

1,000-24-8-97.

Public
~~Political~~

(1899) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 590

DATED 30-5-99

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording end of the paper
forming copy of a letter from the Govt of
the Straits Settlements replying to certain
observations made by the Govt in connection
with the annual report on Indian immi-
gration into the Straits Settlements for
1897 regarding the heavy mortality in the
Province Wellesley estates, & the insufficiency
of the supervision exercised.

T
1-6-99

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Case 1818/98 (949)
Case 2147/99 (u)

Public (1899) Department.

CURRENT No.

Order no. 590730-5-99.
min
Recorded

From
The Govt of India
(R. A. Dep.)

No. 493
41-1

Cu 2.5.99
3/4/99

Issue 1.34/99

Dated 24. April 99.

Received 30. " "

Registered 1. May "

Enclosures 1.

Spare copies.-

SUBJECT:

Forwarding for information copy of letter from the Honble the Colonial Secy Straits Settlements Singapore to the Govt of India R. A. Dep. no 2414/99 dated 28.3.99 replying to H. of S letter no 96-45-4 d/18 January 99 containing the observations of the Govt of Madras on the Straits annual report on Indian Immigration for the year 1897-

Copy to the Secy of Home (A+2)

Issue in 20.5.99

3/16/99

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No	Department.	Date.
	190	Pub.	14-2-99
	167	"	7-2-98
	1392-3	"	15-4-98

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Letter from the Hon'ble the Colonial Secretary, *S/S. S. M. S.*
Singapore, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 2414/99 dated 28th March 1899.

I am directed by the Governor to reply to your letter No. 96-45-4 of the 13th January last, containing the observations of the Government of Madras on the Straits annual report on Indian Immigration for the year 1897.

2. I am to explain that, after receipt of that report, the Medical Officers of the Districts of Province Wellesley were called upon for a careful report on the mortality disclosed by the returns, and their advice was asked with reference to action to compel the estate owners to improve the condition of their labourers.

3. On receipt of these reports, letters were written to the Managers of the various estates calling upon each to effect certain works designed to improve the condition of the coolies, and early this year special inspections were ordered for the purpose of reporting specifically on the progress made in carrying out the works required.

4. With regard to matters generally affecting the health of immigrants during 1897, I am to point out that scarcity and high prices in India had injured many of the immigrants

Before their arrival, one instance^{is} mentioned incidentally in paragraph 45 of the report.

5. The Principal Civil Medical Officer in commenting on the high death rate writes:-

"Both the Colonial Surgeons agree in stating that no local cause could be found, other than such as had been operative for any number of years, which was more efficient in causing disease in 1897 than it had been in previous years, and it seems to me that had any such cause (e.g. pollution of soil, bad drinking water, etc.) specially pointed

such intensity as to produce the high death rate of 1897, the inference is that it should have been acting with at least equal intensity in 1898.

6. The immigration statistics for the two years are:-

	1897	1898
Births	144	158
Deaths	242	172
Percentage of mortality	7	4.16
Highest death rate	8.61	5.42
Number admitted to hospitals.	10,497	6,493
Percentage of deaths to admissions in hospital	2.30	2.65

The death statistics for the whole province have been

	Number.	Per mil ^l o death rate
1892	2,256	27.12
1894	2,654	33.40
1895	3,163	39.81
1896	4,436	40.00
1897	2,622	32.23.

7. With reference to statement C, I am to observe that every time an immigrant goes into hospital is reckoned as a separate admission, so that if the same man is indisposed on ^{alternate} every day for a year, his individual case would count ~~as~~ $\frac{365}{2} = 182$ admissions. Similarly if the same man were to desert once a week, his individual case would be reckoned as 52 desertions with 51 recaptures. The true explanation of the desertions is that higher offers are made to the immigrants by persons who can afford to make them as they have incurred none of the cost of importing labour.

8. The Madras Government is correct in supposing that the death rate of 70 per mil^lo is computed on the average daily number of labourers employed.

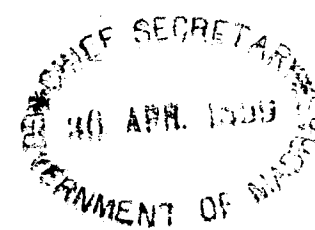
9. With respect to the supervision of immigrants, the report shows (paragraph 29) that for two months and six days in the year, the Superintendent was without the services of an Assistant. Of this period one month and 21 days was

was due to the illness of the Assistant.

It must be borne in mind that there are two Government Medical Officers residing in Province Wellesley, part of whose duty it is regularly to inspect estate hospitals and their surroundings.

The area of Province Wellesley is about 360 square miles with a sea frontage of 34 miles. The estates employing statute labour are only nine in number- most of them easily reached from Penang in a few hours by Government steam launches at the service of the Immigration Department.

Unusual mortality amongst officers in the Civil Service in 1897 made it extremely hard for the Government to provide qualified Assistants in all departments.



No. 792
47-7

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

(Emigration)

Simla, dated the 26th April 1899.

Forwarded to the Government of Madras, for information, in continuation of endorsement No. 97-45-4 dated 13th January 1899.

*As per
1899*

By order,

Offg. Under-Secretary to the Government of India.

List of Papers forwarded.

From the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, Singapore, No.
2414/99 dated 28th March 1899.

When given for copying
When copied
When examined
When signed

1899

READ AGAIN G.O., No. , DATED
189

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO O. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
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