

ORDINARY, MS.

Public DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED 23-9-92
No. 670.

INDEXED.

When given for copying.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Re - Engagement
of Indian labourers
in Mauritius for em-
ployment at Reunion.

FURTHER PAPER, No. 2922/92

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 WANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL (not pagod).

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

Public (1892) Sept

From, the Govt. of India
Rev. & Apr: Sept (Emigration)

Hu. and leiric

Order

23/9/92
14th. 23 Sep

Recorded.

20B
10/9.

12 September

N. 2048
57

Dated 1st
Recd 7th
Repd 8th } 1892 Sept.

Enc: 1

Subject

Forwarding despatch from S of S,
N. 72 (Emigration), dated 21st July,
1892, and enclosures, respecting a
proposal for the engagement of
Indian labourers in Mauritius for
employment at Réunion.

WITH ORDER

C. B. 19
2/2/9

27/7/92 No 519 Ins Pres
24/8/92 No 582 —
8/8/92 No 546 —

2351
No. 2048
57

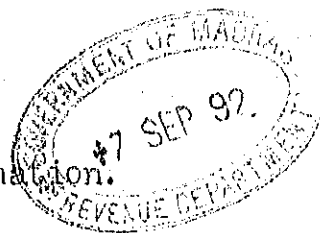
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

(Emigration.)

Simla, dated the 7th September, 1892.

Forwarded to the Government of Madras for information.



By order,

T. Moulajm

Offg: Under-Secretary to the Government of India.

List of Papers forwarded.

Despatch from Secretary of State, No. 72 (Emigration)
dated 21st July, 1892, and enclosures.

10 papers sent by P. & K. Post.

J. S. C.

INDIA OFFICE, File No. 57.
London, 21st July 1892. Serial No. 1.

Public (Emigration).
No. 72.

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

MY LORD MARQUIS,

I FORWARD, for the information of Your Excellency in Council, copy of a
letter from the Colonial Office with its
80th June 1892, and enclosures. enclosures, respecting a proposal for the
engagement of Indian labourers in Mauritius for employment at Réunion.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD MARQUIS,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble Servant,

CROSS.

No. J. & P. 1041, dated Downing Street, the 30th June 1892.

From—EDWARD WINGFIELD, Esq., Assistant Under-Secretary, Colonial Office,

To—The Under-Secretary of State for India.

I AM directed by Lord Knutsford to forward to you for the information
of Viscount Cross, a copy of a despatch from the Officer Administering the
Government of Mauritius and of its enclosures, respecting the proposal of Her
Majesty's Acting Consul at Réunion, for the engagement of Indian labourers
in Mauritius for employment at Réunion; together with a copy of his Lord-
ship's reply.

No. 239, dated Mauritius, the 24th May 1892.

From—The Officer Administering the Government of Mauritius,

To—The RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD KNUTSFORD, G. C. M. G., &c., &c.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copies
of a letter received from Her Majesty's
From Acting Consul, 19th May 1892. Acting Consul at Réunion, on the subject
To Acting Consul, No. 4041, 22nd May 1892. of the proposed engagement of Indian
labourers in Mauritius for employment

in that Colony, and of the letter which I have addressed to Mr. Bell in reply.

Dated Réunion, the 19th May 1892.

From—J. H. DOUGLAS BELL, Esq., Her Majesty's Acting Consul Réunion,

To—The Officer Administering the Government of Mauritius.

IN consequence of the destruction by the cyclone of the 29th April last of
many of the sugar mills and crops in Mauritius, and in presence of the dull-
ness of affairs occasioned by this catastrophe, it has occurred to the mind of the
Government of Réunion that the Government of Mauritius may find itself
burdened with some thousands of Indian labourers for whom there may be no

further employment in Mauritius and whose presence in the Colony may become a source of disquiet to public order and a charge to your budget.

Acting in the interest of Mauritius at the same time as in that of Réunion Governor Manés has placed himself in communication with me on the subject with the view to ascertaining whether Your Excellency's Government would be inclined to allow the Indians to emigrate to Réunion from Mauritius.

The doors of Réunion would be thrown open to some three thousand men who will be admitted to residence in this Colony under the protection of the Convention of the 1st July 1861, and of the decree of the 27th of August 1887 which regulates the conditions of labour in Réunion.

The planters here would be glad to take a much greater number, but I would not consent to the importation of more than three thousand men.

The engagements would be for a term of three years at the end of which the Indians would be repatriated to India at the expense of Réunion or returned to Mauritius, according as they would desire.

A bounty of one hundred francs is offered to the men for a three years contract, the rate of wages to be 12½ francs per mensem for men and 7½ francs for women (equal, at the average rate of exchange, to nearly 7 and 4 rupees, which is more than what is paid in Mauritius).

The cost of the introduction of these Indians here would of course be supported by Réunion.

It will naturally occur to Your Excellency that, Indian Immigration to French Colonies having been prohibited, the authorizing of the departure of large batches of coolies for Réunion from Mauritius might be looked upon as defeating the object which the Government of India had in view in suspending the operation of the Convention of 1861, and I am quite alive to the importance of the measure which I am taking upon myself to recommend in the interests, as I am persuaded, of both Colonies.

I am perfectly aware that I may be laying myself open to very severe censure from the Foreign Office and from the Indian Government.

I would naturally be strongly indisposed to entertain any scheme which might be converted into an organized system of recruitment of Indian labourers in Mauritius for the benefit of Réunion; but the present crisis would seem to justify the adoption of energetic measures, and if Your Excellency would inform me whether, in view of the existing state of affairs, the emigration from Mauritius of some three thousand unemployed Indians would materially assist the labouring classes, and at the same time alleviate the anxieties of Your Excellency's Government, I would be quite prepared to endorse the responsibility of sanctioning the engagement of these men on their arrival in Réunion upon the terms afore-mentioned.

The plan of the Government would be to send to Mauritius an Agent whose business would be to examine the men who would be willing to emigrate from Mauritius and to make arrangements for their conveyance to Réunion.

On arrival here they would be engaged before me, and I would take care that they were made perfectly acquainted with the conditions of their engagements.

The question is a sufficiently important one to recommend itself to Your Excellency's consideration, and I should be exceedingly obliged if by the return mail I could be placed in the position to inform His Excellency Governor Manés of Your Excellency's opinion as to the feasibility of the scheme proposed by His Excellency's Government.

No. 4041-92, dated Mauritius, the 22nd May 1892.

From—The Officer Administering the Government of Mauritius,

To—Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul, Réunion.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant and hasten to inform you that so far from being burdened with "Indian

labourers for whom there is no further employment and whose presence in the Colony may become a source of disquiet to public order and a charge to the Mauritius Treasury," the Colony is in want of every one of its labourers and is benefiting by the excellent lessons of quiet industry and generous submission to the inevitable which this peaceful and hardworking agricultural population is daily giving.

2. As the debates in the Council of Government may apprise you, the Indian labourers on many estates have voluntarily offered to assist their employers at the expense of reduction in their own wages: while it will require all the hands at the disposal of planters to prepare next year's crop towards which end every effort is now directed.

3. I therefore request that you will be good enough to express to the Governor of the Island of Réunion, my thanks for offering to come to the aid of this Government in the manner above suggested and to inform His Excellency that I could not sanction the departure of Indian labourers at the present time when their services are so valuable and so necessary.

4. I do not touch upon the other points of your despatch which of themselves would have constituted sufficient reason for my not being at liberty to meet the views expressed by the Government of Réunion.

Dated Downing Street, the 1st July 1892.

From—LORD KNUTSFORD, G.C.M.G., Secretary of State for the Colonies,

To—The Officer Administering the Government of Mauritius.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 239 of the 24th May, forwarding a copy of a letter from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Réunion, and of your reply thereto, respecting the proposed engagement of Indian labourers in Mauritius for employment in Réunion; and to convey to you my approval of the action taken by you in the matter.

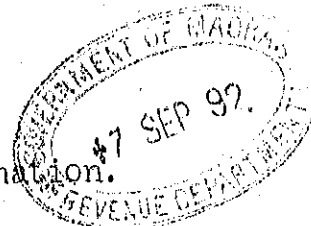
No. 2048
57
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

(Emigration.)

Simla, dated the 27 September, 1892.

Forwarded to the Government of Madras for information.



By order,

T. M. M. M.

Offg: Under-Secretary to the Government of India.

List of Papers forwarded.

Despatch from Secretary of State, No. 72 (Emigration)
dated 21st July, 1892, and enclosures.

10 papers sent by Registered Post.