

ORDINARY, MS.

Public DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED 15-11-93
No. 917.

INDEXED.

When given for copying.

Recd. 14/11

[Despatch Abstract.]

Resolving endorse-
ment of the Govt
of India. per word.
my report on the
Indian immigration
-tion at Remission
for the year
1892—

Public DEPARTMENT.

From
Govt. of India
Rev & agri. Depto

No. 3111
87
Dated 3-11-93
Received 10-11-93
Enclosures One & 15 S. C of it

SUBJECT.

Forwarding for information letter
from H. M's Council at Reunion
reporting on the Indian Emigration
at Reunion in 1892

Order 15 Nov 93
917

Recorded.

75B
13/11

B.D. of Rev
Prot. of Emigrants

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.R.—

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

BACK PAPER, No.

OF 18

FURTHER PAPER, No.

127

OF 1895

Revista - Publicar
1972

ANNEX No. 8.

Dated Réunion, the 25th August 1893.

From—C. W. BENNETT, Esq., *Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Réunion,*
 To—The Protector of Immigrants, St. Denis.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 130 of the 23rd instant, inclosing 24 procès-verbaux concerning the deaths of Indians by suicide and accident in 1892.

In most of the cases an adequate inquiry appears to have been made, but to one instance which appears on the face of it, to have been of a serious nature, I feel compelled to draw your special notice and ask for further information.

Gangadine Abjalkan, No. 6132, engaged to the Commune of St. Suzanne, is alleged by the procès-verbal of July 10th to have died "à la suite de coups!" It is not stated by whom the blows were inflicted, and no medical examination was made, so far as the procès verbal goes. I can hardly believe that the case was allowed to drop without further inquiry.

I also notice that when the police investigation proves that there was no evidence of crime, the matter ends.

Many of these cases show, however, that the suicides were occasioned through pain consequent on illness and presumably through neglect.

You have no doubt made inquiries as to whether Carpin Catan, No. 27533, Sallawbin Audy, No. 22787, Samigadon Potigadon, No. 431, Virasamy Raugayen, no number given, and Mamondekhan Ibramakan, No. 17987, received adequate medical assistance before death. In these cases no mention is made of hospital treatment.

No reply yet received.

C. W. B.

Perhaps you can also inform me whether any of the engagés were in fault and were proceeded against.

No. 3///
87

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

(Emigration.)

Simla, dated the 2nd November 1893.

Forwarded to the Government of Madras for information.

By order,



Under-Secretary to the Government of India.

List of Papers forwarded.

Letter from Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Réunion,
 dated the 9th September 1893 and enclosures.

ANNEX No. 5.

Table showing Taxes levied upon Indians or upon their engagements and stating by whom payable.

Nature of Tax.	Ratio.	Payable by	Total amount.	Remarks.
Poll tax	6 francs a head	Indian	F. C. 97,077 58	
Engagement tax	6 francs per year	Engagisté	53,370 00	
Permis de Séjour	...	Indian	28,300 00	
Capture money	2½ francs on arrest	Indian	625 00	
Total amount derived from Indians through Direct Taxation			179,372 58	

ANNEX No. 6.

Roll of Suicides, Accidental and Sudden Deaths of Indians for 1892.

Date.	Name.	Alleged cause of Death.	Employer or Establishment.	
January 2	Touleavon Tordavaryen.	Congestion of the brain caused by drink.	Mr. Salaün, the town sweeper.	
" 9	Sidambarom Arnasalom.	Fall from a tree	Mme de Villela.	
" 16	Carpin Catan	General weakness following on old age.	Lory frères (Le Chandron).	Found dead in a deserted hut on "Chandron" property.
" 24	Unknown	Natural		Found dead in the bush.
" 28	Sallawbin Audy	Suicide by hanging	Not engaged	Suffering from dysentery.
February 5	Coupon Saveganey	Accidental drowning	Bernica (Crédit Focier).	
" 9	Virapin Boutane	Suicide by hanging	G Caillot.	Reason for suicide said to be jealousy.
" 13	Francine Abraham	Fracture of skull	Mr. de K. Vequen	Hut blown down in cyclone.
" 25	Tourabsine Abdoulabsab.	Fall from a tree	Permissionnaire.	
March 8	Rangasane Ramsaney	Fall over a precipice	"L'Union des Planteurs."	
" 22	Sellin Ramsaney	Suicide by hanging	M. Armanet St. Leu	Abandoned by his wife and children.
April 23	Samigadon Potigadon	Suicide by hanging	Mr. E. Langlois	Suffering from dysentery.
" 28	Nallama Viri (woman)	Suicide by drowning	"Bellemène" Estate	No reason given. Alleged to have attempted to drown herself six times before.
May 8	Yacobsaëb Casimsaëb	Suicide, in hospital, by hanging whilst drunk.	"Menciel" Estate (Crédit Focier).	A very thorough inquiry was made into this death which was no doubt a suicide; but it does not reflect much credit upon the hospital management.
" 12	Marie Latehimy (woman).	Suicide by hanging	Mr. Choppy (mon vert).	No reason given.
" 13	Pintama Latchy (woman).	Accidental drowning	Mr. Morange (St. Anne).	Alleged to have fallen into a cistern when drunk.
" 19	Virasamy Rangayen	Fever	Not engaged	Found dead in a hut.
July 10	Gangadine Abjalkan	Found dead	Commune of St. Suzanne.	Alleged cause of death, blows. No medical examination held and no enquiry made!
" 27	Samayen Carpin	Landslip and shock	"Bernica" (Crédit Focier).	Death caused by neglect.
October 24	Vaitylingom Anamalchetty.	Suicide by hanging	Mrs. Dussac (St. Leu)	Alleged reason, jealousy.
" 29	Caroupin Montania	Crushed by an ox-cart	Mr. de K. Vequen.	
November 15	Tonodine Ibamsaëb	Suicide by drowning	Mr. de K. Vequen	Apparently disgusted at having dissipated a bounty of 150 francs received the previous week.
" 26	Mamondean Ibramean	Unknown	Mr. Sanglier	Found as a skeleton.
December 7	Louis Ramsaney	Suicide by hanging	"Bernica" (Crédit Focier).	Suffering from syphilis.

ANNEX 7.

Statement of Complaints lodged at the different Syndicates during 1892.

NAMES OF DISTRICTS.	COMPLAINTS RESPECT- ING WAGES.		COMPLAINTS RESPECT- ING RATIONS.		COMPLAINTS RESPECT- ING OVERWORK.		COMPLAINTS FOR BLOWS, etc.		INSUFFICIENT MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.		FOR FORCING TO RE-ENGAGE.		COMPLAINTS RESPECT- ING CLOTHING.		MISCELLANEOUS.		Total Number of Complaints	Number of Com- plaints founded
	Number.	Founded.	Number.	Founded.	Number.	Founded.	Number.	Founded.	Number.	Founded.	Number.	Founded.	Number.	Founded.	Number.	Founded.		
St. Denis . . .	10	6	4	...	2	...	7	...	4	2	...	...	...	...	16	3	43	11
St. Marie . . .	12	9	15	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	...	44	11
St. Suzanne . . .	27	3	5	...	2	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	26	24	64	27
St. André . . .	3	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	10	1
Salazie . . .	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
Bras Pannon . . .	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	5	2	8	2
St. Benoit . . .	...	...	1	1	1	...	6	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	11	5
Plaine des Palmistes . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
St. Rose . . .	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	2
Possession . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
St. Paul . . .	7	1	5	...	...	...	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	1
St. Leu . . .	2	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
St. Louis . . .	17	13	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	20	16
St. Pierre . . .	2	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...
Entre Deux . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
St. Joseph . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
St. Philippe . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	85	35	32	3	7	...	30	6	15	6	2	2	...	...	69	30	240	82

It appears from the Protector's reply to my inquiries that during 1892 only 161 Indians were received in the different hospitals of the Colony, not being hospitals on estates, *viz.*, 81 at the Colonial Hospital at St. Denis, and 80 in the various hospitals in the different "Communes."

Some, but very few, of the large proprietors send men when very ill to the local hospitals; this figure of 161 therefore roughly represents the medical care bestowed by persons employing less than 20 men on their engagés who number 6,369 adults—4,260 men and 2,109 women.

If, on the other hand, it is alleged that many persons tend their own sick servants in their houses, it must also be remembered that the provisions of the Decree making a hospital obligatory on all persons having more than 20 men have never been strictly enforced, and that whereas even now many properties employing over 20 men have no hospitals on their estates, previously to Mr. Muir-Mackenzie's visit there were estates employing over 100 men which were not provided with any hospital accommodation whatever.

The simplest way to solve this difficulty would be to forbid the engagement of Indians to anybody who had no hospital, and I am sure that in practice this would free the Consulate from a large quantity of complaints. That Indians under such conditions are not properly cared for is proved by the fact that in a country where men are constantly racked by fever and other complaints, only 161 persons out of 6,369—not counting children—or about 1 in 38, received medical care during the year.

Without, however, exciting a great deal of opposition and ill-feeling, and perhaps causing some hardship, it seems to be impossible to lay down the hard-and-fast rule that no one who has not a private hospital have any contract labourers. If adequate means can be found to force the proprietor to properly lodge, feed, and care for his labourer, I do not see why he should not be allowed to have a few.

I should like to see the hospital service assimilated to that of Mauritius, the doctor being appointed and paid by the Immigration Department or the State, and a tax of so much per head levied upon each engagé at the expense of the engagisté.

It is hardly reasonable to expect a man who has only 20 labourers to build and maintain a fully equipped hospital. I would suggest that the minimum number for which a hospital should be obligatory might be raised to 50. Those employing under 50 contract labourers should be compelled to give a formal bond under penalties that in consideration of their being allowed to have contract labourers without a hospital they will send them when ill to a certain approved hospital named in the bond, either a neighbouring estate hospital or a communal hospital.

In order, however, to prevent, as at present, the engagisté himself being the judge as to the necessity of sending sick men to hospital, such estates should be visited at fixed dates by the doctor. It would be essential that such visits should be at fixed dates in order to enable the men to meet him, as there would be no hospital where he could find the sick all together, as on the large estates; and even if the men were not at work, he could not be expected to make house-to-house visits. In fact there should be a weekly medical parade on all such small estates.

Such a course would be only fair, as small proprietors get their men much cheaper than the large, inasmuch as they incur no expense for building and maintaining a hospital, or for payment of a medical officer. This concession must not, however, be considered to extend to engagements other than those for work on sugar plantations, mills, and *bond fide* agricultural undertakings.

Engagements for domestic purposes and hawking should on no account be again permitted.

Annex No. 6.

Annexed is also a return of sudden deaths, violent deaths, and accidents for 1892.

The Protector of Immigrants not having sent me copies of all the *procès-verbaux* in the cases, nor the necessary information to fill up annex No. 7 as to complaints preferred at Syndicates, I requested him to do so; but he was so dilatory that my report has thereby been delayed over two months.

* Not printed.

The original *procès-verbaux* are attached* to the copy of this report sent to the Government of India.

A copy of a letter addressed to the Protector concerning the very casual way in which examinations into the deaths of Indians are held is forwarded herewith.

Annex No. 8.

The Protector having at first reported 25 deaths under this head (see annex 1), that figure was taken as accurate. When the figures in my whole report and annexes were fixed he reported it as 24.

In order to avoid disturbing the figures all through the documents, the error of 1 in annex 1 is allowed to stand.

A roll of complaints lodged at the Syndicates is also annexed; but in view of the disorder which Mr. Muir-Mackenzie and myself found reigning in the Syndic's offices, it can hardly, it is feared, be relied upon as quite accurate.

Annex No. 7.

RÉUNION,
The 9th September 1893. }

C. W. BENNETT.

ANNEX No. 1.

Population Return.

Designation.	Men.	Women.	Children.	TOTAL.
Under contract	11,887	4,993	5,189	22,069
Old engagés holding permis de séjour	...	...	...	865
Free Indians, traders, etc.	...	...	...	227
Total Indian population in Réunion				23,161

ANNEX No. 2.

Increase and Decrease of Population.

Births	482	230 boys, 252 girls.	
Natural deaths	619		
Deaths by suicide	11		
Accidental deaths	14		
Arrivals	Nil		
Repatriated	182		
Left for Mauritius	30	Increase	482
„ „ Madagascar	3	Decrease	859
		Net decrease	377

ANNEX No. 3.

Return of Indians and Masters condemned by Courts during the year 1892.

	Indians.	Masters.	Fines.	Costs.	REMARKS.
Before Higher Courts	297	Nil	Francs. 907	Francs. 6,569	Eight hundred and thirty men condemned to macadam worked out their fines at 1 franc per day, and 625 francs were paid for capture money to the police.
To Macadam	1,119	Nil	4,672		

ANNEX No. 4.

Return of number of Indians engaged or re-engaged during 1892 showing the amount of bounty received.

Engagements with bounty.	Engagements without bounty.	Engagements of women.	Total number of engagements.	Total amount of bounties.	REMARKS.
2,970	2,764	3,161	8,895	Francs. 118,800	These engagements must have produced at least 53,370 francs payable by the engagisté, or in the case of unmarried women by their paramours.

FILE No 87.

SERIAL No. 1.

Dated Réunion, the 9th September 1893.

From—C. W. BENNETT, Esq., *Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Réunion,*
To—His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of a report which I have made to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on Indian Immigration at Réunion in 1892.

Report by Mr. Consul Bennett upon Indian Immigration at Réunion for the year ending 31st December 1892.

The following report is based entirely, so far as statistics are concerned, upon figures sent to me by the Protector of Immigrants; Her Majesty's Consul not having access to the books of the Immigration Department, I have no means of checking the accuracy of the returns.

Population.—I annex, No. 1, a return of Indian immigrants and Indian permissionnaires formerly engagés and of free Indians other than old engagés, the last being mostly traders and small shop-keepers, which bring the total British Indian population to 23,161.

Of the 22,069 Indian immigrants, including men, women, and children, 10,521 adults—7,627 men and 2,894 women—are engaged upon the large estates, and 6,369 adults—4,260 men and 2,109 women—with persons employing less than 20 men.

A very large proportion of the latter are engaged as domestic servants or hawkers, or for other more undesirable purposes.

I also annex a return of births and deaths and losses by repatriation and by leaving the Colony for Mauritius and elsewhere at their own expense.

The death return is rather a heavy one—644; but it is a decided improvement upon that for 1891, when, owing, it is true, to a great extent to an epidemic of influenza, 894 deaths were recorded.

One hundred and twenty-three marriages were celebrated in 1892—108 between Indian Immigrants and 15 between Indians and Creoles.

A return of condemnation before police and superior courts is also attached.

Two hundred and eighty-three cases were tried and Indians condemned before the Police Correctionnelle, 173 being for theft and vagabondage, 5 for robberies, 21 for wounds inflicted, 4 for false complaints, 2 for drunkenness, and the remainder for various offences, the punishment ranging from 1 to 100 francs and imprisonment from two days to two years.

Four cases came before the Assizes, the most serious being a term of 20 years for murder and five for robbery with violence.

Ten were carried to the Court of Appeal for various offences and were condemned to fines of 50 or 100 francs, or imprisonment varying from a month to a year.

We now come to the odious system of "macadam". One thousand one hundred and nineteen sentences to the "atelier de discipline" were pronounced. This large figure naturally includes several black sheep who are sent again and again during the year to "macadam"; but with all due allowance for this fact the number is unduly large. I do not so much object to the punishment itself, for the work at "macadam" is not excessive, but to the manner in which the punishment is inflicted; but I have so often pointed out, as have my predecessors, how the personal liberty of the engagé lies absolutely in the hollow of the engagist's hands, and can be taken away by the mere fact of the engagist giving himself the trouble to write a few lines to a complaisant police agent, that I need hardly again allude to it.

The iniquitous fee for capture of Indians, which is put down for 1892 at the modest figure of 625 francs, gives naturally an extra spur to the police who are always zealous in the interests of the engagistés.

The evils of the bounty system have also been dwelt upon at length in very recent despatches.

The question of hospitals on estates has been carefully examined during the recent inspection made by Mr. Muir-Mackenzie, and his conclusions as to the reforms required will be already in the hands of the Government of India.