

Public (1897) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 1491-2

DATED 16.11.97

INDEXED.

31
16/11/97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Requesting the Collector of Tanjore to give H.E. Lieut Col. Sir. C. B. A. Mitchell G.C. M.G., Governor of the Straits Settlements, all such information as he may be able to obtain as to possible facilities for promoting immigration to the Straits Settlements; & placing a sum of Rs 500 at his disposal to meet the expenditure in connection with the reception to be accorded to his Excellency.

14.97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
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Public (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 4061.

From The Colonial Secretary
Singapore.

No. 5837

Order No. 1491 of 16.11.97

The Collector of Tanjong

will be requested to receive

His Ex. Lt. Col. Sir Ch. B. H. Mitchell, G.C.M.G.,

Governor of the Straits Settlements

at Negapatam and to place

at his disposal such information

as he may be able to obtain as

to possible facilities for

promoting emigration

to the Straits Settlements.

Dated 13-10-97

Received 27-10-97

Registered 28-10-97

Enclosures 1

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

2. Mr. Andrew will report what arrangements can be made for the reception of the Governor of the Straits Settlements & his party & will be informed that a sum of Rs 500 will be placed at his disposal to meet necessary expenditure.

AL 76.11.97.

Enclosing copy of correspondence with Mr. E. V. Carey & informing that H. E. The Governor intends visiting Negapatam in the course of December next & stating that he would be glad if the Governor of Madras with authority Mr. Majori banks to meet him there & to collect any information as to possible facilities for promoting emigration to the Straits Settlements.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Enclosure No 1 to Tanjore Collector's letter P.O. No 2007 of 1977 3.3.98
GHS

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Paper to be laid before the Legislative Council by Command of His Excellency the Governor.

INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

[In continuation of Council Paper No. 38 of 1897.]

Secretary to Resident-General, F. M. S., to Mr. E. V. Carey.

RESIDENT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Kuala Lumpur, 11th September, 1897.

SIR,—I am directed to enclose, for your information, a printed copy of a letter from the Acting Head Collector of Tanjore to the Collector of Tanjore, on the subject of Indian Immigration, and to ask you to be so good as to return it to this Office.

2. The High Commissioner informs the Resident-General that, before approving of the draft of the new Immigration Enactment, he held a conversation with you on the subject, in the course of which you told him that, in your opinion, there would be no trouble in obtaining sound and healthy coolies from India, for work in the Straits Settlements and the Native States, and that you had recently recruited four or five hundred coolies without any difficulty. In forming his opinion on the proposed new scheme, His Excellency was, to a certain extent, influenced by what you told him. It now appears from paragraph 13 of the enclosed report that of the coolies you engaged and were about to bring down from India, not one embarked, and I am to state that His Excellency is of opinion that, under the circumstances, you should have informed him of the fact.

I have, &c.,

A. BUTLER,

Secretary to the Resident-General, F.M.S.

Mr. E. V. Carey to Secretary to Resident-General, F. M. S.

KUALA LUMPUR,

12th September, 1897.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday's date.

2. His Excellency the High Commissioner spoke to me in May last for the first time on the subject of recruiting Tamil labour in India, whilst Mr. MARJORIBANK'S report refers to a visit of mine to that country in 1895. I regret that I cannot remember what passed between His Excellency and myself exactly, but if I said that I had recruited altogether from 400 to 500 coolies from India, I rather under- than over-estimated the figure; I recollect telling his Excellency of a successful visit on the part of Mr. C. MEIKLE, and I have no doubt this gentleman, if approached, will be found to endorse substantially all the opinions upon this subject to which I have at any time given expression.

3. I do not think Mr. MARJORIBANK'S remarks call for any comment on my part, except where they affect me personally; I had the pleasure of meeting this gentleman when I was over in India, and was, I remember, a good deal struck with the marked preference which he avowed for the system of recruiting "free" as opposed to "indentured" labour. He has, however, a number of friends in Negapatam, men who would not at all like to see the indentured system go down, and being a very young man, I imagine he has allowed himself to be talked over, as he is now apparently equally strong in the opposite direction. What value, however, is to be attached to his criticisms can be judged from the following points in his report.

(1) Mr. CAREY..... spent a considerable sum of money in offering inducements to free emigrants." I never spent sixpence upon any coolies, beyond advertising on behalf of the association in "The Hindu."

(2) "At Kumbakonam he informed me that he had got about 400 'free' emigrants to accompany him to the Straits." This is absolutely untrue, as when I met Mr. MARJORIBANKS I had only just started on my round of recruiting.

(3) "When the time for embarkation came not a single coolie appeared!" Quite true that not a coolie returned with me, for I was only in India about a fortnight, but close on 100 came over by succeeding steamers with the recruiting agents I had taken over with me and whom I had helped to collect the coolies. It does not appear, in my judgment, a question of any material importance whether the coolies accompanied or followed me, as long as they came, but that they came, or at any rate 100 of them did, is a fact of which Mr. MARJORIBANKS is, it is to be supposed, unaware, and as it entirely knocks all the point out of his remark, it is a little unfortunate that he did not know of it. I may add that I should have secured at least 50 coolies more, had not one of my men, a Chetty, played me false and spent the money which I gave him for bringing coolies down to the coast in other ways.

(4) Paragraph 15. This resolves itself into an attack upon "free labour," but of what use is it for Mr. MARJORIBANKS, or any other individual who imagines he has the whole question at his fingers' ends, to try and damage us and our system of recruiting by such insinuations as the following:—

"That, in spite of the above considerations, the planters in the Native States are advocates of free labour, points significantly to the possibility that, in practice, a free labourer is misused so once his employer has got him in the estate." If this means anything at all it means that, in the opinion of Mr. MARJORIBANKS, the Native States planters are so laxly watched by the Native States Government that they are able to dispense with Government assistance in recovering and punishing runaways, by doing the same things in an irregular manner themselves, abuses which are of course not permitted where the indentured labourer is employed, for, that the coolies will bolt and do everything in their power to escape from estates, and evade their obligations, appears to be an accepted fact in the mind of this misguided Official.

As a matter of fact, what we claim is that our labour is brought to us almost always by our own old coolies who, having returned to India with their savings, bring back with them their relations and friends who, being amongst friends, but rarely abscond; whereas indentured labour is all procured through professional recruiters, whose sole object is to secure as large a commission as possible for themselves, for whose purpose any able bodied man or woman will do, and whose interest in the coolies ceases as soon as they are passed as "fit" by the medical authorities in Negapatam. The experience of men like Mr. HILL, who has tried both methods of recruiting, is well-known, and I have myself, in the public papers, challenged the employers of indentured labour to instance a single case of an indentured coolie having induced any relation or friend of his own to come over and work in this country under indentures. Needless to say my challenge was never taken up.

As regards the employment of free labour in this country, the Government is itself the largest employer, and is in a good position to judge whether the term "free" is in reality applicable or not, and the records of the Courts, in which Tamil coolies are constantly engaged in litigation, can be adduced to show whether irregular detention has been a cause of complaint against employers. That every coolie knows he can leave at a month's notice I positively assert, as scarcely a month passes on any estate that a month's notice is not given by one or more coolies of their wish to be paid off; when the month is up, they are handed their wages, and generally return to India, often coming back with their friends after a lapse of time.

Mr. MARJORIBANKS states that he was told that I openly said that one of the chief objections of my "party" was the constant interference of the Immigration Agent which the employment of such immigrants entailed under the provisions of the Ordinance. This is quite true. I do object and object very strongly to any Government Official interfering between me and my coolies, planters and their coolies understand each other very well, and neither desire any go-between. A proper and intelligent supervision and protection of coolies on the part of Government is quite a different thing to interference.

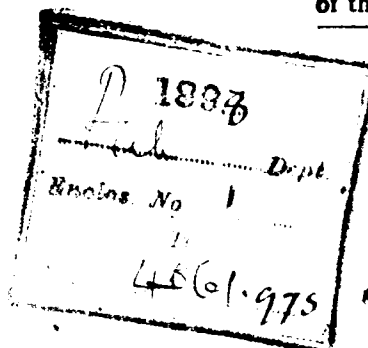
4. I enclose, for the Resident-General's information, a copy of some notes* which I wrote on the subject of recruiting labour in India on my return from that country, and shall be glad to have it back after perusal.

I have, &c.,

E. V. CAREY.

P.S.—I shall be glad to hear whether there is any objection to the publication of this correspondence.

* Not printed.



CURRENT NO. 4061.



It is requested that the following number be quoted in the reply to this letter.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

SINGAPORE, 13th October, 1897.

India 5857/97.



Sir,

Referring to your letter of the 6th July forwarding copy of the proceedings of the Madras Government (No. 867B Public) regarding Indian Immigration, I am directed by Governor Sir C.B.H. Mitchell, G.C.M.G. to forward, for the information of the Government of Madras, copy of correspondence with Mr E.V. Carey.

2. I am to add that His Excellency the Governor proposes visiting Negapatam in the course of December next, and will be glad if His Excellency the Governor of Madras will authorise Mr Marjoribanks to meet him there, and, in the meantime, to collect any information as to possible facilities for promoting emigration to the Straits Settlements

that

The Chief Secretary to the

Government of

M A D R A S.

that he may be able to obtain in order that His Excellency
may be assisted in arriving at a conclusion as to the merits
of the rival systems of free and indentured emigrants.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. H. Kynsey".

Acting Colonial Secretary, C.S.

After dispatch
the papers may
be printed
if the A.S. consider
they should be

AS

The above has
been despatched
alone.

The Colls will
need to see all the
correspondence.
I will take along
mine to copy the
enclosure to the
Ch. May it be
sent in original
for easy return.

P. I. C. Co
1844/1175

yes; if this is
 was done.
 MRL
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 This is to
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H.M. &
 H.E. the Govr.

C 12/11/7 E C 12/11/7
 R 12/11/7 Q 12/11/7

Public Dept
 C. No. 4061

NOTE FOR THE CHIEF SECRETARY.

The exact date on which
 H.E. the governor ^{that Settlement} of Singapore
 intends to visit Negapatam
 will have to be ascertained, as
 presumably Mr. Majoribanks
 will require ~~about~~ to be
 several days at least ~~also~~
 at Negapatam for this purpose.
 MRL
 1/11/7

I think it is a rather risky
 thing to leave a delicate matter
 of this kind in the hands of Mr.
 Cotton who is young & not tested
 for discretion. It will be better,
 I think, to tell Mr. Andrews to see
 to the matter. Besides, apart from
 the question of discretion, the Govr. of an
 important Colony is hardly a person
 to be handed over to the charge of a
 very junior officer -
 that they will be able to do in
 the way of receiving & entertaining Sir
 Chilchall at Negapatam, I don't quite
 see. He cannot expect a young fellow
 like Mr. Cotton to undertake the duty, for
 which I imagine he has not the oppor-
 tunity, even if it could be just to burden
 him with the expenditure which his
 monthly pay will probably not meet.
 I think Mr. Andrews should be asked what
 arrangements can be made for Sir C.
 Chilchall's reception & entertainment
 & that a plan should be made for the
 purpose. Mr. Andrews was resident
 at Negapatam. He would probably offer to
 host Sir C. & Lady Chilchall if he
 is not resident there; and, if he were,

It will be very inconvenient to
 send Mr. Majoribanks away from
 his Secretariat work and I have
 ascertained from him that he has
 no special knowledge of the matter
 beyond what he obtained ^{during} from the
~~Special Secretary~~ reference made
 when he was Head Asst.
 It would seem therefore that the
 Colr. might direct ^{his} the present
 As. H. Asst. Colr. (Mr. Cotton) to make
 himself acquainted with the
 subject & be ready to give all
 assistance & information
 to H.E. the Govr. of Ceylon on
 arrival at Negapatam.
 The As. H. Asst. would have ample

S. Bellmarch
 441, 1000 Rs. 500, 1000

time to look into the
subject if orders were sent
abound.

11.11.97

it is not befall to throw on him
the expense of doing so. His only about
2 years ago since he was sent to
a very large expense in entertaining
the Viceroy & a large party, for which,
so far as I know, he never even so
much as received thanks.

R.S.

12/11/97

I fully concur in the Hon. Secy. of Police's proposals,
I spoke on the subject to Mr. Andrews on the 31st
Oct. He is quite ready to do all he can.

I have it in contemplation to propose the
transfer of Mr. Cotton to some other station.

A.S.H.

13.11.97

The Hon. Secy. C. Mitchell's family will consist of
himself, Lady Mitchell & one son D.C. and
servants (2 European, I think).

A.S.H.

I believe Mr. Brighton has a good house at
Newington.

A.S.H.

When given for copying
When copied 16/11 1897
When examined
When signed

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
1897

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

S.S.

A = Copy in full.
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