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[Despatch Abstract.]

Indian Coolie Immigration into Reunion

According with the
for & forwards copy of Mr. Consul Bennett's
report upon — for the year 1897.

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31-1-88

BACK PAPERS.

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

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G.O., No. 128, 31st January 1899.

JANUARY.

Indian Coolie Immigration into Reunion.

Recording endorsement of the Government of India forwarding copy of Mr. Consul Bennett's report upon — for the year 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

Endorsement of the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Emigration), dated Calcutta, 20th January 1899, No. 154—74-1.

Read—the following papers :—

From W. C. BENNETT, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion, to the Government of India, dated Réunion, 5th September 1898.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of a report which I have made to the Marquis of Salisbury on Indian Coolie Immigration at Réunion during 1897.

Whether the new arrangement made at Paris pass into law or not, I would earnestly draw Your Lordship's attention to the concluding paragraphs of my report. It is most urgent that the settlement of the question of the nationality of Indians born in Réunion should be no longer delayed, as I am quite powerless to protect the interests confided to my care and the Indians themselves are the victims of a grave injustice, and one which is recognized by the French themselves.

ENCLOSURES.

Report by Mr. Consul Bennett upon Indian Coolie Immigration at Réunion for the year 1897.

It will be noticed from Annexure No. 1 that the total immigrant population on

31st December 1897 is returned by the Protector of Immigrants as being 16,066 or 807 less than last year. This figure is probably fairly correct, but the number of children included in it, nearly 3,000, reduces the actual working population to 13,000, of which 4,181 are women, so that barely 9,000 men are available as labourers; of these, probably more than a quarter, perhaps nearly half, are old men, whose services are practically useless; about 6,000 able-bodied Indians therefore represent the actual strength available.

The number of men is returned at 8,965 and women at 4,181, and of these only 5,638 men and 2,177 women were engaged upon estates where more than 20 labourers are employed. The remainder 3,327 men and 2,004 women are either employed on smaller estates or more generally as hawkers, domestic servants or "Colons parti-aires." The last named being practically synonymous with vagabonds.

The fact that there are only 159 births as against 474 deaths would seem to

indicate that the Indian race is dying out here, but the contrary is the case. It is impossible to bury a corpse without certain legal formalities, and consequently all deaths are duly reported, no such formalities precede a birth, and afterwards they are frequently neglected, so that at least 25 per cent. might be added to this figure. Moreover, whilst all deaths amongst the Indian immigrants are reported, the larger number of women contract labourers are now growing old and past child bearing,

whilst on the other hand the births of children of the second generation are not reported to the Syndic, or are only put down, as here, at a ridiculously small number, since as the law now stands they are *ipso facto* French, and therefore beyond the jurisdiction of the Immigration Department.

There is therefore nothing abnormal in the birth and death rates as given, except that perhaps the death-rate which is about 27 per thousand is unusually low. There appear to have been 245 deaths upon the large properties and 229 on the smaller estates, and amongst the hawkers, servants, &c., a small difference of the death-rate in favour of the latter class. Domestic servants would generally, it is true, be medically attended in their masters' houses, but this lower death-rate is hardly corroborated by the fact "that only eleven Indians were treated in the hospitals during 1897 at the expense of private persons." Eighty-four in all were admitted in the course of the year, of whom 73 were attended at the expense of the Communal Districts.

Only 42 new *permis de séjour* were granted, a falling off on the 75 of 1896. The

125 "despensés d'engagement" were

granted to old and infirm Indians, men and women who are quite past work, but who on account of local family ties do not desire to return to India.

In Annexure No. 2, I give a return of the general Indian population as given in

official figures. It is, however, most

incomplete, there cannot be less than 30,000 Indians here, including of course children of the second generation of Indian contract labourers, all of whom as well as many of the first generation are excluded of these official figures as being French.

The number of condemnations before the Courts (Annexure 3) is alarmingly

high, 1,026, although rather less than in

1896, but it means that 1 in every 13 adult labourer has actually been condemned. Many have of course been condemned more than once, and it is possible that of the 298 who were sentenced by the Higher Courts, many were not contract labourers, although distinctly returned as such. The principal offences were as follows: vagabondage 97; theft 92; wilful assaults 16; involuntary homicide 1; engagements fictifs 2; drunkenness 1; sale of crops 22; abuse of confidence 8; receiving 9; murder 1.

The penalties inflicted varied from one day to ten years' imprisonment: a case of murder, arson and wilful assault was punished with ten years' hard labour, two cases (offence not stated) with seven years' hard labour, and with seven years' imprisonment.

Seven hundred and twenty-eight (728) Indians were condemned by the Juges

de Paix to Macadam, of whom 510 worked

out their fines at 1 franc per day in the

"Ateliers de Discipline." No information is given as to the number of days thus worked out and which were subsequently exacted as "journées de remploi"; but the 209 who paid their fines amounting to fr. 2034.55c., gives an average sentence of nearly ten days per man for the year. The adult immigrant population amounting to 13,146, it would appear that 1 in every 18 of the immigrants was condemned, or if adults men only are counted, one in nearly 12. I have drawn the special attention of the Protector to this very high and unsatisfactory average, but have been unable to procure any further particulars as will be seen by the following letter from the Protector :—

"Monsieur le Consul,

"Vous voulez bien reconnaître par votre lettre du 29 courant, que je vous ai toujours fourni courtoisement les renseignements que vous m'avez demandés pour votre statistique annuelle. Je n'en suis pas moins tout disposé à satisfaire à votre présente demande dans les mêmes conditions, je veux dire que je vous donnerai volontiers des détails sur toutes affaires particulières sur lesquelles vous désirez vous renseigner. Mais quelque désir que j'aie d'ailleurs de vous être agréable dans la circonstance, il ne me sera pas possible à mon grand regret, d'étendre ces renseignements à tous les détails de toutes les audiences des Tribunaux Disciplinaires de la

Colonie. Je l'ai fait il est veai, vous voulez bien me le faire remarquer, pour la liste nominative des engagistes contre qui des plaintes ont été portées devant les Cours de justice, y compris des Justices de Paix à la requête du Protecteur et des Syndics. Mais ces renseignements sont annuels concernant un petit nombre d'individus. Vous les aviez du reste déjà en grande partie, par les réponses aux plaintes du Consulat."

F. MALCOR,
Protecteur des Immigrants.

The "capture money" for arrest of Indians is returned in Annexure No. 6 as being 650 francs representing 260 Indians as arrested. Now, out of the 298 Indians condemned by the Higher Courts, 119 were condemned for vagabondage or desertion in one form or another, thus clearly giving rise to a police claim of francs 2-50 per head; and 728 Indians were sent to Macadam. Of the latter, certainly half may be put down as having paid the capture money. Hence we have at least 483 Indians who have paid head tax amounting to francs 1,207-00.

Of the 5,345 engagements passed in the year, 4,830 Indians re-engaged with the same master and 150 first engagements of children were sanctioned. The amount entered as bounty francs 185,313-95c. is enormous, averaging 77 francs per man, but very probably it was not all paid in cash. In any case it is sad to see money which might have done the Indian so much good if paid him as an increased wage, utterly wasted and even turned into a means of doing him harm.

There were 81 complaints made during 1897 at the Consulate by Indians, of these forty (40) were admitted to be valid and 41 to be unfounded, a low enough average, but higher than that of complaints laid at the Syndicates. As nearly all complaints at the Consulate are brought eventually before the Syndics, the former number being 81 and that for the Syndicates 93, the Syndics would appear to have only received about a dozen independent complaints, but no reliance can be placed upon the latter figures. Two more than usually interesting cases should be specially noticed; that of Anton Paroty Nos. 24 and 36 and that of Virapin Armongom No. 45. The former was engaged to a baker, hawking bread, no wages were allowed him but a percentage on sales. For months no settlements were made and the whole facts are laid out in the Annexure 8 (copy of complaint papers). It was quite useless to appeal, as the Indian's account book was not legal evidence.

The case of Virapin is contained in Annexure 9 (copy of complaint paper No. 45). It is still under consideration, and I hope that eventually Youvancourt will be obliged to pay the penalty of his mean trick.

In Annexure No. 10 is contained a return of complaints at Syndicates which calls for no special mention beyond the fact that at St. Sunanne, Bras, Panon, St. Rose and Possession, where the post of Syndic is occupied by persons who are not entirely dependent upon the Protector, but generally on the local mayor, not a single complaint was found to be valid.

Forty-six (46) marriages took place during the year, under French law, 35 between Indians and 8 between Indians and other classes. The Indian as a rule will not, and very wisely so here, marry out of his own race. Marriages between Indians and Creole women sometimes occur, but a Creole rarely marries an Indian woman. It is a remarkable fact that Eurasians are practically non-existent in Réunion.

The plan of repatriation viâ Mauritius is working well, although at times quarantines in Mauritius or here sadly interfere with it. But the old abuses connected with long waits in the depots are practically at an end and a single dozen of time-expired men can be sent off as easily as a hundred. Nine immigrants left at their

own expense for Mauritius and seven for Madagascar. The principal traders in certain Madagascar ports now appear to be British Indians, but very few are old contract labourers from Réunion.

There were only 51 Indians repatriated in 1897, of whom 37 were quite destitute and the remainder declared francs 3,244-80 as their savings or about £9 a head, and 48 shillings per head for adults of the convoy.

Suicides, etc.

Four suicides and three deaths from accidents are reported for the year.

One idiot, two blind men, and 33 infirm Indians were in the Colonial Hospital and depots at the close of the year, and nine lunatics at the Asylum at St. Paul.

Lunatics, etc.

The whole question of Indian Immigration at Réunion has been so thoroughly discussed during the recent negotiations in Paris that it is hardly desirable to go into it any further at present. Should, however, the new arrangements entered into between England and France, not be carried into effect, owing to the factious opposition of the colonial representatives, I would respectfully, but most earnestly, state that the settlement of the question of the legal status of the Indian coolie born in Réunion, who has been unconsciously made a Frenchman and thereby become liable to military service admits of no delay, and should be arranged upon the lines already laid down—lines which are in accordance with justice and Treaty rights. The position of such Indians at present is intolerable, they are deprived of all advantages of British and French Nationality, whilst obliged to bear the burdens of both; forced to engage as contract labourers because they are British; forced to do Military service as French; deprived of the right as British subjects here for special purposes under the Treaty of 1861 to claim exemption from French Military service, and deprived by the local authorities of exercising their right as Frenchmen to vote and take part in municipal affairs, they are taxed as foreigners, they reside here under a special code of law, and for all purposes except the obligation to perform military service are considered as a separate class. It is most earnestly to be hoped that this anomalous state of affairs which lays so heavy a load upon the Indian coolie may speedily be remedied and a grave injustice to law-abiding British subjects thereby removed. I again venture, therefore, to recommend their hard case for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government and the Government of India, and to point that in the concluding sentences of the Preface to the "Project de Loi" forwarded to me in Mr. Villiers' despatch No. 2 of March 6, 1897, the justice of the claim is fully admitted by the French themselves.

ANNEXURE No. 1.

Increase and decrease of Indian Immigrant population during 1897.

	NO.	NO.	NO.
Population on 31st December 1896	..	..	16,714
Births in 1897	..	..	159
Freed from engagement:—			
1. Became permissionaries	42	..	..
2. Under Decree of 30th March 1881	67	..	..
3. Children of second generation	32	..	..
4. Dispensés d'engagement	125	..	..
Left for Mauritius and Madagascar	..	16	..
Repatriated	..	51	..
Deaths	..	474	..
	266	266	..
	..	807	16,873
Deduct	..	..	807
Total Population on 31st December 1897	..	..	16,066

ANNEXURE No. 2.

Return of General Indian population during 1897.

Class.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
	NO.	NO.	NO.	NO.
Under contract labour	8,965	4,181	..	13,146
Children of above not engaged ..	..	..	2,920	2,920
Old engages holding <i>permis de Séjour</i> at 10 francs each ..	774	..	..	774
Old engages dispensés d'engagement ..	125	..	..	125
Free Indian (not old immigrants) paying 50 to 500 francs ..	91	..	..	91
Traders, clerks, etc.	Not known.	..	..	..
Agriculturists	Do.	..	..	..
Wives and children of permissionaries	Do.	..	..	..
Total ..	9,995	4,181	2,920	17,056

ANNEXURE No. 3.

Return of masters and Indians condemned by Courts during 1897.

Courts.	Indian.	Masters.	Fines.	Costs.
	NO.	NO.	FRS.	FRS.
Before Higher Courts	298	1	496-00	3,394-55
Judges de Paix	..	6	..	..
Do. Macadam	728	..	2,034-55	..
Total ..	1,026	7	2,530-55	3,394-55

ANNEXURE No. 4.

Nominal roll of masters prosecuted during 1897.

Name of master.	Name of Indian.	Nature of complaint.	At whose request prosecuted.	Result.
O. Youvancourt	Anthony Arlapin ..	Wages unpaid for two months and five days.	Consul ..	25 francs paid.
Do.	Bazane Aekbar ..	Wages unpaid for three months.	Do. ..	52-50 paid.
Bendervoet	Anthony Arlapin ..	Two months' wages unpaid.	Do. ..	Nonsuited.
Madame Lethauren	Marde Carpin ..	Assault	Do. ..	Do.
F. Nativel	Anthou Paroty ..	A year's wages unpaid ..	Do. ..	Nonsuited and Indian condemned to repay 400 frs. for sale of bread unaccounted for.
M. Veyrières	Rangassamy Rama-lingom.	Engagement over and master refused to liberate him.	Do. ..	Plainte reconnue fautive après explications fournies par le plaignant lui-même.
A de Laperrière	Whole estate ..	Four months' wages due.	Do. ..	Paid.

ANNEXURE No. 5.

Return of Indians engaged or re-engaged during 1897 showing amount of bounty received.

Engagements with bounty.	Engagements without bounty.	Total.	
		Engagements.	Bounties.
2,384	2,961	5,345	FRS. 185,313-95

ANNEXURE No. 6.

Table showing taxes, &c., levied upon Indian Immigrants and by whom paid.

Nature of tax.	Rate per head.	Payable by	Total amount.	Remarks.
Poll tax	6 francs.	Indian.	67,228-00	Nearer 90,000.
Engagement tax	6 ..	Master.	32,070-00	At least.
Permis de Séjour	10 ..	Indian.	8,170-00	Do.
Capture money	2 50 ..	Do.	650-00	Do.
Fines	..	Do.	2,530-55	+ labour of 519.
Costs	..	Do.	3,344-55	Men who worked out sentences to Macadam.
Approximate total ..	..	..	114,031-10	

Annexure No. 7.

Roll of Complaints preferred by British Indian Immigrants at Her Majesty's Consulate from the 1st day of January 1897 to the 31st day of December 1897.

No.	Date.	Name of immigrant employer or estate.	Nature of complaint.	Reply of local authorities.	Remarks.
1	7th January	Mourgsya Valladon, St. Denis, engaged to an Indian.	Complains that he is given too much work, and also that he has not been paid his wages for the last five months.	Complaint unfounded.	
2	7th "	Virasamy Annale, M. Motais, St. Pierre.	Complains that he is very ill-treated and has been several times violently assaulted by his master in presence of witnesses.	Case referred to Courts, but there being no evidence it was not proceeded with.	
3	9th "	Arquion Vedamontou, M. Bruniquel, St. Marie.	States that his engagement is over but that his master refuses to give up his livret.	Complaint unfounded. Engagement will only be over on 20th July next.	
4	12th "	Vingadassamy Nellaya, Mad'mle Dehet.	Complains that his engagement was cancelled without his consent and whilst he was ill in hospital. Also states that he owes Mad'mle Dehet 30 francs, which he is quite willing to pay off by monthly instalment of 5 francs, but Syndic refuses and wishes him to pay down the whole amount at once.	This man engaged six times during one year, and each time engagement was cancelled. He is now going to contract a seventh engagement. Arrangements as to payment of amount due to last engagee have been agreed to.	
5	12th "	Mardemontou Alamelon, M. Kerueguen, Quartier Français.	States that he was violently assaulted by M. Lamet, gérant of the estate, in presence of witnesses.		
6	19th "	Valladon Minatchy, M. de Villèle, Rivière des Plines.	States that he rented a piece of land from his master on which he built a hut and on which there are crops to the amount of francs 250-00. As he did not pay the rent, M. de Villèle now ejects him without any compensation whatever.	Matter was brought before Justice of the Peace and following solution arrived at:— Total owed by M. de Villèle .. 169-00 " " Valladon .. 169-00 10 00 The balance of 10 francs was paid to the man and engagement cancelled by mutual consent.	On further representation from Consulate it was admitted that man was no longer engaged and he was freed.
7	6th February	Mouton Sellin, M. de Laperrière, St. Paul.	This man was taken to France by his master for six months and complains that during his stay there no wages were paid to him, although he frequently asked for them. Last time he claimed them his master gave him a sound thrashing with a horse-whip and caused him to be sent to Macadam for five days when he appeared before the Judge de Paix and was fined 5 francs for refusal to work. Consul submits that man's engagement was cancelled "de facto" the moment he left Réunion.		

8	16th "	Ponin Mourguin, Credit Foncier Colonial, St. Suzanne.	Complains that although his engagement is over, his master refuses to give up his livret. His engagement is now over and as he is very old he wishes to obtain a "dispense d'engagement."	Has 234 days of work to replace. Request granted.	The frequent complaints against M. Bruniquel lead me to believe that this reply is not quite accurate and that there was a good deal of truth in the woman's complaint.
9	22nd "	Ponin Virasamy, M. Bruniquel, St. Marie.	States that his master has made an error in his accounts when settling with him. M. Bruniquel, he says, would be indebted to him instead of his owing this gentleman francs 196-00 as is alleged.	Forwarding account and man owes M. Bruniquel francs 165-70. He has resumed work and acknowledges his debt.	
10	23rd "	Louis Mouroussamy, M. Michel, St. Denis.	His engagement is over but his master refuses to return his livret.	Has 44 days of work to replace.	
11	3rd March	Taugon Virin, St. André	Complains that although she is the wife of a man dispensed d'engagement, the Syndic forces her to seek re-engagement.	Complaint unfounded. Her husband had no suffering from an incurable disease, a dispense has now been granted and extends to his wife. Request granted (vide No. 13).	
12	15th "	Sinasamy, M. Bruniquel, St. Marie.	He is ill, and although he went to hospital, he could not be cured. He states that he would like lighter work even though his wages be smaller.	This woman is very often drunk and when in that state creates a disturbance on the estate. This is what happened yesterday when M. Bruniquel caused the woman to be arrested and sent to the Police Station.	It is peculiar how apt Indians are to retract complaints before Syndics and even to apologise for trouble given.
13	16th "	Mouty Carpin, M. Bruniquel, St. Marie.	Complains that yesterday by order of M. Bruniquel her hut was forcibly entered, her own and her husband's clothes torn and thrown outside, herself ejected and the key taken to M. Bruniquel. This was done, she alleges, because M. Bruniquel did not like her husband (vide No. 12) complaining at the Consulate.	Complaint unfounded and man acknowledged it as being so before the Syndic. Request granted.	Employed as a hawker of vegetables, etc.
14	30th "	Arnassalom Apalama, M. Bey, St. Suzanne.	States that he is overworked, his master obliging him to do a lot of work for which he did not engage.	The 10 francs were deducted from man's wages on two months, wages, i.e., 5 francs a month. This deduction is in accordance with Act 57, Labour Law. As to payments only being made every two months, this has become a general custom and it is done at the request of men themselves.	
15	23rd "	Joseph Sovinden, M. Cadet, St. Joseph.	Is anxious to pay back to his master the sum of 20 francs which was advanced to him and have his engagement cancelled.	Engagement will only be over on 27th August next and he already has more than 365 days of work to replace when his engagement comes to an end.	
16	23rd "	Virasamy Palaya, M. Bruniquel, St. Marie.	Complains that his wages were unjustly cut 10 francs. Syndic was not there when payment was made and wages only paid every two months contrary to law.	Satisfactorily settled. Permis was withdrawn in error.	This man was employed as coachman to the Directeur de l'Intérieur and leaving suddenly his master was displeased with him and caused his permis to be withdrawn.
17	23rd "	Sibarate Quoneary, M. Michel, St. Marie.	States that his engagement has now been over for some time, but that his master refuses to give up his livret.		
18	5th April ..	Tangama Sinama, St. Pierre.	Has been a permissionnaire for the last nine years and has had his permis suddenly withdrawn on account of alleged condemnation at St. Pierre. Proofs that man was never condemned is being forwarded by Consul to Governor and the Protector, meanwhile will give him a temporary "permis," so that he should not be thought by the Police as being worth francs 2-50.		

of Chinese Indian Immigrants at Her Majesty's Consulate from the 1st day of January 1897 to the 31st day of December 1897—cont.

No.	Date.	Name of immigrant employer or estate.	Nature of Complaint.	Reply of local authorities.	Remarks.
19	13th April	Morde Carpin, M. Selhausen, Bois de Nefes.	Complains that he has only received francs 6-60 for one month and a half wages. That his master has violently assaulted him several times. He desires that his wages should be paid to him and his engagement cancelled.	The 6-60 are only an advance made on his wages due end of the month. His complaint as regards ill-treatment and assault has been referred to Justice (vide No. 22).	
20	18th "	Arnoncom Ramassamy, M. Adam de Villers, St. Rose.	States that he has been ill and in hospital for over two months and no medicine is given to him. He left St. Rose twelve days ago and came here in the hope that he might receive proper medical attention.	Complaint unfounded and man received very good treatment. The truth about his complaint is that some weeks ago he committed a petty theft, and as the Police is on his track he appeared at the Consulate to try and evade them.	Doctor Dangerfield subsequently appeared at Consulate, and I am quite satisfied that the man was properly treated and that he was actually a thief.
21	14th "	Sellaya Sellama, M. Boy, St. Suzanne.	Complains that his engagement is over and his master refuses to deliver his livret. He would willingly pay the equivalent in money or time still to serve to have done with this engagement.	Had days of work to replace. He was sent back to his master, but left work again when he was arrested as a "vagabond," and sentenced to three months' prison.	A very unjust decision, but no appeal possible.
22	15th "	Morde Carpin, M. Selhausen, Bois de Nefes.	Wishes to wait at the depot the solution to his case for he fears to be again ill-treated by his master.	Was immediately sent to depot, but a week afterwards was sent back to resume work, there being no sufficient evidence for the intervention of Courts.	
23	15th "	Ayan Voramontou, St. Denis	Is an old Indian dispensé d'engagement who was brought at Consulate by two policemen. He is ill and urgently needs to be sent to hospital.	Was already sent to the depot communal but ran away and walked the streets as a beggar when he was arrested. Man has again been sent to hospital with instructions to make him enter workhouse as soon as he is well.	
24	21st "	Andi Virapin, St. André	Is the son of a permissionnaire and therefore not liable to engagement. He complains that the Syndic forces him to re-engage.	The man being born in Réunion on 7th November 1871, and not having claimed British Nationality according to Law of 1889, is a French subject and therefore instructions have been sent to Syndic not to interfere any more in his case.	
25	21st "	Chanon Ramdiale, St. Denis	Is an aged Indian who wishes to enter the hospital; for the last month the Consulate has provided him with food and lodging, but he is now ill and requires medical treatment.	Man has applied for a permis de séjour provisoire and is therefore still within the pale of the Protectorate. He has therefore been sent to hospital, but as soon as he gets his permis he will no more belong to Immigration Service.	This is the end of Chanon Ramdiale (No. 26 of 1896).
26	22nd "	Singahayen Monnousemyuait	Complains that he has been assaulted by another Indian and has had his hand very badly cut with a knife. He desires to enter hospital.	Case was referred to Justice, but Indian having withdrawn his complaint, it was not proceeded with. Man went back to his engagee where he has resumed work after having been properly nursed.	
27	22nd "	Betehou Basabou, Credit Foncier, St. André.	Complains that he is overworked and ill-treated. He wishes to return money he received as bounty and have his engagement cancelled.	Complaint unfounded. Man only wished to leave his present master to go and engage on a neighbouring estate.	

28	24th "	Anton Paroty, M. Nativel, St. Louis.	Complains that his engagement is over and that his master will neither return his livret nor pay him eight months' wages due to him. It would appear that his master docked his wages for bread unsold.	See No. 36.	Complaint utterly unfounded. M. Franiquel never refused to give the man proper medical treatment.	An extraordinary and inexplicable discrepancy. Indian would not have complained had he not been interfered with at all. There is hardly any doubt that this was a gross miscarriage of justice. A startling example of the hawking system.
29	24th "	Couroussamy Comorandy, M. Bruniquel, St. Marie.	Complains that he is ill and refused entry to hospital. He states that he does not wish to remain there and that he is quite ready to pay for the cancellation of his engagement.		M. Selhausen refusing to cancel engagement, man was sent back to him. He has now resumed work.	
30	28th "	Morde Carpin, M. Selhausen, Bois de Nefes.	Is very much afraid of returning to his master, who, he says, will ill-treat him. Asks that his engagement may be cancelled even if he has to sacrifice part of his wages.	(Vide Nos. 19 and 22.)	Complaint well founded and Engagee was made to pay the three months' wages he owed this man and to make future payments monthly before Syndic.	
31	5th May	Monnousemy Modavin, engaged to an Indian, St. Lea.	Complains that his master cuts his wages to the extent of one month in three.		Man had a dispensé d'engagement, but the woman who took care of him has disappeared. Casey has been sent to hospital. Matter settled and engagement over.	
32	7th "	Casey Ramalingom, St. Denis	Has been found lying in the street by Consulate Interpreter. He is ill and destitute and appears to be "dispensé d'engagement."		Man will not be of age until July next. His declaration will then be accepted.	
33	12th "	Rangassamy Ramalingom	States that when his engagement was over, he owed several days of work. His son, however, offered his services and worked for him for two months but received no wages. The engagement would thus be morally if not legally over.		Complaint utterly unfounded and Syndic had never interfered in any way with Virapin.	
34	12th "	Gopalasamy Sittama, St. Marie	Bring now 21 years of age, he wishes to avail himself of the Provisions of Decree of 1891 and cease to be an immigrant.		Case submitted to Justice of the Peace. Paroty was ordered to pay M. Nativel the sum of frs. 412-90. This money was paid to Paroty for sale of bread, and he kept it. This man is trying to keep the money instead of returning it.	
35	12th "	André Virapin, St. André (vide No. 24).	Complains that the Syndic sent for him and had his photo taken. He is now told that he must pay a tax of 225 francs or else be imprisoned.		This man is only 16 years old according to Matricule Generale. The date of his birth will be established legally by a judgment of the Court.	
36	18th "	Anton Paroty, M. Nativel, St. Lea.	Is said to owe his master frs. 412-00 for bread sold and unaccounted for. This Indian on his side alleges that M. Nativel owes him frs. 215-00. The arrangements seem most irregular, no payments having been made for eight months.		Granted.	
7	21st "	Soupranien Moucaye, St. Denis	His engagement is over and he is made to re-engage. Consul would point out that this man's birth has not been registered, and further that he declares he is 21 years of age and does not desire to re-engage.		Man had 342 days of work to put in when engagement was over, and will not have finished until August next.	
8	28th "	Perna Mounier, Hell Bourg	Complains that his engagement has been over for the last nine months and that his master refuses to return his livret, so as to compel him to re-engage.		Is now a French subject having failed to comply with law of 1889 when she became of age.	
9	5th June	Codabecasse Yesamean, M. Kerueguen, St. Louis.	Her engagement is over and she wishes to engage in St. Denis instead of St. Suzanne. They ask to be "dispensés d'engagement" on the grounds of old age and infirmity.		Granted.	
9th "	"	Eagmalia Yalla, St. Denis				
10th "	"	Three Indians, Hell Bourg				

Roll of Complaints preferred by British Indian Immigrants at Her Majesty's Consulate from the first day of January 1897 to the 31st day of December 1897—*cont.*

No.	Date.	Name of immigrant employer or estate.	Nature of Complaint.	Reply of Local Authorities.	Remarks.
42	16th June ..	Amelia Chodon, St. Denis ..	Left for Mayotte with his master more than 20 years ago. Now being old and ill, he has been sent back to Réunion. How does M. le Procureur propose to deal with his case?	This man left only five or six years ago. He came back here as a passenger, and therefore is no more within the pale of Immigration Department. He has been sent to Commissaire de Police for relief as indigent.	Scandalous ! Case not yet ended.
43	16th " ..	Saminadin Alanelon, Credit Foncier, Coloniale.	States that his engagement is over and that his master refuses to return his livret.	This man is constantly running away from work and does not work ten days per month.	
44	16th July ..	Batch of 24 Indians, Men Repos, St. Paul.	Claim four months' wages unpaid ..	Protector has given orders to Syndic to prosecute M. Lapérouse who had promised to settle on the 14th instant.	
45	17th " ..	Virapia Armongom, M. de Youvan-court, St. Denis.	His master owes him 50 francs and he applied in vain to Juge de Paix to secure means to obtain payment.	M. de Youvan-court made an I. O. U for 50 frs. but on plain paper. Now he refuses to pay, and if matter is brought before Justice man would be fined 50 frs. for offence against stamp laws. Nothing can be done.	
46	17th " ..	Vallancee Moulokelan, Grande Cha-loupe.	Asks for a dispensé d'engagement on the ground of infirmity.	It is over and having now claimed benefits of Decrees of 1881, he has ceased to be an immi-grant.	
47	23rd " ..	Nalléamby Amouny, St. Denis ..	Declares that his engagement is now over ..	Man has now been paid and given one frano more.	
48	26th " ..	Soupin Virassamy, M. Biberon, St. Andre.	Complains that he has not been paid any wages for the last nine months having only received 10 francs.	Complaint unfounded.	
49	26th " ..	Antony, M. Bandervé, St. Denis..	States that his master owes him two months' wages and complains of hard work.	Granted.	
50	27th " ..	Miniana Ramesamy, St. Denis ..	Wishes to be repatriated to India with next convoy.	Sent back to his engagiste with instructions that he should receive proper care and be under medical supervision.	Syndic was further ordered to warn M. Bruniquel that in future he must be more careful and humane to his engagés.
51	3rd August ..	Sellin Patchiapin, M. Bruniquel, St. Denis.	Is ill, and states that he receives no medical attention. Wishes to go to hospital.	Is a bad character and has 564 days of work to replace.	Consul once contested legality of this decision and it was upset and man freed.
52	4th " ..	Lesare Apavon, M. Hugo, St. Rose.	Complains that his engagement is over but that his master refuses to return his livret.	Was repatriated to India but returned to Réunion before a year's absence. He there-fore comes under decision of Governor Richard and is liable to engagement.	Consul contested decision and the engagement was eventually broken.
53	12th " ..	Pajany Sinan, St. Suzanne ..	Is old and infirm and wishes to obtain a dispensé d'engagement.	Complaint unfounded. His master resides at St. Joseph, but when he goes to St. Louis takes his servant with him.	
54	18th " ..	Maraidon Atohy, St. Denis ..	Complains that he is constantly being arrested by Police. He was repatriated to India and returned here of his own free will after two years' absence. If this be true he cannot engage.	This man is not ill and has now engaged at Le Port.	
55	18th " ..	Antony, Elysée Arothion, St. Joseph.	States that his master wishes to take him to live at St. Louis and he is not willing to.		
56	18th " ..	Virapin Comorassamy, St. Paul ..	Is ill and unable to work and desires to be dispensé d'engagement. Complains that the Syndic forces to re-engage.		

57	20th " ..	Montonsamy, Adequin, St. Denis ..	Is an old Indian, who being ill desires a dispensé d'engagement.	Is not ill and can work very well. He has now engaged.	The only fate before a man with a debt of 412 francs is to become a vagabond.
58	24th " ..	Anton Paroty, St. Louis ..	Is quite willing to pay his former master, but owing to his debt being entered on his "Laissez passer," he cannot find an engagiste.	Every facility will be given this man to find an engagiste. (Vide Nos. 24 and 36.)	
59	26th " ..	Mangray Ramassamy, M. Kerveguen, St. Suzanne.	Her engagement has now been over for last ten months and she wishes to be repatriated to India with her daughter.	As she is married she cannot be repatriated without her husband's consent and this the latter refuses. His wife has now engaged on the same estate with him.	
60	9th September ..	Sellon Patchiapin, M. Bruniquel ..	Complains that he was violently assaulted by his master but has no witnesses. He also states that M. Bruniquel had him sentenced to Macadam.	Complaint unfounded. Engagement however has been cancelled. (Vide No. 51.)	
61	24th " ..	Rengassamy Tinbaran, St. Pierre ..	Is suffering from an incurable disease, and notwithstanding that Syndic forces him to re-engage.	Has been dispensé d'engagement for six months.	
62	30th " ..	Abdonkader Cheocally, Adam de Villiers.	Complains that he was violently assaulted by an "employé" of the estate.	Indian has withdrawn his complaint after it had been referred to Justice.	
63	1st October ..	Lingadon, St. Len ..	States that, although his wife's engagement is now over, her master refuses to give up her livret.	Livret returned and engagement over.	
64	9th " ..	Ramaye Caroupin, St. Denis ..	Asking for Extract of Matricule Generale ..	Forwarding same.	
65	9th " ..	Linesamy Ossanton, M. Bruniquel, St. Marie.	Is ill and wishes to enter hospital. His engage-ment has been cancelled on account of his illness.	Has been sent to hospital.	
66	13th " ..	Virassamy Palaya, M. Bruniquel, St. Marie.	States that a sum of 45 frs. is unduly claimed from him.	Owes the money claimed from him.	
67	13th " ..	Govinden Ramaye, M. Bellier, St. Suzanne.	Asking to kindly translate documents concern-ing his claim to British Nationality.	Forwarding translation.	
68	15th " ..	Antony Seviatauf, Medl. David, Possession.	Complains that his engagiste owes him five months' wages and refuses to pay him.	Only one month was due to him. Engagement cancelled.	
69	20th " ..	Narassou Vitecode, Pointe des Galets.	States that his master owes him two months' wages.	Complaint unfounded.	
70	26th " ..	Pernal Patchy, Adam de Villiers, St. Marie.	Complains of having been most violently assaulted by M. Adam de Villiers in the presence of some fifteen witnesses.	Monsieur Adam de Villiers was tried before the Courts and sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment.	
71	27th " ..	Racaye Carpin, St. Denis ..	He is ill and quite unfit to contract an engage-ment. He wishes to obtain a dispensé d'engagement.	Granted.	
72	29th " ..	Palany Malayandy, M. Arohambault, Riviere des Pinces.	His engagement is over and his master refuses to give up his livret.	Has 222 days of work to put in.	
73	10th November ..	Minatchy Selly, Miss Sellino, St. Denis.	Is ill and unable to work and wishes her engage-ment to be cancelled. Her engagiste is a woman of low character and unfit to have Indian engages.	Woman has been released from work for one month. As to Miss Sellino she pays her taxes and therefore has a right to have Indian engages.	Engagement cancelled eventually.
74	13th " ..	Govindra Ramaye, M. Bellier, St. Punance.	Declined French nationality according to law of 1889 and now wishes to avail himself of decree of 1881 and cease to be an immigrant.	Has altered his mind before the Syndic and now wishes to remain an immigrant. (Vide No. 67.)	
75	15th " ..	Goulamceder Yaffaisaib, St. Denis..	Although his engagement is not yet over his master wishes to cancel it without his consent.	Matter satisfactorily arranged.	
76	19th " ..	Barane Aokben, M. Abadie, St. Denis.	States that his master owes him 3½ months' wages. Also complains of being ill-treated and wishes his engagement to be cancelled.	Matter brought before Juge de Paix and M. Abadie ordered to pay the man 61.60 frs. Engagement cancelled.	

Roll of Complaints preferred by British Indian Immigrants at Her Majesty's Consulate from the first day of January 1897 to the 31st day of December 1897—cont.

No.	Date.	Name of immigrant employer or estate.	Nature of Complaint.	Reply of Local Authorities.	Remarks.
77	23rd November	Vincenty Sellsy, M. Bruniel, St. Marie.	Complains that he only received 17.50 francs out of the 30 francs due to him for two months' work.	Wages due amounted to 27.50 frs.: 10 frs. were deducted by M. Bruniel for money advanced.	
78	29th "	Sonpin Mouton, M. Benoit, Possession.	Was violently assaulted by his master and asks that his engagement might be cancelled.	Case referred to Justice, but no action taken, evidence proving inefficient.	
79	29th "	Joseph Ramoharane, M. Hloqu St. Rose.	Is suffering from chronic bronchitis and produces certificates that the climate of St. Rose is not good for him.	His engagiste refuses to break engagement and matter brought before Juge de Paix.	
80	20th December	Mary Vinhalome, M. Seraphine, St. Suzanne.	Complains his master forces him to do night work.	M. Seraphine is a telegraph clerk and every now and then has a night telegram to forward to its address.	
81	26th "	Tralayin Mangalom, Hell Pourg "	His engagement is over, and ever since November 24 last, he applied for his position to be regularised, but so far nothing has been done.	His birth not having been declared, he could not contract another engagement. Orders, however, have been issued by Protector that man's birth be at once declared so that he might enter into another engagement.	This case led to a long correspondence and was only satisfactorily settled on 30th August 1898.

Annexure No. 8.

Chancellerie du Consulat de S. M. Britannique.

SAINT DENIS,
May 18th, 1897.

SAINT DENIS,
le 31 Mai 1897.

A MONSIEUR LE PROTECTEUR
DES IMMIGRANTS.

A MONSIEUR LE CONSUL
DE S. M. BRITANNIQUE.

Her Majesty's Consul presents his compliments to Monsieur le Protecteur and sends to him the Indian Anton Paroty (complaint paper No. 28 of April 24th to which no reply has been received), together with a "Laissez passer" alleging that he owes to his master frs. 412.90.

The Indian on his side says that M. Nativel owes him frs. 215.00.

In any case the arrangements seem to be most irregular, no payments having been made for eight months. M. Nativel has, it would appear, five other Indian engages and it would be very interesting to know if their wages have been paid up to the end of last month.

Sentiments, etc.

(Signed) C. W. BENNETT.

J'ai l'honneur de faire connaître à Monsieur le Consul avec mes compliments en retour, et en réponse à sa note de plainte et à celle antérieure du 24 du mois dernier No. 28, relative à la même affaire, que après conciliation devant le Juge de Paix du 16 Avril et à la date de la décision de ce magistrat en date du 4 du courant, jugement a été rendu ce matin par le Tribunal de paix de St. Louis condamnant Anton Paroty en premier ressort à payer à M. Fabien Nativel la somme de frs. 412.90c., chiffre de sa dette mentionnée sur son "Laissez passer" que l'Indien a fait voir au Consulat et qui a été arrêté par la décision susdite du 4 mai en 2^{me} conciliation sur les pièces produites (les 3 cahiers de compte) et d'après les explications fournies par l'intéressé.

Si Anton veut tenter la voie de l'appel elle lui est ouverte, ce qui lui est arrivé devant pourtant lui donner à réfléchir. À l'expiration d'un précédent contrat Anton Paroty était resté débiteur d'une somme de 366 frs. envers ce même engagiste. C'était comme aujourd'hui, de l'argent du pain vendu à crédit mis à son compte dans lequel il était rentré et qu'il voulait garder pour lui. Monsieur Fabien Nativel fit intervenir Monsieur le Procureur de la République, et Anton Paroty rendit l'argent.

Il n'est pas exact que Monsieur Fabien Nativel veut retenir cet immigrant, dont l'engagement est en effet terminé. C'est au contraire celui-ci qui a insisté plusieurs fois pour renouveler son engagement afin de s'acquitter, disait-il, de sa dette. Sur le refus de Monsieur Nativel de le reprendre, il a déclaré formellement au Syndic qu'il s'arrangerait de manière à ne rien payer du tout.

Anton semble vouloir se tenir parole renvoyé devant le Syndic de St. Louis il ne s'est pas présenté et ce matin cherchant à se faire passer pour malade il est venu me demander à se faire hospitaliser.

Considération, etc.

(Signed) F. MALCOR,
Le Protecteur.

Annexure No. 9.

Chancellerie du Cousulat de S. M. Britannique.

SAINT DENIS,
July 17th, 1897.

SAINT DENIS,
le 28 Juillet 1897.

À MONSIEUR LE PROTECTEUR
DES IMMIGRANTS.

Virapin Armongom, an engage, complains that M. Youvancourt owes him fifty francs, which he has vainly endeavoured to secure by means of applying to the Juge de Paix.

Will Monsieur le Protecteur kindly do what he can to aid Virapin.

Sentiments, etc.

(Signed) C. W. BENNETT.

À MONSIEUR LE CONSUL
DE S. M. BRITANNIQUE.

Virapin Armougom No. 101133 de
Matricule Générale, engagé au Sieur Poirier
a vendu à M. de Youvancourt 2 bœufs,
je crois pour une somme de frs. 150,
sur laquelle il a reçu celle de 100 francs.
Le solde restant dû soit 50 francs a fait
l'objet d'un bon sur papier litre que le
vendeur a accepté.

A l'échéance fixée, Virapin n'a pas été payé et depuis il a vainement appelé en conciliation devant le Juge de Paix son débiteur qui ne se présente pas. En désespoir de cause il s'est adressé au Consulat qui l'a renvoyé au Protectorat.

Bien que ce soit une affaire de droit commun, le Service de l'Immigration aurait volontiers assisté cet Indien s'il n'était pas démontré qu'il n'y a rien à faire. Il est évident que M. Oscar de Youvancourt ne se rendra pas plus à l'appel du Syndic. Il faudrait alors exercer des poursuites contre lui, et à cette fin produire en justice le titre qui est sur papier libre au lieu d'être sur papier timbré, ce qui vaudrait au demandeur une amende de 50 frs. pour le recouvrement incertain de pareille somme.

Pour qu'il soit dit cependant qu'on n'a rien négligé, M. le Syndic tentera une démarche auprès du débiteur en question en lui représentant que ce ne serait pas loyal de tromper un pauvre homme dont tout le tort serait d'avoir en confiance en lui.

Considération, etc.

(Sd.) MARTIN DE FLACOURT,

*Le Chef de Bureau,
Pour le Protecteur.*

Annexure No. 10.

Analysis of Complaints preferred at Consulate during 1897.

Nature of complaint.	Founded	Unfounded.	Total.	Remarks.
Overwork	0	3	3	Where more than one man appears and all make the same complaint it is entered as a single complaint.
Assault	1	7	8	
Engagement over	4	12	16	
Illegal ejection	1	0	1	
Cutting wages	1	3	4	
Medical treatment	3	2	5	
Wages overdue	4	5	9	
Various	26	9	35	
Total ..	40	41	81	

Annexure No. 11.
Complaints preferred before the Syndics by Indian immigrants during the year 1897.

Nature of complaint.	Saint Denis.		Saint Marie.		Saint Suzanne.		Saint Andrew.		Bras Panoon.		Saint Benoit.		Saint Rose.		Saint Joseph.		Saint Pierre.		Saint Louis.		Saint Leu.		Saint Paul.		Possession.		Total.	
	Founded.	Not founded.	Founded.	Not founded.	Founded.	Not founded.	Founded.	Not founded.	Founded.	Not founded.	Founded.	Not founded.	Founded.	Not founded.	Founded.	Not founded.	Founded.	Not founded.	Founded.	Not founded.	Founded.	Not founded.	Founded.	Not founded.	Founded.	Not founded.	Founded.	Not founded.
Claiming salaries	5	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	11	18	
Claiming rations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	6	
Overwork	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	
Assaults, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	14	
No medical attendance.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	
Obliging to re-engage.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	2
Want of clothes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	..
Various ..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	
Total ..	7	5	4	13	..	9	7	5	..	3	1	6	..	1	4	3	6	..	2	5	2	1	2	5	4	35	58	

No. 189, dated the, 17th November 1898.

Office Memorandum by the Private Secretary to the Viceroy.

Transferred, for disposal, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Revenue and agricultural Department.

No reply has been sent to the enclosed.

Endorsement—No. 154—74-1, dated 20th January 1899.

Forwarded to the Government of Madras, for information, in continuation of endorsement No. 64—82-1, dated the 11th January 1898.

(By order.)

(Signed) E. MACONCHIE,
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

ORDER—No. 128, Public, dated 31st January 1899.

Recorded in continuation of G.O., No. 199, Public, dated 3rd February 1898.

(True Extract.)

G. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue).
" Protector of Emigrants.
" British Consular Agent, Pondicherry and Karikal.
Editors' Table.

End. P. Seetharam.

Public (1899) Department.

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Rev. & Sept

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P.O.

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74-1

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