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Public DEPARTMENT.
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No. 349

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[Despatch Abstract]

Immigration
Copy to the Protector of
Immigrants for guidance
letter from the Govt of
India regarding
certain cases of
leprosy on the subject
of the return of India
of cases affected with
leprosy in certain colonies
& requesting that in future
annual reports on Colo-
nial immigration the
particular of immigrants af-
fected may be indicated
together the number of
cases returned from the
various colonies in
cluding Indian colonies
& any other facts of

interest & importance

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INDIA OFFICE ;

London, 25th February 1892.

Public (Emigration).
No. 19.

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

MY LORD MARQUIS,

IN continuation of my despatch, dated the 29th of January 1891, No. 16,

* Natal, dated 2nd March 1891, No. 51, and enclosure.
Trinidad, dated 30th April 1891, No. 127, and en-
closures.
Jamaica, dated 9th March 1891, No. 53, and en-
closure.
Mauritius, dated 8th May 1891, No. 167, and en-
closure.

I forward, for the information of Your Ex-
cellency in Council, copies of despatches*
received from the Colonial Governments
of Natal, Trinidad, Jamaica and Mauritius
on the subject of the return to India of
coolies affected with leprosy.

2. With reference to your Emigration letter No. 31, dated the 19th of
August 1890, requesting that every precaution may be taken by the Colonial
Governments to prevent the return to

3rd November 1890, No. 387.

India of persons infected by the disease
called "Yaws," I transmit copy of a despatch from the Governor of Jamaica,
which is the only reply received up to the present time.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD MARQUIS,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble Servant,

CROSS.

No. 51, dated Natal, 2nd March 1891.

From—SIR C. B. H. MITCHELL, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Natal,
To—The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's despatch
(circular) of the 29th December last referring to your circular despatch mark-
ed "Emigration" of the 8th September 1890, and transmitting for my informa-
tion and guidance a copy of a letter from the Government of India on the
subject of the return to India of coolie immigrants affected with leprosy.

2. I submit to Your Lordship herewith a copy of a report on the subject, as
regards this colony, which has been furnished by the Protector of Immigrants,
who refers to the terms offered to Indians intending to emigrate to Natal as to
their return to India, and points out that lepers, whether their disease is con-
tracted in the colony or not, are not repatriated except by their own express
wish or consent, and that, when they are sent to India, every precaution is
taken by the Immigration Department of Natal for their comfort and segre-
gation on board the ship conveying them.

Mr. Mason adds that to his knowledge, no lepers have ever been sent from
Natal to India in an advanced stage of the disease.

3. Of the 38 lepers sent back to India from five colonies during the year
1889, only four were from Natal.

Dated Natal, 27th February 1891.

From—L. H. MASON, Esq., Protector of Immigrants, Natal,
To—The Colonial Secretary, Natal.

OUR Agent's recruiters in India are authorised to offer certain terms to Indians intending to emigrate to Natal, and amongst others the following:—

"After five years you may return to India at your own expense, and after ten years you will be entitled to a free passage back."

This being the case, there is nothing to prevent lepers paying their own passages back to India, or claiming as a right *free* return passages at the expiration of ten years' residence in Natal. As a matter of fact, lepers, whether the disease has been contracted in the colony or otherwise, are not repatriated except by their own express wish or consent, and in that case every precaution is taken by my Department for their comfort and segregation on board ship.

No lepers to my knowledge have ever been sent back from Natal in an advanced stage of the disease, with mutilated extremities or open ulcers of an offensive nature.

No. 127, dated Trinidad, 30th April 1891.

From—SIR WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G., Governor of Trinidad,
To—The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

WITH reference to Your Lordship's circular despatch of the 29th December last on the subject of the return to India of coolie immigrants affected with leprosy, I have the honor to forward herewith copies of minutes received from the Surgeon-General and Protector of Immigrants, to whom I communicated that despatch.

Dated Trinidad, 22nd April 1891.

From—SURGEON-GENERAL S. L. CRANE, Surgeon-General, Trinidad,
To—The Colonial Secretary, Trinidad.

DURING my long experience of coolie emigration, covering some 30 years, I have always been under the impression that the coolies were entitled, by virtue of their contracts, to a free return passage to India after ten years' residence in the colony to which they had emigrated, and that the passage back could not be refused if the coolies were in a fit state of health to undertake the voyage, or suffered from no disease that was dangerous to other fellow passengers.

In the despatch, dated 22nd October 1890, it is stated: "The disease of leprosy is known to be inoculable." All the evidence that has been published on this point to which we have access here is very meagre—only one case known—and now regarded to be of a most doubtful character.

With regard to Mr. Mitchell's enquiry, the period required for the development of the disease is still unknown, and is variously stated from two to six years; and this want of knowledge makes it often difficult to say when the disease was acquired in particular cases. It would be as well that the matter should stand over until the report of the Leprosy Commission is published.

Dated Trinidad, 28th April 1891.

From—CHARLES MITCHELL, Esq., Protector of Immigrants, Trinidad,
To—The Colonial Secretary, Trinidad.

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of His Excellency, that the question of the return of lepers to India from British colonies seems to have arisen mainly from large numbers of lepers returned from Mauritius—a colony from which, I understand, immigrants introduced from India for years past were not entitled under the contracts made with them by that colony, to a

return passage at the expense of the colony. I am also glad to see that in the list of colonies given in these papers as having returned lepers, Trinidad is not included. All immigrants to Trinidad from India are entitled under the terms of their contract to a return passage to their country after a residence of ten years at the expense of the colony; but such immigrants, whether lepers or not, are returned to India only on their own express desire to be sent back to their native land.

The real difficulty, however, in returning lepers is in the matter of segregation in a crowded immigrant ship. The suggestion that where the disease is disclosed within six months after the immigrant's arrival in the colony he should be returned to India by the first opportunity appears to be a good one; but if this rule is to be observed, emigrants from India should be informed of this by the Protector when he is passing them.

No. 35, dated Jamaica, 9th March 1891.

From—SIR H. A. BLAKE, K.C.M.G., Governor-in-Chief, Jamaica,
To—The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's circular despatch of the 29th December last, with enclosures, on the subject of the return to India of coolie immigrants affected with leprosy, and to forward, for Your Lordship's information, a copy of a memorandum by the Protector of Immigrants reporting the practice in this colony in the matter.

Dated Jamaica, 20th February 1891.

From—P. C. CORK, Esq., Protector of Immigrants, Jamaica,
To—The Colonial Secretary Jamaica.

WHEN coolies in this colony are found to be affected with leprosy, they are sent to the Leper's Home for segregation and medical treatment.

Since the receipt of the circular of 15th October 1875, from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, coolies afflicted with the disease, who were fit to undertake the voyage, have from time to time been sent back, arrangements being made for them to occupy the space forward in the "tween decks" so as to come as little as possible in contact with the other passengers. The Protector of Immigrants in shipping such coolies is guided by the opinion of the Medical Board, which examines them prior to embarkation, and, I am of opinion, is justified only in refusing a passage to such as in the judgment of the Medical Board would endanger the lives or healths of the other passengers.

The practice here has worked well so far as I am aware, as no complaint has hitherto reached me from India. The Medical Board, it may be assumed, has taken adequate precautions in each case; and I think it would be a pity to absolutely prohibit coolies who may be attacked with this disease from enjoying the satisfaction of returning to their country in terms with their agreements with us if they can do so without risk to the other passengers, of which the Medical Board and Surgeon Superintendent should be able to judge.

No. 167, dated Mauritius, 8th May 1891.

From—SIR C. C. LEES, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Mauritius,
To—The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

WITH reference to Your Lordship's circular despatch of the 29th December last, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a report by the Protector of Immigrants dealing with the question of the return to India of coolie immigrants affected with leprosy.

2. I laid this report before the Executive Council on the 1st instant, when the Council advised that a copy should be forwarded to Your Lordship, and that

the Protector of Immigrants should be instructed to comply in future with the wishes of the Government of India, as expressed in paragraph 2 of letter No. 51 of the 22nd October 1890, from that Government to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, a copy of which was enclosed in Your Lordship's circular despatch under reply.

No. A.—125, dated Mauritius, 3rd April 1891.

From—J. F. TROTTER, Esq., Protector of Immigrants, Mauritius,
To—The Colonial Secretary, Mauritius.

THE Government of India, in their letter No. 51 of 1890, to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, desire that no lepers with open sores or in an advanced stage of the disease be returned to India. By return, I presume they mean that no leper should be sent back to India against his will. I take this opportunity to state that no leper or any other immigrant from India has, during the ten years that I have been Protector of Immigrants, ever been sent back to India against his will.

2. The Indian Government further desire that lepers should be segregated on boardship. I have always endeavoured to have this done, but any measures of segregation that may be adopted must and will fail, while the healthy immigrants on board have no fear of the disease, and mingle freely with the lepers. My experience during the last twenty years has been that healthy immigrants have no fear of the disease, and I have always found them mixing freely with lepers and marrying and intermarrying into leprous families. On numerous occasions I have advised healthy people not to marry into leprous families, but without avail.

3. In the latter part of paragraph 3 of his letter to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, the Protector of Emigrants at Calcutta writes:—"When the disease has been contracted in the colony, local arrangements should be made for the treatment and segregation of the infected persons, and this should be done whether the disease has reached the stage of open sores or not." What the Protector here suggests has been done in Mauritius for years past; but the trouble is that the immense majority of lepers will not go to the Asylum, and prefer to go about begging from place to place and to sit in public places seeking alms. After a time they get tired of this and apply for a free passage to their home in India, and it is only under such circumstances that a leper is ever sent back from here to his native country.

4. In the concluding portion of paragraph 2 of his letter to the Protector of Emigrants at Calcutta, Surgeon-Major McConnell gives a harrowing and graphic description of the condition in which he saw several lepers who returned home in the *Warora*; but the condition of lepers is always very terrible and miserable all over the world, and it is unfortunately especially so when they will not avail themselves of the Asylums provided for them by the government of the country in which they happen to be living.

5. With regard to the question of contagion touched upon by Surgeon-Major McConnell, the Protector of Emigrants at Calcutta and the Indian Government, I was informed only a few days ago by the Chief Medical Officer of this colony that there is no authentic case on record of any servant or other person employed in the Leper Asylum at Mauritius having contracted the disease, although this institution has now existed for about 18 or 20 years.

6. Leprosy is introduced into this colony entirely through the immigrant population, numbers of whom come here with the disease inherited and latent in their system; they then procreate children who marry into healthy families and thus spread the disease far and wide. Quite recently a new immigrant, who had been only six months in the colony, was sent to me suffering from leprosy. When this man landed here he was to all appearance perfectly well, and had been passed by several medical men as a healthy man; but the disease, being latent in his system, soon showed itself, and he subsequently admitted to me that he had inherited the disease.

7. Until a forcible system of segregation is adopted and the children of lepers forbidden by law to marry, I do not see how the increase of leprosy among the Indian population can be checked. There seem, however, to be very strong objections to the forcible segregation of lepers not only in India, but in all Her Majesty's colonies, so the remedy must be sought in a cure similar to the one recently discovered by that eminent physician, Dr. Koch, for consumption.

8. In the case of individuals afflicted with leprosy, I can conceive nothing harder than to add to their great misery and sorrow by refusing to allow them to return to their relatives and to their native land simply and solely because the Almighty has visited them with a disease for which they are in no way responsible: and I doubt much the justice of saying, "If healthy, we will accept you with your earnings and your healthy children; but should you be sick and afflicted with leprosy, you shall not return to your home": and this when it is well known that if these people had remained in India, they would have become lepers, and that 90 out of 100 of those who return to India suffering from leprosy had the disease latent in their system when they came to this colony.

9. If His Excellency the Governor directs that no free passages are to be granted to lepers in an advanced stage of the disease in future, his instructions will of course be complied with; but I respectfully submit that before any such order is issued a copy of my remarks should be sent to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the reconsideration of the Government of India. I need scarcely add that an order of the nature alluded to above will be regarded as most unjust and oppressive by the immigrant population, and that the initiation of it should, in my opinion, be left to the Government of India. With regard to lepers who have paid their passage, I cannot prevent them from returning to India unless a law is passed to that effect.

10. In conclusion, I have respectfully to suggest that the difficulty which has arisen in regard to these lepers could easily be met by this Government granting a pension of Rs. 3 per mensem to any pauper lepers who may wish to return to their homes, and by making more stringent regulations in regard to their segregation on board during their return voyage to India.

No. 387, dated Jamaica, 3rd November 1890.

From—SIR H. A. BLAKE, K.C.M.G., Governor-in-Chief, Jamaica,
To—The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

IN reply to your despatch "Emigration," dated the 30th September last, I have the honour to inform Your Lordship that I have as desired issued instructions that precautions are to be taken to prevent the return to India from this colony of persons infected with "Yaws".

[C. G. DE S.]

No. 936 E
3/

FROM

J. W. P. MUIR-MACKENZIE, ESQ., C.S.,
Under-Secretary to the Government of India,

TO



The Secretary to the Govt: of Madras.

Simla, the 10th May 1892.Revenue and Agricultural
Department.
(Emigration)

SIR,

With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 349 dated the 2nd May 1891,

I am directed to forward for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council a copy of the

No. 19 (Emigration) dated the
25th February 1892.

despatch noted on the margin
from Her Majesty's Secretary of

State, with enclosures, on the subject of the repatriation of Indian immigrants affected with Leprosy in the Colonies of Natal, Trinidad, Jamaica and Mauritius.

2. I am directed to request that in future Annual Reports on Colonial emigration the Protector of Emigrants, Madras, may be instructed to notice ~~the~~ the number of lepers returned from various Colonies importing Indian labour and any other facts of interest and importance with respect to their repatriation.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Under Secretary.

P.C.M.

J.W.P. 3495 21/5

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Public Deptth

2/5/91 22349 Aug 6

From

The Govt. of India.

Rev: April: Depth

Mu.

Order 21 Mar 92 No 349

bound: to the
Protector of Emigrants,
Madras, for guidance.

2. A special report for
the year 1891 should be
submitted without de-
lay.

17 Mar.

No. 936E
31Dated 10thRecd 15thRecd 16th

Encls: one

} May 1892

Re: repatriation of
Indian Immigrants affected
with leprosy in the Colonies.

Protector of Emigrants,
Madras. } Depth
2/5/92

c18/5

21ST MAY 1892, No. 349, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From J. W. P. MUIR-MACKENZIE, Esq., C.S., Under-Secretary to the Govern-
ment of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department (Emigration), to the
Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, 10th May 1892,
No. 936-E—31.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter, No. 349, dated
the 2nd May 1891, I am directed to forward, for the information of His Excellency
the Governor in Council, a copy of the
No. 19 (Emigration), dated 25th Feb. 1892. despatch noted on the margin from Her
Majesty's Secretary of State, with enco-
sures, on the subject of the repatriation of Indian immigrants affected with leprosy
in the colonies of Natal, Trinidad, Jamaica and Mauritius.

2. I am directed to request that, in future annual reports on colonial emigration,
the Protector of Emigrants, Madras, may be instructed to notice the number of lepers
returned from the various colonies importing Indian labour and any other facts of
interest and importance with respect to their repatriation.

ENCLOSURES.

Despatch from the Right Honorable Lord CROSS, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for
India, to His Excellency the Most Honorable the Governor-General of India in Council,
dated India Office, London, 25th February 1892, No. 19, Public (Emigration).

In continuation of my despatch, dated the 29th of January 1891, No. 16, I forward, for the
information of your Excellency in Council,
copies of despatches* received from the
Colonial Governments of Natal, Trinidad,
Jamaica and Mauritius on the subject of the
return to India of coolies affected with leprosy.

* Natal, dated 2nd March 1891, No. 51, and enclosure.
Trinidad " 30th April " " 127 " enclosures.
Jamaica " 9th March " " 35 " enclosure.
Mauritius " 8th May " " 167 " "

2. With reference to your Emigration letter, No. 31, dated the 19th of August 1890,
requesting that every precaution may be taken
by the Colonial Governments to prevent the
return to India of persons infected by the

3rd November 1890, No. 387.

disease called "Yaws," I transmit copy of a despatch from the Governor of Jamaica, which is
the only reply received up to the present time.

From Sir C. B. H. MITCHELL, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Natal, to the
Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated Natal, 2nd March 1891, No. 51.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch (circular) of the
29th December last referring to your circular despatch marked "Emigration" of the 8th Septem-
ber 1890, and transmitting for my information and guidance a copy of a letter from the Govern-
ment of India on the subject of the return to India of coolie immigrants affected with leprosy.

2. I submit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a report on the subject, as regards this colony, which has been furnished by the Protector of Immigrants, who refers to the terms offered to Indians intending to emigrate to Natal as to their return to India, and points out that lepers, whether their disease is contracted in the colony or not, are not repatriated except by their own express wish or consent, and that, when they are sent to India, every precaution is taken by the Immigration Department of Natal for their comfort and segregation on board the ship conveying them.

Mr. Mason adds that to his knowledge, no lepers have ever been sent from Natal to India in an advanced stage of the disease.

3. Of the 38 lepers sent back to India from five colonies during the year 1889, only four were from Natal.

From L. H. MASON, Esq., Protector of Immigrants, Natal, to the Colonial Secretary, Natal, dated Natal, 27th February 1891.

Our Agent's recruiters in India are authorised to offer certain terms to Indians intending to emigrate to Natal, and amongst others the following:—

"After five years you may return to India at your own expense, and after ten years you will be entitled to a free passage back."

This being the case, there is nothing to prevent lepers paying their own passages back to India, or claiming as a right *free* return passages at the expiration of ten years' residence in Natal. As a matter of fact, lepers, whether the disease has been contracted in the colony or otherwise, are not repatriated except by their own express wish or consent, and in that case every precaution is taken by my department for their comfort and segregation on board ship.

No lepers to my knowledge have ever been sent back from Natal in an advanced stage of the disease, with mutilated extremities or open ulcers of an offensive nature.

From Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G., Governor of Trinidad, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated Trinidad, 30th April 1891, No. 127.

With reference to your Lordship's circular despatch of the 29th December last on the subject of the return to India of coolie immigrants affected with leprosy, I have the honour to forward herewith copies of minutes received from the Surgeon-General and Protector of Immigrants, to whom I communicated that despatch.

From Surgeon-General S. L. CRANE, Surgeon-General, Trinidad, to the Colonial Secretary Trinidad, dated Trinidad, 22nd April 1891.

During my long experience of coolie emigration, covering some 30 years, I have always been under the impression that the coolies were entitled, by virtue of their contracts, to a free return passage to India after ten years' residence in the colony to which they had emigrated, and that the passage back could not be refused if the coolies were in a fit state of health to undertake the voyage, or suffered from no disease that was dangerous to other fellow-passengers.

In the despatch, dated 22nd October 1890, it is stated: "The disease of leprosy is known to be inoculable." All the evidence that has been published on this point to which we have access here is very meagre—only one case known—and now regarded to be of a most doubtful character.

With regard to Mr. Mitchell's enquiry, the period required for the development of the disease is still unknown, and is variously stated from two to six years; and this want of knowledge makes it often difficult to say when the disease was acquired in particular cases. It would be as well that the matter should stand over until the report of the Leprosy Commission is published.

From C. MITCHELL, Esq., Protector of Immigrants, Trinidad, to the Colonial Secretary, Trinidad, dated Trinidad, 28th April 1891.

I have the honour to state, for the information of His Excellency, that the question of the return of lepers to India from British colonies seems to have arisen mainly from large numbers of lepers returned from Mauritius—a colony from which, I understand, immigrants introduced from India for years past were not entitled under the contracts made with them by that colony to a return passage at the expense of the colony. I am also glad to see that in the list of colonies

given in these papers, as having returned lepers, Trinidad is not included. All immigrants to Trinidad from India are entitled under the terms of their contract to a return passage to their country after a residence of ten years at the expense of the colony; but such immigrants, whether lepers or not, are returned to India only on their own express desire to be sent back to their native land.

The real difficulty, however, in returning lepers is in the matter of segregation in a crowded immigrant ship. The suggestion that where the disease is disclosed within six months after the immigrant's arrival in the colony he should be returned to India by the first opportunity appears to be a good one; but if this rule is to be observed, emigrants from India should be informed of this by the Protector when he is passing them.

From Sir H. A. BLAKE, K.C.M.G., Governor-in-Chief, Jamaica, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated Jamaica, 9th March 1891, No. 35.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's circular despatch of the 29th December last, with enclosures, on the subject of the return to India of coolie immigrants affected with leprosy, and to forward, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a memorandum by the Protector of Immigrants reporting the practice in this colony in the matter.

From P. C. CORK, Esq., Protector of Immigrants, Jamaica, to the Colonial Secretary, Jamaica, dated Jamaica, 20th February 1891.

When coolies in this colony are found to be affected with leprosy, they are sent to the Lepers' Home for segregation and medical treatment.

Since the receipt of the circular of 15th October 1875 from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, coolies afflicted with the disease, who were fit to undertake the voyage, have from time to time been sent back, arrangements being made for them to occupy the space forward in the "tween decks" so as to come as little as possible in contact with the other passengers. The Protector of Immigrants in shipping such coolies is guided by the opinion of the Medical Board, which examines them prior to embarkation, and, I am of opinion, is justified only in refusing a passage to such as in the judgment of the Medical Board would endanger the lives or healths of the other passengers.

The practice here has worked well so far as I am aware, as no complaint has hitherto reached me from India. The Medical Board, it may be assumed, has taken adequate precautions in each case; and I think it would be a pity to absolutely prohibit coolies who may be attacked with this disease from enjoying the satisfaction of returning to their country in terms with their agreements with us if they can do so without risk to the other passengers, of which the Medical Board and Surgeon Superintendent should be able to judge.

From Sir C. C. LEES, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Mauritius, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated Mauritius, 8th May 1891, No. 167.

With reference to your Lordship's circular despatch of the 29th December last, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a report by the Protector of Immigrants dealing with the question of the return to India of coolie immigrants affected with leprosy.

2. I laid this report before the Executive Council on the 1st instant, when the Council advised that a copy should be forwarded to your Lordship, and that the Protector of Immigrants should be instructed to comply in future with the wishes of the Government of India, as expressed in paragraph 2 of letter, No. 51, of the 22nd October 1890, from that Government to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, a copy of which was enclosed in your Lordship's circular despatch under reply.

From J. F. TROTTER, Esq., Protector of Immigrants, Mauritius, to the Colonial Secretary, Mauritius, dated Mauritius, 3rd April 1891, No. A.—125.

The Government of India, in their letter, No. 51 of 1890, to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, desire that no lepers with open sores or in an advanced stage of the disease be returned to India. By return, I presume they mean that no leper should be sent back to India against his will. I take this opportunity to state that no leper or any other immigrant from India has, during the ten years that I have been Protector of Immigrants, ever been sent back to India against his will.

2. The Indian Government further desire that lepers should be segregated on boardship. I have always endeavoured to have this done, but any measures of segregation that may be adopted must and will fail while the healthy immigrants on board have no fear of the disease and mingle freely with the lepers. My experience during the last twenty years has been that healthy immigrants have no fear of the disease, and I have always found them mixing freely with lepers and marrying and intermarrying into leprous families. On numerous occasions I have advised healthy people not to marry into leprous families, but without avail.

3. In the latter part of paragraph 3 of his letter to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, the Protector of Emigrants at Calcutta writes:—"When the disease has been contracted in the colony, local arrangements should be made for the treatment and segregation of the infected persons, and this should be done whether the disease has reached the stage of open sores or not." What the Protector here suggests has been done in Mauritius for years past; but the trouble is that the immense majority of lepers will not go to the Asylum, and prefer to go about begging from place to place and to sit in public places seeking alms. After a time they get tired of this and apply for a free passage to their home in India, and it is only under such circumstances that a leper is ever sent back from here to his native country.

4. In the concluding portion of paragraph 2 of his letter to the Protector of Emigrants at Calcutta, Surgeon-Major McConnell gives a harrowing and graphic description of the condition in which he saw several lepers who returned home in the *Warora*; but the condition of lepers is always very terrible and miserable all over the world, and it is unfortunately especially so when they will not avail themselves of the Asylums provided for them by the Government of the country in which they happen to be living.

5. With regard to the question of contagion touched upon by Surgeon-Major McConnell, the Protector of Emigrants at Calcutta, and the Indian Government, I was informed only a few days ago by the Chief Medical Officer of this colony that there is no authentic case on record of any servant or other person employed in the Leper Asylum at Mauritius having contracted the disease, although this institution has now existed for about 18 or 20 years.

6. Leprosy is introduced into this colony entirely through the immigrant population, numbers of whom come here with the disease inherited and latent in their system; they then procreate children who marry into healthy families and thus spread the disease far and wide. Quite recently a new immigrant, who had been only six months in the colony, was sent to me suffering from leprosy. When this man landed here he was to all appearance perfectly well, and had been passed by several medical men as a healthy man; but the disease, being latent in his system, soon showed itself, and he subsequently admitted to me that he had inherited the disease.

7. Until a forcible system of segregation is adopted and the children of lepers forbidden by law to marry, I do not see how the increase of leprosy among the Indian population can be checked. There seem, however, to be very strong objections to the forcible segregation of lepers, not only in India, but in all Her Majesty's colonies, so the remedy must be sought in a cure similar to the one recently discovered by that eminent physician, Dr. Koch, for consumption.

8. In the case of individuals afflicted with leprosy, I can conceive nothing harder than to add to their great misery and sorrow by refusing to allow them to return to their relatives and to their native land simply and solely because the Almighty has visited them with a disease for which they are in no way responsible; and I doubt much the justice of saying, "If healthy, we will accept you with your earnings and your healthy children; but should you be sick and afflicted with leprosy, you shall not return to your home;" and this when it is well known that if these people had remained in India, they would have become lepers, and that 90 out of 100 of those who return to India suffering from leprosy had the disease latent in their system when they came to this colony.

9. If His Excellency the Governor directs that no free passages are to be granted to lepers in an advanced stage of the disease in future, his instructions will, of course, be complied with; but I respectfully submit that before any such order is issued a copy of my remarks should be sent to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the reconsideration of the Government of India. I need scarcely add that an order of the nature alluded to above will be regarded as most unjust and oppressive by the immigrant population, and that the initiation of it should, in my opinion, be left to the Government of India. With regard to lepers who have paid their passage, I cannot prevent them from returning to India unless a law is passed to that effect.

10. In conclusion, I have respectfully to suggest that the difficulty which has arisen in regard to these lepers could easily be met by this Government granting a pension of Rs. 3 per mensem to any pauper lepers who may wish to return to their homes and by making more stringent regulations in regard to their segregation on board during their return voyage to India.

From Sir H. A. BLAKE, K.C.M.G., Governor-in-Chief, Jamaica, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated Jamaica, 3rd November 1890, No. 387.

In reply to your despatch "Emigration," dated the 30th September last, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have, as desired, issued instructions that precautions are to be taken to prevent the return to India from this colony of persons infected with "Yaws."

ORDER—dated 21st May 1892, No. 349, Public.

Communicated to the Protector of Emigrants, Madras, for guidance.

2. A special report for the year 1891 should be submitted without delay.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Protector of Emigrants, Madras.

Exd. A. Raitt.

Govt. of {1892} Madras.
PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 21st May 1892, No. 349.

MAY.

Emigration.

Communicating to the Protector of Emigrants, Madras, for guidance, letter from the Government of India forwarding copy of despatches on the subject of the return to India of coolies affected with leprosy in certain colonies, and requesting that, in future annual reports on colonial emigration, the Protector of Emigrants, Madras, may be instructed to notice the number of lepers returned from the various colonies importing Indian labour and any other facts of interest and importance.

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