

ORDINARY, MS.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O., DATED 3-12-92

No. 844

INDEXED.

~~When given for copying.~~

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording despatch
from the Secretary of
State. for sending copy
of a report on British
Indian Immigration to
Guadeloupe for the
year 1891—

BACK PAPER, No.

OF

CURRENT No. 3293

[2]

Public

DEPARTMENT.

FURTHER PAPER, No.

1302/380 of 189

Cuo 450/99 (9 of 9)

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.—

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

From

The Govt of India

Rev: & Agil: Dept

No. 2734
70

Dated 19th

Received 23rd

Nov/92

Enclosures one & 3 s.c. of the enclosure.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding Despatch from the
Secy of State No 98 (Public Immig-
ration) of the 6th Oct/92, and en-
closures

We did not get a similar report
last year. This appears to be the first
of the kind. Please see how ever
the order of the Secy of State
re Public Immigration is being
sent to the Secy of State
but this has not been received yet

MU.

Order 3 Decr 92 h 844

Recorded.

38B.
25/11.

C. 28/4

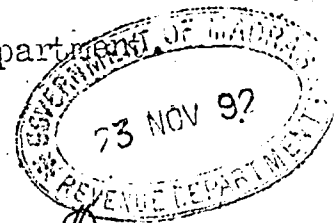
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2734
70

Government of India.

Revenue and Agricultural Department

(Emigration)



Calcutta, the 19 November 1892.

Forwarded to the Government of Madras for information.

By Order,

V. M. S. S. S.

Offg: Under Secretary.

List of papers forwarded.

Despatch from the Secretary of State, No. 98 (Public Emigration) dated the 8th October 1892, and enclosures

K.B.S.

No. 98 (Public—Emigration), dated India Office, London, the 6th October 1892. FILE No. 70.
SERIAL No. 1.

From—LORD KIMBERLEY, K.G., *Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India,*
To—*The Government of India.*

I FORWARD, for the information of Your Excellency in Council, a copy of a report by the
British Vice-Consul at Pointe à Pitre, Guadeloupe, on British
No. 105—20, dated 22nd July 1892. Indian Immigration to that Colony for the year 1891.

2. The report for 1889 appears to have been forwarded to you direct by Her Majesty's
Consul at Martinique. No report has reached this Office for the year 1890.

No. 105—20, dated Pointe à Pitre, the 22nd July 1892.

From—J. JAPP, Esq., *British Vice-Consul, Guadeloupe,*
To—*Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul, Martinique.*

I HAVE the honour to send you the following report on Indian Immigration in Guadeloupe
during the year 1891.

As you are aware, Surgeon-Major Comins, Protector of Emigrants at Calcutta, made a
tour of inspection here in October, visited the principal centres, and obtained all the informa-
tion he required as to the treatment of the Indian immigrants.

According to the Returns of the Administration, there remained in the Colony on the 31st
December 1891, 16,201 Indian immigrants, composed as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
Under 14 years	1,726	1,588	3,314
Unmarried over 14	7,373	2,938	10,361
Married	36	38	74
Widowed	6	10	16
TOTAL	9,141	4,624	13,765

With permission of free Residence.

Calcutta	911	476	
Pondicherry	622	428	
TOTAL	1,533	903	2,436
			GRAND TOTAL . 16,201

The births during the year numbered 335, of which 153 were males and 182 females.

There was one marriage during the year.

The deaths consisted of:—

Men	174
Women	87
Male children	25
Female „	29
TOTAL	315

Of this number, 85 died in the Colonial Hospitals and 6 at the Leper Asylum at Desirade.

Sixteen were caused by violence, 9 of them being suicides.

The rate of mortality among the immigrants was 1.95 per cent., or about 0.25 per cent.
under that of the other classes of the population.

Of the immigrants working on estates, 722 were under first engagement,
2,399 „ re-engagement, and
7,819 „ without engagement

(not including children under 14 years of age).

The average number of days' work performed by the engaged immigrants was 228.

Three hundred and eighteen immigrants terminated their engagements during the year,
and during the same period 177 re-engaged—168 for 5 years and 9 for a shorter term.

The re-engagement premiums paid by the employers varied from f.150 to f.300, according
to the worth of the labourer, while those paid by the Colony remained at f.75.

Three hundred and eighteen immigrants acquire the right to free return passages.

Three hundred and twenty-five obtained permission to reside in the Colony, and accepted
the free Residence Bounty of f.150, thereby losing their right to a return passage.

This bounty was abolished by the General Council at its ordinary session in November
1891.

The following is a translation of a portion of the Governor's opening speech on that occasion:—

"The Immigration credits are f.86,000 less than those of last Budget. We propose not to grant any free Residence Bounty in 1892, in the first place because the amount provided at the time of the creation of the bounty has been much exceeded, and again because the principle of this is much to be discussed, it guarantees the Colony in no way against the very onerous obligation of the repatriation of the Indians, which results from a convention between France and England, and it provided few labourers for cane cultivation, the Indians who accept the bounty having generally the intention of leaving Grande Terre (Eastern Division of Guadeloupe) and working for their own account."

With regard to the last paragraph, I may mention that one of the conditions of obtaining the permission and bounty is that the immigrant shall produce—

"a certificate from the Major of his commune, stating that he possesses sufficient means of existence, either as Proprietor, or by his aptitude in working at some industry or by some manual labour, that of the soil included."

The total number of immigrants who had up to the 31st December obtained permission of residence was 6,288 (children not included).

Two thousand nine hundred and sixteen reserved their right, and I am assured by the Administration that there will certainly be a return batch in 1893.

The last departure was that of the S.S. *Hindustan* on the 17th January 1891 with 600 adults.

The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, in a despatch to the Governor, dated 22nd December, of which the following is a translation, says:—

"It is in a great measure on account of the little assiduity shown by the local administrations in returning the time-expired labourers that the British Government suspended immigration to the French Colonies.

"Under these conditions, I consider it possible to give satisfaction on these points to the desiderata expressed by the Cabinet of London if we wish to obtain the withdrawal of the prohibitive measure of 1st November 1883. Now, so far as specially concerns Guadeloupe, she could easily proceed by degrees towards a normal situation, by applying strictly the terms of Article 40 (of the Presidential Decree of 30th June 1890, which declares that all immigrants during their stay in the Colony must be under engagement or obtain a permission to reside in the Colony) to the labourers who are at present under contract, at the moment when that contract expires, and by assuring each year the regular repatriation of those who wish to return to their native country."

The coolies tried before the Courts in 1891 were:—

Assizes.

Nine, of whom two were acquitted.

No employer was condemned at this Court.

Correctional Police.

Five hundred and twenty-two, of whom 56 were acquitted.

Of these, 113 were for Vagabondage and 353 for other Misdemeanours.

An overseer was condemned for beating an immigrant, also three Indian proprietors for illegally employing engaged immigrants.

Simple Police.

Six hundred and fifty condemnations.

Of the above condemnations at least one-half were for violence between the Indians themselves.

The number of immigrants treated in the Colonial Hospitals during 1891 was 689, in the dépôts 919, and at the Leper Asylum (Desirade) 26, and at the close of the year there remained therein—

Blind	2
Paralysed	2
Insane	15
Lepers	20
Infirm	12

On the 31st December the amount of deposits lying to the credit of the immigrants was as follows:—

	Depositors.	Amounts.
Banque de la Guadeloupe	147	f.113,134. 45
Pointe à Pitre Savings Bank	21	13,671. 34
TOTAL	...	f.126,805. 79

A Savings Bank (Caisse d' Epargne) has since been opened at Basse Terre, and the Revenue Collectors at Capesterre, Abymes, Morne à l'Eau, Port Louis, St. Francois, Petit Bourg, Ste Rose, Marie Galante, and Desirade are authorized to receive deposits and pay withdrawals for account of the Pointe à Pitre Office.

The Indians, however, in many cases prefer to lend their money at usurious rates of interest, of course very often at a considerable risk, and it frequently happens that they are not repaid.

Many of them invest their savings in live stock, such as horses, sheep, pigs, goats, etc.

The only means of remitting money to India is by Guadeloupe Bank drafts on Paris at 90 days' sight, on which there is a premium of 2 per cent.

The amount voted by the General Council for Immigration purposes for 1891 was f.314,179.50, as detailed in my last Annual Report.

For 1892 it is f.166,259.50 as follows:—

Staff.

Protector, Basse Terre—	
Salary	f.8,000
Expenses	1,455
Inspector, Pointe à Pitre	9,455 0
2nd class Head Clerk	7,970 0
1 1st class Syndic Moule	5,000 0
3 2nd " " Port Louis, Capesterre, and St. Francois	6,000 0
1 Clerk at Basse Terre	f.4,000
1 Syndic, Marie Galante	12,000 0
2 Writers, f.1,800 and f.2,000	3,000 0
2 Clerk Interpreters—	4,000 0
Pointe à Pitre	2,200
Basse Terre	1,400
2 Messenger Interpreters, f.840	3,600 0
Office Expenses	1,680 0
Indemnity to Syndic at Lamutuin, situation abolished	2,195 0
	1,500 0
	60,200 0

Dépôt Keepers.

Chief, Pointe à Pitre	1,970
Assistant, " "	1,182
Keeper, Basse Terre	3,152 0
	1,477 50
	4,629 50

Medical Service.

Doctor, Pointe à Pitre	1,000 0
" Basse Terre	800 0
	1,800 0

Material.

Office Rent, Basse Terre	1,500 0
" Pointe à Pitre	1,500 0
Office Furniture	600 0
Printing	1,200 0
Carriage and freight	1,000 0
Lighting Dépôts	150 0
Food and Medicine	5,000 0
Maintenance of Dépôts	500 0
Hospital treatment	55,000 0
Re-engagement premium, 1892	30,000 0
Sundry expenses	680 0
Gendarmes conducting deserters	2,500 0
	10,950 0

TOTAL fcs.166,259.50

NOTE.—The difference between the amounts voted for 1891 and 1892 of about f. 148,000 is explained by—

Instalment of freight	75,000 0
Free Residence Bounty	50,000 0 and
Difference of Re-engagement Bounty	20,000 0
say	f.145,000 0

having been included in the former.

In conclusion, I received about the average number of complaints, which were enquired into by the Administration, and I believe that the immigrants throughout the Colony are fairly treated.

The Administration is, however, to blame for not returning to India within a reasonable time the time-expired immigrants, who, tired of waiting, frequently re-engage themselves, thereby retarding their return indefinitely, or obtain the free residence permission, which is very objectionable from the fact that by doing so they lose their right to a return passage.

1892
P. 1. — Dept.
Encls. No. — 1
To
C. No. — 1892