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G.O., No. 76

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INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Emigrants.

Comg. to the Protector of Emigrants
Endorsement of the G.O. forwarding
Copy of letter from Her Britannic Majesty's
Consul, Beira, on the subject of
the prospects of Indian — to Beira.

11.1.98

BACK PAPERS.

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FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Government { 1898 } of Madras. PUBLIC.

Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

} 1898.

Spare copies

G.O., No. 76, 11th January 1898.

JANUARY.

Emigrants.

Communicating to the Protector of Emigrants endorsement of the Government of India forwarding copy of letter from Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, Beira, on the subject of the prospects of Indian — to Beira.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

From F. G. SLY, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Emigration), to Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, Beira, dated Calcutta, 21st December 1897, No. 1882—37-8.

I am directed to acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of your letter, No. 20, dated the 15th November 1897, with which you enclose a memorandum of information regarding the prospects of Indian emigrants to Beira.

2. With reference to your proposal to furnish information quarterly showing the nature of employment open to Indians, I am to say that, as annual reports will be sufficient for the purposes of the Government of India, they are unwilling to trouble you more frequently.

No. 1883—37-8.

Copy of the correspondence forwarded to the Government of Madras for information.

(By Order.)

(Signed) F. G. SLY,
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

ENCLOSURES.

Letter from A. CARNEGIE ROSS, Esq., Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, Beira, to the Secretary to the Government of India, dated 15th November 1897, No. 20.

In compliance with instructions from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to forward herewith enclosed memorandum of information respecting Indian immigration to this district.

There is no prospect of any event happening, for some time, that would render incorrect the information given under the heads (b) to (h), and unless the Government of India considers more frequent information necessary, I propose to furnish information under head (a) every three months.

MEMORANDUM of information respecting Indian immigration to the district of Beira, East Coast of Africa (Portuguese possession), November 1897.

(a) Nature of employment offering and suitable for Indians.—Indians are employed—

(1) *As clerks and salesmen in Indian stores.*—This is the most numerous class. They mostly come from Cutch, Mondvi and Porbundar and come out under contract at first as quite young boys, returning to India at intervals during a long period of years.

(2) *As messengers and office boys in European offices.*—A small class from Madras, all English-speaking.

(3) *As cooks and domestic servants.*—A very small class at present from Madras, all English-speaking. There is an opening for a few good servants-generals.

(4) *As artisans, chiefly carpenters.*—There are some 20 or 30 in the place. All are at present employed as work is plentiful. They work chiefly for Indians at rough buildings, not competing with Europeans. They come from Bombay.

(5) *As porters and stevedores working at the custom house or on boardship.*—At present a couple of hundred under a capable English-speaking master would find ample remunerative employment.

(b) *Nature of climate.*—Hot, damp and malarious. January to April, heat and heavy rains occur; April to July, the country dries up and is very unhealthy, weather becoming cooler; July to November, dry, cooler and comparatively healthy; November to December, hot.

Indians keep their health in Beira on the Buzi river and at Massikessi, but not at Fontesvilla, Chiniori or along the line of railway.

(c) *Rate of wages.*—

Clerks and salesmen to Indians Rs. 15 to Rs. 125 per month and all found.

Messengers and office boys, £8 to £10 per month.

Cooks, £5 to £8 per month and food.

Servants, £1 to £3 per month and food.

Artisans, £6 to £10 per ~~day~~ without food. *month*

Labourers, 2s. per day or £1 to £2 per month and food in addition.

(d) *Cost of living*—

n) Cost of living—						£	s.	d.
Rice, Rangoon	..	..	..	..	per sack of 160 lb.	1	0	0
Ghee	..	..	..	..	33 lb.	2	0	0
Dhal	..	..	..	..	per sack	1	10	0
Salt	..	..	..	..	per 22 lb.	0	1	0
Tobacco	..	..	..	..	per 2½ lb.	0	5	0
Flour	..	..	..	..	per sack of 200 lb.	2	0	0
Fowls	..	..	..	..	each	0	2	0
Eggs	..	..	..	..	per doz.	0	3	0
Oranges	..	..	..	..	"	0	2	6
Mangoes	..	..	..	..	"	0	2	6

(e) *Cost of transport to scene of labour.*—Fare from Bombay to Beira from 30 to 40 rupees.

Beira itself, the seaport, is the best scene of labour. Men required for the railway would be engaged in Beira and sent to post free.

Fare to Massikessi by train, 25s.

(f) *Treatment of Asiatics by employers.*—Complaints have, from time to time, been made to this office, but none have been found to be well grounded.

(g) *Written agreements* are not usually made with clerks, cooks or servants. In all cases agreements have been observed by employers, often broken by employés but not enforced.

(h) *Indians are not subject to any special taxation.*

In conclusion there is a good opening for labourers and stevedores and in a lesser degree for carpenters, cooks and domestic servants and lower railway employés. All but the carpenters will do better if they understand English.

The British Indian population of the town of Beira was 71 (seventy-one) according to the census taken on 31st December 1896. The total British Indian population of the district probably amounts to about double that number.

Endorsement of the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, dated Calcutta, 31st December 1897, No. 1917—37-9.

Read—the following letter from Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, Lourenzo Marques (Delagoa Bay), dated 16th November 1897, and enclosures:—

With reference to a despatch received from the Foreign Office, dated 31st August, transmitting copies of correspondence received from the India Office on August 20th, wherein my attention has been drawn to a despatch (No. 48), dated 14th July last, from the Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton requesting that the Government of India might be supplied annually by Her Majesty's Consuls in East Africa with information upon the subject of British Indian immigration to different specified points within their jurisdictions, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of the Government of India, answers so far as this district is concerned, as far as I am able to give them to the various points raised in that letter.

(a) *Nature of employment offering and suitable for Indians.*—In the district of Lourenzo Marques (Delagoa Bay) there is but little opening for Indians seeking work.

The Indian population of the town of Lourenzo Marques consists of perhaps 350 individuals, who may be classed as storekeepers and their servants or assistants.

These stores deal in haberdashery, hardware, and general merchandise; some are engaged mainly in the sale of alcohol to natives.

Outside the town of Lourenzo Marques a scattered population of possibly 500 Indian traders inhabiting corrugated iron huts (or so-called stores) is chiefly engaged in a similar traffic with the natives over an area of possibly 20,000 square miles, comprising the districts of Portuguese Maputaland in the south against the British border of Zululand, up to the native territories of Gazaland as far as the Limpopo river.

There are no plantations or manufactories of any kind in this district giving employment to cooly labour.

It may, therefore, be asserted that Lourenzo Marques itself offers at present no opening for Indian labourers.

Apart from a certain number of Indians employed on building work by local European contractors such employment as Lourenzo Marques now affords may be said to consist solely of the domestic servant class in the households of Indian storekeepers.

The so-called "assistants" in these stores are practically servants in the general sense of the word, being expected often to perform menial duties as well as to serve behind their employers' counters.

A few of the better educated may be retained as book-keepers and clerks in the Indian vernacular.

Of labourers in the proper sense of the word, outside the few men working for the building contractors above referred to there are practically none.

If coolies could be found who understood brickmaking there is a small opening for them.

(b) *Nature of climate.*—The climate of the town and province of Lourenzo Marques is not good, malarial fever being prevalent during half the year.

From December to April is the hottest and unhealthiest season, the rest of the year being fairly cool and healthy. The rainfall is scanty, and the so-called rainy season not clearly defined. The chief rainfall generally takes place from September to December. The malarial fever common to the district is not generally fatal; but cases of typhoid, due to diet and absence of water, are often noted.

(c) *Rate of wages.*—A few Indian masons and plasterers are employed by local building contractors on wages ranging from about 3s. 6d. to 5s. per diem.

The wages paid by Indian storekeepers to the servants they engage in India are much smaller than this.

It is difficult to arrive at anything like exact figures, as local Indian storekeepers and merchants are unwilling to discuss their business engagements with their employés with the Consul; and any information they might be induced to give would probably be unreliable.

(d) *Cost of living.*—Cost of living is exceedingly high; although the Indian population being satisfied with less is not affected by the high prices charged for ordinary articles of European life to the same extent as the white inhabitants.

Inferior rice from Zanzibar or India is sold at from 25s. to 30s. per bag of about 160 lb.

Fish is scarce and dear. Fruit and vegetables too are scarcely grown and are very dear—the scarcity of water, sandy nature of the soil and prevalence of high and hot winds being against agriculture.

The country, beyond a scanty supply of mealies and millet insufficient even for its own native population, produces no food supplies save cattle and an inadequate yield of attenuated African chickens.

Rice and the food stuffs used by Indians are, it is believed, imported chiefly from Zanzibar and India; while mealies and mealie meal and salt are brought by dhows from the country around Mozambique town.

(e) *Cost of transport to scene of labour.*—While, as has been stated under paragraph (a) practically no cooly labour demand exists in or outside the town of Lourenzo Marques, a large and growing British Indian population finds employment in the Transvaal, and doubtless many Indians going to Johannesburg or Pretoria seek those destinations *via* Delagoa Bay.

The railway fares from Lourenzo Marques to these places are as follows:—

	First-class.	Second-class.	Third-class.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Pretoria	4 5 6	3 8 0	1 3 0
To Johannesburg	4 17 0	3 17 0	1 7 6

The majority of Indians appear to travel second-class on the local or Transvaal railways.

The third-class on both the Portuguese and Netherlands railways consists either of open goods trucks exposed to sun and all weathers, or else of what may be termed close goods trucks but little differing from cattle vans, in which passengers are huddled without regard to seating space or numbers.

This means of transport is generally reserved for and solely used by African natives.

(f) *Treatment of Asiatics by employers.*—Asiatics are almost solely employed by Asiatics.

The few Indians in the service of Englishmen or other white men are well treated, but these form a scarcely appreciable proportion of the total number employed.

Disputes between Hindu or Muhammadan storekeepers and their employés are, it is believed, of fairly frequent occurrence; and complaints by the latter of alleged ill-treatment by their masters are sometimes made to Her Majesty's Consul in Lourenzo Marques.

Such differences are, as a rule, not susceptible of easy arrangement either by the Consul or by the local Portuguese law court to which they are at times referred, owing to the ill-defined and unauthenticated agreements produced as evidence of the contract or its breach; and also to the difficulty of finding any one to interpret correctly.

On the whole it is believed that Asiatics in local employ are fairly well treated, it being borne in mind that the treatment they receive here is probably that they have been accustomed to receive at the hands of the same class of their own countrymen in British India.

(g) *Whether agreements are usually made and kept.*—The only agreements between Indians and local employers hitherto produced at this consulate for the Consul's inspection have been drawn up in the vernacular and are apparently unauthenticated by any recognized authority in British India.

They would appear to have been simply private understandings or promises committed to writing, and presumably signed by the employer (or his Agent in India) and employé without any attesting certificate of a local Indian authority—such as would render them of value either before Her Majesty's Consul in Lourenzo Marques or in a local Portuguese Court of Justice.

A local agreement made at Lourenzo Marques between an Asiatic master and servant would, of course, require the sanction of, and would be drawn up in accordance with, Portuguese law and usage; and such agreement would no doubt be kept, or if broken, legal remedy would be available.

As, however, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Consul at Lourenzo Marques the larger number of Indian workers coming to Lourenzo Marques embark from Indian ports with agreements already drawn up in India, and it is believed generally of the loose and ill-defined character above referred to, it would be well if it could be made known that such agreements drawn up in the Indian vernacular and without attestation of any kind, have no legal value in Lourenzo Marques and cannot be appealed to before the local courts in any proceeding between master and servant it may be sought to institute thereupon.

Agreements drawn up in India to have legal value locally should be made either before a recognized British Indian authority; or should (possibly preferably) be authenticated by a Portuguese Consular office in British India.

In any case it would be well for British Indians to bear in mind that they cannot, under any circumstances, hope to find in Portuguese East Africa the same readiness of access to local authorities, or facilities for obtaining legal remedies in the event of their suffering wrong or they are accustomed to enjoy in British India, or may rightly look to obtain in those British Colonies they emigrate to.

(h) *Whether Indians are subject to any special taxation.*—No special personal taxes are levied on Indians in Lourenzo Marques or district.

Indian traders pay for a trading, hawking, or canteen license according to their calling; but this tax applies to the occupation, not to the person, or nationality of him filling it.

A personal tax—*Bilhete de residencia*—is also levied on all foreign residents, and is applicable to Indians as to others.

A special tax upon Indians is levied in the Transvaal, whose frontier extends only 56 miles inland of Lourenzo Marques, and is the western boundary of the province, but information upon this point, as upon all others connected with the employment of Indians in that country, can be only rightly obtained from Her Majesty's Agent at Pretoria.

Inhambane is included in the jurisdiction of Her Majesty's Consul at Lourenzo Marques but has no actual resident Consular representative.

The port, which is comparatively unimportant, lies about 180 miles north of Lourenzo Marques, and is chiefly served by coasting craft and small steamers, although the British India Navigation Steam Company have made it one of their ports of call.

The town is quite a small settlement and it is assumed by the Consul that the foregoing remarks are as applicable to the conditions attaching to the settlement of British Indians in Inhambane and district as Lourenzo Marques.

Endorsement—No. 1917—37—9, dated 31st December 1897.

Forwarded to the Government of Madras for information, in continuation of endorsement, No. 1883—37—8, dated the 21st December 1897.

(By Order.)

(Signed) F. G. SLY,
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

ORDER—No. 76, Public, dated 11th January 1898.

Communicated in continuation of G.O., No. 677, Public, dated 31st May 1897, to the Protector of Emigrants, Madras.

(True Extract.)

A. T. ARUNDEL,
Chief Secretary.

To the Protector of Emigrants, Madras.

Public (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 499

Order

From

*The Govt. of India
(R+A)*

No. $\frac{1883}{37.8}$

Dated 21.12.97

Received 25.12.97

Registered 31.12.97

Enclosures 1.

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SUBJECT.

*Forw'd copy of correspondence
since with H.B. M. Comm.
Beira, on the subject
of the prospects of Indian
emigrants to Beira.*

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G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
677	7	31-5-97	
631	7	16-6-97	

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

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29.
2,000-4-3-97.

Public (189) Department.

CURRENT No.

From The Govt of India
Per: 1 Apr Sept.

Order

No. $\frac{1917}{37.9}$

Dated 31st Dec 1897
Received 5th Jan 1898
Registered 5th Jan 1898.

Enclosures

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SUBJECT.

Forwarding copy of
a letter from H.B.M's
consul, Lourenço Marques
(Delagoa Bay) regarding
British Indian Immigrants

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

1. no. 4989

42

note for P.S.

These two currents contain information about the conditions of life for emigrants who go to Delagoa Bay, and Bena, S. Africa. There seems little demand for Indian cooly labour either at Bena or Delagoa Bay.

Please see S.O. 677
31.5.97

attached in file. The reports may be communicated to the Protector of Emigrants, Madras, in continuation of S.O. 677.

MLP.
6/8

yes.

MLP
7.1.98

Pub Cto 4989 197
42 9798

Order No. 76 of 11.1.98

* A. Contd in continuation of S.O. No. 677 Pubd 31st May 97 to the Protector of Emigrants, Madras.

MLP
10/8

20.1.98

To the Protector of Emigrants, Madras.

* Not Secy If the go. Lgo is the Protector of Emigrants? If printed copies could just as well be sent to the other addressee info. 677 977

Not necessary.
MLP.
10/8

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4989 of 97 + 42 of 98
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A.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DUTY

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