, to be laid
before the Secretary of State for India in
Council, copy of a despatch from Mr.
Bennett, Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion, with its enclosures, respecting the
case of Govinden, a British Indian who has arrived in that island from Mauri-
tius, and who has undergone three successive terms of imprisonment for failing
to pay the license called a "permis de séjour."

The Consul also draws attention to the difficult position in which destitute
British Indians are placed by the action of the local law of Réunion, and he
requests guidance in the present and similar cases.

Mr. Bennett seems to have taken a wise course in asking the Government of Mauritius to warn British Indians in that island of the conditions to which they would be subject in Réunion; and His Lordship proposes to approve his letter to Sir Charles Lees on the subject; but before doing so, His Lordship would be glad to be favoured with Lord Cross's views on the points raised in the despatch.

No. 19, dated Réunion, 8th June 1891.

From—C. W. BENNETT, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul, Réunion,
To—The MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, K.G., &c., &c.

In the conversation which I had the honour to hold with Monsieur Lounnon, the Acting Governor, on the 2nd instant, I touched upon the question of free British Indians who arrive here *via* Mauritius, generally from Pondicherry, but sometimes from Calcutta.

Your Lordship is aware that by the Decree passed by the Reunion Conseil Général on January 10th 1887, all persons (except immigrants and French subjects) of Asiatic or African extraction are liable to an annual tax of from twenty-five to five hundred francs a year, upon payment of which they receive a "permis de séjour."

Any person who ought to take out a "permis de séjour" and fails to do so, no matter for what reason, is liable to a fine of one hundred francs and fifteen days' imprisonment.

A case having come under my notice in which a British subject has been subjected to four consecutive imprisonments of fifteen days each, I addressed a note to Monsieur Lounnon in support of the Indian's prayer for a free permit.

6th June 1891.

I enclose a copy of His Excellency's reply objecting to issue one.

Govinden must therefore now either pay the tax levied on him, leave the country, or go to prison. He can do neither of the former without assistance, and I hesitate, in view of the instruction from your Lordship, to relieve him or repatriate him as a distressed British subject, as he came here in speculative search of employment.

The Government are ready to accept such persons as immigrants, and allow them to engage, and thus obtain a right to repatriation at the end of five years' service, if Her Majesty's Consul will consent thereto; but it appears to me to be highly undesirable to sanction any such proceedings.

I venture respectfully to ask that I may be favoured with instructions as to how such cases are to be dealt with.

Meanwhile with a view to discouraging the movement, I have addressed a despatch to Sir Charles Lees, asking His Excellency to let it be generally known in Mauritius what fate awaits any British Indians who may be tempted to leave Mauritius for Réunion.

8th June 1891.

I have the honour to enclose a copy of my despatch to Sir Charles Lees on the

subject.

Dated Saint Denis, 6th June 1891.

From—MONSIEUR LOUNNON,

To—Monsieur le Consul de La Majesté Britannique St. Denis.

Par lettre du 26 Mai dernier No. 11 vous m'avez fait l'honneur d'appeler mon attention sur une requête présentée par l'Indien Govinden Andalapadeatchy à l'effet d'obtenir un permis gratuit, en égard à son indigence et à sa mauvaise santé, en me faisant remarquer que cet Indien, sujet anglais n'était pas un immigrant, mais un passager libre.

C'est précisément parcequ'il n'est pas ancien immigrant qu'il n'a aucun droit ni à une réduction du permis de séjour, ni à un permis gratuit.

Il appartient au Consulat de la Majesté Britannique de la rapatrier s'il est indigent et dans l'impossibilité de gagner sa vie. Je vous prie, en effet, de vouloir bien remarquer qu'il est de pratique constante dans les Consulats de rapatrier aux frais du Gouvernement intéressé la nation aux dégués de ressources.

Pour répondre au paragraphe de votre lettre relatif à l'emprisonnement qu'aurait subi Govinden pour non paiement de la taxe, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que cet Indien a, en effet, subi trois condamnations à cent francs d'amende chacune, pour avoir été trouvé par la police non portant de permis de séjour. Les emprisonnements successifs qu'il a subis ont eu pour objet le paiement de ces amendes.

J'ajoute en terminant que d'après les renseignements les plus précis, recueillis par la police, Govinden est en situation de payer la taxe à laquelle il est soumis, il a, en outre, à St. Denis, des parents dans une situation aisée et qui se livrent au commerce de détail. C'est par paresse et par mauvaise volonté qu'il persiste à se maintenir dans une position irrégulière, et la police ne fait que son devoir en la combattant.

Dated Réunion, 8th June 1891.

From—C. W. BENNETT, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul, Réunion,
To—His EXCELLENCY SIR C. CAMERON LEES, K.C.M.G., &c., &c.

With a view to discouraging Asiatic and African subjects of Her Majesty from coming to Réunion from Mauritius or from India *via* Mauritius, I have the honour to draw Your Excellency's attention to a Decree which was issued by the Bourbon Conseil Général on January 10th 1887, under which no foreigner (that is no person not of French nationality by birth or adoption) of Asiatic or African origin, is allowed to reside in the Colony unless he is furnished with a "permis de séjour."

Under Article 5 of the Decree, "Every person who is bound to take a 'permis de séjour' and has neglected to provide himself with this document in the prescribed time will be condemned to one hundred francs fine and may besides be condemned to a maximum imprisonment of fifteen days."

The price of a "permis" varies from twenty-five to five hundred francs a year.

The law is being rigidly enforced, and any person not paying the quatum placed against their names are subjected to consecutive terms of fifteen days' imprisonment until they can manage either to raise the necessary sum or to quit the island. Poverty is not accepted as a valid plea for not payment.

I earnestly beg Your Excellency to give the widest publicity to this letter and to discourage by all means in your power any British subjects of Asiatic or African origin from coming to Réunion.

Dated India Office, 31st July 1891.

From—SIR JOHN E. GORST,
To—The Under Secretary of State, Foreign Office.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of Sir T. V. Lister's letter of the 11th instant transmitting copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul in Réunion dated the 8th ultimo, No. 19, regarding the arrival in that Colony of destitute Indians from Mauritius.

In reply I am desired to say that Viscount Cross approves the action taken by Mr. Bennett in this matter and trusts that the Government of the Mauritius

will discourage by all means in its power the departure thence for Réunion of destitute Indians.

In connection with this subject, I am to suggest that the attention of Mr. Bennett may be called to Acting Consul Bell's letter to the Protector of Immigrants at Mauritius, dated the 14th of August 1888, No. 41, relative to the clandestine emigration of Indians to Réunion *via* Mauritius. I am also to transmit [to be forwarded for Mr. Bennett's information] a copy of a recent

25th March 1891, No. 32.

Despatch from the Government of India, which was duly communicated to the Colonial Office with a suggestion that the Governor of Mauritius should be requested to comply with the wishes of the Government of India.

The Governor of Mauritius, I am to add, has expressed his readiness to act on this suggestion.

INDIA OFFICE,

London, 20th August 1891.

Public (Emigration).
No. 86

To His Excellency The Most Honourable The Governor General of India
in Council.

MY LORD MARQUIS,—With reference to your Emigration Letter No. 32 of the 25th of March last, regarding the clandestine emigration of Indians to Réunion *via* Mauritius, I transmit copy of a Despatch from the Governor of Mauritius complying with the wishes of Your Excellency in Council on the subject.

Dated 22nd June 1891, No. 227.
Foreign Office to India Office, 11th July 1891, and
enclosures.
India Office to Foreign Office, 31st July 1891.

2. I also forward copy of correspondence with the Foreign Office in connection with this matter.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord Marquis,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servant,

CROSS.

No. 227, dated Mauritius, 22nd June 1891.

From—SIR CHARLES LEES, Governor of Mauritius,

To—The Right Honourable LORD KNUTSFORD, G. C. M. G., &c., &c.

Your Lordship's despatch marked Emigration of the 4th May last has been communicated by me to the Protector of Immigrants, the Collector of Customs, and the Harbour Master, and, in compliance with the wishes of the Indian Government, conveyed in the 2nd paragraph of their despatch No. 32 of the 25th March 1891, early information will be sent to the Consular Agent at Pondicherry and to Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion whenever emigrants from India who are believed to have obtained their passports at Pondicherry upon the representation that they were not going further than Mauritius, go on to Réunion.

Dated Foreign Office, 11th July 1891.

From—SIR T. V. LISTER,

To—The Under-Secretary of State, India Office.

I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India in Council, copy of a despatch from Mr. Bennett, Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion, with its enclosures, respecting the case of Govinden, a British Indian who has arrived in that island from Mauritius, and who has undergone three successive terms of imprisonment for failing to pay the license called a "permis de séjour."

The Consul also draws attention to the difficult position in which destitute British Indians are placed by the action of the local law of Réunion, and he requests guidance in the present and similar cases.

[R. S. M.]

Mr. Bennett seems to have taken a wise course in asking the Government of Mauritius to warn British Indians in that island of the conditions to which they would be subject in Réunion; and His Lordship proposes to approve his letter to Sir Charles Lees on the subject; but before doing so, His Lordship would be glad to be favoured with Lord Cross's views on the points raised in the despatch.

No. 19, dated Réunion, 8th June 1891.

From—C. W. BENNETT, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul, Réunion,

To—The MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, K.G., &c., &c.

In the conversation which I had the honour to hold with Monsieur Lounnon, the Acting Governor, on the 2nd instant, I touched upon the question of free British Indians who arrive here *via* Mauritius, generally from Pondicherry, but sometimes from Calcutta.

Your Lordship is aware that by the Decree passed by the Reunion Conseil Général on January 10th 1887, all persons (except immigrants and French subjects) of Asiatic or African extraction are liable to an annual tax of from twenty-five to five hundred francs a year, upon payment of which they receive a "permis de séjour."

Any person who ought to take out a "permis de séjour" and fails to do so, no matter for what reason, is liable to a fine of one hundred francs and fifteen days' imprisonment.

A case having come under my notice in which a British subject has been subjected to four consecutive imprisonments of fifteen days each, I addressed a note to Monsieur Lounnon in support of the Indian's prayer for a free permit.

6th June 1891.

I enclose a copy of His Excellency's reply objecting to issue one.

Govinden must therefore now either pay the tax levied on him, leave the country, or go to prison. He can do neither of the former without assistance, and I hesitate, in view of the instruction from your Lordship, to relieve him or repatriate him as a distressed British subject, as he came here in speculative search of employment.

The Government are ready to accept such persons as immigrants, and allow them to engage, and thus obtain a right to repatriation at the end of five years' service, if Her Majesty's Consul will consent thereto; but it appears to me to be highly undesirable to sanction any such proceedings.

I venture respectfully to ask that I may be favoured with instructions as to how such cases are to be dealt with.

Meanwhile with a view to discouraging the movement, I have addressed a despatch to Sir Charles Lees, asking His Excellency to let it be generally known in Mauritius what fate awaits any British Indians who may be tempted to leave Mauritius for Réunion.

8th June 1891.

I have the honour to enclose a copy of my despatch to Sir Charles Lees on the subject.

Dated Saint Denis, 6th June 1891.

From—MONSIEUR LOUGNON,

To—Monsieur le Consul de La Majesté Britannique St. Denis.

Par lettre du 26 Mai dernier No. 11 vous m'avez fait l'honneur d'appeler mon attention sur une requête présentée par l'Indien Govinden Andalapadeatchy à l'effet d'obtenir un permis gratuit, en égard à son indigence et à sa mauvaise santé, en me faisant remarquer que cet Indien, sujet anglais n'était pas un immigrant, mais un passager libre.

C'est précisément parcequ'il n'est pas ancien immigrant qu'il n'a aucun droit ni à une réduction du permis de séjour, ni à un permis gratuit.

Il appartient au Consulat de la Majesté Britannique de la rapatrier s'il est indigent et dans l'impossibilité de gagner sa vie. Je vous prie, en effet, de vouloir bien remarquer qu'il est de pratique constante dans les Consulats de rapatrier aux frais du Gouvernement intéressé la nation aux dénués de ressources.

Pour répondre au paragraphe de votre lettre relatif à l'emprisonnement qu'aurait subi Govinden pour non paiement de la taxe, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que cet Indien a, en effet, subi trois condamnations à cent francs d'amende chacune, pour avoir été trouvé par la police non port ant de permis de séjour. Les emprisonnements successifs qu'il a subis ont eu pour objet le paiement de ces amendes.

J'ajoute en terminant que d'après les renseignements les plus précis, recueillis par la police, Govinden est en situation de payer la taxe à laquelle il est soumis, il a, en outre, à St. Denis, des parents dans une situation aisée et qui se livrent au commerce de détail. C'est par paresse et par mauvaise volonté qu'il persiste à se maintenir dans une position irrégulière, et la police ne fait que son devoir en la combattant.

Dated Réunion, 8th June 1891.

From—C. W. BENNETT, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul, Réunion,

To—HIS EXCELLENCY SIR C. CAMERON LEES, K.C.M.G., &c., &c.

With a view to discouraging Asiatic and African subjects of Her Majesty from coming to Réunion from Mauritius or from India *via* Mauritius, I have the honour to draw Your Excellency's attention to a Decree which was issued by the Bourbon Conseil Général on January 10th 1887, under which no foreigner (that is no person not of French nationality by birth or adoption) of Asiatic or African origin, is allowed to reside in the Colony unless he is furnished with a "permis de séjour."

Under Article 5 of the Decree, "Every person who is bound to take a 'permis de séjour' and has neglected to provide himself with this document in the prescribed time will be condemned to one hundred francs fine and may besides be condemned to a maximum imprisonment of fifteen days."

The price of a "permis" varies from twenty-five to five hundred francs a year.

The law is being rigidly enforced, and any person not paying the quatum placed against their names are subjected to consecutive terms of fifteen days' imprisonment until they can manage either to raise the necessary sum or to quit the island. Poverty is not accepted as a valid plea for not payment.

I earnestly beg Your Excellency to give the widest publicity to this letter and to discourage by all means in your power any British subjects of Asiatic or African origin from coming to Réunion.

Dated India Office, 31st July 1891.

From—SIR JOHN E. GORST,

To—The Under Secretary of State, Foreign Office.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of Sir T. V. Lister's letter of the 11th instant transmitting copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul in Réunion dated the 8th ultimo, No. 19, regarding the arrival in that Colony of destitute Indians from Mauritius.

In reply I am desired to say that Viscount Cross approves the action taken by Mr. Bennett in this matter and trusts that the Government of the Mauritius

will discourage by all means in its power the departure thence for Réunion of destitute Indians.

In connection with this subject, I am to suggest that the attention of Mr. Bennett may be called to Acting Consul Bell's letter to the Protector of Immigrants at Mauritius, dated the 14th of August 1888, No. 41, relative to the clandestine emigration of Indians to Réunion *via* Mauritius. I am also to transmit [to be forwarded for Mr. Bennett's information] a copy of a recent

25th March 1891, No. 32.

Despatch from the Government of India, which was duly communicated to the Colonial Office with a suggestion that the Governor of Mauritius should be requested to comply with the wishes of the Government of India.

The Governor of Mauritius, I am to add, has expressed his readiness to act on this suggestion.

INDIA OFFICE,

London, 20th August 1891.

Public (Emigration).
No. 86

To His Excellency The Most Honourable The Governor General of India
in Council.

MY LORD MARQUIS,—With reference to your Emigration Letter No. 32 of the 25th of March last, regarding the clandestine emigration of Indians to Réunion *via* Mauritius, I transmit copy of a Despatch from the Governor of Mauritius complying with the wishes of Your Excellency in Council on the subject.

Foreign Office to India Office, 11th July 1891, and
enclosures.
India Office to Foreign Office, 31st July 1891.

2. I also forward copy of correspondence with the Foreign Office in connection with this matter.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord Marquis,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servant,

CROSS.

No. 227, dated Mauritius, 22nd June 1891.

From—SIR CHARLES LEES, Governor of Mauritius,

To—The Right Honourable LORD KNUTSFORD, G. C. M. G., &c., &c.

Your Lordship's despatch marked Emigration of the 4th May last has been communicated by me to the Protector of Immigrants, the Collector of Customs, and the Harbour Master, and, in compliance with the wishes of the Indian Government, conveyed in the 2nd paragraph of their despatch No. 32 of the 25th March 1891, early information will be sent to the Consular Agent at Pondicherry and to Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion whenever emigrants from India who are believed to have obtained their passports at Pondicherry upon the representation that they were not going further than Mauritius, go on to Réunion.

Dated Foreign Office, 11th July 1891.

From—SIR T. V. LISTER,

To—The Under-Secretary of State, India Office.

I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you, to be laid

Consul Bennett, No. 19, June 8th.

before the Secretary of State for India in Council, copy of a despatch from Mr. Bennett, Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion, with its enclosures, respecting the case of Govinden, a British Indian who has arrived in that island from Mauritius, and who has undergone three successive terms of imprisonment for failing to pay the license called a "permis de séjour."

The Consul also draws attention to the difficult position in which destitute British Indians are placed by the action of the local law of Réunion, and he requests guidance in the present and similar cases.

Mr. Bennett seems to have taken a wise course in asking the Government of Mauritius to warn British Indians in that island of the conditions to which they would be subject in Réunion; and His Lordship proposes to approve his letter to Sir Charles Lees on the subject; but before doing so, His Lordship would be glad to be favoured with Lord Cross's views on the points raised in the despatch.

No. 19, dated Réunion, 8th June 1891.

From—C. W. BENNETT, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul, Réunion,
To—The MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, K.G., &c., &c.

In the conversation which I had the honour to hold with Monsieur Lounnon, the Acting Governor, on the 2nd instant, I touched upon the question of free British Indians who arrive here *via* Mauritius, generally from Pondicherry, but sometimes from Calcutta.

Your Lordship is aware that by the Decree passed by the Reunion Conseil Général on January 10th 1887, all persons (except immigrants and French subjects) of Asiatic or African extraction are liable to an annual tax of from twenty-five to five hundred francs a year, upon payment of which they receive a "permis de séjour."

Any person who ought to take out a "permis de séjour" and fails to do so, no matter for what reason, is liable to a fine of one hundred francs and fifteen days' imprisonment.

A case having come under my notice in which a British subject has been subjected to four consecutive imprisonments of fifteen days each, I addressed a note to Monsieur Lounnon in support of the Indian's prayer for a free permit.

6th June 1891.

I enclose a copy of His Excellency's reply objecting to issue one.

Govinden must therefore now either pay the tax levied on him, leave the country, or go to prison. He can do neither of the former without assistance, and I hesitate, in view of the instruction from your Lordship, to relieve him or repatriate him as a distressed British subject, as he came here in speculative search of employment.

The Government are ready to accept such persons as immigrants, and allow them to engage, and thus obtain a right to repatriation at the end of five years' service, if Her Majesty's Consul will consent thereto; but it appears to me to be highly undesirable to sanction any such proceedings.

I venture respectfully to ask that I may be favoured with instructions as to how such cases are to be dealt with.

Meanwhile with a view to discouraging the movement, I have addressed a despatch to Sir Charles Lees, asking His Excellency to let it be generally known in Mauritius what fate awaits any British Indians who may be tempted to leave Mauritius for Réunion.

8th June 1891.

I have the honour to enclose a copy of my despatch to Sir Charles Lees on the subject.

Dated Saint Denis, 6th June 1891.

From—MONSIEUR LOUGNON,
To—Monsieur le Consul de La Majesté Britannique St. Denis.

Par lettre du 26 Mai dernier No. 11 vous m'avez fait l'honneur d'appeler mon attention sur une requête présentée par l'Indien Govinden Andalapadeatchy à l'effet d'obtenir un permis gratuit, en égard à son indigence et à sa mauvaise santé, en me faisant remarquer que cet Indien, sujet anglais n'était pas un immigrant, mais un passager libre.

C'est précisément parcequ'il n'est pas ancien immigrant qu'il n'a aucun droit ni à une réduction du permis de séjour, ni à un permis gratuit.

Il appartient au Consulat de la Majesté Britannique de la rapatrier s'il est indigent et dans l'impossibilité de gagner sa vie. Je vous prie, en effet, de vouloir bien remarquer qu'il est de pratique constante dans les Consulats de rapatrier aux frais du Gouvernement intéressé la nation aux dénués de ressources.

Pour répondre au paragraphe de votre lettre relatif à l'emprisonnement qu'aurait subi Govinden pour non paiement de la taxe, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que cet Indien a, en effet, subi trois condamnations à cent francs d'amende chacune, pour avoir été trouvé par la police non porteur de permis de séjour. Les emprisonnements successifs qu'il a subis ont eu pour objet le paiement de ces amendes.

J'ajoute en terminant que d'après les renseignements les plus précis, recueillis par la police, Govinden est en situation de payer la taxe à laquelle il est soumis, il a, en outre, à St. Denis, des parents dans une situation aisée et qui se livrent au commerce de détail. C'est par paresse et par mauvaise volonté qu'il persiste à se maintenir dans une position irrégulière, et la police ne fait que son devoir en la combattant.

Dated Réunion, 8th June 1891.

From—C. W. BENNETT, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul, Réunion,
To—HIS EXCELLENCY SIR C. CAMERON LEES, K.C.M.G., &c., &c.

With a view to discouraging Asiatic and African subjects of Her Majesty from coming to Réunion from Mauritius or from India *via* Mauritius, I have the honour to draw Your Excellency's attention to a Decree which was issued by the Bourbon Conseil Général on January 10th 1887, under which no foreigner (that is, no person not of French nationality by birth or adoption) of Asiatic or African origin, is allowed to reside in the Colony unless he is furnished with a "permis de séjour."

Under Article 5 of the Decree, "Every person who is bound to take a 'permis de séjour' and has neglected to provide himself with this document, in the prescribed time will be condemned to one hundred francs fine and may besides be condemned to a maximum imprisonment of fifteen days."

The price of a "permis" varies from twenty-five to five hundred francs a year.

The law is being rigidly enforced, and any person not paying the quatum placed against their names are subjected to consecutive terms of fifteen days' imprisonment until they can manage either to raise the necessary sum or to quit the island. Poverty is not accepted as a valid plea for non payment.

I earnestly beg Your Excellency to give the widest publicity to this letter and to discourage by all means in your power any British subjects of Asiatic or African origin from coming to Réunion.

Dated India Office, 31st July 1891.

From—SIR JOHN E. GORST,
To—The Under Secretary of State, Foreign Office.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of Sir T. V. Lister's letter of the 11th instant transmitting copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul in Réunion dated the 8th ultimo, No. 19, regarding the arrival in that Colony of destitute Indians from Mauritius.

In reply I am desired to say that Viscount Cross approves the action taken by Mr. Bennett in this matter and trusts that the Government of the Mauritius

will discourage by all means in its power the departure thence for Réunion of destitute Indians.

In connection with this subject, I am to suggest that the attention of Mr. Bennett may be called to Acting Consul Bell's letter to the Protector of Immigrants at Mauritius, dated the 14th of August 1888, No. 41, relative to the clandestine emigration of Indians to Réunion *via* Mauritius. I am also to transmit [to be forwarded for Mr. Bennett's information] a copy of a recent

25th March 1891, No. 32.

Despatch from the Government of India, which was duly communicated to the Colonial Office with a suggestion that the Governor of Mauritius should be requested to comply with the wishes of the Government of India.

The Governor of Mauritius, I am to add, has expressed his readiness to act on this suggestion.

[R. S. M.]