No 112.

No 171 of 188

[7]

ORDINARY, MS.

Public Department.
G.O., dated 26th Nov 88.
No. 1098

Confidential No. 111
of 1888

7

When given for copying

[Despatch Abstract.]

Emigration to Mauritius

Guadeloupe and Reunion

BACK PAPER, No. 305 ¶. 26. 9. 88. OF 188 .
250 ¶. 14. 9. 88.
539 ¶. 31. 8. 88.

FURTHER PAPER, No. OF 188

READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, dated
188 , No. , MISCELLANEOUS.

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT .. .. .. A A

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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No 112

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Public Department

Current No 3959

Confidential

From.

The Govt. of India

Rev. & Agr. Dept.

No 209 / 4-29 E.

Dt. 8. 11. 88

Rf. 14. 11. 88.

10 Spare Copies

Emigration to Martinique, Guadeloupe, & Reunion

Recorded vide 7. 26 Nov 88 No 1098 Ind

No. 94 (Public—Emigration), dated India Office, London, the 6th September 1888.

From—The Right Hon'ble Viscount Cross, G.C.B., *Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India*,

To—The Government of India.

With reference to your Despatch No. 7 of the 9th of June last, and to my telegram of the 22nd ultimo, cited in the margin, I transmit, for the information of Your Excellency in Council, copy of correspondence* with the Foreign Office on the subject of emigration from India to the French Colonies of Martinique, Guadeloupe, and Réunion.

From Secretary of State, to Viceroy.

"Your Emigration Despatch No. 7 of 9th June 1888. I approve your prohibiting emigration to Martinique and Guadeloupe for future by notification. This is not to interfere with present requisition."

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To—The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

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Public Consult No.

Confidential.

No. 209 E.
4-29

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

(Conservation)

Simla, Dated the 8th November 1888.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
14 NOV 88
REVENUE DEPARTMENT

COPY of the following forwarded to the Government of Madras for information, in continuation of this Department letter No. 117 4-18 E. of the 24th July 1888.

By order,

W. Lawrence

Secretary to the Government of India.

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I am further directed to say that Lord Cross considers it advisable that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris should be instructed to make a strong representation to the French Government in the sense indicated in this letter and in that of the Government of India, and to urge the necessity for insisting upon the Colonial authorities treating the Indian immigrants with justice and fulfilling the obligations which the Convention of 1861 unquestionably imposes upon them and which are none the less in force, although emigration from India may have ceased. In making any such representation the question of repatriating those who are entitled to a free passage back to India should be specially pressed. With a protest not only as to the extent to which this obligation has been neglected but also as to the inefficient manner in which repatriation when granted has often been carried out.

With reference to former communications to the French Government stating the three conditions under which the question of re-opening emigration to Réunion could be entertained, Lord Salisbury will probably think it necessary that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris should expressly inform the French Government of the additional conditions mentioned by the Government of India in paragraph 5 of their letter, the acceptance of which by France they now deem to be indispensable.

I am to add that the Despatches* from the Acting Consuls in Réunion and in Martinique, very recently received in this Department from the Foreign Office, seem to Lord Cross to strengthen the opinions expressed by the Government of India in their Despatch transmitted herewith.

Viz., Réunion No. 32 of 1888, and enclosures.
Martinique No. 7 of 1888, and enclosures.

From Viceroy, 28th July 1888.

Guadeloupe applies for 1,000 coolies. Steamships chartered and expected at Pondicherry about end of August. French authorities propose taking immediately 300 coolies at Calcutta, rest at Pondicherry. Until emigration to Guadeloupe is suspended under Section 9, Act XX of 1883, we must comply with application. We therefore request early instructions by telegraph on proposal contained in paragraph 10, Despatch No. 7, of 9th June last, to suspend emigration to Guadeloupe and Martinique.

From Viceroy, 28th July 1888.

My telegram of to-day. Coolies. As the Convention is in force against us, am very anxious to have yours promptly by Monday. French Consul General is pressing us very hard.

Since the foregoing paragraphs were prepared, two telegrams, of which copies are given in the margin, have been received by Lord Cross from the Governor General of India on the 28th ultimo, regarding an application made by the colony of Guadeloupe for 1,000 coolies.

Lord Cross has thought that it would be inexpedient for the Government of India in the circumstances to refuse this application, and he has informed that Government accordingly in a telegram of the 30th ultimo;† but he considers that in view of the probability of requisitions of this kind being repeated, it is essential that a decision on the proposals specified in this letter should be arrived at as soon as possible, and he therefore proposes, if Lord Salisbury does not object, to send the Viceroy a telegram in the terms noted in the margin.

†*Secretary of State to Viceroy.*

Your telegrams of 28th July. Recruitment of coolies for Guadeloupe. Emigration not having been yet formally suspended, this application should be complied with. General question under consideration with Foreign Office.

Your Emigration Despatch No. 7, dated 9th June 1888. I approve your prohibiting emigration to Martinique and Guadeloupe for future by notification. This is not to interfere with present requisition.

No. 1199 J. & P., dated Foreign Office, London, the 17th August 1888.

From—Sir T. V. Lister, *Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,*

To—The Under-Secretary of State for India.

The Marquis of Salisbury has given his careful consideration to the arguments and conclusions of the Government of India in regard to the subject of Indian emigration in Réunion, Martinique, and Guadeloupe, which were contained in your letter of the 4th instant, J. and P. 932, and I am directed by His Lordship to state to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that he concurs in the telegram which Lord Cross proposes to send to the Viceroy of India approving of his prohibiting emigration to Martinique and Guadeloupe for the future, such prohibition not to interfere with the requisition for one thousand coolies recently received from Guadeloupe.

His Lordship would be glad to learn whether there is any objection to the communication to the French Government of the Despatch from the Government of India of the 9th of June which formed an enclosure to your letter now under reply.

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I am to enclose two further copies of the Indian Government's Despatch with their enclosures, and to add that Lord Cross has sent to the Viceroy of India the telegram approving the prohibition of emigration to Martinique and Guadeloupe.

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No. 112
1888

No. 94 (Public—Emigration), dated India Office, London, the 6th September 1888.

From—The Right Hon'ble Viscount Cross, G.C.B., *Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India,*

To—The Government of India.

With reference to your Despatch No. 7 of the 9th of June last, and to my telegram of the 22nd ultimo, cited in the margin, I transmit, for the information of Your Excellency in Council, copy of correspondence* with the Foreign Office on the subject of emigration from India to the French Colonies of Martinique, Guadeloupe, and Réunion.

From Secretary of State, to Viceroy.

"Your Emigration Despatch No. 7 of 9th June 1888. I approve your prohibiting emigration to Martinique and Guadeloupe for future by notification. This is not to interfere with present requisition."

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To—The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

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Martinique No. 7 of 1888, and enclosures.

From Viceroy, 28th July 1888.

Guadeloupe applies for 1,000 coolies. Steamships chartered and expected at Pondicherry about end of August. French authorities propose taking immediately 300 coolies at Calcutta, rest at Pondicherry. Until emigration to Guadeloupe is suspended under Section 9, Act XX of 1883, we must comply with application. We therefore request early instructions by telegraph on proposal contained in paragraph 10, Despatch No. 7, of 9th June last, to suspend emigration to Guadeloupe and Martinique.

From Viceroy, 28th July 1888.

My telegram of to-day. Coolies. As the Convention is in force against us, am very anxious to have yours promptly by Monday. French Consul General is pressing us very hard.

†*Secretary of State to Viceroy.*

Your telegrams of 28th July. Recruitment of coolies for Guadeloupe. Emigration not having been yet formally suspended, this application should be complied with. General question under consideration with Foreign Office.

Your Emigration Despatch No. 7, dated 9th June 1888. I approve your prohibiting emigration to Martinique and Guadeloupe for future by notification. This is not to interfere with present requisition.

Since the foregoing paragraphs were prepared, two telegrams, of which copies are given in the margin, have been received by Lord Cross from the Governor General of India on the 28th ultimo, regarding an application made by the colony of Guadeloupe for 1,000 coolies.

Lord Cross has thought that it would be inexpedient for the Government of India in the circumstances to refuse this application accordingly in a telegram of the 30th ultimo;† but he considers that in view of the probability of requisitions of this kind being repeated, it is essential that a decision on the proposals specified in this letter should be arrived at as soon as possible, and he therefore proposes, if Lord Salisbury does not object, to send the Viceroy a telegram in the terms noted in the margin.

No. 1199 J. & P., dated Foreign Office, London, the 17th August 1888.

From—Sir T. V. Lister, *Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,*

To—The Under-Secretary of State for India.

The Marquis of Salisbury has given his careful consideration to the arguments and conclusions of the Government of India in regard to the subject of Indian emigration in Réunion, Martinique, and Guadeloupe, which were contained in your letter of the 4th instant, J. and P. 932, and I am directed by His Lordship to state to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that he concurs in the telegram which Lord Cross proposes to send to the Viceroy of India approving of his prohibiting emigration to Martinique and Guadeloupe for the future, such prohibition not to interfere with the requisition for one thousand coolies recently received from Guadeloupe.

His Lordship would be glad to learn whether there is any objection to the communication to the French Government of the Despatch from the Government of India of the 9th of June which formed an enclosure to your letter now under reply.

No. 1199 J. & P., dated India Office, London, the 30th August 1888.

From—Horace Walpole, Esq., *Under-Secretary of State for India,*

To—The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of Sir T. V. Lister's letter of the 17th instant, and in reply to state that, if the Marquis of Salisbury deems such course expedient, Viscount Cross has no objection to the communication to the French Government of the Despatch from the Government of India, dated the 9th of June last, No. 7, containing the views of that Government on the subject of emigration from India to the French Colonies of Martinique, Guadeloupe, and Réunion.

I am to enclose two further copies of the Indian Government's Despatch with their enclosures, and to add that Lord Cross has sent to the Viceroy of India the telegram approving the prohibition of emigration to Martinique and Guadeloupe.

Government of India Central Printing Office.—No. 199 R. & A.—26-10-88.—100.—G. B.

1888.
ORDINARY, MS.

No. 94 (Public—Emigration), dated India Office, London, the 6th September 1888.

From—The Right Hon'ble Viscount Cross, G.C.B., *Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India*,

To—The Government of India.

With reference to your Despatch No. 7 of the 9th of June last, and to my telegram of the 22nd ultimo, cited in the margin, I transmit, for the information of Your Excellency in Council, copy of correspondence* with the Foreign Office on the subject of emigration from India to the French Colonies of Martinique, Guadeloupe, and Réunion.

From Secretary of State, to Viceroy.
"Your Emigration Despatch No. 7 of 9th June 1888. I approve your prohibiting emigration to Martinique and Guadeloupe for future by notification. This is not to interfere with present requisition."
*India Office to Foreign Office, 4th August 1888.
Foreign Office to India Office, 17th August 1888.
India Office to Foreign Office, 30th August 1888.

No. 932 J. & P., dated India Office, London, the 4th August 1888.

From—Sir J. E. Gorst, *Under-Secretary of State for India*,

To—The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

In continuation of Mr. Walpole's letter of the 31st December last, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to transmit, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, a copy of a letter from the Government of India, dated the 9th of June last, with enclosures, dealing with the whole subject of Indian immigration in Réunion, Martinique, and Guadeloupe.

No. 7, dated 9th June 1888.

I am desired to say that Viscount Cross agrees generally with the Government of India in the observations contained in their letter and in the conclusions at which they have arrived, and he is of opinion that it is clearly established by the recent correspondence that there is much oppression of Indian immigrants and many abuses connected with the whole immigration system in Réunion; that the general tendency is to subordinate the rights of these immigrants to the interests of the colonists; that the Indian has no security of obtaining equal justice at the hands of the Colonial administration; and that the position of affairs complained of arises very much from the intimate connections existing between the Syndics or the members of the Syndicat Protecteur and the planting interest in the island, which connection goes far to account for the fact that protests and representations produce no material effect and to explain why, even with the co-operation of the French Government, it is almost impossible to ensure reforms being introduced in the Administration of immigration in Réunion. His Lordship sees with much regret that the obligations of the colony in respect of the repatriation of time-expired immigrants are not fulfilled as they ought to be, and that the bulk of those who are repatriated reach India in abject poverty; also, that the sum voted by the Conseil General for the immigration service continues to be reduced, and further reductions are contemplated, though the grant for the current year is not sufficient for the maintenance of an efficient service. These and other considerations referred to in their letter induce Lord Cross to agree with the Government of India in thinking that before the question of renewing emigration from India can be re-opened, the French Government must accept the three conditions which the Government of India have always declared to be essential, and also the further conditions now stated in the 5th paragraph of their letter.

The state of affairs, I am to add, in the colonies of Martinique and Guadeloupe is similar to that in Réunion, though possibly not quite so bad. In these islands also many abuses and many just causes of complaint exist. While the obligations as to the immigrant's right to re-engage and receive a bounty, his right to gratuitous medical treatment and to punctual repatriation have been neglected in a manner most unfair and prejudicial to him. Emigration to Martinique and Guadeloupe has practically ceased for some years past; but nevertheless Lord Cross concurs with the Government of India in the opinion that it will be well to put an end to it formally, and he is disposed to inform that Government that he approves of their exercising the power vested in them of prohibiting emigration to those colonies by formal notification.