

No. 1727
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FROM

SIR E. C. BUCK, Kt., C.S.I.,
Secretary to the Government of India,

TO

The Acting Government Secretary,
Government of British North Borneo,

Sandakan.

Revenue and Agricultural
Department.

(Emigration)

Simla, the 28th July 1892.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1424/92 of the 4th June last, intimating that owing to the present depressed condition of the planting industry in the Colony, and to the fact that no recruiting for Indian labour has yet been carried out, the Government of British North Borneo would wish to defer for the present and till necessity for it arises, the appointment of an Indian Immigration Agent.

In reply I am to state that the Governor General of India is, under the circumstances stated in your letter, willing that the appointment of Immigration Agent should be postponed for a year, at the end of which term the question may be brought under reconsideration. I am to request, therefore, that the Government of India may, before the end of July 1892, be favored with a report on the position and prospects of immigration from India as they then exist.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

your most obedient servant,

Sd. E.C. Buck,

Secretary.

No. 1728
16

Copy, together with copy of the letter referred to, forwarded to the Government of Madras, for information, in continuation of the correspondence ending with its letter No. 199 of the 28th March 1892.

By order,

Miss Mackenzie

Under-Secretary.

From the Colonial Secretary, Sandakan, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department No. 1424, dated 4th June 1892.
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With reference to the appointment of an Indian Immigration Agent in this State and your letter No. 820 E. of 30th April, I am directed by the Acting Governor to state that Mr. Hamilton Hunter has lately accepted other employment which he would probably not now wish to abandon.

2. I am further to state for the information of the Government of India that up to the present no planters have manifested any intention to avail themselves of the permission to recruit Indian labour, and that the very few Klings and Tamils now resident are men who have voluntarily come to Borneo in search of work. Some are shop-keepers, some few are employed on tobacco plantations to tend cattle, and none are within the scope of the Immigration Ordinance.

3. The planting industry in British North Borneo is now suffering from a depression which it is hoped may be merely ephemeral but which has caused planters to diminish rather than enlarge the scope of their operations and it is not likely that resort will be had for some time to come to Indian labour: the Company's Government also is affected financially by that depression.

4. I am therefore to ask that the appointment of an Indian Immigration Agent may be postponed till such time as Indian Immigrants begin to arrive, and that the British North Borneo Company may meanwhile be spared the expense of maintaining an officer whose services would be

valuable for the time being. In making this request I am to assure you that as soon as Indians begin to arrive in Borneo or Labuan under the Ordinance, an Officer will be temporarily appointed to carry out the duties of the Indian Immigration Agent and the Government of India will be addressed with a view to a permanent appointment.

(True copy)

Arthur

Registrar, Revenue & Agril: Department.

P.C.

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Sub. Dept.
Enclos. No. 1
To
C. No. 2049