

Public (1897) Department.

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording Indorsement of the
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transmitting Copy of report
on British Indian Immigration
in Surinam in 1896.

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From

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Order No. 1576 & 23-11-97

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No. 1748
72-1

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No. 1748
72-1

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

(Emigration.)

Simla, dated the 12th November 1897
14/11/97

Forwarded to the Government of Madras, for information, in continuation of endorsement No.1404/53-1 dated the 17th August 1896.

By order,

[Signature]

Under-Secretary to the Government of India.

List of Papers forwarded.

Despatch from Secretary of State, No.102 dated 2nd September 1897 and enclosures.

No. 102 (Public—Emigration), dated India Office, London, the 2nd September 1897.

From—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 letter from the British Consul at Paramaribo, enclosing a Report on British Indian Immigration in Surinam in 1896.

I have, etc.,
GEORGE HAMILTON.

No. 30, dated Paramaribo, the 24th May 1897.

From—S. J. CHURCHILL, Esq., Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Paramaribo,
To—Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I HAVE the honour to submit, herewith, for your Lordship's information, in original, a report for the year 1896 on British Indian Immigration in Surinam, which I have received from the Immigration Agent General.

The general condition of the immigrants has been satisfactory.

On the estates of the Dutch Trading Company, employing some seventeen hundred coolies, there have been complaints as to the low wages earned. The labourers alleged that their task was such that they could not earn the minimum of sixty Dutch cents per diem (one shilling) from it.

They requested that Mr. Sheddon, who was formerly a Manager under the Trading Company, or one of the Managers of the Kirke Estates, should investigate the question of the tasks.

Mr. Sheddon went carefully over the fields and gave it as his opinion that the men were not justified in their complaint. About eighteen of the coolies had earned full wages on the task complained of. The District Commissary also deposed that for a similar task on other estates less wages were given.

Notwithstanding this, scarcely any amelioration has appeared in the results. The next possible conclusion was that the superintendence of the work was lax, otherwise the labourers could not fail to get through the proper amount of work entitling them to the minimum wage. The Managers of the Dutch Trading Company maintain that they have not attempted any economy in their superintendence. A further personal investigation by the Immigration Agent General will shortly take place on these estates and others in order to locate, by comparison, the cause of the complaint as to the low wages earned on these particular estates.

As regards justice the coolies have had nothing to complain of, except perhaps that the pursuit of it has caused them more loss of wage-earning time than was commensurate with their ideas of the requirements of their cases.

I have had to make representations as to the somewhat frequent summoning of coolies from their work by District Commissaries for purposes of investigation. I am in the hope that greater care will be taken in future to avoid causing the coolies loss on this account.

The number of cooly depositors in the Government Savings Bank has again advanced. In 1895 the total number fell owing to the removal of two hundred and eighty-four accounts belonging to coolies who returned to India in that year with about seven thousand four hundred pounds out of the Savings Bank.

The following table shows the state of cooly savings in the Savings Bank during the last five years, and a comparison of the amount of cooly savings with the total for all depositors:—

YEAR.	Cooly deposi- tors.	Amount of cash deposits.	Total of all deposits in Savings Banks.	Average of cash deposits.
		Florins.	Florins.	Florins.
1892	1,338	198,282	358,627	148
1893	1,528	233,897	445,077	153
1894	1,857	297,811	565,155	160
1895	1,357	216,564	544,365	152
1896	1,761	270,062	588,571	153

The above does not represent the total of the cooly savings. Many coolies invest their savings in gold coins which they adorn themselves with; in cows, goats, cattle or small holdings. Some keep shops and others hoard their savings.

The rate of mortality of immigrants *ex-Lena* was—

in the 4th year of residence	3.08
" 3rd " "	3.97
" 2nd " "	4.11
" 1st " "	6.22

PARAGRAPH 4.

Table of births and deaths during the fourth year of residence in the Colony of the Immigrants *ex-British Peer*.

	Males.	Females.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Number of immigrants at the beginning of the 4th year, i.e., 18th November, 1895	289	123	63	50	525
In the 4th year. { Births	...	...	4	2	6
Deaths	289	123	67	52	531
Desertions	4	3	2	...	9
	2	...	...	...	2
Number at the end of the 4th year, i.e., 18th November, 1896	283	120	65	52	520

The rate of mortality of immigrants *ex-British Peer* was—

in the 4th year of residence	1.72
" 3rd " "	3.04
" 2nd " "	3.79
" 1st " "	3.38

PARAGRAPH 5.

Table of births and deaths during the third year of residence in the Colony of the Immigrants *ex-Hereford II*.

	Males.	Females.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Number of immigrants at the beginning of the 3rd year, i.e., 18th April 1895	306	121	46	53	526
In the 3rd year. { Births	...	...	2	4	6
Deaths	306	121	48	57	532
Desertions	3	...	2	3	1
	1	...	...	...	1
Number at the end of the 3rd year, i.e., 18th April, 1896	302	121	46	54	523

The rate of mortality of immigrants *ex-Hereford II* was—

in the 3rd year of residence	1.53
" 2nd " "	2.29
" 1st " "	5.85

PARAGRAPH 6.

Table of births and deaths during the third year of residence in the Colony of the Immigrants *ex-Grecian I*.

	Males.	Females.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Number of the immigrants at the beginning of the 3rd year, i.e., 19th December, 1895	319	127	41	49	536
In the 3rd year. { Births	...	...	6	4	10
Deaths	319	127	47	53	546
	10	4	2	2	18
Number at the end of the 3rd year, i.e., 19th December, 1896	309	123	45	51	528

The rate of mortality of the immigrants *ex-Grecian I* was—

in the 3rd year of residence	3.38
" 2nd " "	3.17
" 1st " "	3.86

PARAGRAPH 7.

Table of births and deaths during the second year of residence in the Colony of the Immigrants *ex-Erne II*.

	Males.	Females.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Number of immigrants at the beginning of the 2nd year, i.e., 14th April, 1895	322	126	40	30	518
In the 2nd year. { Births	...	...	8	9	17
Deaths	322	126	48	39	535
	3	2	3	4	12
Number at the end of the 2nd year, i.e., 14th April, 1896	319	124	45	35	523

The rate of mortality of the immigrants *ex-Erne II* was—

in the 2nd year of residence	2.31
" 1st " "	3.63

PARAGRAPH 8.

Table of births and deaths during the second year of residence in the Colony of the Immigrants *ex-Ems*.

	Males.	Females.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Number of immigrants at the beginning of the 2nd year, i.e., 22nd November, 1895	422	160	50	34	666
In the 2nd year. { Births	...	...	14	7	21
Deaths	422	160	64	41	687
	6	1	9	3	19
Number at the end of the 2nd year, i.e., 22nd November, 1896	416	159	55	38	668

The rate of mortality of immigrants *ex-Ems* was—

in the 2nd year of residence	2.85
" 1st " "	2.53

PARAGRAPH 9.

Table of births and deaths during the first year of residence in the Colony of the Immigrants *ex-Erne III*.

	Males.	Females.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Number of immigrants on arrival, i.e., 27th April, 1895	349	146	52	44	591
In the 1st year. { Births	...	...	3	2	5
Deaths	349	146	55	46	596
	4	2	3	3	12
Number at the end of the 1st year, i.e., 27th April, 1896	345	144	52	43	584

The rate of mortality of the immigrants *ex-Erne III* in the first year of residence in the Colony was 2.04.

PARAGRAPH 10.

Table of births and deaths during the first year of residence in the Colony of the Immigrants ex-Grecian II.

	Males.	Females.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Number of immigrants on arrival, i.e., 26th October, 1895	336	138	37	40	551
In the 1st year. { Births	...	...	8	4	12
{ Deaths	336	138	45	44	563
	5	2	10	4	21
Number at the end of the 1st year, i.e., 26th October, 1896	331	136	35	40	542

The rate of mortality of the immigrants *ex-Grecian II* in the first year of residence in the Colony was 3.84.

PARAGRAPH 11.

Table of births and deaths during the first year of residence in the Colony of the Immigrants ex-Hereford III.

	Males.	Females.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Number of immigrants on arrival on 27th November, 1895	302	119	24	28	473
In the 1st year. { Births	...	...	2	5	7
{ Deaths	302	119	26	33	480
	4	1	...	3	8
Number at the end of the 1st year, i.e., 27th November, 1896	298	118	26	30	472

The rate of mortality of the immigrants *ex-Hereford III* in the first year of residence in the Colony was 1.69.

PARAGRAPH 12.

Statement showing the number of indentured Javanese immigrants resident in the Colony during the year ended 31st December, 1896.

	ABOVE THE AGE OF 15.		UNDER THE AGE OF 15.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	Boys.	Girls.	
On the 1st January, 1896	410	155	20	29	614
<i>Increased.</i>					
By births	...	...	12	10	22
„ re-indentures	2	...	...	...	2
	412	155	32	39	638
<i>Decreased.</i>					
By deaths	2	2	2	4	10
„ expiration of contract	2	1	...	...	3
	4	3	2	4	13
Under indenture on the 31st December, 1896	408	152	30	35	625

PARAGRAPH 13.

In 1896 certificates of exemption from labour were granted to British Indian immigrants	671
" " " " " Javanese immigrants	2

PARAGRAPH 14.

The number of re-indentures amounted to —
 for British Indian immigrants 85, being 80 men, 3 women, and 2 girls ;
 for Javanese immigrants, to 2 men ;
 the bounty paid being £c. 100 for a re-indenture of five years.

PARAGRAPH 15.

The average rate of mortality among the British Indian immigrants in 1896 was 2.33 per cent. This does not include the cases of violent and accidental death, as follows:—

3 drowned, viz.—

1 boy of plantation *de Eendrocht*.

2 girls of Schoonoord.

3 cases of suicide on plantation *Jagtlust*.

1 man by hanging;

1 " " strangling;

1 " who, whilst being transferred as a prisoner from Fort *Nieuw Amsterdam* to
1 *Paramaribo*, jumped overboard and was drowned;

1 man of plantation *Marienburg* by taking poison ;

1 woman of plantation *Jagtlust* murdered by another cooly ;

1 man of plantation *de Morgenstond* idem ;

1 man of plantation *Marienburg* suffocated by over-eating himself.

The average rate of mortality among the Javanese immigrants in 1896 was 1.61 per cent. There was no case of violent or accidental death among these immigrants.

PARAGRAPH 16.

List of the estates showing an absence of mortality of British Indian immigrants during 1896 and those below and above the average rate of mortality, the violent and accidental cases of death not included.

The asterisks *** added to the name of an estate signify that there was no mortality on that estate during the years 1893, 1894, 1895 and 1896; ** no mortality during 1894, 1895 and 1896; * no mortality during 1895 and 1896. No asterisks indicate the absence of mortality in 1896 alone.

A.

Names of the Estates where there has been no mortality.

		Average number of indentured British Indian immigrants in 1896.
1.	Geyersvlijt*** cocoa estate in Lower Surinam	36½
2.	Oldenburg (Toerlugt) *** cattle farm in Lower Surinam	1½
3.	Boxel*** Cocoa estate in Upper Para	17½
4.	de Dankbaarheid***, cocoa estate in Lower Saramacca	15½
5.	de Morgenster***	29
6.	Elisabethshoop**	39
7.	Petersburg**	29½
8.	Fredericisgru.**	15
9.	la Poule**	8½
10.	Nienn Clarenbeek*	63½
11.	de Maastroom*	32
12.	Guadeloupe*	5½
13.	Slootuyk*	10
14.	Belwaanb*	74
15.	Kmatta*	15½
16.	la Rencontre*	34½
17.	Tout-lui-faut*	56½
18.	de Eendracht	144½
19.	Pieterszong	29½
20.	Killenstyn	75½
21.	Constantia	37
22.	Schoonoord	25
23.	Mon Tresor	26½
24.	St. Barbara	26½
25.	A. Lollam	70

B.

Names of the Estates where the mortality in 1896 was below the average rate of 2.33 per cent.

	Average number of British Indian immigrants in 1896.	Mortality.	Per centage of mortality.
1. Susannasdaal cocoa estate in Lower Surinam	97½	1	1.03
2. Promverslust " " " Commenyne	71	1	1.41
3. Zorgen Hoop " " " " "	70	1	1.43
4. Johanna Catharina, cocoa estate in Lower Saramacca	68½	3	1.46
5. Wederzorg cocoa estate in Lower Commenyne	195½	3	1.53
6. Geertruidenberg cocoa estate in Lower Commenyne	63	1	1.59
7. de Morgenstond " " " Surinam	57	1	1.75
8. Voorburg coffee and " " " Commenyne	284	5	1.76
9. Berlyn " " " " "	55½	1	1.80
10. Sorgvliet " " " " "	55½	1	1.80
11. Albance sugar estate in Cottica	427½	8	1.87
12. Marienbosch cocoa estate in Lower Commenyne	52	1	1.92
13. Jagtlust coffee and cocoa estate in Lower Surinam	310	6	1.94
14. Concondia " " " " Saramacca	47	1	2.13

C.

Names of the Estates where the mortality in 1896 was above the average rate of 2.33 per cent.

	Average number of British Indian immigrants in 1896.	Mortality.	Per centage of mortality.
1. Rust and Werk sugar estate in Lower Commenyne	423	10	2.36
2. Broederschap cocoa " " " Saramacca	42	1	2.38
3. Marienburg and Zochen coffee, sugar and cocoa estate in Lower Commenyne.	1,416½	37	2.61
4. Catharina Sophia cocoa estate in Lower Saramacca	37½	1	2.67
5. Meerzorg sugar estate in Lower Surinam	251	7	2.79
6. Caledonia cocoa " " " Saramacca	35	1	2.86
7. Accaribo " " " Upper Para	34½	1	2.90
8. la Liberte " " " Lower Surinam	68	2	2.94
9. Crappahoek " " " Nickerie	67½	2	2.96
10. A. Vertronwen cocoa estate in Lower Commenyne	81½	1	3.17
11. Ma Retraite cocoa estate in Lower Surinam	31½	1	3.17
12. Mon Sorier " " " Commenyne	60	2	3.33
13. Lust en Rust cocoa estate in Lower Surinam	29½	1	3.39
14. Johannesburg " " " Commenyne	54½	2	3.67
15. Frederiksdorp " " " " "	26½	1	3.77
16. Dordrecht " " " Surinam	76½	3	3.92
17. Spieringshoek " " " Commenyne	75	3	4.00
18. Vreeland " " " Upper Surinam	48½	12	4.12
19. Hazard sugar " " " Nickerie	224	10	4.36
20. Vneudsbeleid and Onderszong cocoa estate in Lower Commenyne.	68½	3	4.38
21. Leliendael and Ellen cocoa estate in Lower Commenyne	45½	2	4.40
22. Waterland " " " Upper Para	68	3	4.41
23. Waterloo sugar estate in Nickerie	242	13	4.91
24. Maagdenburg cocoa estate in the Upper Surinam	17½	1	5.71
25. Kroonenburg " " " Lower Commenyne	16½	1	6.06
26. de Nieuwgrof " " " " "	14	1	7.14
27. Margarethenburg cocoa estate in Nickerie	24½	2	8.16
28. Peperpot " " " Lower Surinam	12	1	8.33
29. Katwyk " " " " Commenyne	20	3	15.00

The mortality among the Javanese immigrants was in 1896 on the estates where they were indentured as follows:—

	Average number of indentured British Indian (sic Javanese) immigrants in 1896.	Mortality.	Percentage of mortality.
1. Plantation Mairenburg and Loelen	260½	4	1.54
2. Plantation Clevia	24½	1	4.08
3. " Rust and Werk	33	2	6.06
4. " Margarethasgift	11½	1	8.69
5. " Marienbosch	11½	1	8.69
6. " Constantia	11	1	9.09

PARAGRAPH 17.

Cause of death.

	British Indian immigrants.	Javanese immigrants.
Marasmus	10	...
Debilitas	37	3
Malaria	39	1
Diarrhoea	2	...
Dysentery	4	1
Phthisis	6	1
Pneumonia	6	...
Bronchitis	7	...
Catarrh, intestinorum	1	...
Gastro enteritis	1	...
Dyspepsia	2	...
Meningitis	3	...
Anæmia	2	...
Heart disease	3	...
Tetanus	2	...
Nephritis	3	...
Abcess hepatis	...	1
Apoplexia	1	...
Convulsiones	16	3
Syphilis	1	...
Yaws	2	...
Measles	2	...
Deficient development	2	...
In child-bed	1	...
By drowning	3	...
By suicide	4	...
Murdered	2	...
Suffocated by over-eating himself	1	...
TOTAL	163	10

PARAGRAPH 18.

Statement showing medical services to indentured immigrants during 1896.

	British Indian immigrants.	Javanese immigrants.
On the 1st January, 1896, there were under medical treatment	291	20
Number of cases during 1896	17,215	878
TOTAL	17,506	898
Recovered	17,111	877
Deceased	132	4
	17,243	881
Remained under treatment in the hospitals on 31st December, 1896	263	17
TOTAL	1,08,210	6,415

The average rate of sick-days for indentured immigrants during the whole of 1896 was—

for a British Indian immigrant	: : : : : 16.5
for a Javanese immigrant	: : : : : 10.4

PARAGRAPH 19.

Table showing the mortality since 1877, exclusive of cases of violent and accidental deaths, of indentured British Indian immigrants in comparison with the Creole labourers and other unindentured labourers on the same estates.

In the year.	MORTALITY, EXCLUSIVE OF VIOLENT AND ACCIDENTAL CASES OF DEATH.	
	Indentured British Indian immigrants.	Creole and other unindentured labourers.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
1877	3.73	6.16
1878	2.71	4.07
1879	2.08	3.32
1880	1.81	3.59
1881	3.26	4.25
1882	2.60	2.70
1883	2.57	3.84
1884	2.60	5.00
1885	2.40	3.26
1886	1.88	2.82
1887	1.54	3.15
1888	1.62	3.36
1889	1.57	2.31
1890	1.93	2.45
1891	3.04	2.90
1892	2.62	2.71
1893	2.38	1.81
1894	2.43	2.24
1895	2.07	2.31
1896	2.33	2.67

For the Javanese immigrants it was—

in the year 1895: 1.27 per cent.—2.31 per cent.
 „ „ 1896: 1.61 per cent.—2.67 per cent.

The mortality among labourers on the same estate has always been greater among creoles and unindentured immigrants than among immigrants under indenture, with the exception of the years 1891, 1893, and 1894. The reason being that the indentured labourer is compelled to submit to medical treatment, whereas the other labourer has the option of rejecting all medical service offered to him.

PARAGRAPH 20.

The number of legal marriages contracted by British Indian immigrants during 1896 was 41. Of these marriages—

- 7 were contracted at Paramaribo.
- 1 in Cottica.
- 19 „ Lower Commeyne.
- 3 „ „ Surinam.
- 3 „ „ Upper Surinam.
- 8 „ Lower Saramacca.

By these marriages 45 children were legitimated.

The proportion between British Indian men and women under indenture was 349 women against 1,000 men.

The proportion between British Indian not indentured men and women resident on the estates, 542 women against 1,000 men.

The proportion between British Indian girls and boys resident on the estates was 881 girls against 1,000 boys.

The number of births among indentured British Indians was 186, i.e., 13.17 births on 100 women.

Two marriages were contracted by Javanese immigrants—

- 1 in Lower Surinam,
- 1 „ „ Commeyne.

whilst one Javanese woman contracted a marriage with a Chinaman.

By those marriages no children were legitimated.

The proportion between Javanese men and women under indenture was 375 women against 1,000 men.

The number of births 22, i.e., 14.33 births on 100 women.

PARAGRAPH 21.

Table showing the number of working days, with a maximum and average amount of wages, earned by indentured immigrants during 1896.

Indentured Immigrants.		NUMBER OF		Wages earned.	Daily average wages.	Maximum earned in one week.
		Immigrants.	Working days.			
British Indian.	Men	4,031	754,326½	Fl. 51830292	Fl. 0.687	Fl. 10.50 on the sugar estate Rust and Werk. Fl. 6.78 on the cocoa estate la Liberte.
	Women	1,380	189,611	„ 10896760	„ 0.575	
	Boys and Girls.	44	4,090½	„ 157830	„ 0.386	
Javanese	Men	398	76,372½	„ 4820754	„ 0.631	Fl. 6.88 } on the cocoa estate la Liberte. „ 6.78 }
	Women	150	20,737½	„ 1226462	„ 0.591	

The other days, not included in the last given statement, are accounted for by illness, by absence on leave, absence to give evidence or to lodge complaints, by wilful absence from work, by imprisonment, by Sundays, festivals acknowledged by Government and Indian holidays. The latter being 16 for Mahomedans, 32 for Hindus, and 3 for the Javanese immigrants.

PARAGRAPH 22.

Statement of the number of working days and amount of wages earned by unindentured labourers on estates to which indentured immigrants are allotted.

Labourers.		NUMBER OF		Earned wages.	Daily wages in average.
		Labourers.	Working days.		
Creoles	{ Men .	613	149,145	Fl. 160071.51	Fl. 1.073
	{ Women .	227	411,534	" 26106.86	" 0.629
	{ Boys and Girls .	90	9,383½	" 3907.11	" 0.416
Unindentured Immigrants, under which head the free coolies are included.	{ Men .	1,667	353,444½	" 282647.92	" 0.800
	{ Women .	511	80,075½	" 47258.71	" 0.690
	{ Boys and Girls .	183	24,173½	" 9528.81	" 0.394

The free labour population being a very floating one, the above and the next following statements are arrived at by adding the number present on each estate on the 1st of each month, and dividing this total by 12 to obtain an average.

PARAGRAPH 23.

Table showing the number of working days or tasks and the amount of wages earned by unindentured labourers on estates where no indentured immigrants were employed in 1896.

Labourers.	NUMBER OF		Wages earned.	Daily average wages.	
	Labourers.	Working days or tasks.			
Creoles	Men	140	32,308½	Fl. 28455.26½	Fl. 0.881
	Women	176	39,007½	" 2305.02	" 0.591
	Boys and				
	Girls	42	8,039	" 3296.60	" 0.410
Unindentured Immigrants, under which head free Creoles are included.	Men	212	43,970	" 33841.65	" 0.770
	Women	68	11,019½	" 7275.13	" 0.660
	Boys and				
	Girls	14	1,404	" 413	" 0.294

Note.—Indentured or unindentured labourers receive the same wages for the same work performed by either of them. Work that requires more skill or is heavier, i.e., mechanical work in the buildings or shovel or pruning work, is paid at a higher rate than weeding or other light work.

PARAGRAPH 24.

Statement of complaints against labourers by employers and others, together with an account of the disposal of such complaints during 1896.

Nature of the complaints.	WILFUL NEGLECT OF WORK.			OTHER OFFENCES AGAINST THE LABOUR LAW.			Total number of complaints.	Convictions.	Acquittals and dismissals.	Untried.	Percentage of complaints to population of unindentured immigrants.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.					
British Indian immigrants.											
Offences against the labour law	439	52	491	138	11	139	630	550	80	...	9.58
Other petty offences	...	...	...	...	...	...	264	198	66	...	4.02
Correctional cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	7	4	1	0.18
Criminal cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	3*	...	1	1	0.046
Javanese immigrants.											
Offences against the labour law	71	16	87	3	3	6	93	87	6	...	15
Other petty offences	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	12	1	...	2.10
Correctional cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Criminal cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

* One died.

PARAGRAPH 25.

Number and nature of charges brought by immigrants against their employers in 1896.

British Indian Immigrants.

Number of complaints.	Nature of offences.	Rejected or withdrawn.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	REMARKS.
1	Complaints regarding the non-fulfilment of the stipulations of the agreement	...	1	...	
7	Assault.	3	3	1	3 unfounded.
19	Excessive work	16	3	...	16 "
1	Wages	1	...	...	"
1	Assault and refusal of a pass to lodge complaint	...	...	1	"
1	Refusal to be admitted into the hospital	1	...	...	"
30	TOTAL	21	7	2	
	Javanese Immigrants.				
3	Too heavy work	3	...	...	

The percentage of the complaints of British Indian immigrants to the population was 0.46; for the Javanese immigrants it was 0.48.

PARAGRAPH 26.

On the 31st December 1896 the amount deposited by British Indian immigrants in the Colonial Savings Bank reached a total fl. 270062.07⁵ belonging to 1,761 depositors, and the amount deposited by Javanese immigrants fl. 1,094 belonging to 3 depositors.

These figures compared with the same on December 31st, 1895, show an increase of fl. 53497.35 in the amount deposited by British Indians and an increase in the number of depositors of 404.

The average for each deposit for the last 5 years was as follows:—

in 1892	Fl. 148.67
" 1893	" 153.07
" 1894	" 160.37
" 1895	" 152.21
" 1896	" 153.36

The number of depositors and the total amount deposited being:—

	Number of depositors.	Amount deposited.
In 1892	1,338	Fl. 198282.95
" 1893	1,528	" 233897.77 ⁵
" 1894	1,857	" 297811.93 ⁵
" 1895	1,357*	" 216564.72*
" 1896	1,761	" 270062.07 ⁵

* The diminution in the number of depositors and the total amount of deposits must be attributed to the fact that on February 1st of 1895 the *Grecian* left for Calcutta with 605 return immigrants, amongst whom were 284 depositors with a total amount of fl. 89687.88.

PARAGRAPH 27.

An amount of fl. 3,946 was remitted by the Immigration Department for 111 British Indians to their friends and relatives in India; these figures compare favourably with those of 1895 when an amount of fl. 2,300 was remitted for 64 British Indian immigrants.

By the Javanese immigrants no monies were remitted to Java.

PARAGRAPH 28.

In 1896 no return of immigrants took place.

PARAGRAPH 29.

Legislation.

By Ordinance No. 2 of 1896, which became law on January 6th of last year, section 146 of the Ordinance No. 12 of 1879 was amended. The stipulations of the Amendment Ordinance are in accordance with section 70 of the British Guiana Immigration Ordinance of 1891 enforcing cleanliness and proper sanitary precautions in connection with immigrants' dwellings.

By Royal Decree of February 1896, promulgated in the Netherlands Official Gazette No. 24 and in the Colonial Official Gazette No. 8 of said year, sections 15 and 16 of the Royal Decree No. 27 of 1872 were amended to allow the appointment of a Sub-Agent of Immigration.

By Royal Decree No. 22 of 1896, A. J. Van der Houven van Oordt, Esq., LL.D., was appointed Sub-Agent for Immigration.

By Royal Decree of June 4th, 1896, No. 36, Colonial Official Gazette No. 21 of said year, section 58 of the Royal Decree No. 27 of 1872 was amended to the effect that rations at such rate and costs as specified from time to time by the Governor, are to be distributed by the employer to newly-arrived immigrants, who claim such rations, during a period of three months from and after the first date of their arrival on the estate to which they are allotted. Regarding the daily distribution of these rations and the deduction of the cost of same week by week, the same provisions as those of section 71 of the British Guiana Immigration Ordinance of 1891 are in force.

By Decree of September 28th, 1896, Lt. A. No. 6976, Colonial Official Gazette No. 34, the interest paid by the Colonial Savings Bank on all deposits was, from and after the 1st of January, 1897, reduced from 3 to 2½ per cent.

As mentioned in previous reports the monies which immigrants resident in this Colony wish to remit to their relatives and friends in British India are deposited by remitters with the Immigration Agent General and made over by him to the Emigration Agent at Calcutta, who provides through the local authorities of the place of residence of the recipients that the remittances are handed over to them.

The letters of the Indians resident in this Colony to their relatives and friends in British India were formerly transmitted to India independently of the Immigration Department.

On November 15th of last year rules regulating the transmission of letters from Indian immigrants to British India, in accordance with the rules in force in British Guiana, came into operation.

Stamped envelopes of 1 and 2½ annas are now obtainable at the Immigration Department and District Commissariats at the rate of 7½ and 15 cents (Dutch currency) respectively.

The addresses and also the letters when required are written for the senders free of charge at the Immigration Office and at the offices of the District Commissaries.

The senders enclose in their letters a stamped envelope of 2½ annas, bearing their address, when they wish the reply to be transmitted to them directly, or a stamped envelope of 1 anna when they wish the reply to be forwarded to them by the Emigration Agent at Calcutta.

The letters delivered to the District Commissaries by the immigrants are transmitted free of charge to the Immigration Agent General, and forwarded by him free of charge for the senders in a registered packet to the Emigration Agent at Calcutta, who provides for their further expedition.

A translation in Hindustani-Nagri of the above-mentioned rules was issued.

The immigrants take full advantage of the facilities thus opened to them for their correspondence.

The rules relating to emigration from Java to this Colony were promulgated in the Netherlands Indian Official Gazette Nos. 72 and 73 of 1896.

By decree of March 28th, 1896, J. C. T. Reelfs, Esq., on his appointment as Her Netherlands Majesty's Consul General at Melbourne, was thereby relieved of his functions of Emigration Agent at Calcutta, which he had fulfilled to the entire satisfaction of the Colonial Government.

G. D. Advocaat, Esq., appointed Consul of Her Netherlands Majesty at Calcutta, took over the functions of Emigration Agent for Surinam at Calcutta on July 13th, 1896, from the preceding gentleman.

PARAGRAPH 30.

Plots of Crown land granted by the Colonial Government during the year 1896.

Under the stipulations of Ordinance 23 of 1863 Crown lands were granted to the following number of approved immigrants:—

A—In free use.

In Upper Para and Upper Surinam 1 H. A. to 1 British Indian immigrant.

„ Cottica 2 H. A. to 1 British Indian immigrant.

„ Saramacca 96 to 46 „ „ „

„ Lower Para 5 to 3 „ „ „

„ Lower Commenyne 4 „ „ „ i.e.,

108 H. A. to 53 British Indian immigrants.

Eleven plots amongst which 10 granted in free use to British Indian immigrants and 1 to a West Indian immigrant were aggrandized together with 16 H. A.

B—In freehold.

In Saramacca 27 H. A. to 8 British Indian immigrants.

10 H. A. to 1 Chinese immigrant.

6 „ „ 1 West Indian immigrant.

In Lower Para 14 H. A. to 6 British Indian immigrants.

In Cottica 4 H. A. to 1 British Indian immigrant, i.e.,

61 H. A. to 17 immigrants, of which 45 H. A. to 15 British Indian immigrants.

Two plots formerly granted in freehold were aggrandized each with 2 H. A.

The free use of 12 plots each of 2 H. A. was withdrawn for non-fulfilment of the conditions of grants. All these plots had been allotted to British Indian immigrants, i.e.—

9 in Saramacca together 18 H. A.

1 „ Lower Commenyne 2 „

2 „ Cottica together 4 „

Crown lands allotted at a rent of fl. 10 per H. A. in Upper Para (Domburg), 8 plots together of an area of 7,7186 H. A. to 7 British Indian immigrants.

In Lower Surinam (fort N° Amsterdam) 1 plot of an area of 1,0132 H. A. to one British Indian immigrant; in Lower Para 1 plot of an area of 2 H. A. to 1 British Indian immigrant; in Saramacca 1 plot of an area of 2 H. A. to 1 British Indian immigrant; in all 16,2318 H. A. to 12 British Indian immigrants; 0.6619 H. A. in Lower Surinam were allotted to a Chinese immigrant and 2 H. A. in Saramacca to a British Indian immigrant. The lease of two plots, one situated at Domburg and the other in Saramacca, of an area together of 372 H. A., was withdrawn for non-fulfilment of the conditions of grant.

Three British Indian immigrants acquired three village lots in N° Nickerie, each of an area of 0.0940 H. A.

On December 31st the following applications were pending:—

A.—Nineteen applications for Crown land in free use, i.e.—

28 H. A. situated in Saramacca applied for by 3 British Indian immigrants.

2 H. A. situated in Saramacca applied for by 1 West Indian immigrant.

8 H. A. situated in Cottica applied for by 4 British Indian immigrants.

1 application by 1 British Indian immigrant for aggrandisement of his plot situated in Lower Para.

B.—Sixty-five applications for Crown land in freehold, i.e., 207 H. A., situated in Saramacca, applied for by 50 British Indian immigrants.

18 H. A. situated in Lower Para applied for by 9 British Indian immigrants.

54 H. A. situated in Cottica applied for by 1 British Indian immigrant.

5 applications by five British Indian immigrants for the aggrandisement by 11 H. A. of 5 plots already occupied by them in freehold.

PARAGRAPH 31.

Details regarding the Alkmaar Settlement.

Of the amount of fl. 20189.95 granted by Decree of February 29th, 1896, L° A. No. 1538, for the works at the Alkmaar Settlement, fl. 11642.64 were appropriated during 1896 and the

two main drainage canals and the front polderdam brought in efficient condition, whilst the navigation canal will be completed during the current year.

For this work, and for some minor improvement of the two drainage canals the non-appropriated portion of said fl. 20189.95, being fl. 8547.30, were placed at the disposal of the District Commissary of Lower Commenyne by Decree of 6-8th February 1897, L° A. No. 1118.

On December 31st there were granted at Alkmaar 80 lots of 1½ H. A. and 39 lots of ½ H. A., whilst 11 lots of 1½ H. A. and 3 lots of ½ H. A. were provisionally allotted, 14 lots of ½ H. A. being still unallotted.

Of the area of 32 H. A., set apart for a common pasture about 17 H. A. will be granted in plots of ½ H. A., making some 20 lots still to be allotted on application. As a rule the settlers prefer to keep their cattle in pens erected for that purpose on their plots and consequently a smaller area for common pasture land will suffice.

There is still sufficient land for a considerable extension of this settlement.

The population of the settlement numbered on December 31st, 124 men, 64 women, 57 boys and 50 girls.

The stock consisted of 6 heifers, 30 cows, 10 calves and 21 goats.

The production amounted to 10,487 bunches of plantains, 17,100 kilogrammes maize, and 19,200 kilogrammes of ground provisions, besides other products, details of which have not become available.

Several plots have been planted with cocoa and coffee.

On five plots houses made of lumber have been erected; on the others the dwellings are made of brushwood or are thatched mud-houses.

In December 1895 the Colonial Government acquired the abandoned sugar estate, Paradise in the Nickerie District, and in January 1897, the sugar and cocoa estate le Recontre in the Upper Para District.

Paradise was bought in order to have in the vicinity of the residence of the District Commissary of Nickerie proper Crown lands to be granted under the stipulations of Ordinance 23 of 1863, and also for the creation of a settlement similar to those of Fort Niemi, Amsterdam and Domburg, where plots are allotted to Indians as well as to other labourers.

La Ren contre was bought in order to aggrandize the Domburg settlement adjoining it.

PARAGRAPH 32.

Colonisation by British Indian, Chinese and British West Indians.

According to the data supplied in the Report of the previous year there were, on December 31st of 1895,—

A.—Lessees of Crown lands.

92 immigrants together for an area of 146.96 H. A., of whom—

69 from British India,

15 „ British West India, and

8 „ China.

On December 31st, 1896 there were—

104 lessees of Crown land for an area of 162.0937 H. A., of whom—

79 from British India,

16 „ British West India, and

9 „ China.

B.—Occupiers of Crown land in free use under the stipulations of the Ordinance No. 23 of 1863.

195 immigrants together for an area of 396.18 H. A., of whom—

188 from British India,

4 „ British West India, and

3 „ China.

On December 31st of 1896 there were—

236 occupiers of Crown land in free use under the stipulations of Ordinance No. 23

of 1863 for an area of 496.18 H. A., of whom—

299 from British India,

4 „ British West India, and

3 „ China.

These figures do not include the occupiers of lots on the Alkmaar settlement (which vide)

C.—Occupiers of Crown land in freehold under the stipulations of Ordinance No. 23 of 1863.

45 immigrants together for an area of 367.04 H. A., of whom—

27 from British India,

8 „ British West India, and

10 „ China.

On December 31st of 1895, there were—

62 immigrant occupiers of Crown land in freehold under the stipulations of

Ordinance No. 23 of 1863 for an area of 432.04 H. A., of whom—

42 from British India,

9 „ British West India, and

11 „ China.

Three British Indian immigrants had obtained, as mentioned above, 3 village lots at N° Nickerie, each of 0.0940 H. A.

D.—Lessees of land belonging to private individuals.

Reliable data of the number of immigrants renting land from private individuals, as well as the superficial area of such lands, are not available, these figures being subject to continual fluctuations.

Both figures are on the increase, especially in the Lower Surinam and the Lower Para districts.

E.—Immigrants owning land in property acquired from private individuals.

Seventy-six immigrants together for an area of 1046.78 H.A., besides 4 abandoned estates, the superficial area of which is not known, of whom—

- 63 from British India,
- 10 „ British West India, and
- 3 „ China.

Amongst these were not included—

- 11 British Indian immigrants who owned 40 H. A. in the Coronie district, the statistics of this district not having been received in time.

On 31st December 1896, there were—

- 95 immigrants owning land in property from private individuals, together for an area of 1192.2497 H.A., of whom—

- 82 from British India,
- 10 „ British West India, and
- 3 „ China.

Tables showing:—

Table A.—The prices paid by immigrants in 1896, for the plantings on plots of Crown land granted on lease or in free use, the name of the lessee or occupier in free use, the area and the situation of the plot.

Table B.—The prices paid by immigrants in 1896 for the acquisition of plots from private individuals, the name of the purchaser, the area and the situation of the plot.

Table C.—The production in 1896 of lots cultivated by British Indian immigrants; districts where the lots are situated; number of lots.

TABLE A.

Name of the lessee or the occupier.		Area and situation of the plot.	Price paid.
	H. A.		fl.
Sjaw-Akian	0.6619	Fort N ^w Amsterdam, No. 69	1,150
Bijai, No. 1150-S.	2	Saramacca	950
Kubair, No. 1675-R.	4	Ditto	800
Boudhi, No. 1676-R.	2	Ditto	700
Jugroop, No. 919-M.	2	Ditto	600
Jhugmandrim, No. 1186-S.	2	Ditto	600
Puncham, No. 1181-S.	2	Ditto	500
Sunjharia, No. 381-V. R.	erf	Paramaribo	600
Damodar, No. 462-T.	2	Saramacca	500
Daby, No. 1365-B.	2	Ditto	450
Jahoorun, No. 464-K.	2	Ditto	450
Bihar, No. 1219-S.	1.0132	Fort N ^w Amsterdam, No. 20	450
Purowty, No. 354-B.	1.6	Domburg, No. 102 ^b	450
Rugbursing	0.7120	Ditto No. 66	450
Towkuli, No. 5-R.	0.97	Ditto	445
Merrhai, No. 1192-S.	2	Saramacca	400
Dhirajia, No. 377-N.	1.681	Domburg, Nos. 100 and 101	400
Bansi, No. 431-R.	2	Saramacca	397
Jeerakhan, No. 460-T.	2	Ditto	340
Bisasar, No. 495-T.	2	Ditto	300
Baiju, No. 428-S.	14	Alkmaar, No. 9	240
Leda, No. 720-S.	2	Saramacca	340
Akal, No. 1634-R.	0.9256	Domburg, No. 71	220
Koylas, No. 169-N.	14	Alkmaar, No. 10	215
Fudia, No. 1637-R.	0.82	Domburg, No. 75	215
Kalichawn, No. 1002-S.	1	Alkmaar, No. 49	210
Bhowani, No. 272-T.	18	Domburg	195
Sewomber, No. 261-C.	1.77	Alkmaar, No. 46 ^a	193
Dina, No. 1018-R.	2.99	Domburg	180
Kanhai, No. 939-R.	0.70	Nickerie	175
Tiluckdhary, No. 354-J.	1.28	Domburg, No. 29	120
Bissoondhan, No. 183-M.	2	Ditto, No. 114	108
Pawbalkam, No. 587-S.	2	Pad van Wanica	90
Bhagulo, No. 59-K.	1	Alkmaar 1/2 No. 7	80
Sewnath, No. 1356-R.	0.5	Meulwyk	70
Bhazan, No. 754-L.	1 1/2	Ditto	40
Ditto, ditto	3	Alkmaar, No. 72	56
Matow, No. 140-N.	63.41	Saramacca	1,500
Bhugwan Singh, No. 194-C.	0.0837	Grond Uitvlugt	250
Changoor, No. 523-C.	21	Orelanakreek	250
Soonderi, No. 727-L.	15	Nickerie, No. 172	230
Gungadin, No. 1154-B.	2.976	Orelanakreek	125
Luckpotia, No. 1549-M.		Brenkelerwaand	100
Chooroo, No. 1585-B.		Grond 1 ^e Argent court	
Dhoorga, No. 1147-R.		Orelanakreek	
Rutoo, No. 71-G.			

TABLE C.

Districts where the lots are situated.	Number of lots.	Kilogrammes.					Bunches of plantation.	Other products.
		Cocoa.	Rice.	Maize.	Ground provisions.			
Saramacca (1)	215	29,800	5,775	55,475	3,100	70,100		
Upper Para and Upper Surinam	50	3,226	...	6,675	385	4,675		
Lower Para	162	1,149	71,650	11,905	970	2,582		fl. 174 worth of vegetables.
Do, Surinam	128	100	5,000	4,463.56	3,240	4,805		" 1836.25 id.
Do, Commeyne (2)	179	3,590	980	23,740	30,367	17,739		
Upper ditto and Cottica	29	2,387	...	2,925	870	4,425		
Coronie	13	65	...	825	1,835	216		3,190 coconuts.
Nickerie	11	...	...	160	1,110	910		
(1) Domburg	787	40,317	83,355	1,05,668.56	41,727	1,05,192		
(2) Alkmaar	46	3,010	...	6,300	390	4,050		
	117	...	...	17,100	19,200	10,487		Included in the above figures.

PARAGRAPH 33.

Under the stipulations of Ordinance No. 24 of 1895, 16 British Indian immigrants renounced their right to a free return passage and received the premium of fl. 100 mentioned in section 3.

PARAGRAPH 34.

Besides the above-mentioned immigrants, many others, for the far greater part British Indian immigrants, have settled in the vicinity of the capital, occupied as stock-keepers and stock-minders. Several others, amongst whom 135 British Indian immigrants living either in the capital or in the districts, are licensed pedlars, shop-keepers, gold and silver-smiths and barbers.

Eight British Indian immigrants had a license to keep a cart and mule or donkey.

Thirteen have a gun license, six a license as fishermen, and about 26 a daily license to sell vegetables on the public markets at Paramaribo.

Others living in the capital find a means of livelihood as grass-cutters and in selling grass for fodder for horses and cattle.

G. W. T. LYON,
Immigration Agent General.

SURINAM;
May, 1897.

[G.]
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