

No. 709
24

FROM

J. W. P. MUIR-MACKENZIE, ESQ., C.S.I.
Under-Secretary to the Government of India,
17 APR 92

TO

The Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Simla, the 12th April 1892.

Revenue and Agricultural
Department.

SIR,

(Emigration)

In continuation of Sir E. Buck's letter No. 1033E
dated the 15th September last and previous correspond
I am directed to forward for the information and consider-
ation of His Excellency the Governor in Council copy of
the marginally noted despatch and correspondence received
No. 11 dated 4th February 1902. } from Her

Majesty's Secretary of State and relating to the renewal
of Emigration to the French Colonies of Réunion, Marti-
nique and Guadeloupe.

2. I am to say that Mr. Gemin's report on his deputation to
the West Indian Colonies is now in course of preparation,
and that the Bengal Government has been requested to
obtain from him in advance a report of such observations
as he may have to offer on the present proposals of the
French Government. The Bengal Government will forward a
copy of Dr. Gemin's reports direct to the Government of
Madras and I am to ask that His Excellency the Governor in
Council will also favor the Government of India at an
early date with a full expression of his views on the
various

FILE NO. 24.
SERIAL NO. 1.

No. 11 Public (Emigration), dated India Office, London, the 4th February 1892.

From—THE RIGHT HON'BLE VISCOUNT CROSS, G.C.B., *Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India,*
To—The Government of India.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I transmit, for the consideration of Your Excellency in Council, copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Minister in Paris, enclosing copy of a note received by him from the French Government in answer to the representation addressed to that Government by Her Majesty's late Ambassador on the 2nd of June 1890, on the subject of the treatment of coolies in the French Colonies and the conditions on which your Government may be prepared to allow the renewal of emigration to Réunion and the other Colonies of Martinique and Guadeloupe.

2. I also forward copy of the reply which I have caused to be sent to the Foreign Office, together with a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion, reporting a conversation with the Governor of the Colony relating to the renewal of the emigration.

3. Your Lordship's Government is in possession of all the correspondence that has taken place since June 1890 on this subject and other questions affecting the general condition of Indian immigrants in Réunion, Martinique, and Guadeloupe. As soon as Dr. Comins has submitted his Reports on the French Colonies other than Réunion, a copy will be forwarded to your Government. Pending its receipt I desire that Your Excellency in Council will carefully consider the contents of M. Ribot's note and in due course communicate to me your observations thereon.

No. 29 (Consular), dated Paris, the 26th December 1891.

From—E. H. EGERTON, Esq., *Her Majesty's Minister at Paris,*
To—The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

WITH reference to the late Earl of Lytton's Despatch, No. 19 (Consular) of the 2nd June 1890, I have the honour to enclose herewith copy of a note received from Monsieur Ribot, in answer to that

which Her Majesty's Ambassador on the above-mentioned date addressed to His Excellency, transmitting four memoranda from the India Office, Mr. St. John, etc., on the subject of the treatment of coolies in Réunion more especially, and the conditions upon which alone the Indian Government would allow the re-opening of emigration.

Monsieur Ribot begins by observing that the memorandum of the India Office, without giving a test of well authenticated facts, merely states the general considerations which have caused the suspension by the Indian Government of the permission for coolies to be engaged for French Colonies, and merely repeats the complaints of British Consuls, but the late visit of Surgeon-Major Comins, Protector of Emigrants at Calcutta to Guiana, Martinique, and Guadeloupe completely disproves the Consular reports of the deplorable condition of Indian coolies in the French West Indian Colonies, and he suggests that an Indian Emigration official should in like manner visit Réunion to examine the treatment of coolies in that island.

The representations made by this Embassy on the ground of complaints transmitted by Her Majesty's Consular officers in Réunion have always been carefully examined by the French Government, and no exact evidence has been given to show that a series of facts have occurred in contravention of the Convention of July 1861, and it would be well if an impartial examination were made as suggested above by an Indian official.

Holding this view, Monsieur Etienne, the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, has not refused directly the considerations contained in the India Office memorandum and the other documents submitted at the same time to the French Government, but has confined himself to a re-examination of the conditions, which the India Office had in 1882 considered as essential for the continuation of emigration from India to Réunion. The first condition is that the British Consul should have a right to visit and inspect the estates.

To this the French Government answers that whilst unable to grant to a Foreign Official a right of inspection and domiciliary visit, which would be contrary to the spirit of French law, they would instruct the Protector of Immigrants in the French Colonies to take care to be

accompanied by Her Majesty's Consul whenever he had to deal with any complaint against a coolie by his master, the Consul acting as the natural defender of the Indian; but the intervention of the Consul should not hinder the action of the French official.

To the second, which is to the effect that no re-engagement be allowed till the expiry of the first contract, and then only subject to confirmation by the British Consul, the French Government assents in so far as relates to the Consul's confirmation.

The third—that all expenses connected with the immigration service should be obligatory—is assured by the statement that it is even now obligatory that the local Budgets should contain provision for the repatriation of time-expired labourers, but the French Government is willing to insist on further sums necessary for the immigration service (of which the amount will be fixed later) being provided by the colonies frequented by Indian coolies.

As to the fourth point, that of the Protector of Immigrants, the French Colonial Department has already decided (in compliance with the views of the Indian Government) to name, when vacancies occur, only special officials, having no local ties in the colony where they are employed.

On the fifth point, that of change in the text of the contracts of engagement, the French Under-Secretary of Colonies will be willing to examine any new formula proposed by the Indian Government.

The sixth condition—the non-payment of taxes by the coolies—is assumed by the French Government not to refer to indirect taxes, but they are willing to take an engagement to levy no special tax in their colonies on Indian labourers. Thus the taxes which now exist in Réunion under the name of taxes on contracts of engagement, on permits of residence, will be abolished.

As for direct taxes, excepting the impôt personnel (a sort of poll tax) they affect only those who possess real property, and thus do not touch the Indian coolies, but the French Government, though they consider that it would be hard on the natives of the colony to exempt the Indians under contract from the "personnel" tax, are willing to entertain the questions of this exemption, in deference to the wishes of the Indian Government, if there be a prospect of coming to a general agreement.

The Minister adds that the French Government are ready to concert with Her Majesty's Government in framing a fixed system for effecting the repatriation of time-expired coolies, and His Excellency adds that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has given of late particular attention to this matter. The Indians are now no longer sent back in sailing vessels, and about 400 have lately been despatched from Martinique in mail steamers.

The Minister earnestly begs that the proposals contained in his note may be especially recommended by Your Lordship to the favourable consideration of the Viceroy of India, and expresses the hope that they may be found acceptable, and that, in consequence, the recruiting of labourers for French Colonies may again be permitted by the Indian Government.

Dated Paris, the 23rd December 1891.

From—MONS. RIBOT, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Republic of France,
To—Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris.

Par une lettre en date du 2 juin 1890, Son Excellence Monsieur le Comte de Lytton m'a adressé, au sujet de la question de l'immigration des travailleurs indiens dans les Colonies françaises, un "Memorandum" émanant de l'India Office, et auquel se trouvaient annexées deux notes adressées à cette administration par M. St. John précédemment Consul d'Angleterre à St. Denys de la Réunion.

M. l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique ajoutait que ces documents résumaient les faits sur lesquels le Gouvernement de l'Inde motivait le maintien de la prohibition édictée contre le recrutement de travailleurs hindous à destination des Colonies françaises et faisaient ressortir les conditions essentielles mises à la levée de cette prohibition.

Après un examen approfondi des documents précités le Gouvernement de la République a été amené à constater qu'au lieu de citer un ensemble de faits matériels et circonstances, sur lesquels une discussion eût pu, le cas échéant, s'établir utilement, l'India Office a, dans son memorandum, rappelé seulement, d'une part les considérations générales qui ont porté l'administration anglaise à suspendre l'engagement de travailleurs indiens pour les Colonies françaises, et d'autre part les reproches que les Consuls d'Angleterre dans ces Colonies ont précédemment formulés contre la partialité imputée aux autorités locales, contre les tendances des planteurs et contre l'insuffisance des mesures de protection dans l'intérêt des immigrés qui seraient le plus souvent victimes des plus mauvais traitements.

Ainsi que je l'ai fait remarquer dans une communication que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous adresser, le 4 Novembre dernier, la visite que M. le Chirurgien Major Comins, Protecteur des émigrants à Calcutta, vient de faire à la Guinée, à la Martinique et à la Guadeloupe, a fait amplement justice des griefs articulés dans les rapports par lesquels les Consuls d'Angleterre signalaient la prétendue situation déplorable des coolies indiens dans les possessions françaises de la Mer des Antilles et les délais ou refus opposés à ceux d'entre eux qui demandaient leur rapatriement.

A supposer même que quelques faits regrettables et isolés se soient produits, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique aura pu se convaincre, par les données qui ont été recueillies par M. le Dr. Comins, que l'ensemble des mesures prises par l'Administration française pour protéger les immigrants dans les Colonies précitées, y reçoivent leur stricte application et assurent aux sujets indiens la légitime protection à laquelle ils ont droit.

En ce qui concerne spécialement la Réunion, la correspondance étrangère entre l'Ambassade Britannique à Paris et mon Département depuis la suspension de l'émigration indienne à destination de cette Colonie, témoigne de l'empressement et du soin avec lesquels le Gouvernement de la République a examiné tous les faits qui ont été signalés par le Cabinet de Londres, d'après les rapports du Consulat d'Angleterre à St. Denis. Elle établit d'ailleurs, suffisamment que la plupart du temps les explications fournies relativement à ces faits par les autorités Coloniales françaises, ont démontré combien étaient entachés d'exagération et de parti-pris les griefs et les critiques élevés contre l'attitude et la conduite des autorités locales. Le Gouvernement de la République a tenu, ainsi, à faire ressortir qu'il exécutait, d'une manière aussi satisfaisante que possible, les engagements qui découlent de la convention franco-britannique du 1er juillet 1861; les réponses contenues dans les communications adressées par mon Département à l'Ambassade Britannique n'ont pas été, d'ailleurs, contredites jusqu'ici par la citation d'un ensemble sérieux de faits, avec noms et dates à l'appui qui eussent révélé un état de choses fâcheux. Les quelques cas de services qui sont mentionnés dans la note de M. St. John joints au memo. de l'India Office et dont le renouvellement peut être prévenu par des poursuites exercées contre les coupables, ne sauraient, en effet, justifier, aux yeux du Gouvernement de la République, le maintien de la suppression édictée contre le recrutement des travailleurs indiens à destination de cette colonie française. Une enquête contradictoire conduite par des esprits impartiaux aurait pu seule donner quelque valeur aux autres griefs mis en avant au sujet de la situation actuelle des sujets indiens à la Réunion, et dans cet ordre d'idées le Gouvernement de la République serait tout disposé à donner à un fonctionnaire indien des services de l'émigration toutes facilités pour visiter la Réunion, et s'y rendre compte de la manière dont les coolies y sont traités, ainsi qu'il vient de le faire le Dr. Comins aux Antilles.

Dans cette situation M. le Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat des Colonies n'a pas jugé nécessaire de se livrer à une refutation directe des considérations exposées dans le Memo. de l'India Office et dans les annexes de ce document. Il a semblé à M. Etienne qu'il était plus à propos de s'arrêter seulement à examiner, de nouveau, les conditions auxquelles l'India Office a subordonné précédemment, le retrait de la prohibition édictée depuis 1862—conditions rappelées à la page 5 du Memo. M. le Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat a recherché des lors avec un réel désir de donner satisfaction au Gouvernement Britannique les concessions qu'il serait possible de faire dans le sens des demandes formulées par le Gouvernement de l'Inde, en ce qu'elles ont de compatible avec l'exercice du droit de souveraineté.

Les conditions mises par l'India Office à la reprise de l'émigration à destination des colonies françaises sont les suivantes :

1. Le Consul d'Angleterre dans la colonie devrait avoir le droit de visiter et d'inspecter tous les domaines;
2. Aucun nouveau ré-engagement ne pourrait être autorisé avant l'expiration du premier contrat, et il devrait être alors soumis à l'approbation du Consul d'Angleterre;
3. Toutes les dépenses concernant le service de l'immigration auraient un caractère obligatoire dans les budgets locaux des colonies;
4. Le Protecteur des Immigrants devrait être un fonctionnaire français n'ayant d'intérêts d'aucune sorte dans la colonie.
5. Le texte de contrats d'engagement devrait être modifié et les obligations des immigrants précitées.
6. Les coolies seront exempts de tous impôts quelconques et assurés d'être rapatriés dans de bonnes conditions.

1. En ce qui concerne la première question—le droit pour le Consul d'Angleterre de

visiter les propriétés particulières où se trouvent employés des travailleurs indiens. Le Gouvernement de la République ne peut pas accorder ce droit d'inspection et de visite domiciliaire — ce serait porter atteinte aux principes généraux de la législation française, en donnant, sur un territoire français à un fonctionnaire étranger un pouvoir que la loi ne concède dans certains cas déterminés et avec des garanties spéciales, qu'aux agents de l'ordre administratif, et à l'autorité judiciaire, ou à ses délégués. Mais le Gouvernement de la République est disposé à prendre des dispositions réglementaires pour prescrire au Protecteur des Immigrants dans les colonies françaises de s'adjoindre le Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique chaque fois qu'il aurait à se prononcer sur le cas d'un engagé contre lequel l'engagiste aurait porté une plainte, pour refus de travail, insubordination ou tout autre méfait. Le Consul d'Angleterre agirait bien entendu comme le défenseur naturel, le protecteur de l'indien incriminé, en mettant en lumière les circonstances qui peuvent démontrer l'innocence de l'engagé ou atténuer sa faute; mais l'intervention du Consul ne devrait pas avoir pour conséquence d'entraver l'action du Protecteur français des Immigrants.

2. Relativement aux conditions dans lesquelles les ré-engagements doivent s'effectuer l'administration française est disposée à donner les ordres nécessaires pour que, dans toutes les Colonies françaises, les contrats de ré-engagement des indiens soient visés par le Consul anglais, comme cela se pratique depuis 1877 à la Réunion.

3. Quant aux dépenses concernant l'immigration, les budgets locaux comprenant déjà d'une manière obligatoire, aux termes du Sénatus-Consulte du 4 juillet 1866, les frais nécessités par le rapatriement des travailleurs arrivés au terme de leurs contrats. Les autres crédits que comportent l'exécution des divers décrets qui ont réglementé, à nouveau, dans ces dernières années, le service de l'émigration dans les possessions françaises de l'Océan Indien et de la mer des Antilles, ont été votés jusqu'ici par les Consuls locaux de ces Colonies sans soulever des difficultés. Mais si l'obligation de soumettre annuellement cet ensemble de crédits au vote de ces assemblées constitue, aux prix du Gouvernement anglais, un obstacle sérieux contre la reprise de l'immigration indienne, le Gouvernement de la République, désireux de témoigner à cet égard un large esprit de conciliation, n'aurait pas d'objection à stipuler, dans des articles additionnels à la Convention franco-britannique du 1er juillet 1861, que les colonies dont il s'agit prennent l'engagement d'insérer dans leur budget un crédit déterminé, dont la somme serait à fixer ultérieurement, pour faire face, en dehors des frais de rapatriement, déjà considérés comme obligatoires aux autres dépenses du service de l'émigration.

4. Quant au 4^e point, la nomination du Protecteur des Immigrants, l'Administration Coloniale française a déjà, dans ses dernière choix, réalisé à l'avance le vœu exprimé à cet égard par le Gouvernement de l'Inde anglaise; il est dans ses intentions de suivre à l'avenir la même règle de conduite et de désigner pour ces fonctions au fur et à mesure des vacances des agents recrutés d'une manière spéciale et d'ayant aucun attaché dans le pays.

5. M. le Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat des Colonies ne voit pas, d'autre part, d'inconvénients à modifier le texte des contrats d'engagement et à préciser d'avantage les obligations des engagés; il examinera toute nouvelle formule que le Gouvernement indien rédigerait et soumettrait à l'administration française.

6. En égard au 6^e point, il y a lieu de supposer que l'administration de l'Inde ne demande pas, pour les indiens, l'exonération des impôts indirects; car il serait matériellement impossible d'exempter les coolies des contributions indirectes auxquelles sont soumis tous les colons. Sur ce point le Gouvernement de la République est disposé à stipuler, dans un article additionnel à la Convention précitée de 1861, qu'il ne sera prélevé sur les coolies indiens aucune taxe spéciale à cette catégorie d'habitants dans les colonies françaises. Par suite de cette stipulation les taxes qui existent, en ce moment, à la Réunion par exemple, sous le nom de taxe sur les contrats d'engagement, sur les permis de séjour, etc., seront supprimées.

Relativement aux impôts directs, à l'exception de l'impôt personnel, ces contributions atteignent seulement les individus qui possèdent des immeubles, des voitures ou qui exercent un commerce ou une industrie. Les immigrants engagés ne possèdent rien, n'ont, dès lors, à acquitter que l'impôt personnel; il paraît peu équitable de les affranchir de cette taxe, qui pèse sur des citoyens français dont les moyens d'existence sont, quelquefois, plus précaires que les leurs. Néanmoins, l'administration française examinerait s'il est possible de donner satisfaction au vœu du Gouvernement de l'Inde, dans le cas où une entente s'établirait pour autoriser de nouveau l'émigration indienne. Il demeurerait entendu, d'ailleurs, que le coolie arrivé à l'expiration de son contrat et autorisé, sur sa demande, à résider librement dans la colonie, serait soumis à toutes les charges fiscales imposées aux autres habitants. Enfin le Gouvernement français est prêt à préciser, d'un commun accord avec le Cabinet britannique la manière dont les coolies devraient être rapatriés. J'ajouterai seulement que, depuis longtemps, M. le Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat des Colonies s'est préoccupé spécialement des conditions dans lesquelles les

Les rapatriés devaient être transportés. Ces opérations de rapatriement ont été faites, dans ces dernières années, par des navires à vapeur. La colonie de la Martinique a, même récemment, renvoyé près de 400 indiens dans leurs pays par la voie des paquebots-poste.

Tel est, M. le Ministre, l'ensemble des propositions que le Gouvernement de la République croit devoir formuler en vue de la solution des difficultés qui ont jusqu'ici mis obstacle à la reprise de l'immigration indienne à destination des colonies françaises.

Le Cabinet de Londres reconnait, je n'en doute pas, que les concessions que l'Administration coloniale française est disposée à faire dans le sens des demandes présentées par l'India Office dénotent de sa part la sincère volonté de veiller au bien-être des immigrants, et le réel désir de concilier des desiderata de l'Administration indienne avec l'action gouvernementale quelle ne saurait aliéner dans une mesure quelque minime qu'elle soit.

En vous priant de vouloir bien donner connaissance à votre Gouvernement de la présente communication, je me plais à penser que le Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Britannique voudra bien recommander, d'une manière particulière, à l'attention du Vice-Roi des Indes les propositions qui précèdent et, qu'après un nouvel examen de la question le Gouvernement indien les acceptera définitivement et ne verra pas d'inconvénients à autoriser, de nouveau, les colonies françaises à recruter des travailleurs.

No. 28 J. and P., dated India Office, London, the 2nd February 1892.

From—SIR HORACE WALPOLE, *Under-Secretary of State for India*,
To—The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of Sir T. V. Lister's letter dated the 6th ultimo, transmitting, for the observations of Viscount

Dated 26th December 1891, Consular Cross, a Despatch with its enclosure, herewith returned as No. 29, and enclosure. requested, from Her Majesty's Minister at Paris on the subject of the treatment of Indian coolies in the French Colonies and the conditions on which the Government of India may be prepared to allow the renewal of emigration.

In reply I am desired to state that Viscount Cross will at once forward for the consideration of the Government of India a copy of M. Ribo's note dated the 23rd of December last.

No. 41, dated Réunion, the 24th November 1891.

From—C. W. BENNETT, Esq., *Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Réunion*,
To—The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I HAVE the honour to report that I yesterday called upon Monsieur Manès to congratulate him upon his return, and was received by His Excellency in a very cordial manner.

After a few personal enquiries Monsieur Manès remarked that no great advance had been made towards re-opening Indian immigration to Réunion, and asked what news I could give him concerning it. I communicated to His Excellency the contents of the note from the India Office, dated the 29th of June 1891, which formed the enclosure in Sir Thomas Sanderson's printed letter No. 7 of the 4th of July addressed to me.

Monsieur Manès said he would communicate its contents to Monsieur Etienne.

I asked Monsieur Manès the result of his negotiations in Paris, and it appeared from his reply that he had spoken to Monsieur Ribot, who accepted all the conditions laid down in my Despatch No. 14 of the 7th of May last, to Your Lordship, except the first. Monsieur Manès said that Monsieur Ribot had told him that no French Minister would ever concede the "droit d'enquête" or the "droit de visite" which he characterized as "blanc bonnet, bonnet blanc."

I said that I was very sorry to hear that, as I was aware that Her Majesty's Government and the Government of India attached the greatest importance to the point.

Monsieur Manès repeated that the right could never be conceded, and asked me why I insisted upon it, having admitted as a fact that on all the large estates, which under the proposed new arrangements would alone be concerned, the Indians are well treated.

I replied that I had no authority to discuss the question, but that I had no doubt Her Majesty's Government would be extremely indisposed to re-open immigration unless steps could be taken to remove all possibility of the recurrence of the much-to-be-regretted incidents which had occurred some few years ago.

But, said Monsieur Manès, you have no cause of complaint against my administration of the engagés.

I answered that I had not, but that Her Majesty's Government wished to be safeguarded for the future, and that so long as a Governor like Monsieur Manès remained in charge I feared no complications.

Monsieur Manès retorted that the Governors had always done, and would always do their duty.

I expressed my hope that they would, but added that in the past they had not always done it, and that a most painful impression had been made upon the mind of Her Majesty's Government by the fact of a previous Governor having officially informed my predecessor Mr. St. John, that the medical officer who examined the provisions supplied to Mr. Pelegauds' Indians in 1888 had reported that they were perfectly wholesome, whilst the Protector of Immigrants had the previous day written to Mr. St. John that they had been declared "tout-à-fait impropre à la consommation humaine."

Monsieur Manès had no reply to make to this thrust, and after a moment's pause proceeded to discuss other unimportant questions connected with immigration.

His Excellency also made a very unusual request: he asked me if I would let him see the reports I had made to Your Lordship on Immigration matters, adding that if they were favourable there could be no objection to his seeing them.

I was not at all prepared for this, and said that they were favourable, but that I must first look at them again, as there might be expressions used which were not intended for the eye of a foreign official.

After about half an hour's conversation I left, Mr. Bell having accompanied me, and during the whole interview Monsieur Manès behaved with marked courtesy and we parted upon perfectly good terms.

Public
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From

The Government of India
Revenue and Agricultural
Department.

Dated 12th April 1892

Received 17th April
- do in Public? 20th do
Enclosures 1 & 20 cc
(30 cc will follow)

No. 709
24.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding copy of despatch and
Correspondence received from the Secre-
tary of State relating to the renewal
of Emigration to the French Colonies
of Reunion, Martinique and Guadeloupe
and requesting to be favored with
a full expression of the views of this
Government on the various questions
dealt with in the papers forwarded.

ABSTRACT.

Nil.

Submitted to the
proposed to await
receipt of D. J. J. J.
reports before asking
the Protector and the
B. C. agent for their
remarks.

J.D.B.
23/4

25 April

27 April

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INDIAN TELEGRAPH			
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1. My letter by 409 of 26
2. March Secretary of State press
3. for answer to proposals of
4. French Government for
5. resumption of emigration
6. to reunion government of
7. India will be glad to have
8. general conclusions matters
9. Government communicated
10. My wife please deal with
11. this case urgently

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RATES OF CHARGE FOR INLAND TELEGRAMS.

The address (including name of Sender, and name and residence of Addressee) is transmitted free.

	First 8 words.	Each additional word	A group of 3, or less figures, is reckoned as one word.
Deferred Message	... 8 Annas	... 1 Anna.	
Ordinary "	... 1 Rupee	... 2 Annas.	
Urgent "	... 2 Rupees	... 4 Annas.	

No charge for delivery within a distance of 5 Miles.

CURRENT No. 1/2.

[9]

Public DEPARTMENT.

Despatched 16/5.
Telegram - Urgent.

To Revenue,
Simla.

206 * * * Your telegram
fourteenth emigra-
-tion Réunion - Doctor
Comino's reports not
yet received.

3213.
16/5

Please see instructions on file.
10/5

No.

Dated 14th } May 1892
Received 15th }
16th }
Enclosures

SUBJECT.

Re: resumption of
Emigration to Réunion.

INDIA OFFICE, File No. 24.

London, 19th May 1892. SERIAL No. 10.

Public (Emigration.)
No. 49.

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

MY LORD MARQUIS,—With reference to my despatch dated the 4th of
5th May 1892. February last, No. 11, I forward for the
27th April 1892. consideration of Your Excellency in
Council copy of a letter from the Foreign
Office, transmitting a memorandum by Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion on
the subject of the reopening of emigration from India to Réunion.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD MARQUIS,

Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,

(Signed) CROSS.

Dated 5th May 1892.

From—SIR T. V. LISTER, K.C.M.G., Assistant Secretary, Foreign Office,

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 memorandum drawn
up by Mr. Bennett, Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion, before quitting his post
on leave of absence, in which he makes recommendations, suggested by his
experience, as to the conditions on which, in his opinion, the reopening of
the Indian labour market to Bourbon planters might be sanctioned.

Memo. by Mr. Consul BENNETT on Indian Immigration at Réunion.

1. If Immigration here is re-opened, Indians should be despatched from
Calcutta or Madras, and not from a French
Ports of embarkation. port. This will render less probable com-
plaints of inadequate accommodation and bad treatment on board.

2. Immigration should not be made, as
formerly, a speculation.
Requisition for Indians.

3. No requisition for Indians should be filled unless coming from the
Protector of Immigrants in Réunion, countersigned by the Governor and Her
Majesty's Consul. The introduction of convoys by private persons, allowed
under the old arrangements, filled Réunion with a mass of rogues and vaga-
bonds who were useless as labourers, and have given great trouble both to the
Consulate and the local Administration.

The practice also approached perilously near slave-trading, and should be
absolutely put an end to.

4. The French Immigration Agent at the port of embarkation should be
made responsible to the Réunion Ad-
French Immigration Agent to choose proper men. ministration for selecting proper and fit
labourers, and any labourers found manifestly unfit for the work they have
contracted to do should be returned to India at the expense of the Agent.

5. Immigration, it should be distinctly arranged, must be for agricultural purposes and not for domestic service.

Immigration to be for Agricultural purposes.

6. No one shall be allowed to have a labourer under written contract unless he employs at least thirty labourers. On estates employing over thirty labourers, domestic service under written contract shall be allowed at the discretion of the proprietor.

7. The new engagements should be for a term of five years.

8. The immigrant should at the expiration of his agreement have a right—

1. To repatriation for himself, wife and all children under fifteen years of age, at the expense of the Colony.
2. Or to re-engage at a higher rate of wages.

3. Or if the Government see fit, to take out a “*permis de séjour*.” In this case a sum of 50 francs should be first of all deposited by the immigrant in a Government Department to pay for half of his return passage to India if later on he desires it or if the Government at any time for any reason withdraw his “*permis*.” In case of death in the Colony the 50 francs to revert to the Government who will in the alternative case pay the remainder of his passage money.

Such “*permissionnaires*” to pay no taxes other than those paid by native creoles.

9. The term immigrant to include—

1. All persons coming from India under the new arrangement.
2. Their children, whether accompanying their parents from India or born in the Colony, up to the age of twenty-two.

10. Any children of immigrants to be compelled to engage from fifteen up to twenty-one years of age [unless repatriated with their parents before arriving at fifteen years of age] and at twenty-one to be given the option—

1. Of repatriation.
2. Of re-engaging.
3. Of receiving a “*permis de séjour*” under the same conditions as stated above.

11. The sons and daughters of an immigrant himself born in French territory being by French law French, their case need not be provided for. The sons and daughters, however, born here of children born in British India and coming to Réunion with their parents are not so, and only become French if during the year following their majority they do not claim British nationality.

12. These on attaining twenty-one years should have the option—

1. Of free repatriation.
2. Of retaining, by declaration duly made, their British nationality and taking out a *permis*.
3. Of becoming French citizens.

13. No “immigrant” or *permissionnaire* shall at any time be made to pay any taxes or charges not payable by natives, except the 50 francs paid at the time of taking out a “*permis*.”

14. All immigrants under engagement at Réunion at the date of the renewal of immigration should be considered “old immigrants.”

15. On the termination of their engagements they should have the right—

1. To repatriation.
2. To re-engage on the same terms as the new immigrants.
3. To take out a “*permis de séjour*” in such cases as the Government see fit:—all who have been engaged ten years and upwards gratuitously, and all under ten years upon the conditions stated above for the new immigrants.

16. Any “old immigrant” who has served over five years and under ten may, on completing ten years’ service, take out a gratuitous “*permis*.”

17. In no case is repatriation at the expense of the Colony to be refused to an old immigrant who has put in five years’ service, whether he be *permissionnaire*, or “*dispense d’engagement*.”

The operation of this clause would set free a large number of “*engagés*” who could as in Mauritius perform domestic service without being under written contract as free labourers hired by the month.

The supply, together with the large number of free creole Indians, would far exceed the demand for free labourers made by petty proprietors employing less than thirty men, by householders, and by Indian agriculturists.

As a matter of fact, the creole population is quite large enough not only to fill all such positions, but to go far towards rendering the services of Indians on Sugar Estates unnecessary: but these gentlemen being all electors will not work in a country where life is made too easy by nature.

18. “*Rechanges*” should always be given “*en nature*,” and not permitted to be given in money.

19. A Government Savings Bank should be opened at “*Le Trésor*,” and a certain percentage per month deposited by each immigrant as a reserve.

20. Her Majesty’s Consul should have the following powers and rights:

1. On complaint of ill-treatment or breach of contract preferred at the Consulate by an Indian, the complaint shall, in the first instance, as now, be referred to the Protector of Immigrants for investigation.

If on receipt of the Protector’s reply, Her Majesty’s Consul is of opinion that it is desirable to make a further enquiry, the Consul shall, in accord with the Protector, arrange a day and place to hold such further enquiry, either in St. Denis or on the establishments. Witnesses, including the *engagiste*, medical officer and employés shall be called and examined by the Consul or his delegate through the Protector or his representative. The Consul shall, on such occasions, have the right, if he sees fit to exercise it, to visit the hospitals and camps, and to inspect the victuals provided for the *engagés*, to examine the labour pay sheets and compare them with the books of the Syndic, and generally to enquire jointly with the Protector or his delegate into the questions at issue.

2. In case any Indian who has preferred a complaint at the Consulate is subsequently prosecuted by his *engagiste*, by the Syndic, or by any other person in respect of such complaint such prosecution shall only take place after due notice has been given to the Protector of Immigrants, and by him to Her Majesty’s Consul, of such prosecution being about to be instituted; and no Indian shall be prosecuted for desertion from the Establishment in respect of absence merely due to his detention in St. Denis or elsewhere by order of the Protector for the purpose of investigating a complaint made at Her Majesty’s Consulate.

3. To veto a re-engagement.

4. To be informed of all “*permis de séjour*” issued.

5. To be informed of all British Indians who by operation of law become French citizens.

6. To inspect ships intended for return convoys, and also provisions.
21. The Protector should be a Frenchman, not a creole; he should be, as far as possible, absolutely independent of creole influence.

Protectorate.

Above all his salary and the general immigration expenses should be a charge upon the "Depenses obligatoires" of the Colony, and in no case should the Réunion Conseil Général have the power to reduce the Immigration estimate without the consent of the French Government.

Syndics.

22. The Syndic system has been tried and found wanting.

The Syndics should either be paid more highly so as to secure more independent men, or their duties should be discharged, as in Mauritius, by stipendiary Magistrates.

This latter plan would result in a great economy and would enable the service to employ two or three travelling inspectors who might pay monthly visits to the different estates.

23. On nearly all the large estates the hospitals are well organized and the men well treated; a few however might be better and a very few are bad.

Hospitals.

There should be a regular Government inspector of hospitals on estates.

This official might very well combine the ordinary inspection duties mentioned above (see Syndics) with hospital inspection.

The system prevailing in Mauritius might with advantage be adopted, viz.:—

1. No place to be used as a hospital until certified by a duly appointed medical officer to be fit for the purpose.
2. A duly qualified medical officer to be engaged.
3. Salary of medical officer to be paid by engagiste to a Government officer who shall himself pay the medical officer.
4. Visits to be paid twice a week and more often if Protector directs.
5. A hospital register to be kept.
6. Penalties for non-compliance with hospital regulations.

24. Any change of legal forms it is almost useless to hope for, as it would necessitate special legislation for a peculiar class, involving changes in the French Civil and Criminal Codes. The main change desirable is pointed out in my despatch No. 35 of the 16th of October 1891.

Judicial authorities.

25. A great advantage, however, in this direction might be secured by increasing the powers of the Protector.

He should be enabled to, at any time, for grave reasons, cancel the engagements of one or more immigrants on an estate, subject if necessary to an appeal to the Governor in Privy Council.

26. The power now vested in the Governor in Privy Council (Articles 171 and 172 of the decree of the 27th of August 1887) as to forbidding engagements and re-engagements on, and withdrawing labourers from, estates where engagés are ill-treated should be enlarged.

It is thereby made applicable only to an engagiste who has during the previous two years been condemned "pour mauvais traitements envers ses engagés on manquement grave aux obligations du contrat" or for fictitious engagements.

It was contended by the Government here in February 1888 that the words "mauvais traitements" applied only to "voies de fait" committed upon immigrants, and Mr. Consul St. John's very reasonable request to have the

clause applied to Monsieur Pelagaud, who had been four times condemned, was refused.

27. Convoys of return Indians should leave at fixed dates, but the Colonial authorities should have the option at any time, when the number of Indians to be repatriated is small, of sending them home *via* Mauritius with the return Mauritian convoys under the conditions sanctioned in Sir Villiers Lister's despatch No. 14 of the 16th of September 1891.

1704

No. 1398
24

FROM

J. W. P. MUIR-MACKENZIE, Esq., c.s.

Under-Secretary to the Government of India

TO

The Secretary to the Government of Madras

RECEIVED
23 JUN 92
GOVERNMENT

Simla, the 23rd June 1892.

Revenue and Agricultural
Department
(Emigration)

SIR,

In continuation of my letter No. 708 dated the 15th April last, I am directed to forward for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council a copy of the despatch noted on the margin

NO. 40 (Emigration) dated the 10th May 1892 and enclosures.

received from Her Majesty's
Secretary of State for

India, enclosing a Memorandum by Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Reunion on the proposed resumption of Emigration from India to that Colony.

2. I am to say that the submission of the report of the Government of Madras on the proposals of the French Government for the reopening of Emigration to Reunion, which was asked for in this Department telegram of the 14th May last, need not be delayed for the consideration of the papers now forwarded.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. W. P. Muir-Mackenzie

C 201082/927

The Govt of India
Rev. April. Deptt.

No. $\frac{1393}{24}$

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 26th 2500 } June 92.

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Forwarding copy of the despatch regarding the proposed resumption of Emigration from India to Reunion.

Public DEPARTMENT.

6. No. 1082 21704.

From *The Govt. of India.*

Dated 14/5/92 & 23/6/ 1892.

FOR ORDERS.

Dr. Comins' reports
have not yet been
recd: and India does
not refer to this dept:
telegram No. 206 of the
16th ultimus.
of participation in Russian subject
generally, conditions etc. etc. 21st ultimus
not definitely Jan 10, 1917
the statement from Paris
may be allowed.

30 June

30 B.
29/vi

FROM SURGEON-MAJOR D. W. D. COMINS,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL,
GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 14th June 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the correspondence on the subject of the resumption of Emigration to the French Colonies which I have recently had the opportunity of studying in the West Indies.

The French Government urge that they have not been given the opportunity of reporting and discussing specific instances and authenticated facts and circumstances which have led the Government of India to the action it has taken in the cessation of emigration to French Colonies. In considering a question of this magnitude, involving as it does several separate administrations, I have avoided, so far as possible, reflections on personal management, and think it useless to notice the faults of individuals.

In every community there will be found bad masters, whose treatment of their dependants is actuated more by self-interest, gain, the accidents of temperament or the helplessness of their servants, rather than by conscientious scruples in fulfilling the original terms of the bargain which has placed them in the position of masters and it is with the object of counteracting, when necessary, tendencies on their part prejudicial to the interests of the immigrants, that the Departments of Emigration in India and the Colonies have been instituted, and it is in the control exercised by them and by the Local and Imperial Governments that the welfare of the coolie depends.

The Government of India is naturally anxious that the position of its subjects in the French colonies should be equal to that enjoyed by them in British colonies, and the treatment of immigrants should be that stipulated for as beneficial to them during their indenture, and preserve to them their rights as a free people after their term of service has expired. It has pointed out to the French Government certain conditions which are essential to the well-being of the coolies and without which they cannot be placed in the position of immigrants.

2. The French Government has now stated how far it is willing to ensure Indifference of the French Government. of these conditions, and coming as I do from a study of the two systems, I am much struck by the unimportance of the concessions made, which would leave the position practically unaltered.

The French West India Colonies are no longer the source of revenue they once were to the Imperial Government, and are now often a great trouble and expense, the staple industry itself being only maintained by the aid of a substantial bounty from home. These islands therefore have ceased to occupy their former position in the regard of the French nation, which, when it has to contribute largely from its own resources, besides assuming great responsibilities,

with no adequate return, must be inclined to look upon its needy and clamorous offspring as *enfants terribles*, to whom only a partial hearing need be accorded.

I have had considerable opportunities for seeing the correspondence with, and of ascertaining the feelings of the French Government to these colonies, and I am led to believe that it has no great anxiety to burden itself anew with responsibilities it has found so irksome and uncontrollable in the past, and of which it is at present partly relieved.

3. It must also be well aware that to the bulk of the population in these islands the resumption of Indian emigration would be most unpopular.

Unpopularity of Indian immigration to the bulk of the population of French colonies.

It has acceded with a good grace to the demands of an influential section of capitalists, and has shown a sufficient interest in forwarding their proposals; but with the knowledge it must possess of the requirements of the Government of India, and how necessary it will be to comply with them fully before a reconsideration of the question of emigration will be made, it appears to me that in promising the grant of these trivial and insufficient concessions it must have been fully aware how totally inadequate they would prove to be.

4. The majority of French planters are ignorant of the conditions of immigration as existing in British colonies, and are firmly persuaded that their system is as nearly perfect as possible, and the planters of Guadeloupe would be opposed to any innovation, especially at the dictation of a Foreign Government, and calculated to give the immigrant any independence of action. They are convinced that the real cause of the stoppage of emigration by the Government of India is that the planters in British colonies are jealous of their success, and wish to obtain a more abundant and therefore cheaper supply of labour. I have tried to convince them, but to no purpose, that the number of Indians which they could import would not affect to any appreciable degree the supply of colonial emigrants from India, and that the British planters have far too much work of their own to do to have the time to be criticizing that of their neighbours.

5. There are, however, many thoughtful and experienced business men, who have large interests at stake, and who from their position should have been able to make their influence felt in the debates and decisions of the French Government, who are well aware that the old order of things must change, and rather than run any risk of chance of failure from half measures, are prepared to adopt *en masse* the system of immigration as in force in British Colonies, including, if insisted upon by the Government of India, the appointment of an English Protector of Immigrants, which however I do not think necessary.

Unless the French Government accepted the responsibility of enforcing them, it would be impossible to accept the proposals of these well-meaning employers, or to have two systems of immigration at the same time, nor would they be allowed to carry on their proposals without opposition from their neighbours.

6. Of the existence of such influential capitalists there can be no doubt; but I see no trace of it in the correspondence from the French Government. From these persons I have never heard a word about the insult of a foreign official entering upon and inspecting estates, or of this being contrary to the spirit of the French law. They well understand that business and sentiment do not go well hand-in-hand, and the British Government, in insisting on the beneficial control of its subjects, is not doing so with a desire to offend susceptibilities, but is only carrying out the precautions it finds necessary even in its own colonies. Although the French are nervously sensitive on these points, they are easily conciliated. I have never had any difficulty on my visits to estates in French Colonies, and although the intention of my coming was not thoroughly understood, I have received much valuable aid from French managers of estates in making the fullest enquiries into any subject connected with the treatment of immigrants on which I desired information. I have occasionally noticed on my first appearance, especially at the first estates I visited in the colony, a

Foreign inspection.

I see no trace of it in the correspondence from the French Government.

certain amount of suspicious reserve; but as soon as it was seen that my enquiries, however particular, were for the purpose of acquiring information of the benefits and faults of system, and not for the criticism or condemnation of individuals, my advent was always welcomed by those managers who were confident of the regularity of their actions, and who knew that nothing could be revealed to their discredit, and much pointing to good management.

Many not so anxious for light to be thrown on their arrangements which, under the lax supervision of the immigration officials, they can direct very much as they please, would no doubt object to "Foreign inspection," but it is tolerably well understood by most French employers that the Government of India, in considering the re-opening of emigration, would insist on its agents having opportunities for keeping themselves fully acquainted with the condition and treatment of the immigrants on estates, and if departmental supervision were more thorough and the system once acknowledged and established, I believe it would continue without friction if the enquiries were conducted by an official of experience and tact who, while observant of the details of management, showed no desire to find fault, and was ready to give credit for improvements and good management.

7. In Guadeloupe such an official exists in Mr. Japp, Vice-Consul at Point à Pitre, who would be well suited for these enquiries so long as he did not allow them to affect his independent position as British Vice-Consul.

British Vice-Consul Point à-Pitre.

Any interference by him in executive details would prejudice him as an impartial representative of his Government. He is most energetic in ascertaining and, as far as possible, improving the condition of immigrants at Point à Pitre and in its neighbourhood, but he is not often able to travel beyond this, and his sphere of usefulness is therefore limited. He has no allowance or means of travelling, and his emoluments are extremely small, and as he is the representative of the British Government, and is the immediate referee in all complaints concerning Indian subjects I would suggest that the Government of India arranged that all travelling expenses incurred by him in connection with immigration be met from Imperial Funds. He has already been invited by some of the planters to visit their estates, and if this were done, I have no doubt the others would make it a point of honour to send similar invitations. This would be of much value, though not so great as if the right of visits to estates, and if enquiring into the work, pay, stoppages, food, lodging, medical care, extending to a scrutiny of all the estate books referring to these subjects by a British official was conceded by the French Government. No objection could, I think, be made if instructions were given to the visiting officers similar to those by Sir H. Barkly to Stipendiary Magistrates in Mauritius in 1865:—

"Stipendiary Magistrates have in some instances gone beyond their instructions.....for obtaining certain statistics connected with each property..... but in their endeavours to obtain the most accurate data on these points, I have to impress upon them the necessity of using both discretion and tact, and of avoiding all semblance of any official demand. His Excellency also apprehends that like caution is necessary for ascertaining the social condition of the Indian immigrant labourers on sugar estates and.....this part of their duty should be performed with calmness and moderation: and further, while it is their duty.....to pay every attention to any complaint.....yet it forms no part of their mission to provoke complaints through unnecessary interference on their part." (Circular to Magistrates by Sir H. Barkly Governor, of Mauritius, 20th September 1865.)

8. The right of the British Consul to receive complaints from immigrants is already secured to him by the terms of the Convention, and condition (I) of Mons. Ribot's letter contains no concession.

The following is the text of Article 20 of the International Convention of the 1st July 1861:—

Article 20.—"Les immigrants sujets de sa Majesté Britannique jouiront dans les Colonies Françaises de la faculté d'invoquer l'assistance des Agents Consulaires Britanniques au même titre que tous les autres sujets relevant de la Couronne Britannique, et conformément aux règles ordinaires du droit international et il ne sera apporté aucun obstacle à ce que l'engagé puisse se rendre

Remarks on condition I of India Office by French Minister for Foreign Affairs.

chez l'Agent Consulaire, et entrer en rapport avec lui, le tout sans préjudice bien entendu des obligations résultant de l'engagement."

The Consul under this article can make an independent enquiry, and occupies a much more satisfactory and representative position than that now granted as a privilege of accompanying the immigration official, and acting as an advocate of the coolie, but without any right to interfere in the action of the French official. It appears to me equally impossible and undesirable that the Consul should have to attend at the immigration office or at the Magistrate's Court whenever the rights of immigrants are at stake.

9. My remarks on re-engagements refer only to Guadeloupe. In Guadeloupe out of an immigrant population of 16,359, there are 12,309 employed on estates, of which 1,169 are under indenture, and 2,329 under re-indenture. To these last must be added the wives and dependent relations of those heads of families to whom the *prime* of re-engagement has been given. They do not apply to Martinique, in which the Immigration Ordinance and all its works have been abolished for years. There are consequently no immigrants under indenture or contracts of re-engagement in Martinique. There seems to be a misapprehension on this point, as one of the reasons put forward for a greater number of immigrants not having returned to India is that they may not have completed their engagements. The small and diminishing number of East Indians in Martinique is entirely on the same footing as other sections of the population, with this exception, that the Indians being in great request on the estates as labourers, and having always the right of return passage to India, great efforts are made by the planters to keep them contented, so that they may not desire to leave the estates or the colonies. In no French Colony which I have visited are the coolies so happy and unmolested by the labour laws. They are all old immigrants, thoroughly acclimatized and accustomed to the ways of the place. In fact they are the residue of those who for various reasons have left the island or died, and if left alone few of them would wish to return to India; but their only friends are the few white planters who employ them, and the rest of the population are against them as aliens, heathens, and interlopers, who destroy the price of labour and take the bread out of the mouths of the indigenous population. The force of public opinion is too strong for them, and they are gradually being pushed out of the island. As long as their numbers are sufficient to form communities of their own on estates, this is not so noticeable, and they are to a certain extent independent of outside dislike, but scattered as they now are in small parties over the island, they are constantly in contact with the Negro and colonial population, who bear them no good will, and the Negro is always a bully to every helpless creature.

It is quite true that, as compared with Guadeloupe and Cayenne, the Indians in Martinique occupy an exceptionally advantageous position, though very inferior to that in the best managed British Colonies, but this position on which the French Government congratulate themselves and point to as an instance of good management is not due to the beneficial working of the Immigration Ordinances and the special arrangements to which immigrants are subject, but to the abandonment of all such organized control which, owing to the lessened number of Indians, is no longer profitable. The elaborate precautions for keeping the Indian constantly at work and under indenture involve much trouble and expense and the maintenance of a large staff, which only pays when Indians are present in large numbers. Part of this change and also the renewed activity shown last year in repatriation is due to the strong feeling in Martinique against Indian Immigration by the indigenous inhabitants, who viewed with profound satisfaction the abolition of the department, the papers and records of which were stowed away out of sight so successfully that few of them are now forthcoming. If a Martiniquain is asked about immigration, he says with pride there is no immigration and no immigrants, as they are all French subjects. The abolition of the department was looked upon as a proof that no further attempts at introduction were intended. The sight of the back of the last Indian leaving the island would be, except to a few planters, a subject of congratulation, and the resumption of immigration would cause much dissatisfaction. In speaking of the present advantages enjoyed by Indians in Martinique, it must be remembered that new immigrants would not be at all in the same position, and the stringent conditions

of labour, the lower rates of pay, and the rigid control existing in the neighbouring island of Guadeloupe would probably be adopted in all their details.

As the decreasing number year by year of immigrants in Guadeloupe and Martinique rendered the cost of the Immigration Department more disproportionate to the work done, the immigration systems in the two islands were modified with surprisingly different results. Martinique, as shown above, discontinued departmental control, which was included with that of prisons by the decree of 31st December 1887, and which directed that the correspondence and arrangements for return passages and any other unavoidable business should be conducted in the office of the Director of the Interior. No further attempts were to be made to obtain re-engagements, and the *prime* for re-engagement was discontinued, and all immigrants were declared to be subject to the ordinary Civil French laws. Nothing could have been better for the coolies, who suddenly found themselves relieved from the harassing restrictions of the immigration laws, and able to dispose of their labour to the best advantage, and to work when and where they liked.

Guadeloupe, on the contrary, when it found that emigration from India had ceased, and the numbers of immigrants in the colony was diminishing by deaths and return to India, and by the immigrants leaving the sugar estates in Grande-terre, and setting up for themselves as small farmers in the more favourite island of Basse-terre, passed a long cherished Ordinance which had been kept in abeyance so long as emigrants were obtained from India, and which was intended by means of continued reindentures to keep all Indians of whatever standing in a condition of perpetual servitude on the sugar estates and prevent their return to India. This was all the more easy, in that ships for coolies returning to India are provided at long and uncertain intervals, and the date of their departure is not known to the immigrants, so that an immigrant at the end of his indenture finds he has to wait an unknown time on his own resources, or be immured in one of the depôts which are to all intents and purposes prisons, and in which intending return immigrants are collected prior to their departure. His only other alternative, if he is unable to obtain work as a free coolie, which is not generally encouraged except in the small estates in Basseterre, especially in the neighbourhood of Capes-terre and Pointe Noire, and on a few estates in Grand-terre and absolutely prohibited by others, is to accept the bounty and enter on another long period of indenture. I shall show later on the difficulties which have been placed in the way of immigrants who, having fulfilled their engagements to the colony and who should be free men desire to settle as colonists, and the pressure brought to bear to make them without delay accept another long engagement. Anticipatory re-engagements, or those made while the coolie is still under the control of the engagiste would be difficult to condemn in too strong terms, and I look upon the whole system of re-engagement as the cause of the greater part of the misery the immigrant suffers in this colony. Having secured the coolie in the colony on the promise of perfect freedom of choice as to his movements after his five years indenture has expired, the full power of the Immigration Ordinances, the Colonial law, and the whole influence of the master, is exercised to retain him and his family with his consent or against his will in a state of continued dependence until he is cast out of the colony as a broken-down and worn-out old man, incapable of any further work and an expense and trouble to his master. In most cases it is only then, as may be seen by watching the debarkation of return coolies from French Colonies, that the restrictions around them are sufficiently relaxed to allow of a return to India. To say that he in agreeing to reindenture is a free agent is an entire misnomer. He has no choice in the matter, and is obliged to yield to the force of circumstances. Unless possessed of independent means sufficient to start an occupation for himself, it would require a person of extraordinary powers to resist the pressure which is brought to bear upon him under the new decree of 1890, and if he is allowed at any time to choose his own line of life, it is probably because he is of no value as a workman. Instead of five years indentured labour, his compulsory service may last a lifetime or until he is of no further use. Previous to the passing of the decree of 1890 there were many immigrants who, having completed their indentures, left the sugar estates and betook themselves to other forms of agriculture or modes of life and are entirely free from the restrictions of the Immigration Ordinances. There are many planters in these colonies who

treat their coolies with liberality and due regard to the terms of the contract made in India, and I recollect a gentleman in Martinique to whom, after I had seen all the excellent arrangements he had made and the kindness with which he treated his dependents, including their education and the importation of vernacular school books from India, I remarked that if all proprietors acted as he did, emigration to Martinique would be continuing at the present time.

He entreated me not to talk about it or to mention his name to the other proprietors, as he said his position would be most unpleasant, as having introduced improvements which they might be asked to adopt. In Guadeloupe too there are some planters who employ none but old coolies, not under indenture, whom they pay more than the wages authorized by the Convention, as being old skilled labourers; but taking advantage of clause 40 of decree of 30th June 1890 the majority use their position as masters, and their influence with the local Immigration Department to keep the coolie under a succession of indentures, and prevent him claiming his rights as a free man.

If re-indenture were abolished there would be an immediate and immense improvement in the condition of the coolie. There would no longer be any occasion for the unjustifiable interference with his movements and liberty, which is now called the repression of vagabondage. "A vagabond" is a man who, having completed his five years' service, imagines that he is free to seek service in a part or on an estate which suits him better. If he is more than 30 days without work, he is liable to be charged as a vagabond. There would be no occasion for depôts which are prisons for such "vagabonds." Nor would it be necessary to endow the immigration officials with the powers of Judicial Police, and of making *proces verbal* which has recently been done, the Judicial Court being more apt to decide cases according to abstract legal rights rather than to the wishes of the planters. A body of free labourers would arise who would create a standard of the duration of, and wages for, labour which is now fixed to their own benefit by the planters. Task work would be substituted for day work, both in the case of indentured and free labourers, and indentured labourers might expect to get the same wages as free labourers, if they were able to do the same. Task work is preferred in Martinique, but in Guadeloupe it is rare.

"La travail à la tache qui fonctionne avantageusement à la Martinique est peu répandu à la Guadeloupe."—*Annuaire Guadeloupe*, 1891.

The free labourer could take advantage of the departure of return ships to India to go back if he wished to his country, which he is now unable to do, as, unless the ship happen to arrive at the moment of the termination of his indenture, he will probably have been induced to take another labour contract for five years. The bounty or "prime" promised for taking a five-year contract is from £7 to £12, of which the local Government contributes £3, and is payable in instalments.

This seems a large sum to give to a coolie, and at first sight it appears a liberal arrangement, but it is not so, and the advantages he loses are, even from a money point of view, far more valuable. It is impossible to suppose that a labourer, completely under the orders of his employer, is in the same advantageous position for the disposal of his labour for the highest wage as is a free man, who has first to be attracted to the estate, and then satisfied as to the money he is to obtain before he will take up the task. It would be different, too, if he had any legitimate outlet to employ this large sum of money, which generally returns to the estate eventually as payment for rum supplied.

In British colonies a man who, at the end of his indenture, has savings, usually proceeds to invest it in the purchase of a piece of land from the Crown on which he has probably long set his eye as suitable for his purpose. This he can readily acquire in Demerara at one dollar an acre, with all freehold rights. He also purchases a cow or two, but in French Colonies this is not at all what the planters want, and the labourers must remain and work on the estate. Re-indentures are not advantageous to the immigrants or the colony at large, which has to contribute heavily (75 francs for each re-indenture,) and its agriculture is thereby confined to the narrow limits of the planters estates and no advancement or general development can take place. It is a ruinous arrangement for the coolie, as the sum he gets in no way represents the value to the planter of securing, under the stringent provisions of the Immigration laws, the labour for

years of a skilled and acclimatized workman, accustomed to the ways of the colony and of the estate, and to whom he pays no more than to the new immigrant just landed in the colony, and is inadequate as a recompense for the advantage the coolie relinquished as a free man with the right of disposing of his labour to the best advantage. Long before the five years are over the planter has paid himself over and over again for his outlay, without regarding the fact that he has perhaps prevented the coolie from returning to India, which would have cost as much.

If the coolie at the end of his five years' indenture wishes to leave the estate and go to another or set up for himself, he first has to get his livret and livre controle of the entries in which he is profoundly ignorant, *visé* by his master, who often keeps them, perhaps as a security against the coolie running away. If he is lucky enough to get this done, he goes to the Syndic, and asks for his congé. The Syndic "from politeness," as it was ingenuously put to me, tells him to get his congé from his master. His master can then insist on his working out the number of "lost" days, and offers him a "bounty" if he will take another contract for 5 years. If he is strong enough to decline this, and works out his "lost" days, which it was complained to me were calculated by the master, and not by the immigration officials, though a record is kept in the immigration office, he goes to the Syndic for the endorsement of his livret as a free man. I have examined many of these livrets, and in most the number of "lost" days, or days on which the immigrant did not do a full day's work, is not so great as might be expected, considering the impossible number of hours the coolie is supposed to work, but in others the number of days is excessive. This is another fault of the day work system, and could not happen if work was done by the task. I saw one of these livrets, and in the same month on which his 5 years engagement terminated an entry had been made by the Syndic that he was given 10 days to regulate his position and procure an engagiste; this is under article 63 of the decree of June 1890. So that the man who had fulfilled all his engagements to the colony, and should be as free as any other member of the population, found that his freedom was to last only 10 days. If an indenture expired coolie wishes to live without engagement in the island, the following obstacles, which are so great as to be almost insuperable, stand in his way:—

1. He must obtain a certificate from the Syndic authorising the demand, and certifying that the applicant is of good moral conduct and industrious. This is according to Article 9 of International Convention, but the Syndic would be more likely to tell him to get a new engagiste.
2. An attestation from the Maire stating that he has sufficient means of existence. As the Maires are chosen from among the proprietors and employers of labour, he is not likely to be anxious to grant this.
3. The demand is submitted to the Protector for his advice. The Protector is personally interested in keeping the number of immigrants under the Immigration laws sufficient to justify the existence of himself and his department.
4. It must pass through the hands of the Director of the Interior.
5. Finally, nothing less than the personal consent of the Governor is necessary.

Any one of these may put his veto on the proposal, in which case there is an end to the immigrant's freedom. And, even if successful, the time lost in this circuitous route must be most harassing to the Indian, who does not know whether he will or will not have to take another engagement. "In plain words, the majority of Indians who come out to this colony on a five years' contract are persuaded, if not compelled by a procedure less difficult to divine than define, to renew their frequent engagements and remain on at the grindstone until they become physically powerless, or mentally degraded or wrecked in mind and body both." (Sir F. Goldsmid. Report of British Commissioner, Réunion, paragraph 142).

No material improvement can be expected in the condition of immigrants in Guadeloupe until re-indentures have been done away with.

In British Colonies the system of re-indenture, even for short periods and among free immigrants, has almost ceased, and in British Guiana, a colony having an immigrant population equal to that of all the other British colonies, has entirely died out.

(8)

There are contracts in all colonies between free immigrants and employes as "colons," "farmers," cacao planters, &c., but these are, for specific purposes, are regulated by the ordinary laws of contract, and have no connection with the Immigration Ordinance.

If permitted at all, which I cannot recommend, re-indentures should only be allowed for a short period with immigrants whose indentures have expired, who are entirely free from the influence or control of the estate, and have obtained their certificate of exemption from labour, and who have had a fair chance of judging for themselves what other opportunities the colony affords them of making a livelihood.

10. In Martinique last year the Conseil-Général voted 150,000 francs for repatriation, and at the time of my visit this had all been expended, though only 75,000 francs had actually been paid as an advance on the freight of coolies.

Nominally there are 7,800 coolies in Martinique, of whom 99 have, by taking bounty, renounced their right to a free return passage. All the rest are entitled to return to India at the expense of the colony. No census having been taken, the number of coolies in Martinique cannot be verified, and is probably much less than 7,800, many having left for other colonies, and the number has been obtained by the simple process of adding the births and deducting the deaths and returned to India from the original number imported. No deduction has been made for those sent to Cayenne on terms of imprisonment. When immigration was stopped the Conseil-Général no longer allowed bounties either in lieu of return passage or for re-engagement. The whole burden of repatriation now lies on the Government, and the planters contribute nothing, though they still continue to have the benefit of the labour of the coolies.

The following table was prepared for me by the Inspector of Penitentiaries in Martinique to show the sums voted for, and actual expenses of return passage—

Year.	Voted by the Consul-General.	Expended.	Number repatriated.
	Francs.	Francs.	
1885	...	260,316-92	818
1886	...	178,159-92	1,791
1887	...	250,127-84	Small-pox none.
1888	...	1,452-86	Ditto.
1889	...	240,000	879
1890	...	240,000	Nil.
1891	...	150,000	569

The details of the expenses for 1891 are given below—

	Francs.
Clothes	8,684
Food in dépôt	2,060-49
Supervision	182
Passage money of 477 adults at 300 francs	143,175
Probable expenses at Marseilles during detention there	15,500
Ditto in India	15,000
	184,601

There is a discrepancy of 175 francs under head passage-money unaccounted for.

The next table was prepared in the office of the Director of the Interior, Martinique, and is more complete in some particulars than the first :—

ANNÉES.	CREDITS VOTÉS PAR LE CONSEIL GÉNÉRAL.			DÉPENSES.			
	Personnel.	Matériel.		Personnel.	Rapatriement.	Autres dépenses.	Observations.
		Rapatriement.	Autres dépenses.				
1885	48,231-00	97,000-00	94,747-02	42,077-00	290,316-92	123,361-53	818
1886	42,331-00	190,000-00	92,954-16	40,920-41	178,159-92	94,032-18	1,791
1887	7,800-00	241,023-61	14,219-00	8,740-24	250,127-84	64,124-51	...
1888	4,800-00	120,000-00	26,500-00	5,733-00	1,452-86	51,303-39	...
1889	4,773-00	240,000-00	46,470-00	5,319-00	188,691-44	88,888-22	879
1890	4,773-00	240,000-00	23,338-93	5,340-10	378-72	58,980-53	...
1891	4,773-00	150,000-00	48,366-03				569

(9)

The following table from the *Annuaire* of Martinique for 1891, and added to, by Mons. Maugée, Inspector of Prisons and the nominal head of the Immigration Department give a good deal of information respecting the immigrant population of Martinique :—

Mouvements de la population Indienne, de 1853 au 31 Décembre 1890.

MOUVEMENTS DES IMMIGRANTS. PENDANT L'ANNÉE 1890.	INDIENS.					ANNÉES.	Population au 1 ^{er} janvier.	Introduction pendant l'année.	Naisances.	Total.	Décès.	Rapatriement.	Total.	Reste au 31 décembre.	
	Hommes.	Femmes.	ENFANTS, SEXE.		Total.										
			Masculin.	Féminin.											
Introduction de nouveaux immigrants embarqués. Néant						1883 et 1884	.....	1,382	7	1,389	41	.....	41	1,348	
						1885	1,564	351	35	1,950	94	1	94	1,564	
.....						1886	1,564	351	35	1,950	149	.....	142	3,003	
.....						1887	3,003	1,337	68	4,298	252	.....	252	4,046	
.....						1888	4,046	1,534	63	5,643	334	18	352	5,291	
.....						1889	5,291	1,801	68	7,250	422	68	490	6,760	
.....						1890	6,760	1,078	130	7,968	428	70	552	7,410	
.....						1891	7,410	1,109	151	8,670	385	245	630	8,040	
.....						1892	8,040	402	132	8,542	471	.....	471	8,069	
.....						1893	8,040	402	132	8,542	372	198	570	7,688	
.....						1894	7,688	403	131	7,819	276	276	554	7,267	
.....						1895	7,267	403	147	7,817	245	451	696	7,141	
.....						1896	7,141	338	100	7,579	255	.....	255	7,324	
.....						1897	7,324	2,220	121	9,665	268	564	822	9,081	
.....						1898	9,081	467	122	10,140	303	.....	303	9,834	
.....						1899	9,834	456	127	9,917	315	.....	315	9,602	
.....						1870	9,602	937	146	10,685	368	.....	368	10,317	
.....						1871	10,317	463	123	10,875	465	95	480	10,396	
.....						1872	10,396	788	144	11,338	477	272	749	10,861	
.....						1873	10,581	1,407	128	10,709	363	283	646	10,063	
.....						1874	10,903	1,407	129	11,699	362	162	464	11,135	
.....						1875	11,135	765	113	12,014	410	368	778	11,236	
.....						1876	11,236	955	101	12,340	437	.....	437	11,903	
.....						1877	11,813	379	173	12,364	487	.....	487	11,877	
.....						1878	11,877	912	171	13,960	415	.....	415	12,544	
.....						1879	12,544	908	146	13,598	437	502	939	12,659	
.....						1880	12,659	893	187	13,719	530	.....	530	13,189	
.....						1881	13,189	452	192	13,833	664	.....	664	12,169	
.....						1882	13,169	922	208	14,399	636	552	1,188	13,111	
.....						1883	13,111	925	216	14,252	699	.....	699	12,553	
.....						1884	13,653	.....	177	13,830	623	351	974	12,906	
.....						1885	12,925	.....	183	13,109	283	818	1,200	11,909	
.....						1886	11,909	.....	204	12,113	267	1,791	2,058	10,055	
.....						1887	10,055	.....	160	10,206	230	.....	230	9,976	
.....						1888	9,966	.....	107	10,073	225	.....	225	9,778	
.....						1889	8,778	.....	120	8,898	307	879	1,188	8,712	
.....						1890	8,712	.....	100	8,812	351	.....	351	8,451	
.....						6 months	1891	8,183	25,609	4,862	30,571	13,911	8,029	21,941	8,451
.....								8,183	54	8,237	183	569	21,941	8,451	
.....								25,509	4,976	30,425	14,044	8,598	22,643	7,783	
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Some of the totals are I see wrong but I think it better to reproduce them as given to me.

Décès.		Naisances.	
4 dernières années.	2 ^o 00 per cent.	4 dernières années.	1 ^o 07 per cent.
1888	...	132	...
1889	...	132	...
1890	...	116	...
1891	...	132	...

Although in the year 1887, 241,527 francs, and in 1888, 120,000 francs were voted for repatriation, and placed in the column of obligatory expenses, these sums were not used in returning coolies to India. In 1890, 240,000 francs were voted for repatriation, which was also diverted to other purposes. The reason given that there was an epidemic of small-pox is a legitimate one for part of the time, but the money should not have been appropriated for other expenses. In Guadeloupe, in 1890, all the expenses of immigration, except those of return passages, which had hitherto been obligatory, were transferred to the facultative column. The figures are as follows :—

		Obligatory.		Facultative.	
		Francs.	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
1889	...	221,910	40,572		
Total	...	262,482			
1890	...	17,846	220,072		
Total	...	237,918			
1891	...	75,000	239,179		
Total	...	314,179			

The return convoys from Guadeloupe have been despatched every two years as follows:—

		Men.	Women.	Children.
1887	...	485	199	124
1889	...	452	231	147
1891	...	372	176	113

11. The Protectors of Immigrants are entirely local in their ideas and training, and thoroughly imbued with the traditions and views of the planters with whom they act in concert. Unless some very grave complaint is made, they do not attempt to ascertain the treatment of labourers by their employers, and even then do not take an impartial view of the case. Their inspections are perfunctorily made, and they have no precise ideas of their duties. Since the cessation of emigration it is probable that this and the greater freedom of the planter are more noticeable, and I can hardly expect that these officials, if emigration were reopened, would suddenly assume a position of independence as impartial arbitrators between planters and labourers. The appointment of Syndics seem to have been especially made with the view of placing on irresponsible persons the most important part of the duties of Protector and Inspectors. Of the six Syndics in Guadeloupe two are white men, two are mulattos and two negroes. To suppose that a negro recently emerged from barbarism, with his very hazy ideas of honesty, his marked antipathy to work of any kind, and his racial dislike to the Indian, is a fit person to control the relations of an opulent and influential proprietor and his Indian labourers, is an idea not destitute of humour.

"The Syndics and clerks of the Cantons are still more unsuited for the position they occupy, and as a body may be looked upon as creatures of the planter."—(*Despatch to Lord Derby from Réunion, 78 of 6th December 1875*).

12. The French Colonial Office has in no sense the control of the colonial legislative bodies and the measures passed by them possessed by the British Colonial Office. The interested Conseil-General of the French Colonies is able to prepare and obtain, almost without comment, the approval of the French Government to measures which are obviously one-sided and unfair. In the same way abuses exist for years without any notice from the French Government, which at last aroused by some flagrant incident, severely corrects and reprimands the colony for errors which should have been recognised long before. Such warnings are soon forgotten, and these colonies possess a considerable power of action which they use as they can to their own advantage. As an example of the difference of control between the French and English Colonial Offices over the measures proposed and prepared in their interests by the colonies, I may compare the Arrêté of 30th June 1890 for Guadeloupe, by which immigration is still directed, and the draft of the proposals for a new immigration law sent for the approval of the Secretary of State, and embodying the wishes of the Jamaica planters in 1890.

The Guadeloupe decree was prepared ten years ago by locally interested persons, among whom was the Protector of Immigrants; but it was not adopted until emigration being stopped, all appearance of wishing to conform to the wishes of the Indian Government was abandoned, and the decree was sent to France, approved of, and brought into force without delay. Not so the Jamaica ordinance, from which all or most of the objectionable clauses were at once cut out.

Article 40 of the decree of 30th June 1890 contains the key note which dominates the whole and runs as follows:—"Les travailleurs immigrants des deux sexes sont pendant toute la durée de leur séjour dans la colonie soumis à l'obligation de l'engagement." Continued engagements have the effect of keeping down the price of labour most materially and of preventing the immigrant profiting by the skill he has obtained during the five years of indenture to earn higher rates of wages. Under indenture he is only entitled to £12:50=10s. a month, and as interpreted in the colony, this is the maximum he can earn if he works all day and every day, unless he is a sirdar or headman. So that whether he is a raw recruit or a skilled labourer he gets the same. In British colonies a skilled workman obtains, as he is legitimately entitled to, much higher wages. The Convention says that the question of task-work shall be freely discussed, but as

The Convention also says that the labourer shall work the impossible number nine and-a-half hours a day every day in the year except Sundays, the planters insist on their indentured labourers taking day work. As it is quite impossible for a man to work nine and-a-half hours a day six days in the week in all weathers for five years, the planters profit by this to score up a number of "lost" days against the labourer, which at the end of the five years he has to make good before he is free of his indenture. In this way it is not an unknown thing for a man who should be free to find that he has 1,200, 1,300, 1,400, or even 1,500, days to make up, as I verified in the register of "lost" days in the Immigration Office.

With this amount of back work to wipe off he is unable to leave the estate, and generally accepts the bounty for re-engagement for a further term of five years; but at the end of that time he will find himself in exactly the same position, and will probably be tempted in the same way, and so on until he is unable to work any longer. In this way the planters keep their labourers from leaving the estate and the colony. These lost days should of course be verified by a Magistrate, and the old decrees provided that after three absences the labourer must be brought before the court and his livret endorsed; but this is not done now, and the *engagiste* can claim any number of lost days. Nothing is more calculated to make a man desperate than to find after he imagines he has completed his engagement he is still, owing to some computation he does not believe in, bound down to work on, and knowing there is always a debt of unfinished work mounting up against him. The consequence is there are many deserters, and a dépôt, as it is called, is provided for their detention, and powers of judicial police are given to the immigration officials. The opinion of the Governor of Guadeloupe on the decree of 30th June 1890 is shown in a note on the subject he sent to the Immigration Office on his arrival in the colony, in which he said: "It was a decree impossible to enforce, and it was of no use to try and keep a free man under engagement against his will, and great measures conceived in so illiberal a spirit could not possibly last."

The Convention of 1861, framed on the very imperfect knowledge of the necessities of immigrants possessed in those times, and containing all the errors and omissions which the work of 30 years of successive Governors, Commissions and Secretaries of State have successfully eliminated in British colonies, is altogether out of date, and is partly responsible for the position in which immigrants now find themselves in French colonies. The Convention with Holland was drawn up on the same lines, but the Dutch of their own accord, as they found the hours of work excessive, reduced them, first to 8½ hours per day, and more recently to 7½ hours per day, and have freely introduced the custom of task work. In British Guiana a man is considered a good worker if he goes to the field five days in the week and works 7½ hours a day, and in Martinique by 1 P.M. many of the Indian labourers have finished their day's task and are returning to their homes. A comparison of the Convention of 1861 with any modern British Immigration Ordinance would show at once how very illiberal and incomplete it is, and how impossible it would be to adopt it in any British Colony.

It would not be sufficient to reframe the contract of the emigrant made in India without a comprehensive revision of the Convention and Immigration Ordinances, and even then, unless the Consul or visiting official had full access to the estates, there would be no guarantee that they would be carried out.

13. In the French West Indies taxes do not press heavily on the indentured cooly, and the import taxes on the articles of food he consumes do not affect him as they do in British colonies, as he is supplied with these by his employer. When he has become a free man and a petty proprietor or shop-keeper, it is only fair that he should contribute to the revenue of the colony in the same measure as the indigenous population. In Guadeloupe the decrees of the 9th March and 30th December 1864 give the right of fixing certain import duties. For 1891 these are for articles consumed by Indians—

			f.	
Rice	...	...	0.75	per 100 kil.
Flour	...	...	3	" 100 "
Salt fish	...	...	1	" 100 "
Tobacco in leaf	...	...	65	" 100 "

They pay licenses like the rest of the people for selling spirits and shop-keepers etc. In Martinique there is no personal tax, "cote personnelle," or on cattle, sheep, or poultry reared on the island.

Houses	...	5 per cent. on nett revenue.
		f.
Rice per 100 kil.	...	1-20
Flour barrel of 88 kil.	...	2-40
Butter or oil 100 kil.	...	8-00
Salt fish 100 kil.	...	4-00
Salt 100 kil.	...	0-25

14. In my report on Surinam now in the press, I have referred to this point in the following terms:—

"It may be said that there are not sufficient immigrants wishing to return to fill a ship, and therefore the few must wait until others wish to go. This is a familiar argument, and sounds the better in that it assumes there is no very keen desire, except on the part of an insignificant few, to leave the colony. It cannot be expected that a colony will go to the great expense of chartering a ship exclusively for them, or that inducements will be held out to labourers to leave the colony in order to fill the ship. It is very difficult for any one, even the Agent-General, to say how many will decide to return, and it is only on the arrival of the ship at the colony becoming known on the estates that the full number of applications are made, and an estimate can be formed of the number of those who will avail themselves of the opportunity. There are reasons for an immigrant not announcing to his employer, until the last moment, his intention of leaving the estate and return to India. Many of those who send in applications after all decide to remain; and until the ship is at the point of sailing, it is not known how many will go in her.

"The position of those who, having declined further contracts, leave the estate and wait for the ship is not an easy one, and if this period is prolonged until their means are exhausted and there is still no news of the ship, there is little for them to do but to return to the estate or be sent to the Poor Asylum.

"In Martinique the number of immigrants is now so much reduced that there is no chance of there ever being at one time enough immigrants to fill a ship, and the authorities have adopted the plan of sending them as third class passengers at short intervals, and in small batches, by the Transatlantic mail steamers. Several of these parties of immigrants returning as passengers must have arrived in India, and if on inspection it is found that their condition on board these ships is equal to that of those returning in regularly appointed coolie ships, the system might be extended to other small colonies, and this vexed question of the provision of a ship for return passage for ever laid at rest. Even if, as will probably be found, improvements and precautions are necessary, I would still continue to allow the use of mail steamers as preventing much hardship and injustice to immigrants who wish to return to India.

"In colonies like Cayenne, Martinique, Surinam, St. Lucia, Jamaica, and Guadeloupe employing few immigrants, it must happen that considerable periods will elapse before a sufficient number can be collected who will definitely decide to return, and in the meantime those who are genuinely anxious to go and are so entitled are at a great disadvantage. They cannot go as they were promised they should, and if they go back to the estate they will probably be induced to sign another contract for five years' labour.

"In colonies such as British Guiana and Trinidad, where the immigrant population is large, it will be found better and more economical to charter ships for the return passage; but for smaller colonies some other arrangement must be found, and the best appears to be that described. Whether the return passage is provided in a coolie ship or mail steamer, the colony will always be responsible that reasonable precautions are taken as to the suitability of the ship employed and the provision of food, clothing and medical necessities.

There are advantages in the plan which will do away with many difficulties. These small colonies will not be able to say they are unable to charter a ship or to find a doctor, and the coolies will be able to choose their time for leaving the island, and as the dates of sailing of these steamers is fixed, they will be able to make their arrangements for starting with confidence, and there will be no occasion for them to be kept an indefinite time in the dépôt prison, or to be spending their money waiting in the town with their families.

I intended on my way out to India to visit Marseilles to see what arrangements had been made for the accommodation of coolies changing ships, but the urgency of the telegram recalling me left me no time for this; but I would recommend that some official on his way from Europe should obtain permission to visit the dépôt when the coolies are there, so that the Government of India may be informed of their treatment.

I append a code of rules drawn up for the transport of Indians from Martinique to Pondicherry and Calcutta by this route.

15. The statements made by the coolies recently returned from Martinique are true in so far as they had no opportunity for a long time of returning to India, but it is an exaggeration to say that thousands want to return to India. They are all old colonists, and few would return but for the hostility of the blacks. They would wish to have the opportunity of returning, and if this is not afforded they complain; but if an emigrant ship were sent there to return as many as wished to India, it probably could not be filled, and many who had entered their names would refuse to go at the last moment. This is a reason why the arrangement of returning them by mail steamers is so much more convenient.

This subject is referred to in Lord Lytton's despatch to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, dated 29th May 1890, and the Governor of Réunion states, and it is repeated by M. Ribot, that during the year these lists are constantly open in the Syndic's office to those who wish at the expiration of their indenture to return to India.

Of the two Syndics' offices I inspected in Guadeloupe, in one I found such a list and the names of 50 immigrants inscribed, but in the other there was no list, and on enquiring the cause was told there were no applicants, and I find I have remarked that this and the fact that the Maire who is a large proprietor, and objects strongly to the hiring of free coolies, and employs only those who will take engagements, "must be considered together." There are about 400 immigrants in this Syndicate not engaged.

16. The low caste Madrassi is the type of cooly usually found in the French colonies which import principally pariahs and a few Sudras and Musalmans, and they seem to suit the French planter and the planter them better than any other class.

The pariahs are docile creatures not troubled with too many ideas of caste, and will do anything for drink. Although not physically strong, they are more regular workers, and get through more work in a week than the burly negro, who will not go to the field more than on one or two days in this period.

One all-powerful inducement to the "pariah" or Madrassi cooly to remain in the French colonies is the fatal facility with which cheap drink can be obtained.

Owing to the imperfect cultivation and machinery of many estates, it does not pay to make sugar, and the canes are only fit for the manufacture of tafia and rum. Tafia is the white spirit before it is coloured by the addition of burnt sugar, and is drunk in immense quantities by the negroes and coolies.

This practice is encouraged by the owners of estates and distilleries, being a considerable source of income to them, and is greatly appreciated by, and adds to the contentment of, the labourers, and by allowing them to spend their wages in drink, there is no chance of their acquiring sufficient independence of position or mind to elevate them from the position of rum-sodden drudges. I believe I am not exaggerating in saying half the wages of coolies in these islands is spent in drink, and when it is remembered how very cheaply liquor can be obtained, it means hard drinking is very prevalent. Besides occasional drinks during the week, Saturday evening is spent in drink. On Sunday there is a general carouse, and the consequences are felt on Monday morning in a great disinclination for work. This is more noticeable in Martinique, where the coolies, being free from the restrictions of the Immigration Ordinance, are able to go to town and return to work as they please.

A great hold is obtained on negroes and coolies of this class by supplying them freely with liquor, and on some estates it is given free of charge in large quantities,—on one estate as much as three ounces of rum daily to both indentured and free labourers. The Indian, so far as I know, never takes liquor with his food or as a dietetic luxury, his sole object being to get drink as rapidly as possible, and with this object he swallows glass after glass of rum as fast as he can drink it.

The habit of drink soon grows upon them, and they become perfect slaves to it and as easy as children to manage by those who supply them. The miserable appearance and wretched poverty of return coolies from French colonies has often attracted attention, and there are several reasons for it, but none more potent than drink. The wages are low, but much, and in many cases all, of what they earn is spent on drink, and they are consequently in poor condition and health, badly dressed, dirty in person, and degraded in type.

During harvest, when there is exceptionally heavy work to be done, it is a common practice to offer the negro a tot of rum if he will do an extra hour's work, and is perhaps the only way in which he could be got to work with that vicious and spasmodic energy which is his substitute for regular and continuous labour. The custom exists more or less in all colonies, but in none so markedly as in these islands. In British colonies it is comparatively rare, and discouraged as demoralising, besides the laws are different; and all rum has to go through the Customs, but it seems to be part of the French system, and not likely to be discontinued. "As long as the sugarcane is reserved for the manufacture of cheap rum to keep the population in a continual state of intoxication, the falling off in its culture is not to be regretted."—(*Sir Spenser St. John, The Black Republic, 1884.*)

The Immigration Department, Guadeloupe, in answer to my questions on drink as a source of crime, gave me the following information:—"If drunkenness is not the original cause of all the crime committed by the Indians, it is at least one of its principal factors, and very often plays a preponderating part. The Indian who meditates a criminal act always prepares himself during the last instants preceding its execution with copious libations. He finds in alcoholic excitement the audacity and resolution which might be wanting in calmer moments. Nevertheless, he seeks in it a means of defence before the tribunals, and never fails to plead that he was drunk, and therefore incapable of discernment," but there is nothing in this defence which is peculiar to Guadeloupe.

17. The future of these islands is not promising, and they seem to be slowly but surely drifting into the hands of the blacks. The golden days of their prosperity have passed away, and the few white planters, aided by a heavy subvention, wage a losing war against the low and fluctuating price of sugar depreciated by an increasing beet-root cultivation. Most of them have retired to France and have left the control of their estates to managers, many of whom are coloured men. A few white planters—aristocrats among a herd of republicans—are the only people who desire the introduction and retention of the Indians, who are only tolerated as a bad but necessary substitute for their emancipated slaves. To those who would encourage the introduction of immigrants I must add some mulatto proprietors and managers. The white overseers of former days have become rare, and have been replaced by negroes and mulattos. "Tres peu d'Europeens sont a present employés sur les habitations comme

Annuaire Guadeloupe, 1891. *géreurs ou economies. On prefere generalement les employés du pays qui content moins et qui sont mieux acclimatés.* This is not a good change for the Indians, who do not thrive under black or coloured masters. The overseers in British Guiana are appointed from a list always full of the sons of gentlemen educated in public schools in England. It requires a visit to these islands to appreciate the contempt and dislike felt for the Indian by the general population. The hatred of the negro for the East Indian is noticeable everywhere in the West Indies. He adds to his antipathy as a rival labourer and an interloper his contempt for him as a physical inferior. Perhaps this feeling has been fostered by the cessation of immigration and the lessening numbers of the immigrants in which the negro saw the chance they want of commanding the labour market without competition, and of indulging their desire for exorbitant wages, arrogant swagger and idleness varied as want pressed by desultory fits of labour. The numbers of the blacks overwhelm the white and coloured population, and they begin to feel the power which liberty and equality enable them to claim. The recession of the white population and the growing power of the blacks is a most serious question, the gravity of which is accentuated every year and of which further developments may be expected in the near future.

To this class, as well as to the bulk of their political supporters, the mulattos, the introduction of Indians would be most unpopular, and they would have the power of making it felt in many ways.

18. I have more than once referred to the wages of immigrants, but it is necessary to give more detailed information on this important point. The legal wage for indentured immigrants per month for a man is 12.50f., for a woman 10.00f., but these wages are only due if 26 days of 9½ hours each are worked each month. But as the amount of work required is excessive, only a few earn these wages, and then not continuously. In addition they receive rations which may be computed as being worth 40 cents a day, and two changes of clothes yearly of the value of 21 francs. Even if the full wages and rations were received, these benefits would compare unfavourably with those obtained in other colonies.

There is much extra work done in all colonies during crop time, and extra wages per hour are earned during this time, Supplementary labour. amounting to considerable sums in some colonies.

In Guadeloupe, although many extra hours are worked beyond the legal 9½ hours I do not find that there is always a corresponding increase in the wages, while I noticed that rum is often given at such times. The wages of reindentured coolies range from 12.50f., the usual rate, to 15f., for good workmen, but these rates are paid only if 26 full days work in the month are given. In addition they are provided with rations and clothes. The wages of free coolies are, as might be expected, for skilled and selected workmen much higher, and range from 1 franc to 1.35f. per day, occasionally reaching 1.50f. In addition they often get rations and rum free. Some liberal minded proprietors give a premium on good and steady work by offering 2 francs per month extra to every one who works 26 days in the month.

Sardars or headmen get 1.50f. to 2.50f. a day.

Free women who are good workers get 1 franc to 1.25f. a day.

This is only on liberally managed estates, and on one such I notice payments of wages are made every week as in British colonies, otherwise wages are paid monthly.

19. *Article 72 of decree of 30th June 1890.*—"In case of scarcity or the impossibility of procuring the food prescribed by article 71, the ration can, with the consent of the Protector of Immigrants, be replaced for a time and in determined proportion by bread, fresh vegetables, roots, or other food of the country."

This is interpreted by the planters in the following way. When the market price of any article of food rises, the planter may give the immigrant money equal to the ordinary value of the article of food and tells the cooly to buy it for himself; or he substitutes unnutritious and indigestible roots for the rice or manioc flour. In the old decree of 1860 some restriction was put on the amount to be substituted, but even this has been omitted in the decree of 1890.

Decree of 18th February 1860.—"fournir dans la proportion de trois kilogrammes pour un litre."

In the contract made with the cooly in India he is promised ghi or oil as part of his ration, but this is omitted in Article 71 of the decree of 1890.

In all colonies the supply of rations by the estate to coolies newly arrived is necessary for a few months to tide them over the period when they are as yet not accustomed to the food of the country, and its price and method of cooking are unknown to them, and from inexperience and unwillingness to work they are not earning sufficient wages to buy enough food to keep them in good health: but after the first few months they learn to prefer to provide for themselves.

The articles of food prescribed in the ration are always procurable, and if planters prefer, for reasons of their own, to supply rations throughout the indenture, which I think is a practice to be condemned, they should not be allowed because prices rise somewhat to substitute inferior food. I think it a distinct grievance that oil or ghi is not provided. Whatever was the intended object in supplying coolies with rations throughout their indenture and reindentures, instead of allowing them to provide for themselves, the effect of this and of the constant opportunities for drinking rum and tafia afforded them is to destroy all

habits of self-reliance and forethought, and is calculated to make the cooly more dependent on the planter. With the ration on some estates rum is given.

20. The estate hospitals are not up to the standard of British colonies, do not always have separate wards for men and women, or the furniture prescribed by the ordinance. An overseer is often the person to whom the compounding of medicine is entrusted, and the absence of uniformity shows a general want of supervision. The houses are generally well built, large and comfortable, but the surroundings dirty and uncared for, and used by pigs and other animals. The colonial hospitals, of which there is usually one in every town of any importance, are admirably managed and well provided in every respect. Like all institutions in which the wants of the inmates are supplied by the Sisters of Charity, there is nothing left to be desired in the way of internal comfort, neatness and cleanliness.

21. There are many schools both in Guadeloupe and Martinique, but few Indians attend them or are encouraged to do so. Education. The parents are indifferent to the advantages of education, and prefer that their children should make a few sous by working in the fields. Out of 2,375 Indian children in Guadeloupe, only 80 go to school, and in Martinique there is the same absence of education. Indian children do not like going to school with negroes, who are apt to bully them. In Trinidad there are over 20 cooly schools which have been started by the Canadian Mission.

22. I will now turn to the more pleasing side of the picture, and show how Indians, notwithstanding the disadvantages under which in some cases they labour, contrive to take advantage of their surroundings and lead a life free from want or become the owners of many cattle, houses and shops, occupiers of land, or owners or part owners of crops. Many Indians have an extraordinary faculty for saving or acquiring money by usury, petty trading, &c., and the sums they accumulate are out of all proportion to their apparent opportunities for collection. The Creole Indians, or sons of East Indians born in the colony, are especially acute in this direction, and more thoroughly dislike labour in the field. The wages (12-50f.) for an indentured man and 10f. for a woman are not high, and no one could be found in a British colony who would accept them even with free rations and clothes, but the sums standing to the credit of some of these people in the Colonial banks show that there must be other ways of making money.

106 depositors have in the Guadeloupe Bank	...	110,694.45
37 depositors have in the Pointe-à-Pitre Bank	...	13,675.24
		<u>124,369.69</u>

nearly £5,000, and there are also private accounts of Indians in the Pointe-à-Pitre Bank which I had not the opportunity of seeing. This does not represent the whole of their wealth, and they have large sums out on usury with the shop-keepers or in cattle shops and houses.

The position of the free cooly is a good one and he gets his 1.25f. or 1.50f. a day with often the addition of rations and a tot of rum thrown in, but he has to work harder for it than in any colony I know, and could not do it every day. In Martinique the few coolies who are left lead a life which must seem after indentured labour the blessing of rest. They are well and regularly paid at higher rates and shorter intervals than their less lucky brethren in Guadeloupe. Their masters take care of them, and try to make them comfortable. Skilled workmen get the value of their labour. There is never any cause of complaint between master and servant, and there has not been a case in court for the last five years. They work when and where they like, and an especially prized privilege, they can be drunk two or three days in the week and yet make plenty of money to live upon. The Immigration Department at Guadeloupe informs me that returning immigrants have taken with them to India a sum of 765,472 francs. "Sans compter les bijoux que les femmes portent sur elles et les sommes en or serrées au fond des malles."

I append a census of the East Indian population of Guadeloupe, showing the occupations followed, and prepared at my request during my visit. No such census had ever been taken before, and I apprehend that had time permitted some corrections would have been found necessary.

From Martinique in 1886, 886 immigrants returning to India took with them 38,670 francs; in 1889, 879 took 40,119 francs; and in 1891, 569 took 29,300 francs. In Guadeloupe the information furnished me shows the Indians as possessing—

1,043	cows and bullocks.
286	horses.
21	mules.
53	donkeys.
1,400	pigs.

I was unable to obtain the figures for Martinique, but the coolies have many cattle, &c.

The more skilled of the old and free labourers make much money as "colons" or on the metairie system, by which they get a part of the value of the crop they raise for the owner of the land. The land is ploughed by the estate, which also furnishes half the manure, costing 110 francs per acre, the other half is paid for by the "colon." The estate gives transport for the manure and canes to the factory, and the "colon" and his family do all the rest of the cultivation, and gets half the value of the sugar made. When used to machinery, in Martinique some Indians get high wages up to 4 or 5 francs a day when employed in driving engines, &c. Food is cheap and abundant, and the climate so equable and warm that clothes are almost a superfluous luxury.

23. To resume emigration in Martinique and Guadeloupe, without further and material precautions, would have the effect of placing immigrants in those colonies in a worse position than if immigration had never been stopped. In Martinique it would be necessary to again establish an Immigration Department which the colony can ill afford, and to introduce immigration laws which would be detrimental to the position immigrants now enjoy there; but it is quite possible that this colony would reject the idea of again receiving immigrants, and even if accepted, the small number of coolies which would be indentured for would justify only a similar departmental establishment drawn from local sources, and the result would be imperfect supervision and control, which, as the history of all such attempts has shown, is especially disastrous to newly introduced coolies, who require kind but firm masters, who, while not harassing them by unreasonable demand upon their labour, and mindful of the strangeness of the country, the cultivation, and the use of implements, yet insist on habits of industry.

In Guadeloupe, since the cessation of immigration, the decree of 30th June 1890 has placed indentured and reindentured immigrants in a position the difficulties of which are great and numerous, and to send others to join them would be to authorize a state of things opposed to principles of British emigration, contrary to the letter of the contract made in India, and to the expectations emigrants might reasonably entertain of being free to choose their own line of life after five years of indentured service.

To summarize. The following are the objections to the resumption of emigration to the French West Indian colonies, which pride themselves, and I believe with some justice, on being more liberally managed than Réunion.

The reasons which necessitated the stoppage of emigration in 1888 may well be urged at the present time, but with greater cogency. The position of the indentured and also of the labourer who should be free, instead of improving has deteriorated since that time, and the bonds of the labour laws are more tightly fastened round them; nor do I think that the French have the slightest intention of making any material improvement in their condition or of altering their traditional attitude to these labourers.

To allow emigration now would be to recognize and sanction a state of things entirely opposed to the principles which are insisted on as necessary in British colonies, and to countenance proceedings most obviously harsh, unjustifiable, and unfair.

Indian immigration is not desired by the bulk of the inhabitants, who would resent, covertly if not openly, the reintroduction, and who have the power of making the position of immigrants undesirable, if not untenable. Neither the French Colonial Office have the power, or at all events do not exercise it, in seeing that the arrangements agreed upon with the Indian Government are fairly carried out, nor apparently is the Imperial Government deeply interested in the matter.

Short of the right of inspection of estates by a British official, there is no guarantee which the French Government can give which would ensure that the immigrants are being properly treated.

The recession of the white population has deprived the immigrants of the better class of master, and they do not thrive under black or coloured masters. I would go so far as to say that no negro in any colony should have immigrants allotted to him.

To reintroduce immigrants might retard, but would not permanently arrest, the downward progress of the prosperity of these islands, and the position and treatment of the immigrants would be progressively worse as the cultivation fell more and more into the hands of the blacks, which for many years it has been continuously doing.

No interest is shown in the social welfare of the Indians, and the effect of the treatment adopted is not to elevate or improve them in habits of self-reliance and independent industry, but is calculated to degrade them, both morally and physically, to the state of permanent drudges.

The encouragement and opportunities given for drink ruin the Indians in pocket, body, and mind.

The Convention of 1861 is out of date, and was never one on which immigration could be satisfactorily conducted.

The immigration ordinances are framed so as to keep the immigrants in a state of perpetual servitude on the planters' estates and to deprive them of the chances they might legitimately expect of being free to choose their own line of life on the expiration of their indentures, and unjustifiably interfere with the liberty of people who should be free from the restrictions of special labour laws.

The education of children, the importance of which was insisted on by Lord Carnarvon, as well as the raising of the status of the immigrant population generally, is almost unknown, and would not be encouraged by employers who make the children work on the estates.

There is no proper departmental supervision to control the action of arbitrary and interested planters,—in fact the Immigration Department is rather used to throw the immigrants more completely into their power.

The following faults of system are sufficient in themselves to make these colonies most undesirable places for Indian immigrants:—

Compulsory day-work is most unsuitable and unfair for experienced and skilled labourers.

Reindentures destroy the labourer's chance of benefiting by his skilled labour, and keep him permanently in the colony in a state of rigorously controlled servitude.

The number of hours' work insisted on is excessive even for a short time, and impossible for six days in the week for five years. The number of "lost days" on which employers declare the labourer not to have done a full day's work, and therefore not entitled to wages, but obliged to give another day's work, is excessive and unfairly controlled. Work on Sundays especially by indentured labourers, except "corvee," is opposed to the Convention and ordinances.

The imprisoning powers of the immigration authorities are used carelessly and inequitably, and depôts as prisons are unnecessary and unjustifiable.

The harassing of the immigrants found away from estates by the gendarmes encouraged and paid for by the colony, and the livret, which is too often an engine of oppression by the employer, and has no advantage for the immigrant, should be abolished.

Wages, though sufficient if given in full, are less than obtained in British colonies, and many do not receive the wages promised them, and it is almost impossible for a man to earn full wages for any lengthened time. Wages are

paid at too long intervals. Supplementary labour is not regularly or sufficiently paid for, and there are unauthorised stoppages.

The continuous supply of rations and consequent reduction in wages, as well as the substitutes given for wholesome food, and the omission of a portion of the ration promised, are to be condemned.

The herding of men and women together in one hospital ward is most objectionable, likewise the imperfect arrangements for the supply of medicines, and their compounding and distribution in estate hospitals. There is no system of medical inspection, and consequent neglect and evasion of rules.

Sufficient opportunities are not given for repatriation, and many obstacles are put in the way of immigrants obtaining this. Ships are only provided at long intervals. The funds set apart for the accommodation and food in return ships are of the most wretched description, and such as would most unhesitatingly be condemned in any British colony. The disposal of deceased immigrants' estates is unsatisfactorily conducted.

Apart from the question of the renewal of emigration, a line of treatment more in accordance with that insisted on in British colonies might be demanded, and if it has been approved of and amended by the Colonial Office, I would suggest a consideration and comparison with the French decrees of the Immigration Ordinance for British Guiana submitted to the Secretary of State last year, and which I recently had the honour of discussing with His Lordship. It might be necessary to modify it in some particulars to suit small colonies, but it should form the basis of future immigration laws as embodying the great principles of:—

Colonization and settlement instead of prolonged engagements for labour.

Illegality of re-indenture.

Task work instead of day work except in special cases alike beneficial to employer and labourer. A task to be what a man of average strength can do without extraordinary exertion in 7½ hours, and a day's work to be of the same duration.

Rates of wages equal to those obtained by indigenous labourers, especially as regards skilled and experienced workmen.

"Le salaire ordinaire des journaliers est de 1 fr. 50 cent."—(*Annuaire de Guadeloupe*, 1891, page 57.)

Wages to be paid regularly and at short intervals. No stoppages or reductions except those by a court of law for offences duly proved.

Days of absence without leave, "lost days," by indentured immigrants only to be recovered before the Magistrate and within a short time of the offence.

Abolition of livret and harassing by the police, and rewards for apprehension of immigrants alleged to be deserters.

Illegality of sale of drink and other articles by the estate to the labourer.

The limitation of supply of rations to six months after introduction, and period to be shortened if the coolie can show he is earning sufficient wages to support himself.

An uniform system of sanitation and medical care and inspection.

An independent and impartial supervision supported and controlled by the Local Government and the Imperial Colonial Office.

Freedom after the expiration of indenture equal to that enjoyed by other sections of the population.

The following remarks allude, I suppose, to the emancipated slaves:—"Les travailleurs indigènes débarrassés des entraves administratives qui s'opposent à la spontanéité de leurs mouvements se porteraient vers les occupations qui convenaient le plus à leur goûts ou à leur intérêts."—(*Annuaire Guadeloupe*, 1891.) And I think that the Indians at the end of their indenture might fairly expect to find themselves in a similar position.

24. To re-open emigration to the French colonies under existing circumstances would be especially unfortunate as regards Surinam, the only other foreign colony receiving Indian immigrants, and in which arrangements and improvements in accordance with those in British colonies are contemplated and, I may say, in progress. The difference in the manner suggestions are received by the French and Dutch is very marked, the latter being always ready to adopt the improvements which the greater experience of British colonies has found profitable.

25. On my visit to the Hague in February last, Baron van Deden, the Dutch Minister for the Colonies, who honoured me by asking my opinion, not only promised to give the necessary orders for the improvements I proposed, but said he would depute an official to British Guiana to study the system there.

The condition of immigrants in Surinam is already better than in Guadeloupe, but improvements are very necessary in both, and these cannot be expected if the present arrangements are recognized as satisfactory.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

D. W. COMINS, *Surgeon Major*.

APPENDIX A.

DIRECTION DE L'INTÉRIEUR.

IMMIGRATION.

Cahier des charges pour le transport dans l'Inde de cinq cents indiens environ à rapatrier.

ARTICLE PREMIER.

Le présent cahier des charges a pour objet le transport de la Martinique dans l'Inde à Pondichéry et à Calcutta d'un contingent d'indiens adultes et autres aux conditions suivantes :
Les indiens seront embarqués chaque mois par le courrier de la ligne de Marseille à partir du mois de juin.

Les convois mensuels ne pourront se composer de plus de cent cinquante à deux cents indiens, sans que toutefois l'administration prenne l'engagement de fournir ce nombre.

ART. 2.

Les indiens arrivés à Marseille seront, par les soins de la Compagnie générale transatlantique, transbordés sur les paquebots des Messageries maritimes, suivant convention intervenue entre les deux compagnies.

ART. 3.

L'arrivée à Marseille du courrier de la Compagnie générale transatlantique ne coïncidant pas avec le départ de celui de la Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes, la Compagnie générale transatlantique se chargera de procurer le logement et la nourriture aux indiens pendant leur séjour à Marseille moyennant une indemnité journalière de un franc cinquante centimes par adulte ou équivalent.

ART. 4.

A bord des paquebots, comme à Marseille, les immigrants recevront la ration de vivres réglementaires conformément aux fixations déterminées dans le tableau qui fait suite au présent cahier des charges.

Les enfants de cinq à dix ans auront droit à la moitié des prestations attribuées aux adultes.

Ceux au-dessous de l'âge de cinq ans ne recevront aucune prestation personnelle, mais la ration journalière de leurs parents sera augmentée de 25 centilitres de riz pour chacun d'eux.

ART. 5.

Il leur sera donné à bord tous les soins hygiéniques et autres prévus par les règlements ou qui seront prescrits par le médecin. Il est spécialement recommandé aux officiers du bord de les traiter avec douceur et bienveillance et d'empêcher les hommes de l'équipage de les maltraiter.

ART. 6.

Une commission spéciale procédera avec le plus grand soin à la visite des immigrants avant leur embarquement. Elle admettra les immigrants atteints d'affections susceptibles de guérison ou d'amélioration pendant la traversée et refusera l'embarquement de ceux qui seront atteints de maladies contagieuses. L'agent de la Compagnie générale transatlantique à Fort-de-France pourra assister ou se faire représenter à cette visite avec droit d'observations. Elle sera faite en présence du médecin du bord qui, comme l'agent, aura le droit de faire les éliminations qu'il jugera convenables.

ART. 7.

L'embarquement des indiens aura lieu aux jour et heure fixés par l'agence.

ART. 8.

Le débarquement dans la colonie destinataire devra être effectué sur les ordres de l'administration de cette colonie et de concert avec le capitaine du paquebot et aux frais de ce dernier.

Le débarquement à Pondichéry devra être fait pendant la durée normale du stationnement du paquebot annexe, faute de quoi, le capitaine prendrait d'office les mesures nécessaires pour assurer la mise à terre dans les délais voulus.

ART. 9.

Le paiement du fret n'aura lieu qu'après l'arrivée et le débarquement des immigrants à destination. Le décompte des passages se fera d'après le nombre d'immigrants constaté à l'embarquement et il sera acquis aux transporteurs à tout événement.

Les enfants de huit à douze ans ne payeront que la moitié du prix de passage demandé pour les adultes.
Ceux de trois à huit ans, le quart;
Ceux de moins de trois ans, au moment de l'embarquement, seront transportés gratuitement, mais seulement pour un enfant. Une famille qui aurait plusieurs enfants au-dessous de trois ans n'aurait la gratuité que pour un seul, les autres payeraient quart de place.

ART. 10.

Le paiement des sommes dues à la Compagnie aura lieu à Paris, sur la production d'états accompagnés des réquisitions de passage et d'une facture avec certificat du Gouverneur de Pondichéry, constatant que le transport a été convenablement effectué.

ART. 11.

Toutes les contestations relatives à l'exécution des présentes conditions seront jugées administrativement.

ART. 12.

Les frais de timbre et d'enregistrement ainsi que les frais d'impression à cinquante exemplaires du présent cahier des charges seront supportés par la Compagnie générale transatlantique.

Le Directeur de l'intérieur,
P. FAWTIER.

Fait à Fort-de-France, le 28 mai 1891.

Le Gouverneur,
MORACCHINI.

Approuvé en conseil privé, séance du 29 mai 1891.

Tableau de la ration journalière des adultes.

Tous les jours :						
Riz	...	...	...	...	...	0* 672
Beurre, mantèque ou saindoux	...	...	...	...	...	0 025
Piment, cari, etc	...	...	...	...	...	0 025
Sel	...	...	...	...	...	0 020
Tamarin	...	...	...	...	...	0 025
Oignons	...	...	...	...	...	0 025
Eau douce	...	...	...	...	...	4 500
Lundi, mercredi, vendredi et samedi :						
Poissons salés ou morue	...	...	...	...	...	0 200
Légumes secs	...	...	...	...	...	0 120
Mardi :						
Lard salé	...	...	...	...	...	0 200
Biscuit	...	...	...	...	...	0 800
Dimanche et jeudi :						
Mouton, cabri, volaille	...	...	...	...	...	0 200
Giraumonts, pommes de terre ou patate	...	...	...	...	...	0 500

Le Directeur de l'intérieur,
P. FAWTIER.

Fort-de-France, le 28 mai 1891.

Le Gouverneur,
MORACCHINI.

Approuvé en conseil privé, séance du 29 mai 1891.

APPENDIX B.

Census of the East Indian population of Guadeloupe, showing the various occupations followed, prepared during my visit by the Immigration Department, Guadeloupe.

1. Paysans, propriétaires	...	...	...	269
2. Géreurs, économes, conducteurs	...	...	...	195
3. Agriculteur	...	...	...	5,842
4. Bergers et attachés aux paturages	...	...	...	515
5. Journaliers	...	...	...	4,544
6. Travailleurs sur les chemins de fer, sur les routes ou rues	...	...	...	115
7. Conducteurs de machines agricoles ou de locomotives	...	...	...	61
8. Gardes de chemin de fer, marqueurs, surveillants des portes et signaux	...	...	...	23
9. Marchands, agents ou détaillants	...	...	...	29
10. Boutiquiers	...	...	...	10
11. Colporteurs	...	...	...	85
12. Boutiquiers employés ou Commis	...	...	...	46
13. Vendeurs de lait	...	...	...	2
14. Vendeurs d'herbes	...	...	...	20
15. Charbonniers ou vendeurs de charbon	...	...	...	187
16. Maraichers	...	...	...	190
17. Domestiques de maisons	...	...	...	7
18. Domestiques, garçons d'écurie, cochers ou jardiniers	...	...	...	9
19. Blanchisseurs	...	...	...	...
20. Interprètes, plantons de tribunal, messagers du Gouvernement	...	...	...	5
21. Instituteurs	...	...	...	9
22. Prêtres et mendiants	...	...	...	11
23. Infirmiers, pharmaciens, accoucheurs	...	...	...	2
24. Orfèvres et joailliers	...	...	...	2
25. Barbiers	...	...	...	1
26. Boulangers et pâtisseries	...	...	...	83
27. Pêcheurs	...	...	...	40
28. Propriétaires de maisons	...	...	...	...
29. Propriétaires de voitures	...	...	...	177
30. Rentiers	...	...	...	...
31. Femmes, servantes de maisons	...	...	...	12,479
Total				...

33. Catholiques romains	...	...	...	...
34. de l'Eglise d'Angleterre	...	...	...	...
35. Wesleyens	...	...	...	...
36. Presbytériens	...	...	...	...
37. Baptistes	...	...	...	...
38. Autres dénominations	...	...	...	...
39. Ministres chrétiens et catéchistes	...	...	...	...
40. Total des chrétiens	...	...	...	...

41. Hindous	...	...	...	...
42. Mahométants	...	...	...	...
43. Autres	...	...	...	...
44. Total des infidèles	...	...	...	...

45. Allant à l'école	...	...	...	86
46. N'allant pas à l'école	...	...	...	2,294
47. Total des enfants	...	...	...	2,380

48. Mariés	...	...	...	104
49. Veufs	...	...	...	23
50. Célibataires	...	...	...	12,352
Total				14,859

51.

iv					
52.	Au-dessous d'un an	...	...	...	477
	" de 5 ans	...	...	...	793
53.	" de 10 "	...	...	...	1,018
	" de 15 "	...	...	...	1,348
	" de 20 "	...	...	...	2,259
	" de 30 "	...	...	...	4,443
	" de 40 "	...	...	...	3,374
	" de 50 "	...	...	...	963
54.	" de 60 "	...	...	...	174
55.	" de 80 "	...	...	...	10
Total				...	14,859

A AJOUTER.					
	Gardiens de nuit	...	...	...	...
	Bûcherons	...	...	...	...
	Agents de police	...	...	...	...
	Adultes et enfants sans emploi	...	...	...	2,294
Immigrants versés dans le droit commun, 1,524.				...	...

Basse Terre, le 13 Octobre 1891.

Le Protecteur, Chef du Service de l'Immigration,
DAVERS.

D. T. P. — Rev. No. 1033J—262—15-6-92.

JURREIN 1730

V.

General DEPARTMENT.

Emigration Branch.

No. 124 P. P. F.

From

C. E. Buckland Esq.

Secretary to the Government of Bengal

To

The Chief Secretary to the Govt. of India

Dated Darjeeling, the 25th June, 1892.

Sir,

In compliance with the orders of the Govt. of India in the Revenue and Agricultural Department, No. 710/24, dated the 12th April, 1892, I am directed by the Lieut. Governor of Bengal to forward the enclosed copy of a report by Dr. Comins on the proposals of the French Govt. for the renewal of emigration to the French Colonies of Reunion, Martinique, and Guadeloupe.

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

C. E. Buckland.

Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal

C. A. P.—Reg. No. 436F—250—21 4 92.

1730
Public Dept.

From
The Govt. of Bengal

No. 124 P.F. 4

Dated 25th } June 1892
Recd 30th }
Encls: 2

Forwarding copy of
Comins' report on the proposals
of the French Govt. for renewal
of emigration to the French Colonies

FROM SURGEON-MAJOR D. W. D. COMINS,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL,

GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 14th June 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the correspondence on the subject of the resumption of Emigration to the French Colonies which I have recently had the opportunity of studying in the West Indies.

The French Government urge that they have not been given the opportunity of reporting and discussing specific instances and authenticated facts and circumstances which have led the Government of India to the action it has taken in the cessation of emigration to French Colonies. In considering a question of this magnitude, involving as it does several separate administrations, I have avoided, so far as possible, reflections on personal management, and think it useless to notice the faults of individuals.

In every community there will be found bad masters, whose treatment of their dependants is actuated more by self-interest, gain, the accidents of temperament or the helplessness of their servants, rather than by conscientious scruples in fulfilling the original terms of the bargain which has placed them in the position of masters and it is with the object of counteracting, when necessary, tendencies on their part prejudicial to the interests of the immigrants, that the Departments of Emigration in India and the Colonies have been instituted, and it is in the control exercised by them and by the Local and Imperial Governments that the welfare of the coolie depends.

The Government of India is naturally anxious that the position of its subjects in the French colonies should be equal to that enjoyed by them in British colonies, and the treatment of immigrants should be that stipulated for as beneficial to them during their indenture, and preserve to them their rights as a free people after their term of service has expired. It has pointed out to the French Government certain conditions which are essential to the well-being of the coolies and without which they cannot be placed in the position of immigrants.

2. The French Government has now stated how far it is willing to ensure indifference of the French Government of these conditions, and coming as I do from a study of the two systems, I am much struck by the unimportance of the concessions made, which would leave the position practically unaltered.

The French West India Colonies are no longer the source of revenue they once were to the Imperial Government, and are now often a great trouble and expense, the staple industry itself being only maintained by the aid of a substantial bounty from home. These islands therefore have ceased to occupy their former position in the regard of the French nation, which, when it has to contribute largely from its own resources, besides assuming great responsibilities,

with no adequate return, must be inclined to look upon its needy and clamorous offspring as *enfants terribles*, to whom only a partial hearing need be accorded.

I have had considerable opportunities for seeing the correspondence with, and of ascertaining the feelings of the French Government to these colonies, and I am led to believe that it has no great anxiety to burden itself anew with responsibilities it has found so irksome and uncontrollable in the past, and of which it is at present partly relieved.

3. It must also be well aware that to the bulk of the population in these islands the resumption of Indian emigration would be most unpopular.

Unpopularity of Indian immigration to the bulk of the population of French colonies. It has acceded with a good grace to the demands of an influential section of capitalists, and has shown a sufficient interest in forwarding their proposals; but with the knowledge it must possess of the requirements of the Government of India, and how necessary it will be to comply with them fully before a reconsideration of the question of emigration will be made, it appears to me that in promising the grant of these trivial and insufficient concessions it must have been fully aware how totally inadequate they would prove to be.

4. The majority of French planters are ignorant of the conditions of immigration as existing in British colonies, and are firmly persuaded that their system is as nearly perfect as possible, and the planters of Guadeloupe would be opposed to any innovation, especially at the dictation of a Foreign Government, and calculated to give the immigrant any independence of action. They are convinced that the real cause of the stoppage of emigration by the Government of India is that the planters in British colonies are jealous of their success, and wish to obtain a more abundant and therefore cheaper supply of labour. I have tried to convince them, but to no purpose, that the number of Indians which they could import would not affect to any appreciable degree the supply of colonial emigrants from India, and that the British planters have far too much work of their own to do to have the time to be criticizing that of their neighbours.

5. There are, however, many thoughtful and experienced business men, who have large interests at stake, and who from their position should have been able to make their influence felt in the debates and decisions of the French Government, who are well aware that the old order of things must change, and rather than run any risk of failure from half measures, are prepared to adopt *en masse* the system of immigration as in force in British Colonies, including, if insisted upon by the Government of India, the appointment of an English Protector of Immigrants, which however I do not think necessary.

Unless the French Government accepted the responsibility of enforcing them, it would be impossible to accept the proposals of these well-meaning employers, or to have two systems of immigration at the same time, nor would they be allowed to carry on their proposals without opposition from their neighbours.

6. Of the existence of such influential capitalists there can be no doubt; but I see no trace of it in the correspondence from the French Government. From these persons I have

never heard a word about the insult of a foreign official entering upon and inspecting estates, or of this being contrary to the spirit of the French law. They well understand that business and sentiment do not go well hand-in-hand, and the British Government, in insisting on the beneficial control of its subjects, is not doing so with a desire to offend susceptibilities, but is only carrying out the precautions it finds necessary even in its own colonies. Although the French are nervously sensitive on these points, they are easily conciliated. I have never had any difficulty on my visits to estates in French Colonies, and although the intention of my coming was not thoroughly understood, I have received much valuable aid from French managers of estates in making the fullest enquiries into any subject connected with the treatment of immigrants on which I desired information. I have occasionally noticed on my first appearance, especially at the first estates I visited in the colony, a

certain amount of suspicious reserve; but as soon as it was seen that my enquiries, however particular, were for the purpose of acquiring information of the benefits and faults of system, and not for the criticism or condemnation of individuals, my advent was always welcomed by those managers who were confident of the regularity of their actions, and who knew that nothing could be revealed to their discredit, and much pointing to good management.

Many not so anxious for light to be thrown on their arrangements which, under the lax supervision of the immigration officials, they can direct very much as they please, would no doubt object to "Foreign inspection," but it is tolerably well understood by most French employers that the Government of India, in considering the re-opening of emigration, would insist on its agents having opportunities for keeping themselves fully acquainted with the condition and treatment of the immigrants on estates, and if departmental supervision were more thorough and the system once acknowledged and established, I believe it would continue without friction if the enquiries were conducted by an official of experience and tact who, while observant of the details of management, showed no desire to find fault, and was ready to give credit for improvements and good management.

7. In Guadeloupe such an official exists in Mr. Japp, Vice-Consul at Point à Pitre, who would be well suited for these enquiries so long as he did not allow them to affect his independent position as British Vice-Consul.

Any interference by him in executive details would prejudice him as an impartial representative of his Government. He is most energetic in ascertaining and, as far as possible, improving the condition of immigrants at Point à Pitre and in its neighbourhood, but he is not often able to travel beyond this, and his sphere of usefulness is therefore limited. He has no allowance or means of travelling, and his emoluments are extremely small, and as he is the representative of the British Government, and is the immediate referee in all complaints concerning Indian subjects I would suggest that the Government of India arrange that all travelling expenses incurred by him in connection with immigration be met from Imperial Funds. He has already been invited by some of the planters to visit their estates, and if this were done, I have no doubt the others would make it a point of honour to send similar invitations. This would be of much value, though not so great as if the right of visits to estates, and of enquiring into the work, pay, stoppages, food, lodging, medical care, extending to a scrutiny of all the estate books referring to these subjects by a British official were conceded by the French Government. No objection could, I think, be made if instructions were given to the visiting officers similar to those by Sir H. Barkly to Stipendiary Magistrates in Mauritius in 1865:—

"Stipendiary Magistrates have in some instances gone beyond their instructions.....for obtaining certain statistics connected with each property..... but in their endeavours to obtain the most accurate data on these points, I have to impress upon them the necessity of using both discretion and tact, and of avoiding all semblance of any official demand. His Excellency also apprehends that like caution is necessary for ascertaining the social condition of the Indian immigrant labourers on sugar estates and.....this part of their duty should be performed with calmness and moderation: and further, while it is their duty.....to pay every attention to any complaint.....yet it forms no part of their mission to provoke complaints through unnecessary interference on their part." (Circular to Magistrates by Sir H. Barkly, Governor of Mauritius, 20th September 1865.)

8. The right of the British Consul to receive complaints from immigrants is already secured to him by the terms of the Convention, and condition (I) of Mons. Ribot's letter contains no concession.

The following is the text of Article 20 of the International Convention of the 1st July 1861:—

Article 20.—"Les immigrants sujets de sa Majesté Britannique jouiront dans les Colonies Françaises de la faculté d'invoquer l'assistance des Agents Consulaires Britanniques au même titre que tous les autres sujets relevant de la Couronne Britannique, et conformément aux règles ordinaires du droit international et il ne sera apporté aucun obstacle à ce que l'engagé puisse se rendre

chez l'Agent Consulaire, et entrer en rapport avec lui, le tout sans préjudice bien entendu des obligations résultant de l'engagement."

The Consul under this article can make an independent enquiry, and occupies a much more satisfactory and representative position than that now granted as a privilege of accompanying the immigration official, and acting as an advocate of the coolie, but without any right to interfere in the action of the French official. It appears to me equally impossible and undesirable that the Consul should have to attend at the immigration office or at the Magistrate's Court whenever the rights of immigrants are at stake.

9. My remarks on re-engagements refer only to Guadeloupe. In Guadeloupe out of an immigrant population of 16,359, there are 12,309 employed on estates, of which 1,169 are under indenture, and 2,329 under re-indenture. To these last must be added the wives and dependent relations of those heads of families to whom the *prime* of re-engagement has been given. They do not apply to Martinique, in which the Immigration Ordinance and all its works have been abolished for years. There are consequently no immigrants under indenture or contracts of re-engagement in Martinique. There seems to be a misapprehension on this point, as one of the reasons put forward for a greater number of immigrants not having returned to India is that they may not have completed their engagements. The small and diminishing number of East Indians in Martinique is entirely on the same footing as other sections of the population, with this exception, that the Indians being in great request on the estates as labourers, and having always the right of return passage to India, great efforts are made by the planters to keep them contented, so that they may not desire to leave the estates or the colonies. In no French Colony which I have visited are the coolies so happy and unmolested by the labour laws. They are all old immigrants, thoroughly acclimatized and accustomed to the ways of the place. In fact they are the residue of those who for various reasons have left the island or died, and if left alone few of them would wish to return to India; but their only friends are the few white planters who employ them, and the rest of the population are against them as aliens, heathens, and interlopers, who destroy the price of labour and take the bread out of the mouths of the indigenous population. The force of public opinion is too strong for them, and they are gradually being pushed out of the island. As long as their numbers are sufficient to form communities of their own on estates, this is not so noticeable, and they are to a certain extent independent of outside dislike, but scattered as they now are in small parties over the island, they are constantly in contact with the Negro and coloured population, who bear them no good will, and the Negro is always a bully to every helpless creature.

It is quite true that, as compared with Guadeloupe and Cayenne, the Indians in Martinique occupy an exceptionally advantageous position, though very inferior to that in the best managed British Colonies, but this position on which the French Government congratulate themselves and point to as an instance of good management is not due to the beneficial working of the Immigration Ordinances and the special arrangements to which immigrants are subject, but to the abandonment of all such organized control which, owing to the lessened number of Indians, is no longer profitable. The elaborate precautions for keeping the Indian constantly at work and under indenture involve much trouble and expense and the maintenance of a large staff, which only pays when Indians are present in large numbers. Part of this change and also the renewed activity shown last year in repatriation is due to the strong feeling in Martinique against Indian Immigration by the indigenous inhabitants, who viewed with profound satisfaction the abolition of the department, the papers and records of which were stowed away out of sight so successfully that few of them are now forthcoming. If a Martiniquain is asked about immigration, he says with pride there is no immigration and no immigrants, as they are all French subjects. The abolition of the department was looked upon as a proof that no further attempts at introduction were intended. The sight of the back of the last Indian leaving the island would be, except to a few planters, a subject of congratulation, and the resumption of immigration would cause much dissatisfaction. In speaking of the present advantages enjoyed by Indians in Martinique, it must be remembered that new immigrants would not be at all in the same position, and the stringent conditions

of labour, the lower rates of pay, and the rigid control existing in the neighbouring island of Guadeloupe would probably be adopted in all their details.

As the decreasing number year by year of immigrants in Guadeloupe and Martinique rendered the cost of the Immigration Department more disproportionate to the work done, the immigration systems in the two islands were modified with surprisingly different results. Martinique, as shown above, discontinued departmental control, which was included with that of prisons by the decree of 31st December 1887, and which directed that the correspondence and arrangements for return passages and any other unavoidable business should be conducted in the office of the Director of the Interior. No further attempts were to be made to obtain re-engagements, and the *prime* for re-engagement was discontinued, and all immigrants were declared to be subject to the ordinary Civil French laws. Nothing could have been better for the coolies, who suddenly found themselves relieved from the harassing restrictions of the immigration laws, and able to dispose of their labour to the best advantage, and to work when and where they liked.

Guadeloupe, on the contrary, when it found that emigration from India had ceased, and the numbers of immigrants in the colony was diminishing by deaths and return to India, and by the immigrants leaving the sugar estates in Grande-terre, and setting up for themselves as small farmers in the more favourite island of Basse-terre, passed a long cherished Ordinance which had been kept in abeyance so long as emigrants were obtained from India, and which was intended by means of continued reindentures to keep all Indians of whatever standing in a condition of perpetual servitude on the sugar estates and prevent their return to India. This was all the more easy, in that ships for coolies returning to India are provided at long and uncertain intervals, and the date of their departure is not known to the immigrants, so that an immigrant at the end of his indenture finds he has to wait an unknown time on his own resources, or be immured in one of the dépôts which are to all intents and purposes prisons, and in which intending return immigrants are collected prior to their departure. His only other alternative, if he is unable to obtain work as a free coolie, which is not generally encouraged except in the small estates in Basse-terre, especially in the neighbourhood of Capes-terre and Pointe Noire, and on a few estates in Grand-terre and absolutely prohibited by others, is to accept the bounty and enter on another long period of indenture. I shall show later on the difficulties which have been placed in the way of immigrants who, having fulfilled their engagements to the colony and who should be free men desire to settle as colonists, and the pressure brought to bear to make them without delay accept another long engagement. Anticipatory re-engagements, or those made while the coolie is still under the control of the engagiste would be difficult to condemn in too strong terms, and I look upon the whole system of re-engagement as the cause of the greater part of the misery the immigrant suffers in this colony. Having secured the coolie in the colony on the promise of perfect freedom of choice as to his movements after his five years indenture has expired, the full power of the Immigration Ordinances, the Colonial law, and the whole influence of the master, is exercised to retain him and his family with his consent or against his will in a state of continued dependence until he is cast out of the colony as a broken-down and worn-out old man, incapable of any further work and an expense and trouble to his master. In most cases it is only then, as may be seen by watching the debarkation of return coolies from French Colonies, that the restrictions around them are sufficiently relaxed to allow of a return to India. To say that he in agreeing to reindenture is a free agent is an entire misnomer. He has no choice in the matter, and is obliged to yield to the force of circumstances. Unless possessed of independent means sufficient to start an occupation for himself, it would require a person of extraordinary powers to resist the pressure which is brought to bear upon him under the new decree of 1890, and if he is allowed at any time to choose his own line of life, it is probably because he is of no value as a workman. Instead of five years indentured labour, his compulsory service may last a lifetime or until he is of no further use. Previous to the passing of the decree of 1890 there were many immigrants who, having completed their indentures, left the sugar estates and betook themselves to other forms of agriculture or modes of life and are entirely free from the restrictions of the Immigration Ordinances. There are many planters in these colonies who

treat their coolies with liberality and due regard to the terms of the contract made in India, and I recollect a gentleman in Martinique to whom, after I had seen all the excellent arrangements he had made and the kindness with which he treated his dependents, including their education and the importation of vernacular school books from India, I remarked that if all proprietors acted as he did, emigration to Martinique would be continuing at the present time. He entreated me not to talk about it or to mention his name to the other proprietors, as he said his position would be most unpleasant, as having introduced improvements which they might be asked to adopt. In Guadeloupe too there are some planters who employ none but old coolies, not under indenture, whom they pay more than the wages authorized by the Convention, as being old skilled labourers; but taking advantage of clause 40 of decree of 30th June 1890 the majority use their position as masters, and their influence with the local Immigration Department to keep the coolie under a succession of indentures, and prevent him claiming his rights as a free man.

If re-indenture were abolished there would be an immediate and immense improvement in the condition of the coolie. There would no longer be any occasion for the unjustifiable interference with his movements and liberty, which is now called the repression of vagabondage. "A vagabond" is a man who, having completed his five years' service, imagines that he is free to seek service in a part or on an estate which suits him better. If he is more than 30 days without work, he is liable to be charged as a vagabond. There would be no occasion for dépôts which are prisons for such "vagabonds." Nor would it be necessary to endow the immigration officials with the powers of Judicial Police, and of making *proces verbal* which has recently been done, the Judicial Court being more apt to decide cases according to abstract legal rights rather than to the wishes of the planters. A body of free labourers would arise who would create a standard of the duration of, and wages for, labour which is now fixed to their own benefit by the planters. Task work would be substituted for day work, both in the case of indentured and free labourers, and indentured labourers might expect to get the same wages as free labourers, if they were able to do the same work. Task work is preferred in Martinique, but in Guadeloupe it is rare.

"Le travail à la tâche qui fonctionne avantageusement à la Martinique est peu répandu à la Guadeloupe."—*Annuaire Guadeloupe*, 1891.

The free labourer could take advantage of the departure of return ships to India to go back if he wished to his country, which he is now unable to do, as, unless the ship happen to arrive at the moment of the termination of his indenture, he will probably have been induced to take another labour contract for five years.

The bounty or "prime" promised for taking a five-year contract is from £7 to £12, of which the local Government contributes £3, and is payable in instalments. This seems a large sum to give to a coolie, and at first sight it appears a liberal arrangement, but it is not so, and the advantages he loses are, even from a money point of view, far more valuable. It is impossible to suppose that a labourer, completely under the orders of his employer, is in the same advantageous position for the disposal of his labour for the highest wage as is a free man, who has first to be attracted to the estate, and then satisfied as to the money he is to obtain before he will take up the task. It would be different, too, if he had any legitimate outlet to employ this large sum of money, which generally returns to the estate eventually as payment for rum supplied.

In British colonies a man who, at the end of his indenture, has savings, usually proceeds to invest it in the purchase of a piece of land from the Crown on which he has probably long set his eye as suitable for his purpose. This he can readily acquire in Demerara at one dollar an acre, with all freehold rights. He also purchases a cow or two, but in French Colonies this is not at all what the planters want, and the labourers must remain and work on the estate. Re-indentures are not advantageous to the immigrants or the colony at large, which has to contribute heavily (75 francs for each re-indenture,) and its agriculture is thereby confined to the narrow limits of the planters estates and no advancement or general development can take place. It is a ruinous arrangement for the coolie, as the sum he gets in no way represents the value to the planter of securing, under the stringent provisions of the Immigration laws, the labour for

5 years of a skilled and acclimatized workman, accustomed to the ways of the colony and of the estate, and to whom he pays no more than to the new immigrant just landed in the colony, and is inadequate as a recompense for the advantage the coolie relinquished as a free man with the right of disposing of his labour to the best advantage. Long before the five years are over the planter has paid himself over and over again for his outlay, without regarding the fact that he has perhaps prevented the coolie from returning to India, which would have cost as much.

If the coolie at the end of his five years' indenture wishes to leave the estate and go to another or set up for himself, he first has to get his *livret* and *livre controle*, of the entries in which he is profoundly ignorant, *visé* by his master, who often keeps them, perhaps as a security against the coolie running away. If he is lucky enough to get this done, he goes to the Syndic and asks for his *congé*. The Syndic "from politeness," as it was ingenuously put to me, tells him to get his *congé* from his master. His master can then insist on his working out the number of "lost" days, and offers him a "bounty" if he will take another contract for 5 years. If he is strong enough to decline this, and works out his "lost" days, which it was complained to me were calculated by the master, and not by the immigration officials, though a record is kept in the immigration office, he goes to the Syndic for the endorsement of his *livret* as a free man. I have examined many of these *livrets*, and in most the number of "lost" days, or days on which the immigrant did not do a full day's work, is not so great as might be expected, considering the impossible number of hours the coolie is supposed to work, but in others the number of days is excessive. This is another fault of the day work system, and could not happen if work was done by the task. I saw one of these *livrets*, and in the same month on which his 5 years engagement terminated an entry had been made by the Syndic that he was given 10 days to regulate his position and procure an *engagiste*; this is under article 63 of the decree of June 1890. So that the man who had fulfilled all his engagements to the colony, and should be as free as any other member of the population, found that his freedom was to last only 10 days. If an indenture expired coolie wishes to live without engagement in the island, the following obstacles, which are so great as to be almost insuperable, stand in his way:—

1. He must obtain a certificate from the Syndic authorising the demand, and certifying that the applicant is of good moral conduct and industrious. This is according to Article 9 of International Convention, but the Syndic would be more likely to tell him to get a new *engagiste*.
2. An attestation from the Maire stating that he has sufficient means of existence. As the Maires are chosen from among the proprietors and employers of labour, he is not likely to be anxious to grant this.
3. The demand is submitted to the Protector for his advice. The Protector is personally interested in keeping the number of immigrants under the Immigration laws sufficient to justify the existence of himself and his department.
4. It must pass through the hands of the Director of the Interior.
5. Finally, nothing less than the personal consent of the Governor is necessary.

Any one of these may put his veto on the proposal, in which case there is an end to the immigrant's freedom. And, even if successful, the time lost in this circuitous route must be most harassing to the Indian, who does not know whether he will or will not have to take another engagement. "In plain words, the majority of Indians who come out to this colony on a five years' contract are persuaded, if not compelled by a procedure less difficult to divine than define, to renew their frequent engagements and remain on at the grindstone until they become physically powerless, or mentally degraded or wrecked in mind and body both." (Sir F. Goldsmid. Report of British Commissioner, Réunion, paragraph 142).

No material improvement can be expected in the condition of immigrants in Guadeloupe until re-indentures have been done away with.

In British Colonies the system of re-indenture, even for short periods and among free immigrants, has almost ceased, and in British Guiana, a colony having an immigrant population equal to that of all the other British colonies, has entirely died out.

There are contracts in all colonies between free immigrants and employers as "colons," "farmers," cacao planters, &c., but these are, for specific purposes, are regulated by the ordinary laws of contract, and have no connection with the Immigration Ordinance.

If permitted at all, which I cannot recommend, re-indentures should only be allowed for a short period with immigrants whose indentures have expired, who are entirely free from the influence or control of the estate, and have obtained their certificate of exemption from labour, and who have had a fair chance of judging for themselves what other opportunities the colony affords them of making a livelihood.

10. In Martinique last year the Conseil-Général voted 150,000 francs for repatriation, and at the time of my visit this had all been expended, though only 75,000 francs had actually been paid as an advance on the freight of coolies. Nominally there are 7,800 coolies in Martinique, of whom 99 have, by taking bounty, renounced their right to a free return passage. All the rest are entitled to return to India at the expense of the colony. No census having been taken, the number of coolies in Martinique cannot be verified, and is probably much less than 7,800, many having left for other colonies, and the number has been obtained by the simple process of adding the births and deducting the deaths and returned to India from the original number imported. No deduction has been made for those sent to Cayenne on terms of imprisonment. When immigration was stopped the Conseil-Général no longer allowed bounties either in lieu of return passage or for re-engagement. The whole burden of repatriation now lies on the Government, and the planters contribute nothing, though they still continue to have the benefit of the labour of the coolies.

The following table was prepared for me by the Inspector of Penitentiaries in Martinique to show the sums voted for, and actual expenses of return passage—

Year.	Voted by the Conseil-General.	Expended.	Number repatriated.
	Francs.	Francs.	
1885	...	260,316.92	818
1886	...	178,159.92	1,791
1887	...	250,127.84	Small-pox none.
1888	...	1,452.86	Ditto.
1889	...	188,691.44	879
1890	...	378.72	Nil.
1891	...	184,601	569

The details of the expenses for 1891 are given below—

	Francs.
Clothes	8,684
Food in dépôt	2,060.49
Supervision	182
Passage money of 477 adults at 300 francs	143,175
Probable expenses at Marseilles during detention there	15,500
Ditto in India	15,000
	184,601

There is a discrepancy of 175 francs under head passage-money unaccounted for.

The next table was prepared in the office of the Director of the Interior, Martinique, and is more complete in some particulars than the first:—

ANNÉES.	CREDITS VOTÉS PAR LE CONSEIL GÉNÉRAL.			DÉPENSES.			
	Personnel.	Matériel.		Personnel.	Rapatriement.	Autres dépenses.	Observations.
		Rapatriement.	Autres dépenses.				
1885	42,234.00	97,000.00	94,747.66	43,077.90	260,316.92	124,861.53	818
1886	42,234.00	190,000.00	92,254.16	175,159.92	178,159.92	94,032.18	1,791
1887	7,800.00	241,225.61	14,213.00	8,740.24	250,127.84	64,194.51	
1888	4,800.00	120,000.00	96,500.00	4,773.00	1,452.86	51,895.39	
1889	4,773.00	240,000.00	46,470.00	5,319.00	188,691.44	85,888.22	879
1890	4,773.00	240,000.00	25,338.93	5,469.10	378.72	25,969.53	569
1891	4,773.00	150,000.00	45,366.83				

The following table from the *Annuaire* of Martinique for 1891, and added to by Mons. Maugee, Inspector of Prisons and the nominal head of the Immigration Department, give a good deal of information respecting the immigrant population of Martinique:—

Mouvements de la population Indienne, de 1853 au 31 Décembre 1890.

Mouvements de la population Indienne, de 1853 au 31 Décembre 1890.																	
ÉVÉNEMENTS DES IMMIGRANTS. PENDANT L'ANNÉE 1890.						INDIENS.		ANNÉES.	Population au 1 ^{er} janvier.	Introduction pendant l'année.	Naissances.	Total.	Décès.	Rapatriement.	Total.	Reste au 31 Décembre.	
Hommes.		Femmes.		ENFANTS, SEXE.		Total.											
Masculin.	Féminin.	Masculin.	Féminin.	Masculin.	Féminin.												
Immigration de nouveaux immigrants embarqués.							Néant		1853 et 1854	1,282	7	1,289	41	.....	1	41	1,248
									1855	1,248	30	1,278	94	.....	.....	94	1,184
									1856	1,504	35	1,539	142	.....	.....	142	1,362
									1857	3,003	68	4,236	252	.....	.....	252	4,046
									1858	4,046	63	5,643	354	19	352	5,291	5,291
									1859	5,291	80	7,350	482	68	460	6,760	6,760
									1860	6,760	130	7,968	482	70	552	7,416	7,416
									1861	7,416	151	8,676	335	245	670	8,046	8,046
									1862	8,046	132	8,580	372	193	570	8,105	8,105
									1863	8,105	131	7,819	276	276	552	7,638	7,638
									1864	7,638	147	7,817	245	431	676	7,141	7,141
									1865	7,267	403	7,670	215	.....	.....	215	7,455
									1866	7,141	338	100	7,679	208	.....	208	7,471
									1867	7,324	2,220	121	9,565	303	603	9,868	9,868
									1868	9,081	457	122	10,440	303	603	10,143	10,143
									1869	9,334	456	127	9,917	315	.....	315	10,249
									1870	9,902	937	146	10,645	368	.....	368	10,308
									1871	10,232	463	123	10,878	455	25	480	10,393
									1872	10,398	788	144	11,338	477	272	749	10,581
									1873	10,581	1,407	128	10,709	363	283	646	10,063
									1874	10,063	1,470	113	12,014	410	368	778	11,236
									1875	11,135	703	146	12,544	457	.....	457	11,687
									1876	11,236	963	161	12,350	537	.....	537	11,817
									1877	11,813	379	172	12,364	417	.....	417	12,444
									1878	11,877	912	176	12,960	416	502	969	12,539
									1879	12,944	903	142	13,598	467	.....	467	13,130
									1880	12,639	893	197	13,719	530	.....	530	13,169
									1881	13,169	452	192	15,855	634	552	1,188	13,111
									1882	13,111	925	208	14,292	664	.....	664	13,626
									1883	13,453	.....	177	14,252	590	.....	590	13,863
									1884	12,925	.....	216	14,569	623	251	874	13,695
									1885	11,969	.....	183	15,169	382	818	1,600	13,569
									1886	10,055	.....	204	12,113	267	1,791	2,058	10,055
									1887	9,968	.....	106	10,295	289	.....	289	9,968
									1888	9,273	.....	107	10,073	225	.....	225	9,048
									1889	8,712	.....	120	9,598	387	879	1,186	8,712
									1890	8,712	.....	109	8,812	381	.....	381	8,431
									1891	8,812	25,509	4,862	30,371	13,911	8,029	21,941	8,431
									6 months			54	8,237	133	569	702	7,783
									1890		25,509	4,976	30,425	14,044	8,598	22,643	7,783
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Some of the totals are I see wrong but I think it better to reproduce them as given to me.

Décès.		Naissances.	
4 dernières années.	2 ⁹⁰ per cent.	4 dernières années.	1 ⁰⁷ per cent.
1888	3 ⁰⁰	1 ³²	
1889	4 ¹⁰	1 ¹⁵	
1890	3 ²⁰	1 ⁰⁸	

Although in the year 1887, 241,527 francs, and in 1888, 120,000 francs were voted for repatriation, and placed in the column of obligatory expenses, these sums were not used in returning coolies to India. In 1890, 240,000 francs were voted for repatriation, which was also diverted to other purposes. The reason given that there was an epidemic of small-pox is a legitimate one for part of the time, but the money should not have been appropriated for other expenses. In Guadeloupe, in 1890, all the expenses of immigration, except those of return passages, which had hitherto been obligatory, were transferred to the facultative column. The figures are as follows:—

		Obligatory.		Facultative.	
		Francs.	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
1889	...	221,910	40,572		
Total	...	262,482			
1890	...	17,846	220,072		
Total	...	237,918			
1891	...	75,000	239,179		
Total	...	314,179			

The return convoys from Guadeloupe have been despatched every two years as follows:—

			Men.	Women.	Children.
1887	...	...	485	199	124
1889	...	...	452	231	147
1891	...	...	372	176	113

11. The Protectors of Immigrants are entirely local in their ideas and training, and thoroughly imbued with the traditions and views of the planters with whom they act in concert. Unless some very grave complaint is made, they do not attempt to ascertain the treatment of labourers by their employers, and even then do not take an impartial view of the case. Their inspections are perfunctorily made, and they have no precise ideas of their duties. Since the cessation of emigration it is probable that this and the greater freedom of the planter are more noticeable, and I can hardly expect that these officials, if emigration were reopened, would suddenly assume a position of independence as impartial arbitrators between planters and labourers. The appointment of Syndics seem to have been especially made with the view of placing on irresponsible persons the most important part of the duties of Protector and Inspectors. Of the six Syndics in Guadeloupe two are white men, two are mulattos and two negroes. To suppose that a negro recently emerged from barbarism, with his very hazy ideas of honesty, his marked antipathy to work of any kind, and his racial dislike to the Indian, is a fit person to control the relations of an opulent and influential proprietor and his Indian labourers, is an idea not destitute of humour.

"The Syndics and clerks of the Cantons are still more unsuited for the position they occupy, and as a body may be looked upon as creatures of the planter."—(*Despatch to Lord Derby from Réunion, 78 of 6th December 1875*).

12. The French Colonial Office has in no sense the control of the colonial legislative bodies and the measures passed by them possessed by the British Colonial Office. The interested Conseil-General of the French Colonies is able to prepare and obtain, almost without comment, the approval of the French Government to measures which are obviously one-sided and unfair. In the same way abuses exist for years without any notice from the French Government, which at last aroused by some flagrant incident, severely corrects and reprimands the colony for errors which should have been recognised long before. Such warnings are soon forgotten, and these colonies possess a considerable power of action which they use as they can to their own advantage. As an example of the difference of control between the French and English Colonial Offices over the measures proposed and prepared in their interests by the colonies, I may compare the Arrêté of 30th June 1890 for Guadeloupe, by which immigration is still directed, and the draft of the proposals for a new immigration law sent for the approval of the Secretary of State, and embodying the wishes of the Jamaica planters in 1890.

The Guadeloupe decree was prepared ten years ago by locally interested persons, among whom was the Protector of Immigrants; but it was not adopted until emigration being stopped, all appearance of wishing to conform to the wishes of the Indian Government was abandoned, and the decree was sent to France, approved of, and brought into force without delay. Not so the Jamaica ordinance, from which all or most of the objectionable clauses were at once cut out.

Article 40 of the decree of 30th June 1890 contains the key note which dominates the whole and runs as follows:—"Les travailleurs immigrants des deux sexes sont pendant toute la durée de leur séjour dans la colonie soumis à l'obligation de l'engagement." Continued engagements have the effect of keeping down the price of labour most materially and of preventing the immigrant profiting by the skill he has obtained during the five years of indenture to earn higher rates of wages. Under indenture he is only entitled to $f.12.50=10s.$ a month, and as interpreted in the colony, this is the maximum he can earn if he works all day and every day, unless he is a sirdar or headman. So that whether he is a raw recruit or a skilled labourer he gets the same. In British colonies a skilled workman obtains, as he is legitimately entitled to, much higher wages. The Convention says that the question of task-work shall be freely discussed, but as

the Convention also says that the labourer shall work the impossible number of nine and-a-half hours a day every day in the year except Sundays, the planters insist on their indentured labourers taking day work. As it is quite impossible for a man to work nine and-a-half hours a day six days in the week in all weathers for five years, the planters profit by this to score up a number of "lost" days against the labourer, which at the end of the five years he has to make good before he is free of his indenture. In this way it is not an unknown thing for a man who should be free to find that he has 1,200, 1,300, 1,400, or even 1,500, days to make up, as I verified in the register of "lost" days in the Immigration Office.

With this amount of back work to wipe off he is unable to leave the estate, and generally accepts the bounty for re-engagement for a further term of five years; but at the end of that time he will find himself in exactly the same position, and will probably be tempted in the same way, and so on until he is unable to work any longer. In this way the planters keep their labourers from leaving the estate and the colony. These lost days should of course be verified by a Magistrate, and the old decrees provided that after three absences the labourer must be brought before the court and his livret endorsed; but this is not done now, and the *engagiste* can claim any number of lost days. Nothing is more calculated to make a man desperate than to find after he imagines he has completed his engagement he is still, owing to some computation he does not believe in, bound down to work on, and knowing there is always a debt of unfinished work mounting up against him. The consequence is there are many deserters, and a *depôt*, as it is called, is provided for their detention, and powers of judicial police are given to the immigration officials. The opinion of the Governor of Guadeloupe on the decree of 30th June 1890 is shown in a note on the subject he sent to the Immigration Office on his arrival in the colony, in which he said: "It was a decree impossible to enforce, and it was of no use to try and keep a free man under engagement against his will, and great measures conceived in so illiberal a spirit could not possibly last." The Convention of 1861, framed on the very

imperfect knowledge of the necessities of immigrants possessed in those times, and containing all the errors and omissions which the work of 30 years of successive Governors, Commissions and Secretaries of State have successfully eliminated in British colonies, is altogether out of date, and is partly responsible for the position in which immigrants now find themselves in French colonies. The Convention with Holland was drawn up on the same lines, but the Dutch of their own accord, as they found the hours of work excessive, reduced them, first to $8\frac{1}{2}$ hours per day, and more recently to $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours per day, and have freely introduced the custom of task work. In British Guiana a man is considered a good worker if he goes to the field five days in the week and works $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours a day, and in Martinique by 1 P.M. many of the Indian labourers have finished their day's task and are returning to their homes. A comparison of the Convention of 1861 with any modern British Immigration Ordinance would show at once how very illiberal and incomplete it is, and how impossible it would be to adopt it in any British Colony.

It would not be sufficient to reframe the contract of the emigrant made in India without a comprehensive revision of the Convention and Immigration Ordinances, and even then, unless the Consul or visiting official had full access to the estates, there would be no guarantee that they would be carried out.

13. In the French West Indies taxes do not press heavily on the indentured cooly, and the import taxes on the articles of food he consumes do not affect him as they do in British colonies, as he is supplied with these by his employer. When he has become a free man and a petty proprietor or shop-keeper, it is only fair that he should contribute to the revenue of the colony in the same measure as the indigenous population. In Guadeloupe the decrees of the 9th March and 30th December 1864 give the right of fixing certain import duties. For 1891 these are for articles consumed by Indians—

				f.	per 100 kil.
Rice	...	...	...	0.75	" 100 "
Flour	...	...	...	3	" 100 "
Salt fish	...	...	...	1	" 100 "
Tobacco in leaf	...	...	...	65	" 100 "

They pay licenses like the rest of the people for selling spirits and as shop-keepers etc. In Martinique there is no personal tax, "côte personnelle," or on cattle, sheep, or poultry reared on the island.

Houses	...	5 per cent. on nett revenue.
		<i>f.</i>
Rice per 100 kil.	...	1:20
Flour barrel of 88 kil.	...	2:40
Butter or oil 100 kil.	...	8:00
Salt fish 100 kil.	...	4:00
Salt 100 kil.	...	0:25

14. In my report on Surinam now in the press, I have referred to this point in the following terms:—

"It may be said that there are not sufficient immigrants wishing to return to fill a ship, and therefore the few must wait until others wish to go. This is a familiar argument, and sounds the better in that it assumes there is no very keen desire, except on the part of an insignificant few, to leave the colony. It cannot be expected that a colony will go to the great expense of chartering a ship exclusively for them, or that inducements will be held out to labourers to leave the colony in order to fill the ship. It is very difficult for any one, even the Agent-General, to say how many will decide to return, and it is only on the arrival of the ship at the colony becoming known on the estates that the full number of applications are made, and an estimate can be formed of the number of those who will avail themselves of the opportunity. There are reasons for an immigrant not announcing to his employer, until the last moment, his intention of leaving the estate and returning to India. Many of those who send in applications after all decide to remain; and until the ship is at the point of sailing, it is not known how many will go in her.

"The position of those who, having declined further contracts, leave the estate and wait for the ship is not an easy one, and if this period is prolonged until their means are exhausted and there is still no news of the ship, there is little for them to do but to return to the estate or be sent to the Poor Asylum.

"In Martinique the number of immigrants is now so much reduced that there is no chance of there ever being at one time enough immigrants to fill a ship, and the authorities have adopted the plan of sending them as third class passengers at short intervals, and in small batches, by the Transatlantic mail steamers. Several of these parties of immigrants returning as passengers must have arrived in India, and if on inspection it is found that their condition on board these ships is equal to that of those returning in regularly appointed coolie ships, the system might be extended to other small colonies, and this vexed question of the provision of a ship for return passage for ever laid at rest. Even if, as will probably be found, improvements and precautions are necessary, I would still continue to allow the use of mail steamers as preventing much hardship and injustice to immigrants who wish to return to India.

"In colonies like Cayenne, Martinique, Surinam, St. Lucia, Jamaica, and Guadeloupe employing few immigrants, it must happen that considerable periods will elapse before a sufficient number can be collected who will definitely decide to return, and in the meantime those who are genuinely anxious to go and are so entitled are at a great disadvantage. They cannot go as they were promised they should, and if they go back to the estate they will probably be induced to sign another contract for five years' labour.

"In colonies such as British Guiana and Trinidad, where the immigrant population is large, it will be found better and more economical to charter ships for the return passage; but for smaller colonies some other arrangement must be found, and the best appears to be that described. Whether the return passage is provided in a coolie ship or mail steamer, the colony will always be responsible that reasonable precautions are taken as to the suitability of the ship employed and the provision of food, clothing and medical necessities.

There are advantages in the plan which will do away with many difficulties. These small colonies will not be able to say they are unable to charter a ship or to find a doctor, and the coolies will be able to choose their time for leaving the island, and as the dates of sailing of these steamers is fixed, they will be able to make their arrangements for starting with confidence, and there will be no occasion for them to be kept an indefinite time in the dépôt prison, or to be spending their money waiting in the town with their families.

I intended on my way out to India to visit Marseilles to see what arrangements had been made for the accommodation of coolies changing ships, but the urgency of the telegram recalling me left me no time for this; but I would recommend that some official on his way from Europe should obtain permission to visit the dépôt when the coolies are there, so that the Government of India may be informed of their treatment.

I append a code of rules drawn up for the transport of Indians from Martinique to Pondicherry and Calcutta by this route.

15. The statements made by the coolies recently returned from Martinique are true in so far as they had no opportunity for a long time of returning to India, but it is an exaggeration to say that thousands want to return to India. They are all old colonists, and few would return but for the hostility of the blacks. They would wish to have the opportunity of returning, and if this is not afforded they complain; but if an emigrant ship were sent there to return as many as wished to India, it probably could not be filled, and many who had entered their names would refuse to go at the last moment. This is a reason why the arrangement of returning them by mail steamers is so much more convenient.

This subject is referred to in Lord Lytton's despatch to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, dated 29th May 1890, and the Governor of Réunion states, and it is repeated by M. Ribot, that during the year these lists are constantly open in the Syndic's office to those who wish at the expiration of their indenture to return to India.

Of the two Syndics' offices I inspected in Guadeloupe, in one I found such a list and the names of 50 immigrants inscribed, but in the other there was no list, and on enquiring the cause was told there were no applicants, and I find I have remarked that this and the fact that the Maire who is a large proprietor, and objects strongly to the hiring of free coolies, and employs only those who will take engagements, "must be considered together." There are about 400 immigrants in this Syndicate not engaged.

16. The low caste Madrassi is the type of cooly usually found in the French colonies which import principally pariahs and a few Sudras and Musalmans, and they seem to suit the French planter and the planter them better than any other class.

The pariahs are docile creatures not troubled with too many ideas of caste, and will do anything for drink. Although not physically strong, they are more regular workers, and get through more work in a week than the burly negro, who will not go to the field more than on one or two days in this period. One all-powerful inducement to the "pariah" or Madrassi cooly to remain in the French colonies is the fatal facility with which cheap drink can be obtained. Owing to the imperfect cultivation and machinery of many estates, it does not pay to make sugar, and the canes are only fit for the manufacture of tafia and rum. Tafia is the white spirit before it is coloured by the addition of burnt sugar, and is drunk in immense quantities by the negroes and coolies. This practice is encouraged by the owners of estates and distilleries, being a considerable source of income to them, and is greatly appreciated by, and adds to the contentment of, the labourers, and by allowing them to spend their wages in drink, there is no chance of their acquiring sufficient independence of position or mind to elevate them from the position of rum-sodden drudges. I believe I am not exaggerating in saying half the wages of coolies in these islands is spent in drink, and when it is remembered how very cheaply liquor can be obtained, it means hard drinking is very prevalent. Besides occasional drinks during the week, Saturday evening is spent in drink. On Sunday there is a general carouse, and the consequences are felt on Monday morning in a great disinclination for work. This is more noticeable in Martinique, where the coolies, being free from the restrictions of the Immigration Ordinance, are able to go to town and return to work as they please.

A great hold is obtained on negroes and coolies of this class by supplying them freely with liquor, and on some estates it is given free of charge in large quantities,—on one estate as much as three ounces of rum daily to both in dentured and free labourers. The Indian, so far as I know, never takes liquor with his food or as a dietetic luxury, his sole object being to get drink as rapidly as possible, and with this object he swallows glass after glass of rum as fast as he can drink it.

The habit of drink soon grows upon them, and they become perfect slaves to it and as easy as children to manage by those who supply them. The miserable appearance and wretched poverty of return coolies from French colonies has often attracted attention, and there are several reasons for it, but none more potent than drink. The wages are low, but much, and in many cases all, of what they earn is spent on drink, and they are consequently in poor condition and health, badly dressed, dirty in person, and degraded in type.

During harvest, when there is exceptionally heavy work to be done, it is a common practice to offer the negro a tot of rum if he will do an extra hour's work, and is perhaps the only way in which he could be got to work with that vicious and spasmodic energy which is his substitute for regular and continuous labour. The custom exists more or less in all colonies, but in none so markedly as in these islands. In British colonies it is comparatively rare, and discouraged as in these islands. Besides the laws are different; and all rum has to go through the demoralising, besides the laws are different; and all rum has to go through the Customs, but it seems to be part of the French system, and not likely to be discontinued. "As long as the sugarcane is reserved for the manufacture of cheap rum to keep the population in a continual state of intoxication, the falling off in its culture is not to be regretted."—(*Sir Spenser St. John, The Black Republic, 1884.*)

The Immigration Department, Guadeloupe, in answer to my questions on drink as a source of crime, gave me the following information:—"If drunkenness is not the original cause of all the crime committed by the Indians, it is at least one of its principal factors, and very often plays a preponderating part. The Indian who meditates a criminal act always prepares himself during the last instants preceding its execution with copious libations. He finds in alcoholic excitement the audacity and resolution which might be wanting in calmer moments. Nevertheless, he seeks in it a means of defence before the tribunals, and never fails to plead that he was drunk, and therefore incapable of discernment," but there is nothing in this defence which is peculiar to Guadeloupe.

17. The future of these islands is not promising, and they seem to be slowly but surely drifting into the hands of the blacks. The golden days of their prosperity have passed away, and the few white planters, aided by a heavy subvention, wage a losing war against the low and fluctuating price of sugar depreciated by an increasing beet-root cultivation. Most of them have retired to France and have left the control of their estates to managers, many of whom are coloured men. A few white planters—aristocrats among a herd of republicans—are the only people who desire the introduction and retention of the Indians, who are only tolerated as a bad but necessary substitute for their emancipated slaves. To those who would encourage the introduction of immigrants I must add some mulatto proprietors and managers. The white overseers of former days have become rare, and have been replaced by negroes and mulattos. "Tres peu d'Europeens sont a present employés sur les habitations comme

Annuaire Guadeloupe, 1891.

géreurs ou economies. On prefere generalement les employés du pays qui content moins et qui sont mieux acclimatés." This is not a good change for the Indians, who do not thrive under black or coloured masters. The overseers in British Guiana are appointed from a list always full of the sons of gentlemen educated in public schools in England. It requires a visit to these islands to appreciate the contempt and dislike felt for the Indian by the general population. The hatred of the negro for the East Indian is noticeable everywhere in the West Indies. He adds to his antipathy as a rival labourer and an interloper his contempt for him as a physical inferior. Perhaps this feeling has been fostered by the cessation of immigration and the lessening numbers of the immigrants in which the negro saw the chance they want of commanding the labour market without competition, and of indulging their desire for exorbitant wages, arrogant swagger and idleness varied as want pressed by desultory fits of labour. The numbers of the blacks overwhelm the white and coloured population, and they begin to feel the power which liberty and equality enable them to claim. The recession of the white population and the growing power of the blacks is a most serious question, the gravity of which is accentuated every year and of which further developments may be expected in the near future.

To this class, as well as to the bulk of their political supporters, the mulattos, the introduction of Indians would be most unpopular, and they would have the power of making it felt in many ways.

18. I have more than once referred to the wages of immigrants, but it is necessary to give more detailed information on this important point. The legal wage for indentured immigrants per month for a man is 12.50f., for a woman 10.00f., but these wages are only due if 26 days of 9½ hours each are worked each month. But as the amount of work required is excessive, only a few earn these wages, and then not continuously. In addition they receive rations which may be computed as being worth 40 cents a day, and two changes of clothes yearly of the value of 21 francs. Even if the full wages and rations were received, these benefits would compare unfavourably with those obtained in other colonies.

Work and wages.

There is much extra work done in all colonies during crop time, and extra wages per hour are earned during this time, supplementary labour. amounting to considerable sums in some colonies.

In Guadeloupe, although many extra hours are worked beyond the legal 9½ hours I do not find that there is always a corresponding increase in the wages, while I noticed that rum is often given at such times. The wages of reindentured coolies range from 12.50f., the usual rate, to 15f., for good workmen, but these rates are paid only if 26 full days work in the month are given. In addition they are provided with rations and clothes. The wages of free coolies are, as might be expected, for skilled and selected workmen much higher, and range from 1 franc to 1.35f. per day, occasionally reaching 1.50f. In addition they often get rations and rum free. Some liberal minded proprietors give a premium on good and steady work by offering 2 francs per month extra to every one who works 26 days in the month.

Sardars or headmen get 1.50f. to 2.50f. a day.

Free women who are good workers get 1 franc to 1.25f. a day.

This is only on liberally managed estates, and on one such I notice payments of wages are made every week as in British colonies, otherwise wages are paid monthly.

19. Article 72 of decree of 30th June 1890.—"In case of scarcity or the impossibility of procuring the food prescribed by article 71, the ration can, with the consent of the

Rations.

Protector of Immigrants, be replaced for a time and in determined proportion by bread, fresh vegetables, roots, or other food of the country."

This is interpreted by the planters in the following way. When the market price of any article of food rises, the planter may give the immigrant money equal to the ordinary value of the article of food and tells the coolie to buy it for himself; or he substitutes unnutritious and indigestible roots for the rice or manioc flour. In the old decree of 1860 some restriction was put on the amount to be substituted, but even this has been omitted in the decree of 1890.

Decree of 18th February 1860.—"fournir dans la proportion de trois kilogrammes pour un litre."

In the contract made with the coolie in India he is promised ghi or oil as part of his ration, but this is omitted in Article 71 of the decree of 1890.

In all colonies the supply of rations by the estate to coolies newly arrived is necessary for a few months to tide them over the period when they are as yet not accustomed to the food of the country, and its price and method of cooking are unknown to them, and from inexperience and unwillingness to work they are not earning sufficient wages to buy enough food to keep them in good health: but after the first few months they learn to prefer to provide for themselves.

The articles of food prescribed in the ration are always procurable, and if planters prefer, for reasons of their own, to supply rations throughout the indenture, which I think is a practice to be condemned, they should not be allowed because prices rise somewhat to substitute inferior food. I think it a distinct grievance that oil or ghi is not provided. Whatever was the intended object in supplying coolies with rations throughout their indenture and reindentures, instead of allowing them to provide for themselves, the effect of this and of the constant opportunities for drinking rum and tafia afforded them is to destroy all

habits of self-reliance and forethought, and is calculated to make the cooly more dependent on the planter. With the ration on some estates rum is given.

20. The estate hospitals are not up to the standard of British colonies, do not always have separate wards for men and women, or the furniture prescribed by the ordinance. An

Medical and sanitary. overseer is often the person to whom the compounding of medicine is entrusted, and the absence of uniformity shows a general want of supervision. The houses are generally well built, large and comfortable, but the surroundings dirty and uncared for, and used by pigs and other animals. The colonial hospitals, of which there is usually one in every town of any importance, are admirably managed and well provided in every respect. Like all institutions in which the wants of the inmates are supplied by the Sisters of Charity, there is nothing left to be desired in the way of internal comfort, neatness and cleanliness.

21. There are many schools both in Guadeloupe and Martinique, but few Indians attend them or are encouraged to do so.

Education.

The parents are indifferent to the advantages of education, and prefer that their children should make a few sous by working in the fields. Out of 2,375 Indian children in Guadeloupe, only 80 go to school, and in Martinique there is the same absence of education. Indian children do not like going to school with negroes, who are apt to bully them. In Trinidad there are over 20 cooly schools which have been started by the Canadian Mission.

22. I will now turn to the more pleasing side of the picture, and show how Indians, notwithstanding the disadvantages under which in some cases they labour, contrive to take advantage of their surroundings and lead a life free from want or become the owners of many cattle, houses and shops, occupiers of land, or owners or part owners of crops. Many Indians have an extraordinary faculty for saving or acquiring money by usury, petty trading, &c., and the sums they accumulate are out of all proportion to their apparent opportunities for collection. The Creole Indians, or sons of East Indians born in the colony, are especially acute in this direction, and more thoroughly dislike labour in the field. The wages (12-50f.) for an indentured man and 10f. for a woman are not high, and no one could be found in a British colony who would accept them even with free rations and clothes, but the sums standing to the credit of some of these people in the Colonial banks show that there must be other ways of making money.

106 depositors have in the Guadeloupe Bank	...	110,694.45
37 depositors have in the Pointe-à-Pitre Bank	...	13,675.24
		<u>124,369.69</u>

nearly £5,000, and there are also private accounts of Indians in the Pointe-à-Pitre Bank which I had not the opportunity of seeing. This does not represent the whole of their wealth, and they have large sums out on usury with the shop-keepers or in cattle shops and houses.

The position of the free cooly is a good one and he gets his 1-25f. or 1-50f. a day with often the addition of rations and a tot of rum thrown in, but he has to work harder for it than in any colony I know, and could not do it every day. In Martinique the few coolies who are left lead a life which must seem after indentured labour the blessing of rest. They are well and regularly paid at higher rates and shorter intervals than their less lucky brethren in Guadeloupe. Their masters take care of them, and try to make them comfortable. Skilled workmen get the value of their labour. There is never any cause of complaint between master and servant, and there has not been a case in court for the last five years. They work when and where they like, and an especially prized privilege, they can be drunk two or three days in the week and yet make plenty of money to live upon. The Immigration Department at Guadeloupe informs me that returning immigrants have taken with them to India a sum of 765,472 francs. "Sans compter les bijoux que les femmes portent sur elles et les sommes en or serrées au fond des malles."

I append a census of the East Indian population of Guadeloupe, showing the occupations followed, and prepared at my request during my visit. No such census had ever been taken before, and I apprehend that had time, permitted some corrections would have been found necessary.

From Martinique in 1886, 886 immigrants returning to India took with them 38,670 francs; in 1889, 879 took 40,119 francs; and in 1891, 569 took 29,300 francs. In Guadeloupe the information furnished me shows the Indians as possessing—

1,043 cows and bullocks.
286 horses.
21 mules.
53 donkeys.
1,400 pigs.

I was unable to obtain the figures for Martinique, but the coolies have many cattle, &c.

The more skilled of the old and free labourers make much money as "colons" or on the metairie system, by which they get a part of the value of the crop they raise for the owner of the land. The land is ploughed by the estate, which also furnishes half the manure, costing 110 francs per acre, the other half is paid for by the "colon." The estate gives transport for the manure and canes to the factory, and the "colon" and his family do all the rest of the cultivation, and gets half the value of the sugar made. When used to machinery, in Martinique some Indians get high wages up to 4 or 5 francs a day when employed in driving engines, &c. Food is cheap and abundant, and the climate so equable and warm that clothes are almost a superfluous luxury.

23. To resume emigration in Martinique and Guadeloupe, without further and material precautions, would have the effect of placing immigrants in those colonies in a worse position than if immigration had never been stopped. In Martinique it would be necessary to again establish an Immigration Department which the colony can ill afford, and to introduce immigration laws which would be detrimental to the position immigrants now enjoy there; but it is quite possible that this colony would reject the idea of again receiving immigrants, and even if accepted, the small number of coolies which would be indentured for would justify only a similar departmental establishment drawn from local sources, and the result would be imperfect supervision and control, which, as the history of all such attempts has shown, is especially disastrous to newly introduced coolies, who require kind but firm masters, who, while not harassing them by unreasonable demand upon their labour, and mindful of the strangeness of the country, the cultivation, and the use of implements, yet insist on habits of industry.

In Guadeloupe, since the cessation of immigration, the decree of 30th June 1890 has placed indentured and reindentured immigrants in a position the difficulties of which are great and numerous, and to send others to join them would be to authorize a state of things opposed to principles of British emigration, contrary to the letter of the contract made in India, and to the expectations emigrants might reasonably entertain of being free to choose their own line of life after five years of indentured service.

To summarize. The following are the objections to the resumption of emigration to the French West Indian colonies, which pride themselves, and I believe with some justice, on being more liberally managed than Réunion.

The reasons which necessitated the stoppage of emigration in 1888 may well be urged at the present time, but with greater cogency. The position of the indentured and also of the labourer who should be free, instead of improving has deteriorated since that time, and the bonds of the labour laws are more tightly fastened round them; nor do I think that the French have the slightest intention of making any material improvement in their condition or of altering their traditional attitude to these labourers.

To allow emigration now would be to recognize and sanction a state of things entirely opposed to the principles which are insisted on as necessary in British colonies, and to countenance proceedings most obviously harsh, unjustifiable, and unfair.

Indian immigration is not desired by the bulk of the inhabitants, who would resent, covertly if not openly, the reintroduction, and who have the power of making the position of immigrants undesirable, if not untenable. Neither the French Colonial Office have the power, or at all events do not exercise it, in seeing that the arrangements agreed upon with the Indian Government are fairly carried out, nor apparently is the Imperial Government deeply interested in the matter.

Short of the right of inspection of estates by a British official, there is no guarantee which the French Government can give which would ensure that the immigrants are being properly treated.

The recession of the white population has deprived the immigrants of the better class of master, and they do not thrive under black or coloured masters. I would go so far as to say that no negro in any colony should have immigrants allotted to him.

To reintroduce immigrants might retard, but would not permanently arrest, the downward progress of the prosperity of these islands, and the position and treatment of the immigrants would be progressively worse as the cultivation fell more and more into the hands of the blacks, which for many years it has been continuously doing.

No interest is shown in the social welfare of the Indians, and the effect of the treatment adopted is not to elevate or improve them in habits of self-reliance and independent industry, but is calculated to degrade them, both morally and physically, to the state of permanent drudges.

The encouragement and opportunities given for drink ruin the Indians in pocket, body, and mind.

The Convention of 1861 is out of date, and was never one on which immigration could be satisfactorily conducted.

The immigration ordinances are framed so as to keep the immigrants in a state of perpetual servitude on the planters' estates and to deprive them of the chances they might legitimately expect of being free to choose their own line of life on the expiration of their indentures, and unjustifiably interfere with the liberty of people who should be free from the restrictions of special labour laws.

The education of children, the importance of which was insisted on by Lord Carnarvon, as well as the raising of the status of the immigrant population generally, is almost unknown, and would not be encouraged by employers who make the children work on the estates.

There is no proper departmental supervision to control the action of arbitrary and interested planters,—in fact the Immigration Department is rather used to throw the immigrants more completely into their power.

The following faults of system are sufficient in themselves to make these colonies most undesirable places for Indian immigrants:—

Compulsory day-work is most unsuitable and unfair for experienced and skilled labourers.

Reindentures destroy the labourer's chance of benefiting by his skilled labour, and keep him permanently in the colony in a state of rigorously controlled servitude.

The number of hours' work insisted on is excessive even for a short time, and impossible for six days in the week for five years. The number of "lost days" on which employers declare the labourer not to have done a full day's work, and therefore not entitled to wages, but obliged to give another day's work, is excessive and unfairly controlled. Work on Sundays especially by indentured labourers, except "*corvée*," is opposed to the Convention and ordinances.

The imprisoning powers of the immigration authorities are used carelessly and inequitably, and depôts as prisons are unnecessary and unjustifiable.

The harassing of the immigrants found away from estates by the gendarmes encouraged and paid for by the colony, and the *livret*, which is too often an engine of oppression by the employer, and has no advantage for the immigrant, should be abolished.

Wages, though sufficient if given in full, are less than obtained in British colonies, and many do not receive the wages promised them, and it is almost impossible for a man to earn full wages for any lengthened time. Wages are

paid at too long intervals. Supplementary labour is not regularly or sufficiently paid for, and there are unauthorised stoppages.

The continuous supply of rations and consequent reduction in wages, as well as the substitutes given for wholesome food, and the omission of a portion of the ration promised, are to be condemned.

The herding of men and women together in one hospital ward is most objectionable, likewise the imperfect arrangements for the supply of medicines, and their compounding and distribution in estate hospitals. There is no system of medical inspection, and consequent neglect and evasion of rules.

Sufficient opportunities are not given for repatriation, and many obstacles are put in the way of immigrants obtaining this. Ships are only provided at long intervals. The funds set apart are diverted to other uses. And the arrangements for the accommodation and food in return ships are of the most wretched description, and such as would most unhesitatingly be condemned in any British colony. The disposal of deceased immigrants' estates is unsatisfactorily conducted.

Apart from the question of the renewal of emigration, a line of treatment more in accordance with that insisted on in British colonies might be demanded, and if it has been approved of and amended by the Colonial Office, I would suggest a consideration and comparison with the French decrees of the Immigration Ordinance for British Guiana submitted to the Secretary of State last year, and which I recently had the honour of discussing with His Lordship. It might be necessary to modify it in some particulars to suit small colonies, but it should form the basis of future immigration laws as embodying the great principles of:—

Colonization and settlement instead of prolonged engagements for labour.

Illegality of re-indenture.

Task work instead of day work except in special cases alike beneficial to employer and labourer. A task to be what a man of average strength can do without extraordinary exertion in 7½ hours, and a day's work to be of the same duration.

Rates of wages equal to those obtained by indigenous labourers, especially as regards skilled and experienced workmen.

"Le salaire ordinaire des journaliers est de 1 fr. 50 cent."—(*Annuaire de Guadeloupe*, 1891, page 57.)

Wages to be paid regularly and at short intervals. No stoppages or reductions except those by a court of law for offences duly proved.

Days of absence without leave, "lost days," by indentured immigrants only to be recovered before the Magistrate and within a short time of the offence.

Abolition of *livret* and harassing by the police, and rewards for apprehension of immigrants alleged to be deserters.

Illegality of sale of drink and other articles by the estate to the labourer.

The limitation of supply of rations to six months after introduction, and period to be shortened if the cooly can show he is earning sufficient wages to support himself.

An uniform system of sanitation and medical care and inspection.

An independent and impartial supervision supported and controlled by the Local Government and the Imperial Colonial Office.

Freedom after the expiration of indenture equal to that enjoyed by other sections of the population.

The following remarks allude, I suppose, to the emancipated slaves:—
"Les travailleurs indigènes débarrassés des entraves administratives qui s'opposent à la spontanéité de leurs mouvements se porteraient vers les occupations qui convenaient le plus à leur goûts ou à leur intérêts."—(*Annuaire Guadeloupe*, 1891.) And I think that the Indians at the end of their indenture might fairly expect to find themselves in a similar position.

24. To re-open emigration to the French colonies under existing circumstances would be especially unfortunate as regards Surinam, the only other foreign colony receiving Indian immigrants, and in which arrangements and improvements in accordance with those in British colonies are contemplated and, I may say, in progress. The difference in the manner suggestions are received by the French and Dutch is very marked, the latter being always ready to adopt the improvements which the greater experience of British colonies has found profitable.

25. On my visit to the Hague in February last, Baron van Deden, the Dutch Minister for the Colonies, who honoured me by asking my opinion, not only promised to give the necessary orders for the improvements I proposed, but said he would depute an official to British Guiana to study the system there.

The condition of immigrants in Surinam is already better than in Guadeloupe, but improvements are very necessary in both, and these cannot be expected if the present arrangements are recognized as satisfactory.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

D. W. D. COMINS, *Surgeon-Major*.

APPENDIX A.

DIRECTION DE L'INTÉRIEUR.

IMMIGRATION.

Cahier des charges pour le transport dans l'Inde de cinq cents indiens environ à rapatrier.

ARTICLE PREMIER.

Le présent cahier des charges a pour objet le transport de la Martinique dans l'Inde à Pondichéry et à Calcutta d'un contingent d'indiens adultes et autres aux conditions suivantes :
Les indiens seront embarqués chaque mois par le courrier de la ligne de Marseille à partir du mois de juin.

Les convois mensuels ne pourront se composer de plus de cent cinquante à deux cents indiens, sans que toutefois l'administration prenne l'engagement de fournir ce nombre.

ART. 2.

Les indiens arrivés à Marseille seront, par les soins de la Compagnie générale transatlantique, transbordés sur les paquebots des Messageries maritimes, suivant convention intervenue entre les deux compagnies.

ART. 3.

L'arrivée à Marseille du courrier de la Compagnie générale transatlantique ne coïncidant pas avec le départ de celui de la Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes, la Compagnie générale transatlantique se chargera de procurer le logement et la nourriture aux indiens pendant leur séjour à Marseille moyennant une indemnité journalière de un franc cinquante centimes par adulte ou équivalent.

ART. 4.

A bord des paquebots, comme à Marseille, les immigrants recevront la ration de vivres réglementaires conformément aux fixations déterminées dans le tableau qui fait suite au présent cahier des charges.

Les enfants de cinq à dix ans auront droit à la moitié des prestations attribuées aux adultes.

Ceux au-dessous de l'âge de cinq ans ne recevront aucune prestation personnelle, mais la ration journalière de leurs parents sera augmentée de 25 centilitres de riz pour chacun d'eux.

ART. 5.

Il leur sera donné à bord tous les soins hygiéniques et autres prévus par les règlements ou qui seront prescrits par le médecin. Il est spécialement recommandé aux officiers du bord de les traiter avec douceur et bienveillance et d'empêcher les hommes de l'équipage de les maltraiter.

ART. 6.

Une commission spéciale procédera avec le plus grand soin à la visite des immigrants avant leur embarquement. Elle admettra les immigrants atteints d'affections susceptibles de guérison ou d'amélioration pendant la traversée et refusera l'embarquement de ceux qui seront atteints de maladies contagieuses. L'agent de la Compagnie générale transatlantique à Fort-de-France pourra assister ou se faire représenter à cette visite avec droit d'observations. Elle sera faite en présence du médecin du bord qui, comme l'agent, aura le droit de faire les éliminations qu'il jugera convenables.

ART. 7.

L'embarquement des indiens aura lieu aux jour et heure fixés par l'agence.

ART. 8.

Le débarquement dans la colonie destinataire devra être effectué sur les ordres de l'administration de cette colonie et de concert avec le capitaine du paquebot et aux frais de ce dernier.

Le débarquement à Pondichéry devra être fait pendant la durée normale du stationnement du paquebot annexe, faute de quoi, le capitaine prendrait d'office les mesures nécessaires pour assurer la mise à terre dans les délais voulus.

ART. 9.

Le paiement du fret n'aura lieu qu'après l'arrivée et le débarquement des immigrants à destination. Le décompte des passages se fera d'après le nombre d'immigrants constaté à l'embarquement et il sera acquis aux transporteurs à tout événement.

Les enfants de huit à douze ans ne payeront que la moitié du prix de passage demandé pour les adultes.

Ceux de trois à huit ans, le quart;

Ceux de moins de trois ans, au moment de l'embarquement, seront transportés gratuitement, mais seulement pour un enfant. Une famille qui aurait plusieurs enfants au-dessous de trois ans n'aurait la gratuité que pour un seul, les autres payeraient quart de place.

ART. 10.

Le paiement des sommes dues à la Compagnie aura lieu à Paris, sur la production d'états accompagnés des réquisitions de passage et d'une facture avec certificat du Gouverneur de Pondichéry, constatant que le transport a été convenablement effectué.

ART. 11.

Toutes les contestations relatives à l'exécution des présentes conditions seront jugées administrativement.

ART. 12.

Les frais de timbre et d'enregistrement ainsi que les frais d'impression à cinquante exemplaires du présent cahier des charges seront supportés par la Compagnie générale transatlantique.

Le Directeur de l'intérieur,

P. FAWTIER.

Fait à Fort-de-France, le 28 mai 1891.

Le Gouverneur,

MORACCHINI.

Approuvé en conseil privé, séance du 29 mai 1891.

Tableau de la ration journalière des adultes.

Tous les jours :						
Riz	...	...	...	...	...	0* 672
Beurre, mantèque ou saindoux	...	...	...	...	...	0 025
Piment, cari, etc	...	...	...	...	...	0 025
Sel	...	...	...	...	...	0 020
Tamarin	...	...	...	...	...	0 025
Oignons	...	...	...	...	...	0 025
Eau douce	...	...	...	...	...	4 500
Lundi, mercredi, vendredi et samedi :						
Poissons salés ou morue	...	...	...	...	...	0 200
Légumes secs	...	...	...	...	...	0 120
Mardi :						
Lard salé	...	...	...	...	...	0 200
Biscuit	...	...	...	...	...	0 800
Dimanche et jeudi :						
Mouton, cabri, volaille	...	...	...	...	...	0 200
Giraumonts, pommes de terre ou patate	...	...	...	...	...	0 500

Le Directeur de l'intérieur,

P. FAWTIER.

Le Gouverneur,

MORACCHINI.

Fort-de-France, le 28 mai 1891.

Approuvé en conseil privé, séance du 29 mai 1891.

APPENDIX B.

Census of the East Indian population of Guadeloupe, showing the various occupations followed, prepared during my visit by the Immigration Department, Guadeloupe.

1. Paysans, propriétaires	...	...	...	269
2. Géreurs, économes, conducteurs	...	...	...	195
3. Agriculteurs	...	...	...	5,842
4. Bergers et attachés aux paturages	...	...	...	515
5. Journaliers	...	...	...	4,544
6. Travailleurs sur les chemins de fer, sur les routes ou rues	...	...	...	115
7. Conducteurs de machines agricoles ou de locomotives	...	...	...	61
8. Gardes de chemin de fer, marqueurs, surveillants des portes et signaux	...	...	...	23
9. Marchands, agents ou détaillants	...	...	...	29
10. Boutiquiers	...	...	...	10
11. Colporteurs	...	...	...	85
12. Boutiquiers employés ou Commis	...	...	...	46
13. Vendeurs de lait	...	...	...	2
14. Vendeurs d'herbes	...	...	...	20
15. Charbonniers ou vendeurs de charbon	...	...	...	187
16. Maraîchers	...	...	...	190
17. Domestiques de maisons	...	...	...	7
18. Domestiques, garçons d'écurie, cochers ou jardiniers	...	...	...	9
19. Blanchisseurs	...	...	...	5
20. Interprètes, plantons de tribunal, messagers du Gouvernement	...	...	...	9
21. Instituteurs	...	...	...	11
22. Prêtres et mendiants	...	...	...	2
23. Infirmiers, pharmaciens, accoucheurs	...	...	...	2
24. Orfèvres et joailliers	...	...	...	1
25. Barbiers	...	...	...	83
26. Boulangers et pâtisseries	...	...	...	40
27. Pêcheurs	...	...	...	...
28. Propriétaires de maisons	...	...	...	...
29. Propriétaires de voitures	...	...	...	177
30. Rentiers	...	...	...	...
31. Femmes, servantes de maisons	...	...	...	12,479
Total				...

33. Catholiques romains	...	...	...	...
34. de l'Eglise d'Angleterre	...	...	...	...
35. Wesleyens	...	...	...	...
36. Presbytériens	...	...	...	...
37. Baptistes	...	...	...	...
38. Autres dénominations	...	...	...	...
39. Ministres chrétiens et catéchistes	...	...	...	...
40. Total des chrétiens	...	...	...	...

41. Hindous	...	...	...	...
42. Mahométants	...	...	...	...
43. Autres	...	...	...	...
44. Total des infidèles	...	...	...	...

45. Allant à l'école	...	...	...	86
46. N'allant pas à l'école	...	...	...	2,294
47. Total des enfants	...	...	...	2,380

48. Mariés	...	...	...	104
49. Veufs	...	...	...	23
50. Célibataires	...	...	...	12,352
Total				14,859
51.				

1860

					iv		
52.	Au-dessous d'un an	...	...	...	...	477	
	" de 5 ans	...	...	...	...	793	
53,	" de 10 "	...	...	...	...	1,018	
	" de 15 "	...	...	...	...	1,348	
	" de 20 "	...	...	...	...	2,259	
	" de 30 "	...	...	...	...	4,443	
	" de 40 "	...	...	...	...	3,374	
	" de 50 "	...	...	...	...	963	
54.	" de 60 "	...	...	...	...	174	
55.	" de 80 "	...	...	...	...	10	
					Total	14,859	

A AJOUTER.			
Gardiens de nuit	...	...	...
Bûcherons	...	...	...
Agents de police	...	...	...
Adultes et enfants sans emploi	...	...	2,294
Immigrants versés dans le droit commun,	1,524.		

Basse Terre, le 13 Octobre 1891.

Le Protecteur, Chef du Service de l'Immigration,
DAVERS.

VI.

General DEPARTMENT.
Immigration Branch.
No. 1948.

From

J. W. Richardson, Esq., C.S.
Offg. Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

To

The Chief Secretary to the
Government of Madras.

Calcutta, the 9th July 1892.

Sir,

I am directed to request that the enclosed corrected copy of Dr. Comins' report, on the subject of the resumption of Emigration to the French Colonies may be substituted for the copy forwarded with Mr. Buckland's letter N. 124 Y, dated the 25th June 1892.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedt. Servt.
J. W. Richardson

Offg. Under Secy. to the Govt.
Bengal

1860

Public

From.

The Govt of Bengal.

No 1948

Dated 2nd July/92

Recd



Enclos are.

Forwarding a corrected copy
of Dr. Comins Report on the
Subject of the resumption of
Emigration to the French
Colonies.

Note for the C.S.

The corrections have
been noted in the margin.
They are unimportant.
This copy may be sub-
stituted as requested.
attention is invited to
the C.S.'s note on the
draft of G.O. dt 6.7.92,
No. 469, regarding the
submission of that
order to H.E. the Governor.
The further correspondence promised
has not yet been
received.

J.D.B.

19/7

Seen

W

21 July

Code
Class.

INDIAN



TELEGRAPHS.

Monthly
Number.To
(Office)From
(Office)

Words.

Day.

Hour.

Minute.

Official
Instructions.To
(Person)From
(Person)Madras
Revenue

P. V. S. S. S.

In Continuation of letter
no 709 dated 12th
April last requesting
opinion on renewal of
emigration to Ranion an
to inform you that
French Government ordered
repatriation via Mauritius of time
expired Coolies wishing to
return if number was
too small for charter
of direct vessel since
issue of those orders.
However special steamer was
chartered and was to
leave end of May

Recd. from

LN.

Sent to

At

Via

Mts. by

At

Via

Mts. by

MADRAS 1-7-92

Telegraphic Master.

2

Code Class.

INDIAN  TELEGRAPHS. Monthly Number.

To (Office)

From (Office)

Words.	Day.	Hour.	Minute.	Special Instructions.
2				

To (Person)

From (Person)

Government of India wish
 this evidence of french
 governments own willingness to
 to comply with wishes
 of english authorities to to
 be in possession of
 a dras Government when consider
 the general question better
 forwarding Correspondence
 Yours.

LN.

Sent to

Mts. by

At

By

Mts. by

MADRAS 1-7-92

Telegram Master.

Pg. Co.—No. 386 T.—1 1-91—1000000.

CURRENT No. 1746

[9]

Public DEPARTMENT.

From Tele
The L of I
Re: Agril: Dept

No.

Dated 1st } July/92
Received 2nd }
Enclosures

SUBJECT.

Regarding renewal of Emigrants
to Reunion.

17/92

1. The following telegram will be despatched to the Secy to the Govt: of India, Revenue and Agricultural Dept:-
2. The following telegram will be despatched to the Secy to the Govt: of India, Revenue and Agricultural Dept:-
3. The following telegram will be despatched to the Secy to the Govt: of India, Revenue and Agricultural Dept:-
4. The following telegram will be despatched to the Secy to the Govt: of India, Revenue and Agricultural Dept:-
5. The following telegram will be despatched to the Secy to the Govt: of India, Revenue and Agricultural Dept:-

Public Dept

Currents 1082, 1301,
1704, 1730 and 1746

Order 5 July 92 1469

The following telegram will be despatched to the Secy to the Govt: of India, Revenue and Agricultural Dept:-
No 297 Your message first and previous letters Bouvier's report instead of disproving allegations regarding ill treatment of coolies rather confirms them and coincides with statements made by returned emigrants. He considers concessions proposed by Ribot trifling and leave position practically unaltered. It is clear to this Govt: that position is bad as can be, coolies practically slaves. Nothing but complete revision of French colonies labor laws can improve state of affairs. Even such revision ineffectual.

without honest admin-
istration and strong
control by French Colonial
office, but existing cir-
cumstances don't
afford much hope either
being attained. according
to this Govt strongly
objects to resumption
Emigration to French
Colonies from this Pres-
idency."

J.D.B.
5/11.

S. Fuller

Emigration to
French Colonies



GOTACAMUND,
July 28th 1892.

My dear Mr. Carter

The accompanying
papers refer to the question of resuming
Emigration to French Colonies.
The matter was dealt with immediately
during Mr. A's absence on tour (order
telegram from India marked with
white tape) and the papers therefore
did not go to him prior to the receipt
of the telegram to India.

I now send these files, as HE will no
doubt wish to peruse them.
Please see Sir H. Fisher's note on the
second paper in the file

Yours sincerely
Richard White



My dear Price

I return file about
Immigration to person (names) 14874
Sir. has seen the important papers
& (names) Report
Yours
(names)

21. VII. 92

ACK PAPER, No.

OF 18

FURTHER PAPER, No. *2100/92*

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 DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL (not paged).

N.B.—

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

[7]

ORDINARY, MS.

<i>Public</i> DEPARTMENT.	
G.O., DATED	5-7-92
No.	469.

INDEXED.

When given for copying.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Objecting to the
resumption of Em-
igration to the
French Colonies
from this Pres-
idency—

11/1/93

15-2-12 ✓
27-1-15 ✓
23-9-20 ✓

24/1/2 ✓