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[Despatch Abstract.]

Indian Coolie Immigration into Reunion

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Enclosures

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G.O., No. 1273, 13th November 1899.

NOVEMBER.

Indian Coolie Immigration into Reunion.

Recording endorsement of the Government of India forwarding copy of Mr. Consul Bennett's report upon — for the year 1898.

12. But it is almost useless to try to formulate facts from statistics which are
Vide Annex No. 10. mainly guess work. In the *Annuaire de la Réunion* for 1899, for instance, a semi-Government publication, the Indian engaged population is returned at men 8,024, women 3,219, and children 1,716, or a total of only 12,956.

13. The return of general Indian population is very misleading. It only includes persons who are acknowledged by the Local Authorities to the British, and excludes all the children of the second generation who are now claimed as French under the French Nationality law of 1889. The figures might easily be increased by from 20 to 30,000 to be anywhere near the actual total of Indian population.

14. Two hundred and forty-eight Indians were condemned before the higher
 Sentences. Annex No. 3. courts during the year. The aggregate fines amounted to francs 362, and costs to 1418-90 francs, a slightly better report than for 1897.

The chief charges were—

94 for vagabondage.	6 for abuse of confidence.
10 for robbery.	3 for drunkenness.
10 for theft of crops.	1 for murder.
22 for assault.	3 for receiving.

15. The sentences varied from one day to ten years on an Indian found guilty of murder, arson and assault. One was also sentenced for vagabondage "à la rélegation" equivalent to a life sentence.

16. A very slight improvement is to be recorded in the number of sentences to
 Macadam. Macadam, 576 to 728 in 1897, or 1 in 15, as against 1 in 12 of the total adult population. I have already reported in my despatch No. 31, of October 28, 1898, how impossible it has been for me to obtain any satisfaction upon the representation I have made to the Governor of Réunion and the Protector of Immigrants as to sending Indians to Macadam. It is the blackest of the blots which defile the whole immigration system.

17. The system as worked by the Juges de Paix is very arbitrary, and is a mere travesty of justice: "You have been insolent to your master?" "No Sir." Your master says you have. Ten days' atelier de discipline." Bring on the next prisoner.

18. The Juges de Paix are never free agents, and many of them are men of very
 Standing of Juges de Paix. low character. One recently appointed at St. Benoît, a cousin of Mr. Louis Brunet, Deputy for Réunion, presides over a Court where he has frequently figured in the dock. He has been condemned quite lately by the Police Correctionnelle at St. Denis for public brawling; he has been implicated in several shady transactions and in some crimes, but he administers justice, although the Press has repeatedly published damaging articles against him. Where there is no Juge de Paix the Mayor or Deputy Mayor takes his place. If a certain amount of rough justice may be had at times from a Juge de Paix, it can hardly be expected from a man who, if not a planter himself, is closely connected with planters.

19. Two hundred and forty-seven commuted their time by money payments of 2388-05 francs, and 329 worked out their sentences.

20. The return of masters prosecuted shows the usual unsatisfactory features. Out of eleven prosecutions, seven were "affaires classées", and no further information was granted; one was carried to a successful issue, one partially so, an employé being fined 15 francs for assaulting an Indian, and in two cases payment was ordered. In the first case, however, the master is said to be indigent and to have no goods to levy upon. The eleventh ended in the Indian getting six months' imprisonment for "dénonciation calomnieuse." I went very carefully into the last case, and am convinced that the man only had what he deserved.

He was a regular rascal, and had previously accused his master, without any evidence whatever, of having murdered a Kaffir. If his master really did thrash him, one can hardly wonder at it.

21. Of the 6,003 engagements passed, 4,925 re-engaged with the same master.
 Re-engagements. Annex No. 5.

22. The roll of complaints laid at the Consulate presents no unusual features, the most interesting point brought out being the illegality of the compulsory engagement of children born in the Island of Indian Immigrants, as pointed out in my despatch No. 27 of October 19, 1898, to the Marquis of Salisbury. It is a powerful weapon, and the knowledge that I can use it has enabled me to settle more than one case satisfactorily with the Protector. At the same time, a general use of it would bring about the immediate ruin of every planter in the island. Two other cases, that of Savrimouton Aroulapin, No. 72, and Narayanasammy Paladinaik, No. 55, throw a lurid glare upon French justice, and the spirit in which any complaints made by Indians are examined.

Annex No. 8.

23. A return of complaints according to their nature is annexed.

24. The complaints brought at the different Syndicates, numbered 93, of which only 35 were found to be true. I forward
 Complaints at Syndicates. Annex No. 9. in Annex No. 11 copy of a note I addressed to the Protector on various points connected with these complaints, and as to the number found to be untrue, together with a copy of his reply; but as no names of Indians or masters are recorded, and no particulars of complaints are given, it is impossible to make any useful comments. The table of percentages, however, inclosed in my note, is suggestive in many ways of the manner in which complaints are dealt with by different Syndics.

25. The Réunion Indian does not seem to take kindly to the marriage tie. Only ten marriages were solemnized before the
 Marriages. Mayor in 1898. Nine between Indians and one between Indian and Créole. No doubt many more were celebrated according to Indian rites, but such marriages are not recognized as legal.

26. Complaints as to want of care to repatriate time-expired men may be, I hope, considered to have entirely ceased. As
 Repatriation. soon as plague in Mauritius has ended, a further small convoy will be sent away, or before, if suitable arrangements can be made.

Suicides, etc.

27. Five deaths from suicide and two from accident were recorded in 1898.

28. One idiot, one blind man and 37 aged and infirm are maintained in Colonial Institutions, and 9 lunatics in the Asylum at St. Paul.
 Idiots, etc.

29. There are now 1,190 permissionaires in the Colony, of whom 1,386 are old immigrants, 36 new permits having been issued in 1898. The conditions under which permits are issued still remain very strict, and many a good man is unable to secure them. Too much power is left to the Police who, after all, have the casting vote; a bad note from a Policeman, whether justified or not, decides the matter.
 Permissionaires.

30. There is not much to add in the way of general remarks. Immigration is in a transition stage, and the planters are waiting to see whether immigration will be renewed.

31. So far as I can ascertain, the whole planting interest most earnestly desires it. Many planters have spoken to me on the subject, and I have not found a single one who is against the renewal on the terms proposed. They may not all like the arrangement, but they all acquiesce, as they can get no labour except in India. Every labour market has been searched without success. The African market is closed by high labour prices ruling in the Transvaal. Without a fresh labour supply the island is ruined.

32. On the other hand, in Government circles which only faintly reflect the opinions of Mr. de Mahé, the feeling is hostile, most undoubtedly hostile, to renewal. The local influence of the deputies is enormous. To keep his place, a Réunion "fonctionnaire" must please the Deputy. If not, be he Governor or be he a door-keeper, sooner or later he will be dismissed or recalled. To be in the Deputy's good books is a pass enabling the bearer to act as he pleases. A few days ago I had an instance of this. A Chef de Service has an employé who is a creature of Mr. Brunet. The employé was negligent in his work and warned. The offence was repeated, and he was fined. A few weeks afterwards the Chef received a private, warning him not to interfere with the employé. He told me he dared not complain at this interference, as he would not be supported, and would lose his post and right to a pension. In consequence he had to let his employé do as he likes, and not only can he not fine the employé, but others profit from the immunity, and his whole department has got out of hand. A score of such examples might be quoted, and the recent complaint against Dr. Mahé is another case in point.

Consequently, so long as Mr. de Mahé remains of the same opinion, no hope whatever exists of any help towards renewal of immigration coming from Government circles here. Mr. de Mahé does not represent the Colony. He was carried by the black vote and the most corrupt bribery. He raised the cry of colour, preached socialism, assured his electors that the black race was the race of the future, and added that, if he had a daughter, he would only let her marry a black man.

33. At the same time he enjoys a certain influence in Paris, but not so great as it used to be; and when a measure affecting Réunion is brought in in the Chambers, if the two Réunion Deputies oppose it, other members who do not care about Réunion and will not take the trouble to study the question, say: "Oh! the Deputies are opposed to this measure. They know what the interests of their own Colony are. We will vote against it." And if the Minister dare to brave the storm, the measure is lost and may be the Ministry will fall.

34. Steps, however, have now been taken to educate a group of Metropolitan Deputies in the immigration question and it is hoped here that by this means the Minister may be assured of a sufficient following to pass the necessary laws and to secure the ratification of the Convention. But unless this move succeeds personally, I do not believe the laws will ever be discussed, much less passed by the Chambers.

35. The military service question may now be considered provisionally settled. A few Indians have been called up, but not a single one has been compelled to serve, and I have not been called upon to take any action concerning them.

36. The only other item of interest to add is, that Monsieur Malcor, the present incapable Protector, has been recalled summarily, and is to be replaced by Monsieur le Bouchet, of whom nothing appears to be known here. It is to be hoped, however, that he will be an improvement on his predecessor.

ANNEX No. 1.

INCREASE and decrease of Indian Immigrant Population during 1898.

Population on 31st December 1897		Population during 1898.	
Births in 1897	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
Freed from engagement—	.. .. .	.. .. .	16,066
1. Become permissionaire ..	.. .. .	.. .. .	55
2. Under decree of 31st March 1881	.. .. .	.. .. .	..
3. Children of second generation	.. .. .	.. .. .	36
4. Dispenses d'engagement	.. .. .	.. .. .	115
5. Left for Mauritius	.. .. .	.. .. .	4
6. Repatriated	.. .. .	.. .. .	100
7. Died	.. .. .	.. .. .	14
	.. .. .	.. .. .	95
	.. .. .	.. .. .	538
	.. .. .	902	16,121
Total population on 31st December 1898	.. .. .	.. .. .	15,219

ANNEX No. 2.

RETURNS of General Indian Population, 1898.

Class.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Under contract	8,781	3,769		12,550
Children of ditto not engaged	..	..	2,669	2,669
Old engagés holding permis at 10 francs each	..	..	..	675
Do. Permis gratuites	..	..	..	611
Do. Dispenses d'engagement	..	..	..	100
Free Indians (not old immigrants) paying 50-500 francs.	..	..	..	104
				16,709

ANNEX No. 3.

RETURNS of Masters and Indians condemned by Courts during 1898.

Courts.	Indians.	Masters.	Fines.	Costs.
Before higher Courts	248	12 fined 15 francs. 3	362-00	1,418-90
„ Juge de Paix	576	..	2,388-05	..
„ „ Macadam	..	..	2,750-05	1,418-90

ANNEX No. 4.

NOMINAL Roll of Masters prosecuted in 1893.

Name of Master.	Name of Indian.	Nature of complaint.	At whose request prosecuted.	Result.
G. Abadie, St. Denis ..	Baxane Acbar	3½ months' wages ..	Consul	Payment ordered, but not yet made.
G. Robert, St. Marie ..	Kesswin, Verin	Assaulted by master, and locked up on estate for a month.	Protector	Affaire classée.
Kerveguen, St. Sazanne	Ramajoulin Rangaya-chetty.	Assault by an employé.	....	Do.
R. Barbot, St. André ..	Moutan Sinin	Do.	....	Do.
L. Gauche, St. André ..	Narayanasammy Paladinak.	Assault and locked up in hospital.	Consul	Affaire classée. See F.O. of
D. de Vaulcomte Bras Panon.	Pakivirana Veleroumouton.	Two children illegally retained.	Protector	Children given up.
Morange, St. Benoit ..	Narayanin Moutousammy.	Assault by master ..	Consul	Non-suited and Indian condemned to six months for dénonciation calomnieuse.
Morange, St. Benoit ..	Virasamy Moutouvirin.	Assault by employé.	Do.	Affaire classée.
Lefevre and Allamelle Beaufond, Crédit Foncier Colonial.	Maridasson	Do.	Protector	Lefevre acquitted and Allamelle fined 15 francs.
A. Belmas, St. Leu ..	Samou Moutien	One year's wages ..	....	Payment ordered.
R. Ichert, Possession ..	Vayaboury Vingadasammy.	Assault by master ..	Consul	Affair classée.

ANNEX No. 5.

RETURNS of Indians engaged or re-engaged during 1898, showing amount of bounty received.

Engagements with bounty.	Engagements without.	Totals.	
		Engagements.	Bounty paid.
4,764	1,239	6,003	f. 158,214.70

ANNEX No. 6.

TABLE showing taxes, &c., levied upon Indian immigrants and by whom paid in 1898.

Nature of tax.	Rate per head.	Payable by	Total amount.	Remarks.
Poll tax	6.00 fr.	Indian	66,025.00	Low estimate.
Engagement tax	6.00 fr.	Master	36,000.00	? 70,000
Permis de séjour	10-500 fr.	Indian	Not given.	
Capture money	2.50 fr.	Do.	590.50	At least.
Fines in Courts .. .. .	....	Do.	362.00	× labour of 329 men.
Costs .. .. .	....	Do.	1,418.90	at Macadam.

ANNEX No. 7.

ROLL of Complaints at Consulate for 1898.

Separate Inclosure.

ANNEX No. 8.

ANALYSIS of Complaints preferred at Consulate during 1898.

Nature of complaint.	Founded.	Unfounded.	Total.	Remarks.
Overwork	1	7	8	
Assault	..	12	12	
Engagement over	8	2	10	
Cutting wages	..	3	3	
Medical treatment	5	11	16	
Wages over-due	6	4	10	
Sundry	24	19	43	
Total	44	58	102	

COMPLAINTS brought before the Syndics by Indian Immigrants in 1897.

Nature of complaint.	St. Denis.		St. Marie.		St. Suzanne.		St. André.		Bras Panon.		St. Benoit.		St. Rose.	
	Founded.	Unfounded.	Founded.	Unfounded.	Founded.	Unfounded.	Founded.	Unfounded.	Founded.	Unfounded.	Founded.	Unfounded.	Founded.	Unfounded.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Claims for wages ..	5	2	..	5	..	2	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	1
.. for rations ..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Overwork	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Assault, &c.	..	1	2	4	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	4	..	..
Medical treatment ..	..	..	1	1	..	1	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Sundry	2	1	..	3	..	2	3	4	..	1	..	..	..	..
Total	7	5	4	13	..	9	7	5	..	3	1	6	..	1

Nature of complaint.	St. Joseph.		St. Pierre.		St. Louis.		St. Leu.		St. Paul.		Possession.		Total.	
	Founded.	Unfounded.	Founded.	Unfounded.	Founded.	Unfounded.	Founded.	Unfounded.	Founded.	Unfounded.	Founded.	Unfounded.	Founded.	Unfounded.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
Claims for wages ..	..	..	1	..	2	1	1	..	3	..	3	11	18	
.. for rations ..	..	2	..	..	2	..	..	2	..	1	..	5	6	
Overwork	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	
Assault, &c.	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	14	
Medical treatment ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	3	5	
Sundry	3	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	10	13	
Total	4	3	6	..	5	2	1	2	..	5	..	4	35	58

From C. W. BENNETT, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul at Reunion, to the Protector of Immigrants, at Reunion, dated Reunion, the 29th May 1899, No. 9.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note No. 49 of the 24th instant, and to thank you for the valuable statistics you have been kind enough to send me regarding Indian Immigration in 1898.

I would now ask you to be so courteous as to give me the following information arising out of these statistics:—

Paragraph No. 1.—Although the number of Indians under engagement is returned at 8,781 men and 3,769 women, the number of births is, in 1898, returned at the unusually low figure of 55. Probably the birth-rate excludes that of children of the second generation. This, however, seems doubtful, as in the following lines deductions for children of the second generation are made.

Can you give me roughly the number of births of children of the second generation which are, I presume, entered in the Matricule Générale?

Can you inform me approximately, if not accurately, how many of the engagés are—

- (1) arrived from India;
- (2) born here.

Etat Annex No. 1.

Do the 129 complaints received by the Syndics include those forwarded by the Consulate?

I inclose a table I have drawn up as to relation of Syndical complaints to population, which is rather striking.

Of the four Syndic Délégués, only one found a complaint made during 1898 to be well founded. The result was the same last year, Bras Panon and St. Marie changing places.

The morality of the Indian being, I presume, much the same all over the island, the fact that whilst at St. André 42 per 100 of complaints are found to be true, and the rate per 1,000 was only 5, the rates per 1,000 at St. Marie and St. Suzanne were 6 and 11, respectively, and not a single complaint was found to be true, leads me to fear that all is not working well in those districts. The St. Joseph rate the highest, but one appears also to court inquiry, as does that of St. Paul. I should indeed be pleased to know that at St. Pierre there were only six complaints received. It is a quarter from which few complaints reach the Consulate on account of its distance, and is one to which, no doubt, your special attention is directed on that account.

There appears to be an error in Annex No. 1, as Possession is returned as having received no complaint in 1898, whereas one is entered on Annex No. 2.

Commune.	Proportion of complaints per 1,000 of population.	Proportion of true to untrue complaints.
St Denis	9 per 1,000	4 to 21 or 19 per cent.
St. Marie	6	0 „ 8 „ 0-00
St. Suzanne	11	0 „ 17 „ 0-00
St. André	5	3 „ 17 „ 42-00
Bras Panon	12	2 „ 7 „ 28-00
St. Benoit	9	4 „ 13 „ 30-00
St. Rose	0	0 „ 0 „ 0-00
St. Joseph	12	0 „ 3 „ 0-00
St. Pierre	2	0 „ 6 „ 0-00
St. Louis	7	5 „ 7 „ 71-00
St. Leu	2	1 „ 3 „ 33-03
St. Paul	20	9 „ 37 „ 25-00
Possession	0	0 „ 0 „ 0-00

From C. W. BENNETT, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul at Reunion, to Her Majesty's Governor at Reunion, dated Reunion, the 4th June 1899, No. 40.

Monsieur le Protecteur des Immigrants has kindly forwarded to me the statistics of Indian Immigration at Reunion for 1898.

I have already addressed a note to Mr. Malcor, as to the manner in which complaints are dealt with, and the striking difference shown at various Syndicates as to the proportion of complaints to population and the number found true and untrue.

There are, however, certain other points to which I would draw Your Excellency's attention.

In the Annuaire de la Réunion for 1899, the number of Indians under the Protectorate is returned on 30th September 1898 as 12,956.

Monsieur le Protecteur makes a return on 31st December 1898 of 15,219. As statistics are of no value unless accurate, I would ask which of these figures I may take as correct.

But most especially I would draw Your Excellency's notice to the death-rate amongst Indians during 1898.

Of the adult population of 12,550 as given by Monsieur le Protecteur, 9,281 are employed upon large estates where hospitals are maintained, and 3,269 Indians are returned as being engaged to small proprietors who are not bound by law to keep hospitals, and as hawkers, domestic servants, and colon par-ciaires.

The latter class, when ill, are entitled to medical care at the hands of their masters, and should be sent either to the district hospitals or properly attended to in their homes.

The total death-rate for 1898 is returned at 538; and as regards the actual rate of 33 per thousand, no remarks need be specially made. But of the 538 deaths, 270 occurred on estates where there were estate hospitals, and 268 amongst engagistes who have no hospitals. Comparing the two adult populations, we find one Indian dying on a large estate to three elsewhere.

Also, in 1898, whilst there were 268 deaths on estates, &c., where no hospitals are maintained, only 12 Indians were sent to the Colonial hospitals at the expense of their masters.

No doubt many were attended to at home and many were old and infirm, but the proportion is extremely high, and I trust Your Excellency will kindly furnish me with any explanation possible.

It would appear that Indians are not cared for unless upon big estates; and if that is found to be the case, it would be well, perhaps, to discourage as much as possible other engagements.

In making the foregoing comparison I have taken no account of children or of child deaths. Probably indeed there are more children on the estates than in the other class, and the child mortality ought to be nearly the same everywhere.

From Mons. MARTIN DE FLACOURT, Protector at St. Denis of Emigrants, to Her Majesty's Consul at St. Denis, dated 20th June 1899, No. 72.

Les observations que vous avez faites par lettre du 29 Mai dernier, No. 9, sur les renseignements fournis par le Service pour votre statistique annuelle ont nécessité des recherches minutieuses en vue de vérifier ceux qui ont fait l'objet de votre critique. C'est cette raison et celle encore du rapatriement d'un convoi d'Immigrants à la Grande Comore qui ne m'ont pas permis de vous répondre plus tôt.

J'ai l'honneur de vous en faire connaître le résultat suivant l'ordre de vos observations.

Paragraph 1.—Dans le chiffre des naissances pour 1898 que vous trouvez extraordinairement bas, celui des enfants de la seconde génération n'est pas compris comme vous le pensez avec juste raison. La déduction des quatre enfants de cette catégorie que vous signalez comme devant être une contradiction dans ce cas, figure justement parmi les sorties.

Ce sont, en effet, des enfants considérés à tort comme immigrants et, soumis à l'engagement qu'on a radiés des matricules.

Paragraph 2.—Les naissances d'enfants de deuxième génération sont en partie inscrites, à la Matricule Générale pour compléter le groupe familial et à titre seulement de renseignements, lorsque les parents sont encore immigrants. Outre que ce serait tout à fait incomplet, il ne serait même pas possible à moins d'un travail de dépouillement considérable de vous donner un à peu près.

Paragraph 3.—Pour la même raison que ci-dessus et parcequ'il n'a jamais été fait de distinction à la Matricule entre les indiens arrivés de l'Inde et ceux nés ici, je regrette de ne pouvoir pas vous fournir ce renseignement même approximativement.

Paragraph 4.—Des 139 plaintes reçues par les Syndics, 9 viennent du Consulat lesquelles ont été transmises au Parquet, j'ai examiné avec tout intérêt qu'il mérite le table au joint à votre lettre et qui établit le rapport existant entre le nombre des plaintes portées aux Syndics et le chiffre, de l'effectif de chacun des bureaux.

Notant qu'une seule plainte a été reconnue fondée pendant l'année dans les quatre sous (syndicats) ce qui donne le même résultat que l'année dernière vous faites remarquer que les Syndics délégués de Bras Panon et de St. Marie avaient cessé leurs fonctions. Ces deux bureaux, en effet, ont été supprimés pour une cause que vous connaissez du 1er Janvier au 18 Juin. Mais les écritures en ayant été tenues distinctement cette suppression de près de six mois n'a nullement influé sur le nombre de plaintes fondées ou non fondées.

Vous partez ensuite de ce principe, Monsieur le consul, que la moralité de l'Indien étant à peu près la même dans toute l'île, il ne se comprend pas qu'il y ait en plus de plaintes ici que là, et qu'il n'y en ait pas eu de fondées à Ste. Marie, ni à Ste. Suzanne, en égard à la proportion de chaque effectif, surtout à St. Pierre qui ne figure que pour six non fondées.

Je n'ai pu que vous donner les chiffres relevés sur les registres de plaintes des syndics conformes, du reste, aux états mensuels qu'ils en ont envoyés. Si vous constatez des différences en plus ou en moins en comparant les chiffres des divers quartiers entre eux, et aussi qu'il y a eu absence de plaintes fondées dans plusieurs alors qu'ailleurs il y en a eu plus d'une, j'estime que cela tient à des circonstances fortuites indépendantes de la moralité à part les cas exceptionnels d'engagistes aux prises avec les besoins d'argent, sur qui le service exerce une surveillance très active.

En ce qui concerne la réflexion par laquelle vous terminez, au sujet de la "Possession" il n'y a pas d'erreur. Ce quartier figure sur l'annexe No. 1 pour aucune plainte tandis que sur l'annexe No. 2 une plainte est portée. La raison en est que sur ce premier état ne sont inscrites que les plaintes portées aux Syndics et solutionnées par eux et que sur le 2e ce sont seulement celles transmises au Parquet et dont la solution lui appartient.

From His Excellency EDOUARD PETIT, Governor of St. Denis, to Her Majesty's Consul at St. Denis, dated 20th June 1899, No. 267.

J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser réception de votre lettre en date du 4 Juin courant, No. 40, concernant la statistique de l'Immigration Indienne, pour 1898, dont Monsieur le Protecteur des Immigrants vous a fait l'envoi.

Voici les explications que me paraissent comporter les points que vous voulez bien me signaler, d'après des renseignements que vient de me donner le service de l'Immigration.

Tout d'abord, vous constatez la différence qui existe entre le chiffre de la population immigrante Indienne accusé, pour 1898, par l'Annuaire de la Colonie, et qui est de 12,956, et celui qui vous est donné dans le questionnaire pour le même personnel au 31 Décembre 1898 qui est de 15,219, et vous demandez lequel il faut prendre.

Le chiffre de l'Annuaire 12,956 n'est pas exact. La vérification en a été demandée par le Service compétent, mais n'a pu être faite à temps, les feuilles étant déjà imprimées. La différence provient de ce que le chiffre de l'Annuaire, pris dans le courant de l'année, l'a été sur les renseignements des Syndics donnant les effectifs présents, tandis que le dernier chiffre fourni au 31 Décembre, et qui est celui du questionnaire, relève la situation de tous ceux qui figurent sur les cadres, y compris ceux qui, ayant terminé, ne se sont pas présentés à l'engagement depuis un certain temps, de ceux condamnés et d'autres ne comptant pas dans les effectifs.

C'est bien le total du questionnaire, soit 15,219 qu'il y a lieu de considérer comme bon.

En ce qui concerne la proportion que vous voulez établir par rapport au nombre respectif de chacune des deux catégories, entre le chiffre des décès parmi les engagés des petits propriétaires et celui des décès parmi les engagés des grands propriétaires, pour en tirer cette conclusion que, la mortalité étant plus grande chez les petits propriétaires, "il serait peut être bon de faciliter, le moins possible, d'autres engagements à leur profit," je dois vous faire connaître le résultat de la vérification à laquelle le Bureau Central de l'Immigration a dû procéder par mon ordre, à la suite de vos observations.

Les chiffres de 270 décès survenus sur des propriétés où il y a des hôpitaux et de 268 chez les engagistes qui n'en ont point, lesquels forment le total de 538, ont été

rapartis, entre les deux catégories suivant les premiers renseignements fournis par les Syndics. Or, d'après ceux qui ont donné la vérification en question, ce ne sont plus, pour la 1ère 270 mais bien 336; et pour la 2ème 268, mais 202. La proportion est donc rétablie.

From C. W. BENNETT, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul at Réunion, to His Excellency the Governor of St. Denis, dated Réunion, the 3rd July 1899, No. 49.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's note No. 267 of the 20th ultimo, giving me the revised figures for the death-rate of Indians on estates.

The mortality on the large estates, as compared to that on small estates and in places where no hospitals are maintained, is now returned as 36 to 61 per thousand of adult population.

Even this proportion, although much less than before, appears to be sufficiently striking to attract attention.

I find, however, from figures which have been most carefully drawn up at my request by Mr. Dolabaratz, that out of a total of 2,315 male engagés employed during 1898 on the several estates of the Crédit Foncier Colonial, there were only 60 deaths, or an average of 25.9 per thousand.

The above total includes Indians, Kaffers and Malagasy; and as in 1,898 there was an epidemic of beri-beri, which was peculiarly fatal to Malagasy and Kaffers (the Company having lost 28 from beri-beri on three estates); the Indian death-rate on Crédit Foncier estates was really below 25.9.

If, therefore, the mortality on the Crédit Foncier estates, where Indians are well cared for, can be reduced to 25.9 per thousand, the rate of 82 per thousand now reduced to 62 per thousand, elsewhere would appear to indicate either that the figures as revised by the Protectorate are as unreliable as the first figures given, or that a searching inquiry as to the causes of this enormous difference is desirable.

From His Excellency EDOUARD PETIT, Governor of St. Denis, to Her Majesty's Consul at St. Denis, dated 12th July 1899, No. 285.

Les observations qui font l'objet de votre réponse du 3 Juillet courant, No. 40, à ma lettre du 20 Juin dernier, No. 26, ont motivé de la part du Service de l'Immigration, de longues et minutieuses recherches dont j'ai l'honneur de vous présenter le résultat.

Dans la rectification des premiers chiffres donnés par les Syndics pour la répartition de la mortalité parmi les Indiens immigrants, en 1898, entre les propriétaires ayant plus de vingt engagés et ceux en ayant moins, on a porté indistinctement tous les décès dans ces deux catégories spécifiées dans votre questionnaire. On a, ainsi, négligé un troisième élément, de calcul qui a bien son importance et qui doit être classé sous ce titre "permissionnaires," "inconnus, dispensés, sans engagements, morts dans les dépôts des Communes," dont le chiffre se monte à 160.

Au point de vue du nombre total, il y a toujours 538 décès constatés. Ce chiffre n'a jamais varié. Il n'a fallu rien moins que le dépouillement nominatif de tous les décès survenus en 1898 parmi les Indiens immigrants, pour arriver à établir les trois catégories en question dont l'exactitude absolue vous est garantie.

Le Service de l'Immigration s'en tiendra, à l'avenir, à ces données qui auront pour effet de fournir la proportion rigoureuse entre les catégories ci-dessus spécifiées.

Le tableau ci-annexé vous donnera la situation telle qu'elle est avec la proportion pour cent entre les chiffres de décès des deux premières catégories et l'effectif de chacune d'elles.

Tableau des décès d'Indiens immigrants en 1898, suivant la répartition entre les trois catégories ci-dessous.

Propriétaires ayant plus de vingt engagés.	Propriétaires ayant moins de vingt engagés.	Permissionnaires, Dépôts, Hospices, Inconnus, sans engagement.	Total.
303	75	160	538

Calcul proportionnel entre les chiffres de décès des deux premières catégories et l'effectif de chacune d'elles.

Chiffre des décès ... 303	Proportion pour cent 3.26	Chiffre des décès ... 75	Proportion pour cent 1.26
Chiffre de l'effectif Indien des propriétaires ayant plus de 20 engagés ... 9,281		Chiffre de l'effectif indien des propriétaires ayant moins de 20 engagés ... 5,938	

ST. DENIS;
Le 12 Juillet 1899.

MARTIN DE FLACOURT.

[Statement.]

Roll of complaints preferred by British Indian Immigrants at Her Majesty's Consulate from the 1st of January to the 31st of December 1898.

No.	Date.	Name of Immigrant Employer or estate.	Nature of Complaint.	Reply of Local Authorities.	Remarks.
1	4th January	Renia Jany, St. Pierre	Claims the benefits of Article 282 of Decree of March 1881.	She was born in 1892, and not having availed herself of the Decree when she became of age, cannot do so now.	A stereo-typed reply, and a very unjust one, as Indians have not their attention called to the Decree in question, but have to find it out for themselves.
2	6th "	Soupin Montien M. Pontlevoys, St. Paul.	States that the Manager of the estate has violently assaulted him. He wishes his engagement cancelled.	Complaint referred to justice but "classée" for want of evidence.	What interest would a man have in making such a complaint if it were false.
3	7th "	Mangadevin Carpedevin, La Convenance.	Complains that when he returned from gaol, where he had been for non-payment of a fine, he found his hut occupied by another engaged.	Complaint unfounded	
4	11th "	Badie, Madl. de la Giroday, St. Suzanne.	Wishes her engagement cancelled, so as to leave for India with her husband.	This woman is not married, and the man she is now living with is not leaving for India. Request granted.	
5	10th "	Irlapin Mayandy, St. Denis.	States that he is very ill, and wishes to be sent to the hospital.	His engagement has been over since November last. A temporary dispense of engagement will be granted to him.	
6	" "	Ragouvin Maginy, M. Kerveguen, St. Louis.	States that his engagement has been cancelled because he was ill. Has one month more to work before engagement is over.	Engagé instructed to give full rations.	
7	17th "	Cojondi Carpin, La Reserve, St. Marie.	Complains of not receiving full rations	Complaint unfounded.	
8	18th "	Canaya Dourga, M. Kerveguen, Etang Salé.	States that when he engaged, M. Kerveguen agreed to his having poultry, but now refuses.	Case sent to Parquet, and M. Moranges tried and acquitted. Nayanin was then tried for false accusation and sentenced to six months' prison.	I went carefully into the case, and there was not a shred of evidence against M. Moranges.
9	19th "	Nayanin Mouton Samy Nagan, M. Moranges, St. Anne.	an engaged some time before, and that on that account this gentleman leads him a most unpleasant life.	Engagement is over, but man has 520 days' work to replace.	
10	24th "	Abbaye Rangapanak, M. Adam de Villiers, St. Marie.	Complains that although his engagement has now been over for some time, his master refuses to return his livret.	Sent back to St. Suzanne for inquiry into his case ..	
11	31st "	Ramassumny Vingadassalon, St. Denis.	Is ill and without engagement. Desires to enter hospital.	Engagement over since 20th last. His livret has been returned to him.	
12	4th February	Virapin Sindalarom ..	States that, although his engagement is over, his master refuses to give up his livret.	Had eleven months to replace. Engagement, however, over. No wages due.	
13	7th "	Andy Moutin, M. Dhort, St. Denis.	States that his engagement is over and claims two months' wages.	Since his knee was broken three years ago, he has engaged three times with the same engage.	
14	9th "	Jibakto Bola, M. Choppy, St. Pierre.	Produces a medical certificate that through his left knee having been broken he is incapacitated for work. Desires a dispense of engagement.	Request granted.	
15	21st "	Montousamy Odeapatevin, Boissoungue Estate.	His engagement is now over; and as he feels ill and unable to work, desires to enter hospital.	Engagement cancelled.	
16	22nd "	Carpin Sellamby, M. Choppy, St. Pierre.	States that he is ill-treated and overworked. He produces a medical certificate and wishes his engagement to be cancelled.	Complaint unfounded.	
17	1st March	Govinden Minachy, Made. Babet, St. Suzanne.	Complains that, owing to bad health, he is unable to perform heavy work. He is quite willing to do some light work.		

Roll of Complaints preferred by British Indian Immigrants at Her Majesty's Consulate from the 1st of January to the 31st of December 1898—*cont.*

No.	Date.	Name of Immigrant Employer or estate.	Nature of Complaint.	Reply of Local Authorities.	Remarks.
18	2nd March	Virasamy Montouvirin, M. Moranges, St. Anne.	Complains of having been violently assaulted by his master.	Case referred to Justice and "Classé"	I am satisfied the man was not assaulted.
19	11th "	Anoumanta Naga, St. Denis.	Is ill and wishes to enter hospital. Has already been sent to Hôpital Communal, but received no proper medical care whilst there.	Man refuses to enter Hôpital Communal	Complaint as to want of medical care given to patients at Hôpital Communal quite true.
20	21st "	Nayaramissamy Paladinaik, M. Clerc, St. André.	States that he has been violently assaulted by his master and then locked up in the hospital. Wishes his engagement cancelled.	Case referred to Parquet and "Classé."	
21	21st "	Saidally, Cheekjamal, Bras Panon.	Wishes to be repatriated to India with next convoy.	Request granted.	
22	21st "	Ramalingom Cataye, M. Mazeau, St. André.	Aged 14. Overwork and ill-treatment. Wishes to join his brother, who is a permissionnaire.	Was formerly with his brother, who ill-treated him and forced him to complain to the Syndic. Boy wishes to remain with Mazeau, but brother is urging him to return. Brother a very bad man. Has inherited two bits of land, an annuity of 180 francs payable monthly, and 2,000 francs payable on arrival at his majority. Dilleroy is his legal "tuteur," and has been ordered to render yearly accounts to Syndic. Boy is a mauvais sujet, and charge of robbery unfounded.	
23	30th "	Virasamy Bandama, M. Dilleroy, St. Pierre.	His master has robbed him of a legacy left him by M. Hoareau, who had adopted him.	Case referred to Juge de Paix, who finally ordered 25-65 francs less 6 francs for impôt personnel to be paid to Indian.	Wages were never paid in presence of Syndic.
24	2nd April	Motte Serin, Mad. Lagaudin, St. Denis.	A year's wages due	Untrue; was paid his wages and ran away.	
25	6th "	Contin Narayanin, M. Foliguet, St. Denis.	Ill and no medical care given	Syndic will endeavour to find some one who will take him on easy payment system.	
26	6th "	Soka Taya, M. Baillif, St. Leu.	Owes 147-50 francs to his late master, and can find no one to engage him.	Complaint unfounded.	
27	7th "	Piquiry Even and Vayaboury Contian, M. Arochambault, Riodes Pluies.	Price work too hard		
28	13th "	Three Indians, M. Kerueguen, Quartier Français.	Ill and no medical care	All three are incurable, but can do light work. They are specially dieted and cared for generally.	Action of Syndic was complained of to Governor, who sustained Syndic.
29	3rd May	Band of Indians, "Piton," St. Paul.	1. Two months' wages due 2. Price work too hard 3. Wages unduly cut 4. General ill-treatment 5. No rations for two days	May 15th. 1. Proprietor just dead, and wages will be paid on May 15th. 2. Untrue. 3. Untrue. 4. Not substantiated. 5. There was a mutiny on estate, a few declined to do the corvée and rations were withheld until they did.	
30	18th "	Ranguin Lutehoumanin, M. Ollier, St. Suzanne.	Ill and want of medical care	Was engaged on 4th May; disappeared until 9th; work, 10-14, and went away again. Is not ill, and engagement has been cancelled.	
31	18th "	Montien Mourouguin, M. Kerueguen, St. Pierre.	Engagement over	Untrue. They have been selling their rations and doing outside work.	
32	18th "	Nepal Kamjithone and another, in depot.	They await a return convoy, and are made to work all day without payment.		

33	27th May	Incataram	Requires birth certificate	Forwarded.	Did not serve.
34	3rd June	Souprayan Cataye, M. Ollier, St. André.	Has been called up for military service	Was properly called being French	
35	10th "	Moses Aron, M. Bellier, Bras Panon.	Is ill and unable to do any but light work	Untrue; is always "Marron."	
36	15th "	Gobalsammy Montouvirin, an Indian at St. André.	A month and a half wages due	Untrue.	
37	20th "	Sababady, M. Aubry, Etang Salé.	Ill and unable to work	Untrue.	
37A	23rd "	Ramanjoulort, M. Kerueguen, Quartier Français.	Assault by master in presence of witnesses	Affaire Classée.	
38	25th "	Ramsammy Arnouguen, unengaged.	Desires a dispense d'engagement	Granted.	
39	22nd "	Samidon, unengaged	Wishes to engage with an Indian Permissionnaire	Must apply to Direction de l'Intérieur.	
40	16th "	Datchumamouty, M. Savary, Bras Panon.	His wife's engagement is over, and she has left estate. He wants to follow her.	Not his wife but his concubine, and she left to get rid of him. Request cannot be granted.	
41	22nd "	Virapin Tope, unengaged	Desires a dispense d'engagement	Has been offered one and has declined, but he will be sent to hospital.	
42	1st August	Two children of 10	Mother does not wish them to engage	Boy must, girl may wait.	
43	3rd "	Virapin Conasammy	1. Engagement over 2. Wages due	1. Engagement cancelled. 2. Untrue.	
44	5th "	Tambouran, M. Kerueguen St. Pierre.	8. Desires to be repatriated	3. Granted.	
45	5th "	Govindin Arlepin	His son is unfit to engage and Syndic is forcing him to in spite of medical certificates.	Syndic ordered to leave boy alone.	
46	6th "	Te an Indian at St. Denis	1. Wages due 2. Assault	1. Wages were due and now paid. 2. Charge withdrawn.	
47	8th "	Souquin Savarin de Roland, St. André.	Engagement over and master will not give up livret.	Engagement over by time, and he had a few days to put; he is now released.	
48	5th September	Vayaboury, Vingadassammy, M. Robert, Possession.	Has been thrashed by his master in a closed room and subsequently assaulted in presence of two witnesses.	Complaint referred to Parquet; but Indian has disappeared.	
48A	6th "	Banon Oujirally, unengaged.	She is old and infirm and Syndic wishes her to engage. She is more fit for hospital.	Granted a dispense d'engagement.	
49	6th "	Klohenin Montoumaik, Crédit Foncier Colonial.	Is ill and wants medical care	Was "Marron" from 2nd July 1897 to 28th May 1898, 28th May to 7th September; had put in only 37 days. Is not ill.	Case satisfactorily settled, see No. 27 of 19th October 1898 to F.O.
50	9th "	Sellom children	Forced engagement of children	Do.	The man did not serve, and has, I believe, since re-engaged.
51	21st "	Do.	Engagement is over and Syndic will not let him re-engage as he is drawn for military service.	Do.	
52	21st "	Ramsammy Minatchi, M. Kerueguen, Quartier Français.	Was only paid 14 francs for two months' wages and was only 63 days off work ill. 7-50 paid by a "Bon" in a Boutique. For long months Syndic has not assisted at payments.	Balance of wages due was properly paid. The Bon system is to the advantage of the Indian. Syndic will attend regularly on pay days for future.	The Consul insisting that the Bon system was illegal, orders were again issued to suppress it, see No. 25 to F. O. of 17th October 1898.
53	21st "	Ayagapin Vairavin	Deposited, 1,555 francs with H. Vinson in 1887, and cannot recover it.	True, but man's position is irregular, and therefore Protector cannot move. He must engage and apply for assistance judiciaire, and bring an action personally.	There are some hopes held out that the man will be paid, but he has not as yet received a penny, 8th July 1899.
54	22nd "	Sinan Sinanounion, M. Kerueguen, St. Suzanne.	Engagement over; only received 20 francs for two months' work.	Engagement is over; the Syndic forgot to enter the contract. Wages were duly paid.	

Roll of complaints preferred by British Indian Immigrants at Her Majesty's Consulate from the 1st of January to the 31st of December 1898—cont.

No.	Date.	Name of Immigrant, Employer or Estate.	Nature of Complaint.	Reply of Local Authorities.	Remarks.
55 and 56	23rd September ..	Narayanassumny .. Paladinik .. M. Gauche, St. André	1. Assault .. 2. Illegal Macadam .. 3. Wages in arrears .. 4. Refusal of Syndic and Commissaire de Police to receive complaints. 5. That when he applied to go to hospital his master sent him to Macadam. Engaged as cook, and does not like it ..	1. Has no trace of blows and no evidence. 2. Condemnations to Macadam were legal. 3. Only 5-40 due him, which could not be paid owing to his absence. 4. Syndic declares untrue. 5. Master energetically denies impeachment. Has gone back to field work.	M. Mahés Pointes de feu case, see No. 35 of 27th November 1898, to F. O.
57	26th "	Abdulkhan Madimby, M. Kerveguen, St. Pierre.	1. Three months' wages, less 5 francs due .. 2. Assault by his master before witnesses .. 3. That 1 franc per month is regularly deducted from his and fellow engaged's wages.	1. Balance 17-50 is now paid. 2. Untrue. Man was drunk and insolent and Mr. Mison led him out by the arm. 3. Untrue.	M. Mazerieux is a bad engagedist, but it appears he can be polite at times.
58	27th "	Naraidon Atchy, M. Mazerieux, St. Denis.	1. A month's wages due .. 2. That rations given are 380 grammes of rice, 5 centimes a day for kari.	1. Wages are now paid .. 2. Il a été établi que cette dame a donné à son engagé les quantités réglementaire de vivres.	The engagement was eventually cancelled. The woman called at consulate to explain matters and said not only that she did not give the proper rations, the abundance of which surprised her, but did not know there was a fixed scale at all.
59	28th "	Goulingon, Mad. Andrique, St. Denis.	Assault (violent) by his master. He bears traces of ill usage; was 15 years in his last place.	Il n'est pas douteux que si M. Sigoyer était lué content de ses services et l'avait frappé violemment comme il s'en plaint, il ne lui aurait pas accordé cette faveur, i.e., five days leave.	No inquiry whatever appears to have been made, and the Protector's logic is doubtful.
60	30th "	Mounassumny Ramassumny, M. Sigoyer, St. Philippe.	Has been removed from hospital. Consol protests at inhuman treatment.	Man is not ill, and sending Dr. Mahés famous certificates. Granted.	
61	1st October	Narayanassumny Paladinik (C.P. 55).	Desires engagement cancelled ..	Cancelled.	
62	3rd "	Carpin Sidabaron, M. Choppy, St. Pierre.	Is this man to be repatriated with convoy ..	No; he must pay his debts first.	
63	3rd "	Edwige Gunja, M. Kerveguen, St. Suzanne.	Asking for birth certificates, etc., to avoid military service.	Man not yet of age. Granted.	
64	8th "	Narayanassumny Paladinik (C.P. 55 and 64).	Old and worn out. Desires a dispense d'engagement.	Granted.	
65	12th "	Rangassumny Mangata (unengaged).	1. Wages unpaid .. 2. He owes his master 100 francs ..	1. Untrue. He has declined to be repatriated, but has been sent to depot. 2. Yes.	
66	19th "	Nardimouton Mikel ..	1. Engagement over .. 2. One and a half months' wages due ..	1. Balance now paid. 2. La plainte... transmise au Parquet a été classée le	
67	21st "	Virapin Comarassumny to an Indian at St. Rose (section 43).	1. Violent assault in presence of several witnesses .. 2. Was locked up in a hut for a week ..	Refused.	This poor creature seems to be a godsend to the Police who make a fortune out of arresting her.
68	25th "	Patohi Parasonvirin, M. Maillet, St. Léa.	Old and infirm. Desires a dispense d'engagement..	Refused.	
69	26th "	Kessavin Virim, M. Robert, St. Marie.			
70	29th "	Maria Caderama (unengaged).			

71	29th "	Sarrimouton Aroulapin, M. Biberon, St. André.	1. Violent assault .. 2. On complaining to Syndic, latter said "Mahabar mort n'a pas malheur," .. 3. Was illegally locked up .. 4. That his hut was pillaged ..	1. False. 2. False. 3. False. 4. False. 5. False. The man is a mauvais sujet.	Convinced that the man's complaint was true in the main. I took the evidence of the man, his wife and two engageds on oath and sent it to Governor, who had the case reopened. Finally the engagement was cancelled. Syndic suspended for a month and removed, a Commissaire de Police dismissed. The Protector blamed and fresh orders were given to Syndics to be careful in future.
72	3rd November	Cheek Mahomed, M. Montrose St. Paul.	1. Short rations .. 2. No medical care .. 3. Syndic is forcing son to engage to Fulgence contrary to wish of father and son.	1. Complaint withdrawn. 2. Untrue. Syndic ordered to desist and let boy engage freely. 3. Absolutely untrue.	
73	10th "	Appayama Swamy, M. Fulgence, St. Denis.	Desires a dispense d'engagement ..	Is sent to hospital, and later will be given light work.	
74	24th "	Sinan, Rao, des Figues, Crédit Foncier Colonial.	Cannot live in the mountains, and desires to reside at St. André.	Man was properly cared for, and ran away climbing hospital wall by night.	
75	21st "	Marimouton Montou carpin (unengaged).	Refusal of medical care ..	Cannot interfere.	
76	21st "	Comarassumny Palany Caudin (dispense d'engagement).	Desires engagement cancelled, and will pay money owing.	Is a Portuguese subject.	
77A	26th "	Peroumal Sevannarounin ..	Overwork ..	....	
78	27th "	Narayanin Montousumny (See No. 9).	Is made to do work he has not contracted for ..	Untrue. Granted.	I wrote to M. Morangers, and matter was finally arranged.
79	6th December	François Mari and M. Foliquet, St. Denis.	Dispense d'engagement desired ..	Has returned to estate. Granted.	
80	10th "	Cancelled ..	Is afraid of being assaulted having been threatened ..	....	
81	15th "	Pierre Mounin Le Desert ..	Desires to be repatriated ..	....	
81A	18th "	Ramassumny Candaretty (unengaged).	....	....	
82	31st "	Pierre Mounin (No. 81) ..	....	....	
83	29th "	Geo Soubal ..	....	....	

Public (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 3123

20

No. 1273, PUBLIC, 13TH NOVEMBER 1899.

No. 826, dated Simla, 5th September 1899.

Office Memorandum from 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. 2172—65-1, dated 1st November 1899.

Forwarded to the Government of Madras, for information, in continuation of endorsement No. 154—74-1, dated 20th January 1899.

(By order.)

(Signed) E. MACONOCHE,
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

ORDER—No. 1273, Public, dated 13th November 1899.

Recorded in continuation of G.O., No. 128, Public, dated 31st January 1899.

(True Extract.)

G. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

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

Exd. A, Rangaswamy Aiyangar.

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No. 2172/65-1

Dated 1-11-99

Received 5-11-99

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To

The Bd. of Rev (S. R.)

" Protector of Emigrants

" P. C. S. Pondicherry &
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