

ORDINARY, MS.

Public DEPARTMENT.	
G.O., DATED	18-11-93.
No.	932

IN

When given for copying.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording in conti-
uation of 10.8 Aug-
92 to 546 copy of
despatch from the
Secy of State for-
warding copy of
despatch from the
Consul in Reunion
regarding the case
of an Indian who
was imprisoned in the
Depot Commercial at
St Denis being ordered
to pay the tax levied
on him as being of
Asiatie origin -

INDIA OFFICE,
London, 21st September 1893.

Public (Emigration).
No. 164

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

MY LORD MARQUIS,—In continuation of the correspondence forwarded with my Despatch of the 31st ultimo, No. 18, I transmit, for your information, copy of a further Despatch from Her Majesty's Consul in Réunion, regarding the case of an Indian who was unable to pay the tax levied upon him as being of Asiatic origin, and who was imprisoned in the Dépôt Communal at St. Denis.

2. The question of the legality of this tax is now under reference to the Foreign Office to India Office, 1st June 1893 and Legal Adviser of Her Majesty's Embassy in Paris, as Your Excellency will observe from the accompanying correspondence noted in the margin.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD MARQUIS,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble Servant,

KIMBERLEY.

No. 20, dated Réunion, the 21st July 1893.

From—C. W. BENNETT Esq., Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion,
To—The Right Honourable the Earl of Rosebery, K.G., &c., &c.,

I have the honour to inclose a copy of a correspondence, as marked in the margin, which has passed between M. Manés and myself regarding the imprisonment, in the Dépôt Communal at St. Denis, of a free Indian, named Dorésamy, who has been unable to pay the tax levied upon him as being of Asiatic origin.

The fact of this Indian, having been discovered by Mr. Mackenzie and myself in the first establishment visited by us on our recent tour of inspection produced a most marked impression upon M. Manés and is no doubt mainly the cause of such a sudden *colle face* as His Excellency performed on this occasion.

It is now placed on record that persons of Asiatic origin who cannot pay their tax can only be imprisoned for five days, instead of, as in the past, for three or four months.

No. 16, dated St. Denis, the 27th May 1893.

From—C. W. BENNETT, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion,
To—His Excellency the Governor of Réunion.

During the inspection of the Dépôt Communal made yesterday by Mr. Mackenzie, I inquired where was the room in which Indians were locked up who failed to pay their taxes.

M. le Protecteur, as the matter did not in any way concern his department, referred me to M. le Maire.

M. le Maire in eloquent phrases expressed his disapproval of the practice of converting depots into prison, and before he had quite finished the statement of his views upon the subject, the door of the hovel in question was opened and an Indian, with eyes blinded by the sunlight, ran amongst us. His name I found was *Doresamy*. He arrived from Mauritius three months ago and has been imprisoned at the dépôt for six weeks. I could not ascertain how much longer he was to be kept there.

The hovel in question was about 10 by 12 feet with a door and window, being tightly closed, it was perfectly dark. It is to be hoped in the interests of humanity that they are not usually closed.

Her Majesty's Government could hardly have had a clearer proof of my constantly repeated assertion that between prison and dépôt there is only a difference of name, than was yesterday presented before Mr. Muir-Mackenzie as Delegate of the Indian Government.

I shall be much obliged if Your Excellency will let me know what steps will now be taken to put an end to *Doresamy's* imprisonment.

St. Denis, le 28 Mai 1893.

From—M. E. MANÈS, Gouverneur de la Réunion,

To—M. le Consul d'Angleterre, St. Denis.

J'ai l'honneur de répondre à votre lettre du 27 du courant, No. 16.

Aussitôt informé de la présence au dépôt communal de St. Denis du nommé *Doresamy Arlaguery*, j'ai prié M. le Directeur de l'Intérieur de me fournir des renseignements sur la situation de cet Indien.

Il résulte des informations données par ce Chef d'Administration que le Nommé *Doresamy*, ouvrier en bijouterie, est arrivé à la Réunion le 24 Février 1893. En sa qualité d'étranger il était redevable d'une taxe de séjour s'élevant à 17 francs 55 cts., pour le premier semestre de cette année. Comme il s'était obstinément refusé à se libérer de la taxe due au Trésor et dont la perception est autorisée par un décret de M. le Président de la République. Il fut placé au dépôt Communal en vertu de l'article 3 d'un arrêté pris par mon prédécesseur en date du 1er Avril 1887, en attendant que sa situation fut réglée.

Pendant son séjour au dépôt le bijoutier *Amourdelingom* proposa d'acquitter la taxe de *Doresamy* à la condition qu'il travaillât pour lui. Ce dernier s'y est encore refusé. Ce qui prouve que cet Indien non seulement ne voulait pas se soumettre aux obligations du décret précité, mais encore était décidé à ne se livrer à aucun travail.

Dans cette situation le nommé *Doresamy* aurait pu être déféré aux tribunaux pour s'entendre condamner à cent francs d'amende et à un emprisonnement de quinze jours, en conformité des prescriptions du décret présidentiel susvisé.

Au lieu de requérir contre lui les peines ci-dessus indiquées, le service de la Police plaça *Doresamy* à titre de mesure transitoire et en exécution de l'arrêté du 1er Avril 1887 au Dépôt Communal.

Jusque là, la mesure la plus bienveillante a été appliquée à *Doresamy*. Mais je suis très surpris d'apprendre par vous que cet indien se trouvait non pas mis en subsistance au dit dépôt, mais emprisonné.

C'est là une infraction manifeste aux règlements en vigueur contre laquelle je ne saurais trop m'élever.

C'est j'invite M. le Directeur de l'Intérieur non seulement à infliger un blâme des plus sévères à l'agent qui a commis cette infraction, mais à faire mettre *Doresamy* immédiatement en liberté, sauf à lui réclamer par les voies légales et après en délai moral le paiement de la somme dont il est débiteur.

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From—C. W. BENNET Esq., Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion,
To—Son Excellence M. le Gouverneur de la Réunion.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's note of to-day's date with reference to the imprisonment at the Dépôt Communal of a free British Indian named *Doresamy*.

I am pleased to see that Your Excellency acknowledges the illegality of this proceeding which is by no means an unusual one. I should be pleased to convey to Her Majesty's Government Your Excellency's formal assurance that in future a very strict difference will be made between depots and prisons.

At the same time if *Doresamy* cannot pay 17 francs 55 cents which is now due, it is hardly to be expected that he will be able to pay 100 francs after he has been imprisoned in the dépôt for six weeks and then finished the term of fifteen days to which he will, I presume, be condemned in due course. His one hundred francs fine will be converted into one hundred days' imprisonment, so that for the crime of being poor and unable to pay a poll tax levied upon the inhabitants of a foreign country which Your Excellency's Administration is now pressing to send labourers to Réunion, he will be imprisoned in all for over five months.

I would beg respectfully to suggest to Your Excellency that the penal laws against Asiatics which by a recent decision of the Conseil General are to be suppressed only "dès la reprise de l'Immigration Indienne" might lead Her Majesty's Government to wonder whether it is the real wish of Your Excellency's Administration to have any Indians at all in the Island.

Mr. Mackenzie being of opinion that *Doresamy* will never be able to pay his fines or escape his imprisonment, has deposited in my hands the sum necessary to prevent the Indian from further molestation.

No. 152, St. Dennis, le 31 Mai 1893.

From—M. MANÈS, Gouverneur de la Réunion,
To—M. le Consul d'Angleterre.

Je tiens à ne pas laisser sans réponse certaines opinions ou appréciations énoncées dans votre lettre du 26 Mai courant, No. 17, et qui ne peuvent être que le résultat de renseignements erronés qui vous ont été fournis.

Vous me demandez de vous donner l'assurance qu'à l'avenir une stricte différence sera faite entre les dépôts et les prisons.

Je puis d'autant plus facilement vous donner cette assurance que cette différence a de tout temps existé. Je ne pense pas qu'un fait unique et accidentel que j'ai blâmé et sur lequel j'ai provoqué les explications du Maire de St. Denis qui a la surveillance du dépôt, puisse être considéré comme étant un fait habituel et général.

Vous croyez que si *Doresamy* était condamné à 100 francs d'amende pour défaut de paiement de sa taxe de séjour, cette amende serait convertie en cent jours de prison c'est là encore une erreur.

Cette conversion n'a lieu que pour les amendes prononcées par le Tribunal disciplinaire contre les immigrants soumis au régime du travail et pour des infractions aux dispositions du décret du 27th April 1887.

Pour les étrangers soumis à la taxe de séjour les recouvreurs des domaines chargés du recouvrement des amendes de cette nature exercent contre eux la contrainte par corps.

Or aux termes de l'article 9 de la loi du 27 juillet 1887 rendue applicable aux Colonies par décret du 27 juin 1891, la durée de cette contrainte, en matière de simple police, est au maximum de cinq jours. Telle est en conséquence la peine d'emprisonnement que peut avoir à subir un contrevenant au règlement sur la taxe de séjour et non pas cinq mois, les tribunaux ne prononçant presque jamais l'emprisonnement de 15 jours prévu par le règlement précité.

Dans votre opinion Doresamy serait pauvre et incapable de payer la taxe qui lui est réclamée. Je vous prie de vouloir bien remarquer, ainsi que je vous l'ai déjà fait connaître, que sa pauvreté provient uniquement de sa paresse; car, dès l'arrivée de Doresamy dans la Colonie, le bijoutier Amourdelingom lui a proposé de payer sa taxe à la condition qu'il s'employât chez lui à raison de 15 francs par mois non compris la nourriture et le logement. Doresamy s'y est formellement refusé et a préféré rester dans l'oisiveté.

En ce qui concerne le désir exprimé par le Conseil Général et auquel vous faites allusion, je n'ai aucun motif pour ne pas le croire sincère.

No. 19, dated Réunion, the 8th June 1893.

From—C. W. BENNETT, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion,

To—Son Excellence M. le Gouverneur de la Réunion.

I am much obliged for Your Excellency's note of the 31st ultimo, regarding the imprisonment of Doresamy in the Dépôt Communal.

I am pleased to note the fact that in future the law will be less strictly applied in cases where Indians are unable to pay their taxes, that depôts will no longer be used as prisons, and the 100 francs' fine will not, as formerly, be converted into imprisonment in the dépôt.

I would take this opportunity to draw Your Excellency's attention to the fact that in the Communes which I have visited in company with Mr. Mackenzie, the Dépôt Communal, if not, as at St. Paul, a part of the actual prison, is in very few instances a building situated at any great distances from the prison.

As, however, the question of Communal depôts will be fully considered in connection with Mr. Mackenzie's visit, it is unnecessary for me to enter further into it.

Dated Foreign Office, London, the 1st June 1893.

From—Sir T. V. LISTER, Assistant Secretary of State, Foreign Office,

To—The Under Secretary of State for India.

With reference to your letter of the 18th of January last, I am directed

by the Earl of Rosebery to transmit the accompanying copy of a further despatch from Mr. Bennett, Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion, in regard to the question of the legality of the poll tax imposed on persons of Asiatic and African origin residing in the Island, from which it will be seen that Consul Bennett is doubtful of the success of an appeal to the Cour de Cassation in Paris, and has thought it best not to commit the British Indian community to the costs of such an appeal at present.

He suggests, however, that the opinion of the legal adviser of Her Majesty's Embassy in Paris should be taken as to the validity of the law of June 17th, 1887, published in the "French" Journal Officiel of July 7th 1887, and I am to state that, if Secretary the Earl of Kimberley concurs, Her Majesty's Ambassador in Paris will be instructed to obtain it.

No. 9, dated Réunion, the 22nd April 1893

From—C. W. BENNETT, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion,

To—Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

With reference to Sir Villiers Lister's despatch No. 2 of the 2nd of February last, conveying to me Your Lordship's approval of the steps I was about to take to test the legality of the poll tax imposed on persons of Asiatic and African origin residing in the Island of Réunion, I have the honour to report that on further inquiry I find that the result of an appeal to the Cour de Cassation at Paris is doubtful, and under these circumstances I can hardly advise the British Indian community to risk five thousand francs on the chance of success.

I am in some doubt as to whether this change of opinion on the part of the lawyers comes from a closer examination of the law in question, or is the result of pressure put on by the Government in order to save a tax which brings in eighty thousand francs a year to the local budget.

It is absolutely impossible to find here a lawyer who is independent and will give an honest opinion on the case.

I would, therefore, respectfully suggest that, before any further action on my part is taken, the question of the validity of the law of 17th of June 1887, published in the French, "Journal Officiel" of the 7th of July 1887, should be laid before the legal adviser of Her Majesty's Embassy at Paris for his opinion and advice.

Dated India, Office, London, the 24th June 1893.

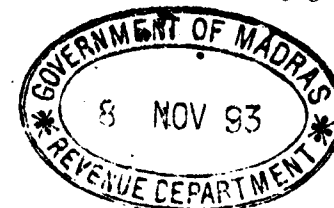
From—GEORGE W. E. RUSSELL, Esq., M. P. Her Majesty's Under Secretary of State for India,

To—Her Majesty's Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

With reference to Sir T. V. Lister's letter of the 1st instant, relating to the question of the legality of the poll tax imposed on persons of Asiatic and African origin in the Island of Réunion, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to state that the Earl of Kimberley concurs in the suggestion that the opinion of the Legal Adviser of Her Majesty's Embassy in Paris should be taken as to the validity of the law of 17th June 1887.

In referring this matter to the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, Lord Kimberley would suggest that attention be drawn to the history of the case given in "La Vérité" of the 5th July 1891 (a Réunion newspaper), a copy of which was enclosed in Consul Bennett's Despatch, No. 26, dated the 10th of July 1891, and to the subsequent correspondence on this subject noted on the margin.

See F. O. letter to I. O. 7th August 1891.
Foreign Office to India Office, 24th and 25th August 1891.
India to Foreign Office, 5th September 1891.
Foreign Office to India Office, 4th and 20th September 1891.
India Office to Foreign Office, 7th October 1891.
Foreign Office to India Office, 10th May 1892.
India Office to Foreign Office, 3rd June 1892.
Foreign Office to India Office, 26th September 1892.
Foreign Office to India Office, 5th January 1893.
India Office to Foreign Office, 18th January 1893.



No. 3106
4

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.
(Emigration.)

Simla, dated the 3rd ~~October~~ November 1893.

Forwarded to the Government of Madras for information, in continuation of this Department endorsement No. 1712/47, dated the 27th July 1892.

Pub. No.
546
8-8-92

By order,

Under-Secretary to the Government of India.

List of Papers forwarded.

Despatch from the Secretary of State No. 104 (Public Emigration) dated the 21st September 1893, and enclosures.

Pub. G. 054628-8-92 mi

BACK PAPER, No.

FURTHER PAPER, No.

G.O. 61
24-1-92

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 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.

The Government of India
Rev & agri depts

18 3166
4

Dated 3rd Nov 93
Recd 10th Nov 93
Refd 13th Nov 93
Encl 1 & 15 S.C. (Subj)

Forwarding copy of despatch from
the Secy of State regarding the case
of an Indian Emigrant in Reunion
unable to pay the tax levied upon
him & imprisoned in consequence.

Order.

18 Nov 93 12932

Recorded in contn of
G.P. 28-8-92, No. 546.

Wm.

The file is submitted to
the Hon. Member for
perusal as Mr. Muir
Mackenzie's proposals
in connection with the
resumption of Emigra-
tion to Reunion may
be expected shortly.

25/3
15/11

20
16/11/93.

WITH ORDER

no

INDIA OFFICE,
London, 21st September 1893.

Public (Emigration).
No. 164

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The fact of this Indian, having been discovered by Mr. Mackenzie and myself in the first establishment visited by us on our recent tour of inspection produced a most marked impression upon M. Manés and is no doubt mainly the cause of such a sudden *volte face* as His Excellency performed on this occasion.

It is now placed on record that persons of Asiatic origin who cannot pay their tax can only be imprisoned for five days, instead of, as in the past, for three or four months.

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During the inspection of the Dépôt Communal made yesterday by Mr. Mackenzie, I inquired where was the room in which Indians were locked up who failed to pay their taxes.

M. le Protecteur, as the matter did not in any way concern his department, referred me to M. le Maire.

M. le Maire in eloquent phrases expressed his disapproval of the practice of converting depots into prison, and before he had quite finished the statement of his views upon the subject, the door of the hovel in question was opened and an Indian, with eyes blinded by the sunlight, ran amongst us. His name I found was Doresamy. He arrived from Mauritius three months ago and has been imprisoned at the dépôt for six weeks. I could not ascertain how much longer he was to be kept there.

The hovel in question was about 10 by 12 feet with a door and window, being tightly closed, it was perfectly dark. It is to be hoped in the interests of humanity that they are not usually closed.

Her Majesty's Government could hardly have had a clearer proof of my constantly repeated assertion that between prison and dépôt there is only a difference of name, than was yesterday presented before Mr. Muir-Mackenzie as Delegate of the Indian Government.

I shall be much obliged if Your Excellency will let me know what steps will now be taken to put an end to Doresamy's imprisonment.

St. Denis, le 28 Mai 1893.

From—M. E. MANÈS, Gouverneur de la Réunion,

To—M. le Consul d'Angleterre, St. Denis.

J'ai l'honneur de répondre à votre lettre du 27 du courant, No. 16.

Aussitôt informé de la présence au dépôt communal de St. Denis du nommé Doresamy Arlaguery, j'ai prié M. le Directeur de l'Intérieur de me fournir des renseignements sur la situation de cet Indien.

Il résulte des informations données par ce Chef d'Administration que le Nommé Doresamy, ouvrier en bijouterie, est arrivé à la Réunion le 24 Février 1893. En sa qualité d'étranger il était redevable d'une taxe de séjour s'élevant à 17 francs 55 cts., pour le premier semestre de cette année. Comme il s'était obstinément refusé à se libérer de la taxe due au Trésor et dont la perception est autorisée par un décret de M. le Président de la République. Il fut placé au dépôt Communal en vertu de l'article 3 d'un arrêté pris par mon prédécesseur en date du 1er Avril 1887, en attendant que sa situation fut réglée.

Pendant son séjour au dépôt le bijoutier Amourdelingom proposa d'acquitter la taxe de Doresamy à la condition qu'il travaillât pour lui. Ce dernier s'y est encore refusé. Ce qui prouve que cet Indien non seulement ne voulait pas se soumettre aux obligations du décret précité, mais encore était décidé à ne se livrer à aucun travail.

Dans cette situation le nommé Doresamy aurait pu être déféré aux tribunaux pour s'entendre condamner à cent francs d'amende et à un emprisonnement de quinze jours, en conformité des prescriptions du décret présidentiel susvisé.

Au lieu de requérir contre lui les peines ci-dessus indiquées, le service de la Police plaça Doresamy à titre de mesure transitoire et en exécution de l'arrêté du 1er Avril 1887 au Dépôt Communal.

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Dated Foreign Office, London, the 1st June 1893.

From—Sir T. V. LISTER, Assistant Secretary of State, Foreign Office,

To—The Under Secretary of State for India.

With reference to your letter of the 18th of January last, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to transmit the accompanying copy of a further despatch from Mr. Bennett, Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion, in regard to the question of the legality of the poll tax imposed on persons of Asiatic and African origin residing in the Island, from which it will be seen that Consul Bennett is doubtful of the success of an appeal to the Cour de Cassation in Paris, and has thought it best not to commit the British Indian community to the costs of such an appeal at present.

He suggests, however, that the opinion of the legal adviser of Her Majesty's Embassy in Paris should be taken as to the validity of the law of June 17th, 1887, published in the "French" Journal Officiel of July 7th 1887, and I am to state that, if Secretary the Earl of Kimberley concurs, Her Majesty's Ambassador in Paris will be instructed to obtain it.

No. 9, dated Réunion, the 22nd April 1893

From—C. W. BENNETT, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion,

To—Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

With reference to Sir Villiers Lister's despatch No. 2 of the 2nd of February last, conveying to me Your Lordship's approval of the steps I was about to take to test the legality of the poll tax imposed on persons of Asiatic and African origin residing in the Island of Réunion, I have the honour to report that on further inquiry I find that the result of an appeal to the Cour de Cassation at Paris is doubtful, and under these circumstances I can hardly advise the British Indian community to risk five thousand francs on the chance of success.

I am in some doubt as to whether this change of opinion on the part of the lawyers comes from a closer examination of the law in question, or is the result of pressure put on by the Government in order to save a tax which brings in eighty thousand francs a year to the local budget.

It is absolutely impossible to find here a lawyer who is independent and will give an honest opinion on the case.

I would, therefore, respectfully suggest that, before any further action on my part is taken, the question of the validity of the law of 17th of June 1887, published in the French, "Journal Officiel" of the 7th of July 1887, should be laid before the legal adviser of Her Majesty's Embassy at Paris for his opinion and advice.

Dated India, Office, London, the 24th June 1893.

From—GEORGE W. E. RUSSELL, Esq., M. P. Her Majesty's Under Secretary of State for India,

To—Her Majesty's Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

With reference to Sir T. V. Lister's letter of the 1st instant, relating to the question of the legality of the poll tax imposed on persons of Asiatic and African origin in the Island of Réunion, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to state that the Earl of Kimberley concurs in the suggestion that the opinion of the Legal Adviser of Her Majesty's Embassy in Paris should be taken as to the validity of the law of 17th June 1887.

In referring this matter to the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, Lord Kimberley would suggest that attention be drawn to the history of the case given in "La Vérité" of the 5th July 1891 (a Réunion newspaper), a copy of which was enclosed in Consul Bennett's Despatch, No. 26, dated the 10th of July 1891, and to the subsequent correspondence on this subject noted on the margin.

See F. O. letter to I. O. 7th August 1891.
Foreign Office to India Office, 24th and 25th August 1891.
India to Foreign Office, 5th September 1891.
Foreign Office to India Office, 4th and 20th September 1891.
India Office to Foreign Office, 7th October 1891.
Foreign Office to India Office, 10th May 1892.
India Office to Foreign Office, 3rd June 1892.
Foreign Office to India Office, 26th September 1892.
Foreign Office to India Office, 5th January 1893.
India Office to Foreign Office, 18th January 1893.

Public (Emigration).
No. 164

INDIA OFFICE,
London, 21st September 1893.

To His Excellency the Most Honorable
in Council

MY LORD MARQUIS,—In continuation
with my Despatch of the 31st ult.

No. 20, dated 21st July 1893 and enclosures.
regarding the case of an Indian who
him as being of Asiatic origin, and who
municipal at St. Denis.

2. The question of the legality of
Foreign Office to India Office, 1st June 1893 and
enclosure.
India Office to Foreign Office 24th June 1893.
serve from the accompanying correspondence.

the Governor General of India
Council.

tion of the correspondence forwarded
No. 20, I transmit, for your in-
formation, copy of a further Despatch
from Her Majesty's Consul in Réunion,
as unable to pay the tax levied upon
him was imprisoned in the Dépôt Com-

his tax is now under reference to the
Legal Adviser of Her Majesty's Embas-
sary in Paris, as Your Excellency will ob-
serve from the accompanying correspondence.
ference noted in the margin.

I have the honour to be,

Your Lords MY LORD MARQUIS,

His most obedient, humble Servant,

KIMBERLEY.

No. 20, dated Réunion

From—C. W. BENNETT Esq., Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion, the 21st July 1893.

To—The Right Honourable the Earl of Rosebery, K.G., &c., &c.,
Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion,

I have the honour to inclose a copy of a correspondence, as marked in the margin, which has passed between M. Manés and myself regarding

Consul Bennett, May 27th, 1893.
Governor Manés, May 28th, 1893.
Consul Bennett, May 28th, 1893.
Governor Manés, May 31st, 1893.
Consul Bennett, June 8th, 1893.

ed Doresamy, who has been unable to pay imprisonment, in the Dépôt Com-
of Asiatic origin. pal at St. Denis, of a free Indian, namely the tax levied upon him as being

The fact of this Indian, having been discovered by Mr. Mackenzie and
myself in the first establishment visited by us on our recent tour of inspection
produced a most marked impression upon M. Manés and is no doubt mainly
the cause of such a sudden *volte face* at His Excellency performed on this
occasion.

It is now placed on record that persons of Asiatic origin who cannot pay
their tax can only be imprisoned for five instead of, as in the past, for
three or four months.

No. 16, dated St. Denis, 27th May 1893.

From—C. W. BENNETT, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion,
To—His Excellency the Governor of Réunion, at St. Denis.

During the inspection of the Dépôt Com-
Mr. Mackenzie, I inquired where was the
up who failed to pay their taxes. t
de l'annal made yesterday by
which Indians were locked

not in any way concern his depart-

M. le Procureur, as the matter did express his disapproval of the practice ment, referred me to M. le Maire.

M. le Maire in eloquent phrases expressed his disapproval of the practice of converting depots into prison, and of his views upon the subject, the door of the hovel in question was opened and an Indian, with eyes blind arrived from Mauritius three months ago and has been imprisoned at the depot for six weeks. I could not ascertain how much longer he was to be kept there. It is to be hoped in the interests of humanity that they are not usually in prison and depot there is only a presented before Mr. Muir-Mackenzie Her Majesty's Government could constantly repeated assertion that betw difference of name, than was yesterday.

Her Majesty's Government could constantly repeated assertion that betw difference of name, than was yesterday. I shall be much obliged if Your Excellency will let me know what steps as Delegate of the Indian Government, samy's imprisonment.

I shall be much obliged if Your Excellency will now be taken to put an end to Dor

18 Mai 1893.

a Réunion,

St. Denis, Denis.

From—M. E. MANÈS, Gouverneur de l'île du 27 du courant, No. 16.

To—M. le Consul d'Angleterre, St.

au dépôt communal de St. Denis du J'ai l'honneur de répondre à votre M. le Directeur de l'Intérieur de me ion de cet Indien.

Aussitôt informé de la présence nommé Dorésamy Arlaguery, j'ai pri par ce Chef d'Administration que le fournir des renseignements sur la situation de cet Indien. Il résulte des informations données redevable d'une taxe de séjour s'élevant Nommé Dorésamy, ouvrier en bijouterie due au Trésor et dont la perception 1893. En sa qualité d'étranger il était xé due au Trésor et dont la perception à 17 francs 55 cts., pour le premier sident de la République. Il fut placé obstinément refusé à se libérer de la le 2 d'un arrêté pris par mon prédéces- est autorisée par un décret de M. le Pr tant que sa situation fut réglée.

au dépôt Communal en vertu de l'arrêté Amourdelingom proposa d'ac- seur en date du 1er Avril 1887, en attente qu'il travaillât pour lui. Ce dernier Pendant son séjour au dépôt le ne cet Indien non seulement ne voulait quitter la taxe de Dorésamy à la cond et précité, mais encore était décidé à s'y est encore refusé. Ce qui prouve pas se soumettre aux obligations du décret Dorésamy aurait pu être déféré aux tribu- ne se livrer à aucun travail. et francs d'amende et à un emprisonne-

Dans cette situation le nommé des prescriptions du décret présidentiel naux pour s'entendre condamner à ment de quinze jours, en conformi

Au lieu de requérir contre la Police plaça Dorésamy à titre nité du 1er Avril 1887 au Dépôt

Jusque là, la mesure la p' Mais je suis très surpris d'a pas mis en subsistance au dît

C'est là une infraction r je ne saurais trop m'élever.

C'est j'invite M. le Direc des plus sévères à l'agen Dorésamy immédiatement et après en délai moral le

penes ci-dessus indiquées, le service de mesure transitoire et en exécution de l'ar- munal.

aveillants a été appliquée à Dorésamy. e car vous que cet indien se trouvait non mais emprisonné.

aux règlements en vigueur contre laquelle

ntérieur non seulement à infliger un blâme mais cette infraction, mais à faire mettre sauf à lui réclamer par les voies légales e la somme dont il est débiteur.

No. 17, dated Réunion, the 28th May 1893.

From—C. W. BENNET Esq., Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion,
To—Son Excellence M. le Gouverneur de la Réunion.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's note of to-day's date with reference to the imprisonment at the Dépôt Communal of a free British Indian named Dorésamy.

I am pleased to see that Your Excellency acknowledges the illegality of this proceeding which is by no means an unusual one. I should be pleased to convey to Her Majesty's Government Your Excellency's formal assurance that in future a very strict difference will be made between depots and prisons.

At the same time if Dorésamy cannot pay 17 francs 55 cents which is now due, it is hardly to be expected that he will be able to pay 100 francs after he has been imprisoned in the dépôt for six weeks and then finished the term of fifteen days to which he will, I presume, be condemned in due course. His one hundred francs fine will be converted into one hundred days' imprisonment, so that for the crime of being poor and unable to pay a poll tax levied upon the inhabitants of a foreign country which Your Excellency's Administration is now pressing to send labourers to Réunion, he will be imprisoned in all for over five months.

I would beg respectfully to suggest to Your Excellency that the penal laws against Asiatics which by a recent decision of the Conseil General are to be suppressed only "dès la reprise de l'Immigration Indienne" might lead Her Majesty's Government to wonder whether it is the real wish of Your Excellency's Administration to have any Indian at all in the Island.

Mr. Mackenzie being of opinion that Dorésamy will never be able to pay his fines or escape his imprisonment, has deposited in my hands the sum necessary to prevent the Indian from further molestation.

31 Mai 1893.

No. 152, St. Dennis, le Réunion,

From—M. MANÈS, Gouverneur de la Réunion,

To—M. le Consul d'Angleterre.

Je tiens à ne pas laisser sans réponse certaines opinions ou appréciations énoncées dans votre lettre du 26 Mai courant, et qui ne peuvent être que le résultat de renseignements erronés qui vous ont été fournis.

Vous me demandez de vous donner l'assurance qu'à l'avenir une stricte différence sera faite entre les dépôts et les prisons.

Je puis d'autant plus facilement vous donner cette assurance que cette différence a de tout temps existé. Je ne puis pas qu'un fait unique et accidentel que j'ai blâmé et sur lequel j'ai provoqué les explications du Maire de St. Denis qui a la surveillance du dépôt, pu être considéré comme étant un fait habituel et général.

Vous croyez que si Dorésamy était condamné à 100 francs d'amende pour défaut de paiement de sa taxe de séjour, cet compte amende serait convertie en cent jours de prison c'est là encore une erreur.

Cette conversion n'a lieu que pour les amendes prononcées par le Tribunal disciplinaire contre les immigrants soumis au régime du travail et pour des infractions aux dispositions du décret du 27th April 1887.

Pour les étrangers soumis à la taxe de séjour les recouvreurs des domaines chargés du recouvrement des amendes de cette nature exercent contre eux la contrainte par corps.

Or aux termes de l'article 9 de la loi du 27 juillet 1837 rendue applicable aux Colonies par décret du 27 juin 1891, la durée de cette contrainte, en matière de simple police, est au maximum de cinq jours. Telle est en conséquence la peine d'emprisonnement que peut avoir à subir un contrevenant au règlement sur la taxe de séjour et non pas de 15 jours prévu par le règlement presque jamais l'emprisonnement.

Dans votre opinion Doresamy se- 4
 qui lui est réclamée. Je vous prie de
 vous l'ai déjà fait connaître, que sa pr- ait pauvre et incapable de payer la taxe
 esse; car, dès l'arrivée de Doresamy d- vouloir bien remarquer, ainsi que
 lui a proposé de payer la taxe à la co- uveté prévient uniquement de sa par-
 de 15 francs par mois non compris la- ns la Colonie, le bijoutier Amourdelingom
 s'y est formellement refusé et a préfé- addition qu'il s'employât chez lui à raison
 nourriture et le logement. Doresamy
 En ce qui concerne le désir exprimé rester dans l'oisiveté.

faites allusion, je n'ai aucun motif po- mé par le Conseil Général et auquel vous
 ne pas le croire sincère.

No. 19, dated Réu- _____

From—C. W. BENNETT, Esq., Her- nion, the 8th June 1893.

To—Son Excellence M. le Gouvern- Majesty's Consul at Réunion,
 leur de la Réunion.

I am much obliged for Your Excellency's note of the 31st ultimo, regard-
 ing the imprisonment of Doresamy in the Dépôt Communal.

I am pleased to note the fact that the law will be less strictly ap-
 plied in cases where Indians are unable to pay their taxes, that depots will no
 longer be used as prisons, and the 10 francs' fine will not, as formerly, be con-
 verted into imprisonment in the depôts.

I would take this opportunity to draw Your Excellency's attention to the
 fact that in the Communes which I have visited in company with Mr. Macken-
 zie, the Dépôt Communal, if not, as at St. Paul, a part of the actual prison, is in
 very few instances a building situated at any great distances from the prison.

As, however, the question of Cod communal depots will be fully considered in
 connection with Mr. Mackenzie's visi- t, it is unnecessary for me to enter further
 into it.

Dated Foreign Office, _____

Form—Sir T. V. LISTER, Assistant Secretary of State, Foreign Office, London, the 1st June 1893.

To—The Under Secretary of State for India.

With reference to your letter of the 18th of January last, I am directed
 from Mr. Bennett, Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion, in regard to the ques-
 tion of the legality of the poll tax imposed on persons of Asiatic and African
 origin residing in the Island, from which it will be seen that Consul Bennett
 is doubtful of the success of an appeal to the Cour de Cassation in Paris,
 and has thought it best not to commit the British Indian community to the
 costs of such an appeal at present.

He suggests, however, that the opinion of the legal adviser of Her Majesty's
 Embassy in Paris should be taken as to the validity of the law of June 17th,
 1887, published in the "French Journal Officiel" of July 7th 1887, and I am
 to state that, if Secretary the Earl of Kimberley concurs, Her Majesty's Amba-
 sador in Paris will be instructed to obtain it.

No. 9, dated _____

From—C. W. BENNETT, Esq., Réunion, the 22nd April 1893.

To—Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

With reference to Sir Villiers Lister's despatch No. 2 of the 2nd of
 February last, conveying to me Your Lordship's approval of the steps I was
 about to take to test the legality of the poll tax imposed on persons of Asiatic
 and African origin residing in the Island of Réunion, I have the honour to
 report that on further inquiry I find that the result of an appeal to the Cour de
 Cassation at Paris is doubtful, and that under these circumstances I can hardly
 advise the British Indian community to risk five thousand francs on the
 chance of success.

I am in some doubt as to whether this change of opinion on the part of
 the lawyers comes from a closer examination of the law in question, or is the
 result of pressure put on by the Government in order to save a tax which
 brings in eighty thousand francs a year to the local budget.

It is absolutely impossible to find here a lawyer who is independent and
 will give an honest opinion on the case.

I would, therefore, respectfully suggest that, before any further action
 on my part is taken, the question of the validity of the law of 17th of June
 1887, published in the French, "Journal Officiel" of the 7th of July 1887, should
 be laid before the legal adviser of Her Majesty's Embassy at Paris for his
 opinion and advice.

Dated India, Office, London, the 24th June 1893.

From—GEORGE W. E. RUSSELL, Esq., M. P. Her Majesty's Under Secretary of State
 for India,

To—Her Majesty's Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

With reference to Sir T. V. Lister's letter of the 1st instant, relating to
 the question of the legality of the poll tax imposed on persons of Asiatic
 and African origin in the Island of Réunion, I am directed by the Secre-
 tary of State for India in Council to state that the Earl of Kimberley concurs
 in the suggestion that the opinion of the Legal Adviser of Her Majesty's Em-
 bassy in Paris should be taken as to the validity of the law of 17th June 1887.

In referring this matter to the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, Lord
 Kimberley would suggest that attention
 be drawn to the history of the case given
 in "La Vérité" of the 5th July 1891 (a
 Réunion newspaper), a copy of which
 was enclosed in Consul Bennett's Despatch,
 No. 26, dated the 10th of July 1891,
 and to the subsequent correspondence
 on this subject noted on the margin.

INDIA OFFICE,
London, 21st September 1893.

Public (Emigration).
No. 104

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

MY LORD MARQUIS,—In continuation of the correspondence forwarded with my Despatch of the 31st ultimo, No. 18, I transmit, for your information, copy of a further Despatch from Her Majesty's Consul in Réunion, No. 20, dated 21st July 1893 and enclosures, regarding the case of an Indian who was unable to pay the tax levied upon him as being of Asiatic origin, and who was imprisoned in the Dépôt Communal at St. Denis.

2. The question of the legality of this tax is now under reference to the Foreign Office to India Office, 1st June 1893 and Legal Adviser of Her Majesty's Embassy in Paris, as Your Excellency will observe from the accompanying correspondence noted in the margin.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD MARQUIS,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble Servant,

KIMBERLEY.

No. 20, dated Réunion, the 21st July 1893.

From—C. W. BENNETT Esq., Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion,
To—The Right Honourable the Earl of Rosebery, K.G., &c., &c.,

I have the honour to inclose a copy of a correspondence, as marked in the margin, which has passed between M. Manés and myself regarding the imprisonment, in the Dépôt Communal at St. Denis, of a free Indian, named Doresamy, who has been unable to pay the tax levied upon him as being of Asiatic origin.

The fact of this Indian, having been discovered by Mr. Mackenzie and myself in the first establishment visited by us on our recent tour of inspection produced a most marked impression upon M. Manés and is no doubt mainly the cause of such a sudden *volte face* as His Excellency performed on this occasion.

It is now placed on record that persons of Asiatic origin who cannot pay their tax can only be imprisoned for five days, instead of, as in the past, for three or four months.

No. 16, dated St. Denis, the 27th May 1893.

From—C. W. BENNETT, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion,
To—His Excellency the Governor of Réunion.

During the inspection of the Dépôt Communal made yesterday by Mr. Mackenzie, I inquired where was the room in which Indians were locked up who failed to pay their taxes.

M. le Protecteur, as the matter did not in any way concern his department, referred me to M. le Maire.

M. le Maire in eloquent phrases expressed his disapproval of the practice of converting depots into prison, and before he had quite finished the statement of his views upon the subject, the door of the hovel in question was opened and an Indian, with eyes blinded by the sunlight, ran amongst us. His name I found was Dorosamy. He arrived from Mauritius three months ago and has been imprisoned at the depot for six weeks. I could not ascertain how much longer he was to be kept there.

The hovel in question was about 10 by 12 feet with a door and window, being tightly closed, it was perfectly dark. It is to be hoped in the interests of humanity that they are not usually closed.

Her Majesty's Government could hardly have had a clearer proof of my constantly repeated assertion that between prison and depot there is only a difference of name, than was yesterday presented before Mr. Muir-Mackenzie as Delegate of the Indian Government.

I shall be much obliged if Your Excellency will let me know what steps will now be taken to put an end to Dorosamy's imprisonment.

St. Denis, le 25 Mai 1893.

From—M. E. MANÈS, Gouverneur de la Réunion,

To—M. le Consul d'Angleterre, St. Denis.

J'ai l'honneur de répondre à votre lettre du 27 du courant, No. 16.

Aussitôt informé de la présence au dépôt communal de St. Denis du nommé Dorosamy Arlagnery, j'ai prié M. le Directeur de l'Intérieur de me fournir des renseignements sur la situation de cet Indien.

Il résulte des informations données par ce Chef d'Administration que le Nommé Dorosamy, ouvrier en bijouterie, est arrivé à la Réunion le 21 Février 1893. En sa qualité d'étranger il était redevable d'une taxe de séjour s'élevant à 17 francs 55 cts., pour le premier semestre de cette année. Comme il s'était obstinément refusé à se libérer de la taxe due au Trésor et dont la perception est autorisée par un décret de M. le Président de la République. Il fut placé au dépôt communal en vertu de l'article 3 d'un arrêté pris par mon prédécesseur en date du 1er Avril 1887, en attendant que sa situation fut réglée.

Pendant son séjour au dépôt le bijoutier Amourdelingom proposa d'acquitter la taxe de Dorosamy à la condition qu'il travaillerait pour lui. Ce dernier s'y est encore refusé. Ce qui prouve que cet Indien non seulement ne voulait pas se soumettre aux obligations du décret précité, mais encore était décidé à ne se livrer à aucun travail.

Dans cette situation le nommé Dorosamy aurait pu être déféré aux tribunaux pour s'entendre condamner à cent francs d'amende et à un emprisonnement de quinze jours, en conformité des prescriptions du décret présidentiel susvisé.

Au lieu de requérir contre lui les peines ci-dessus indiquées, le service de la Police place Dorosamy à titre de mesure transitoire et en exécution de l'arrêté du 1er Avril 1887 au Dépôt Communal.

Jusque là, la mesure la plus bienveillante a été appliquée à Dorosamy. Mais je suis très surpris d'apprendre par vous que cet Indien se trouvait non pas mis en subsistance au dit dépôt, mais emprisonné.

C'est là une infraction manifeste aux règlements en vigueur contre laquelle je ne saurais trop m'élever.

Ci-joint M. le Directeur de l'Intérieur non seulement à infliger un blâme des plus sévères à l'agent qui a commis cette infraction, mais à faire mettre Dorosamy immédiatement en liberté, sauf à lui réclamer par les voies légales et après en délai moral le paiement de la somme dont il est débiteur.

No. 17, dated Réunion, the 28th May 1893.

From—C. W. BENNET Esq., Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion,

To—Son Excellence M. le Gouverneur de la Réunion.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's note of to-day's date with reference to the imprisonment at the Dépôt Communal of a free British Indian named Dorosamy.

I am pleased to see that Your Excellency acknowledges the illegality of this proceeding which is by no means an unusual one. I should be pleased to convey to Her Majesty's Government Your Excellency's formal assurance that in future a very strict difference will be made between depots and prisons.

At the same time if Dorosamy cannot pay 17 francs 55 cents which is now due, it is hardly to be expected that he will be able to pay 100 francs after he has been imprisoned in the depot for six weeks and then finished the term of fifteen days to which he will, I presume, be condemned in due course. His one hundred francs fine will be converted into one hundred days' imprisonment, so that for the crime of being poor and unable to pay a poll tax levied upon the inhabitants of a foreign country which Your Excellency's Administration is now pressing to send labourers to Réunion, he will be imprisoned in all for over five months.

I would beg respectfully to suggest to Your Excellency that the penal laws against Asiatics which by a recent decision of the Conseil General are to be suppressed only "dès la reprise de l'Immigration Indienne" might lead Her Majesty's Government to wonder whether it is the real wish of Your Excellency's Administration to have any Indians at all in the Island.

Mr. Mackenzie being of opinion that Dorosamy will never be able to pay his fines or escape his imprisonment, has deposited in my hands the sum necessary to prevent the Indian from further molestation.

No. 152, St. Dennis, le 31 Mai 1893.

From—M. MANÈS, Gouverneur de la Réunion,

To—M. le Consul d'Angleterre.

Je tiens à ne pas laisser sans réponse certaines opinions ou appréciations énoncées dans votre lettre du 26 Mai courant, No. 17, et qui ne peuvent être que le résultat de renseignements erronés qu'il vous ont été fournis.

Vous me demandez de vous donner l'assurance qu'à l'avenir une stricte différence sera faite entre les dépôts et les prisons.

Je puis d'autant plus facilement vous donner cette assurance que cette différence a de tout temps existé. Je ne pense pas qu'un fait unique et accidentel que j'ai blâmé et sur lequel j'ai provoqué les explications du Maire de St. Denis qui a la surveillance du dépôt, puisse être considéré comme étant un fait habituel et général.

Vous croyez que si Dorosamy était condamné à 100 francs d'amende pour défaut de paiement de sa taxe de séjour, cette amende serait convertie en cent jours de prison c'est là encore une erreur.

Cette conversion n'a lieu que pour les amendes prononcées par le Tribunal disciplinaire contre les immigrants soumis au régime du travail et pour des infractions aux dispositions du décret du 27th April 1887.

Pour les étrangers soumis à la taxe de séjour les recouvreurs des domaines chargés du recouvrement des amendes de cette nature exercent contre eux la contrainte par corps.

Or aux termes de l'article 9 de la loi du 27 juillet 1887 rendue applicable aux Colonies par décret du 27 juin 1891, la durée de cette contrainte, en matière de simple police, est au maximum de cinq jours. Telle est en conséquence la peine d'emprisonnement que peut avoir à subir un contrevenant au règlement sur la taxe de séjour et non pas cinq mois, les tribunaux ne prononçant presque jamais l'emprisonnement de 15 jours prévu par le règlement précité.

Dans votre opinion Dorésamy serait pauvre et incapable de payer la taxe qui lui est réclamée. Je vous prie de vouloir bien remarquer, ainsi que je vous l'ai déjà fait connaître, que sa pauvreté provient uniquement de sa paresse; car, dès l'arrivée de Dorésamy dans la Colonie, le bijoutier Amourdelingom lui a proposé de payer sa taxe à la condition qu'il s'employât chez lui à raison de 15 francs par mois non compris la nourriture et le logement. Dorésamy s'y est formellement refusé et a préféré rester dans l'oisiveté.

En ce qui concerne le désir exprimé par le Conseil Général et auquel vous faites allusion, je n'ai aucun motif pour ne pas le croire sincère.

No. 19, dated Réunion, the 8th June 1893.

From—C. W. BENNETT, Esq., H. M. Majesty's Consul at Réunion,

To—Son Excellence M. le Gouverneur de la Réunion.

I am much obliged for Your Excellency's note of the 31st ultimo, regarding the imprisonment of Dorésamy in the Dépôt Communal.

I am pleased to note the fact that in future the law will be less strictly applied in cases where Indians are unable to pay their taxes, that depots will no longer be used as prisons, and the 100 francs' fine will not, as formerly, be converted into imprisonment in the depot.

I would take this opportunity to draw Your Excellency's attention to the fact that in the Communes which I have visited in company with Mr. Mackenzie, the Dépôt Communal, if not, as at St. Paul, a part of the actual prison, is in very few instances a building situated at any great distances from the prison.

As, however, the question of Communal depots will be fully considered in connection with Mr. Mackenzie's visit, it is unnecessary for me to enter further into it.

Dated Foreign Office, London, the 1st June 1893.

From—Sir T. V. LISTER, Assistant Secretary of State, Foreign Office,

To—The Under Secretary of State for India.

With reference to your letter of the 18th of January last, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to transmit the accompanying copy of a further despatch from Mr. Bennett, Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion, in regard to the question of the legality of the poll tax imposed on persons of Asiatic and African origin residing in the Island, from which it will be seen that Consul Bennett is doubtful of the success of an appeal to the Cour de Cassation in Paris, and has thought it best not to commit the British Indian community to the costs of such an appeal at present.

He suggests, however, that the opinion of the legal adviser of Her Majesty's Embassy in Paris should be taken as to the validity of the law of June 17th, 1887, published in the "French" Journal Officiel of July 7th 1887, and I am to state that, if Secretary the Earl of Kimberley concurs, Her Majesty's Ambassador in Paris will be instructed to obtain it.

No. 9, dated Réunion, the 22nd April 1893.

From—C. W. BENNETT, Esq., H. M. Majesty's Consul at Réunion,

To—Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

With reference to Sir Villier Lister's despatch No. 2 of the 2nd of February last, conveying to me Your Lordship's approval of the steps I was about to take to test the legality of the poll tax imposed on persons of Asiatic and African origin residing in the Island of Réunion, I have the honour to report that on further inquiry I find that the result of an appeal to the Cour de Cassation at Paris is doubtful, and under these circumstances I can hardly advise the British Indian community to risk five thousand francs on the chance of success.

I am in some doubt as to whether this change of opinion on the part of the lawyers comes from a closer examination of the law in question, or is the result of pressure put on by the Government in order to save a tax which brings in eighty thousand francs a year to the local budget.

It is absolutely impossible to find here a lawyer who is independent and will give an honest opinion on the case.

I would, therefore, respectfully suggest that, before any further action on my part is taken, the question of the validity of the law of 17th of June 1887, published in the French, "Journal Officiel" of the 7th of July 1887, should be laid before the legal adviser of Her Majesty's Embassy at Paris for his opinion and advice.

Dated India, Office, London, the 24th June 1893.

From—GEORGE W. E. RUSSELL, Esq., M. P. Her Majesty's Under Secretary of State for India,

To—Her Majesty's Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

With reference to Sir T. V. Lister's letter of the 1st instant, relating to the question of the legality of the poll tax imposed on persons of Asiatic and African origin in the Island of Réunion, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to state that the Earl of Kimberley concurs in the suggestion that the opinion of the Legal Adviser of Her Majesty's Embassy in Paris should be taken as to the validity of the law of 17th June 1887.

In referring this matter to the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, Lord Kimberley would suggest that attention be drawn to the history of the case given in "La Vérité" of the 5th July 1891 (a Réunion newspaper), a copy of which was enclosed in Consul Bennett's Despatch, No. 26, dated the 10th of July 1891, and to the subsequent correspondence on this subject noted on the margin.

See F. O. letter to I. O. 7th August 1891.
Foreign Office to India Office, 24th and 25th August 1891.
India to Foreign Office, 5th September 1891.
Foreign Office to India Office, 4th and 29th September 1891.
India Office to Foreign Office, 7th October 1891.
Foreign Office to India Office, 10th May 1892.
India Office to Foreign Office, 3rd June 1892.
Foreign Office to India Office, 26th September 1892.
Foreign Office to India Office, 5th January 1893.
India Office to Foreign Office, 18th January 1893.