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INDEXED

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[Despatch Abstract.]

*Recording under secret
of the Govt of India for
- making copies of the
- notes from the Secy
of State regarding the
operation in the Colony
of Reunions of the French
Nationalist Law of
June 1909—*

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Hull.
7th November 1892.
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Dated 21st }
Recd 27th } Oct 1892
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Enc. 1

Subject

Forwarding despatch from the
S. of S. No 93 dated 22nd Sept 1892,
regarding the operation in the
Colony of Reunion of the French
Nationality Law of June 1889.

WITH ORDER

C. 411
12/11

BACK PAPER, No.

OF 18.

FURTHER PAPER, No.

Pub. No. 195

OF 18

9-3-93

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

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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

N.B.—

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No. 2524
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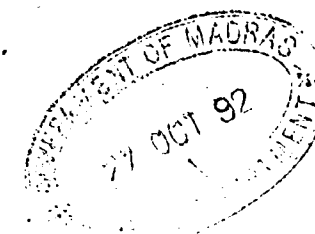
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

(Emigration.)

Simla, dated the 21st October 1892.

Forwarded to the Government of Madras for information.



By order,

F. S. Mallagan

Offg: Under-Secretary to the Government of India.

List of Papers forwarded.

Despatch from the Secretary of State No. 93, (Public-
Emigration), dated 22nd September 1892, and enclosures.

the French Legislators for having so remodelled their laws of nationality as to have adopted the same basis as that of our own.

For the last six months I have devoted special attention to the study of this question, with the result that I am now a convert to the views expressed by Sir Percy Anderson.

After carefully weighing the pros and cons which would naturally result from the new French Nationality Law taking effect on our Indians in this Colony, I am absolutely convinced that the share of advantages to be derived for our Indians overbalance all other objections.

What I had feared at first was that the local Government claiming many of the Indians to have become French Subjects in virtue of the new Law, would decline to repatriate them to India; but this objection I am now inclined to believe is more apparent than real.

The greater number of the Indians who are now in this Colony have either contracted local habits and married into Creole families, or are attached to the island by other interests and influences as potent; and for these reasons will never leave the shores of the Colony.

For these therefore we need entertain no fear of their new status clashing with the right to free repatriation which has been secured for them by the Convention of 1861.

On the other hand the admission to French citizenship which far outweighs all other considerations and carries with it rights and privileges which must some day, if carefully guided, become a powerful engine in the hands of the Indians.

From the day that an Indian becomes French through the Law of Nationality he is free of all obligation to contract engagements and is at liberty to let his services by the day, week, or month, just as he pleases; and this to the Indian who has during all his life been treated in this Colony as an inferior being and submitted to a state of semi-bondage is a

source of no small gratification.

Another point which I foresee as being one of the inevitable consequences of the New French Nationality Law threatens the political edifice of the Colony.

Indeed it is not difficult to foretell that in a country where the principle of universal suffrage is in force, the gradual admission into the ranks of electors of the Indian element must some day awaken them to the fact that in their own country they will have to struggle against a new political party, so strong that it will be their own fault (the Indians), or that of their leaders, if before ten years they are not the masters of the situation in this Colony.

In 1890 I discussed the question theoretically: my present despatch points at practical views suggested by long experience.

From the Secretary of State for India, No.93 (Public Emigration), dated 22nd September 1892.

With reference to my Predecessor's despatch No.85 dated 20th August 1891, I forward for the information of Your Excellency in Council copy of a letter received by the Foreign Office from Her Majesty's Consul at Reunion on the subject of the operation in that Colony of the French Nationality Law of June 1889.

From Her Majesty's Consul at Reunion, to the Rt.Honble the Marquis of Salisbury, K.G., No.1 dated 23rd July 1892.

In 1890 I had the honor to draw Your Lordship's attention to the operation in this Colony of the French Nationality Law of the 26th June 1889; and in my despatches to the Governor of Reunion, copies of which were transmitted to Your Lordship, I fully discussed the question from different points of view, and I maintained throughout that this law was not applicable to British Indian Coolies in this Colony who are not properly speaking free residents: but merely subjects of Her Majesty, temporarily lent to the Colony under exceptional conditions of residence and legislation, and protected by special Conventions.

The applicability of the French Nationality Law of the 26th of June 1889 to the Indians, presented in 1890 many points of interest momentous not only for the Indians, but for the Colony also.

Nothing relative to this question has since been received from the Foreign Office at this Consulate.

But in a conversation which I had with Sir Percy Anderson at the Foreign Office last year, I was informed that the matter was under reference to the Government of India: Sir Percy Anderson adding that at first sight it would seem difficult for Her Majesty's Government to find fault with