

ORDINARY, MS.

Public DEPARTMENT.  
G.O., DATED 11-3-92  
No. 159.

INDEXED.

When given for copying //

[Despatch Abstract.]

Employment of  
the time & period  
Fiji Indian immi-  
-grants in the Fed.  
Islands-

BACK PAPER, No.

OF 18

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

ENCLOSURE.

CURRENT NO.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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

A A

N.B.—

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

No. 3 (Public—Emigration), dated India Office, London, the 21st January 1892.

From—THE RIGHT HONOURABLE VISCOUNT CROSS, G.C.B.,

*Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India,*

To—The Government of India.

I FORWARD, for the information of Your Excellency in Council, copy of a letter\* from the Colonial Office, with its enclosures, respecting a proposal of the Australasian New Hebrides Company of Sydney to employ time-expired Indian immigrants from Fiji in the New Hebrides.

\* 19th December 1891, with enclosures.

Dated Colonial Office, London, the 19th December 1891.

From—EDWARD WINGFIELD, Esq., *Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies,*

To—The Under-Secretary of State for India.

I AM directed by Lord Knutsford to transmit, for the information of Viscount Cross and the Government of India, a copy of a despatch\* from the Governor of Fiji, together with the reply† thereto, respecting a proposal of the Australasian New Hebrides Company of Sydney to employ time-expired Indian immigrants from Fiji in the New Hebrides.

\* No. 32, dated 26th September 1891.

† Secretary of State Emigration, December 1891.

No. 32, dated Fiji, the 26th September 1891.

From—HIS EXCELLENCY SIR J. B. THURSTON, K.C.M.G., *Governor of Fiji,*

To—The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith copy of a letter which I have received from the Australasian New Hebrides Company of Sydney, with respect to the contemplated employment of Indian labourers whose term of service has expired in Fiji on plantations in the New Hebrides.

2. I also enclose copy of my reply.

3. In the present condition of the New Hebrides it would be impossible to guarantee any such labourers either proper treatment on the plantations, the payment of their wages, or their return to India or Fiji when their time of service in the New Hebrides expired.

4. On the other hand, I know of no existing law which can prevent any person who so desires from engaging time-expired Indians for service in the New Hebrides or elsewhere. It is, therefore, matter for consideration of Her Majesty's Government whether legislation should not be passed to prevent such recruiting of Indians, or whether such Indians as are willing to go should be allowed to do so on their being made to understand that neither the Imperial Government nor the Government of Fiji will be able to assure them protection and the due performance by the employer of his part of the contract.

Dated Sydney, the 30th July 1891.

From—J. G. LAING, Esq., *Secretary, Australasian New Hebrides Company, Limited,*

To—His Excellency the Governor of Fiji.

THE question has been brought before our Company of allowing Indians, whose time has expired in Fiji, to emigrate thence to the New Hebrides.

When this matter was placed before the Directors they were under the impression that, being British subjects, there could be no objection on the part of the Fiji Government to allow the coolies to settle under a British Company in the New Hebrides, more especially as it would have the effect of extending British influence in the group.

My Directors, however, are extremely desirous of doing nothing in this matter without having first received your Excellency's advice, and they would be much pleased to learn what views you have on this subject.

Dated Fiji, the 31st August 1891.

From—WILLFRED COLLET, Esq., *Secretary to High Commissioner,*

To—*The Secretary, Australasian New Hebrides Company, Limited.*

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, upon the question of Indian immigrants whose time has expired in Fiji being allowed to emigrate to the New Hebrides for service under a British Company in that group of islands.

2. The High Commissioner instructs me in reply to say that the subject, regarded as a project, raises important considerations in which there are concerned—

- (1) the immigrant;
- (2) the Imperial and Indian Governments;
- (3) the Government of Fiji; and
- (4) the High Commissioner.

3. Immigration from India has been sanctioned by the Imperial and Indian Governments only after the passing of special legal enactments regulating such immigration, as well as the rights and obligations of the immigrant after his arrival.

4. The most stringent provisions of these laws are, perhaps, those relating to the protection of the immigrant by Resident Magistrates and Officers of the Department of immigration.

All such protection is entirely absent in the New Hebrides.

5. If it be said that immigrants whose time has expired in Fiji are free to go where they please, the Indian Government might contend that, in an ordinary sense, they were free in India, but that in the interest of Her Majesty's Native Indian subjects legal prohibitions have been established restraining emigration to foreign places, excepting on conditions prescribed by law, and that, with regard to an immigrant whose term of service has expired in the Colony, the Government of Fiji is morally bound to ensure that he is not allowed to place himself in a position which would not have been originally sanctioned by the Government of India.

6. The Government of Fiji is also closely concerned in the matter. At very considerable expense it has established a regular system of immigration from India. In this the planting community enjoy one of the many advantages arising from a settled and recognised Government. The success of immigration depends in a large measure upon the readiness with which recruiting in India is effected, and this readiness depends again upon the reputation of the Colony. It is, therefore, to the interests of the Colony that immigrants who do not elect to remain in it permanently should go home promptly at the expiry of their terms of service in one of the ships annually provided for that purpose, and should go home with as much money as they can earn and save. It is not improbable that the Legislature of Fiji and the whole community would, therefore, view with apprehension any proposals which might prejudicially affect the Colony in respect of Indian immigration.

8. The High Commissioner will cause a copy of your communication to be sent to the Government of Fiji, and will also submit the question for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government by an early mail.

9. His Excellency has perused with much satisfaction the concluding paragraph of your letter, and I am to say that whatever may be the outcome of correspondence with the Government of India, should it arise, he feels sure that at the present moment neither the recruiting of Indian immigrants at Fiji for service in the New Hebrides nor the voluntary emigration of such persons from the Colony would be permitted.

Dated Colonial Office, London, the 19th December 1891.

From—LORD KNUTSFORD, *Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies,*

To—*His Excellency the Governor of Fiji.*

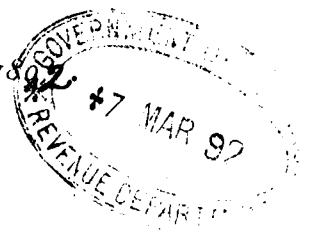
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch—Western Pacific, No. 32 of the 26th of September last—enclosing a correspondence with the Australasian New Hebrides Company of Sydney respecting the contemplated employment of time-expired Indian immigrants from Fiji in the New Hebrides.

I have the honour to request that you will at once take steps to procure the enactment of an Ordinance, *mutatis mutandis*, similar to the Mauritius Ordinance No. 12 of 1881, of which I enclose a copy for your information.

652  
No. 377  
20

Revenue and Agricultural Department.

*Calcutta*, Dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1892  
(*Emigration*)



Copy forwarded to the *Government of Madras* for  
information.

By order, &c.,

*Muni Krishna Rao*

Under-Secretary to the Government of India.

Despatch from Her Majesty's Secretary of State  
No. 3 (Emgr.) dated the 21<sup>st</sup> January 1892, & enclosure

TO 652  
Public Dept.

From  
The Govt. of India,  
Revenue & Agric. Dept.

M.U.

order 11 March 92 at 159.

bound: to the  
Protectors of Emigrants  
Madras, with refce  
to his letter of the 5<sup>th</sup>  
instant, No. 134.

No. 577  
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Dated 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Rec'd 7<sup>th</sup>  
Reg'd 8<sup>th</sup>

S.C. 50

8 p/15  
9 March 11-92

9/3

Forwarding for information  
despatch from the Secy. of State  
No. 3 (Emigration) of 21-1-92.

Protector of Emigrants.

DESPATCHED  
11-3-92  
IN M.S.

C.9/3

R.11/3

WITH ORDER