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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

1060 Proceedings of the Madras Government

No. 6, dated India Office, London, 20th January 1876.

From—Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India,
To—The Government of India.

I FORWARD herewith, for the information of Your Excellency in Council, copy of the Mauritius immigration report for the year 1874, together with a copy of a minute recorded thereon by the Chairman of the Emigration Board.

No. A-79, dated Immigration Office, 30th April 1875.

From—T. ELLIOT, Esq., Acting Protector of Immigrants, Mauritius,
To—The Colonial Secretary, Govt. of Mauritius.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, the following report for the year ending 31st December 1874:—

2. The number of emigrants embarked for this colony during that year was:

	Adults.		Children.		Infants.	
	M.	F.	B.	G.	M.	F.
From Calcutta ...	3,124	1,297	361	208	201	170
„ Madras ...	1,057	493	143	143	13	15
Total ...	4,181	1,790	474	351	214	185

Mortality at sea.

3. The mortality at sea amongst them was:

	Adults.		Children.		Infants.	
	M.	F.	B.	G.	M.	F.
In Calcutta ships ...	20	9	10	6	7	10
„ Madras „ ...	3	...	1	1	...	1
Total ...	23	9	11	7	7	11

Mortality at quarantine stations.

4. At the quarantine stations there died of them also:

	Adults.		Children.		Infants.	
	M.	F.	B.	G.	M.	F.
Calcutta coolies ...	2	1	7	2	8	4
Madras „ ...	...	2	...	1	...	...
Total ...	2	3	7	3	8	4

5. There were 10 births at sea among the Calcutta coolies, 6 being male and 4 female, and 6 births in the Madras coolies, 3 males and 3 females.

Births at sea.

Of these 2 male and 2 female Calcutta infants died, three on board ship and one at Flat Island, so that the number of Indian immigrants who arrived at the depot was:

	Adults.		Children.		Infants.	
	M.	F.	B.	G.	M.	F.
From Calcutta ...	3,102	1,287	314	200	190	158
„ Madras ...	1,054	431	142	141	16	17
Total ...	4,156	1,718	456	341	206	175

6. These immigrants arrived in 18 vessels, of which 13 were from Calcutta and 5 from Madras.

7. The mortality at sea was 71, of which 65 (including 3 infants born at sea) was on board the Calcutta ships, and 6 in Madras ships. This gives a death-rate of 12.17 per thousand on the number of Calcutta coolies, and of 3.32 per thousand on the Madras coolies, and 9.93 per thousand on the whole number from both ports.

8. This contrasts favourably with the mortality on board coolie ships last year which was at the rate of 15.71 per thousand, and shews, I think, that greater care had been bestowed by our agents in selecting the coolies, and that prior to embarkation greater attention had been paid to their state of health.

9. Two ships arrived without having had any mortality on board, the *Iskendershah* from Calcutta and the *Mars* from Madras. This was the second voyage of the *Mars* without mortality.

10. Three ships, the *Reigate*, the *Glenroy*, and the *Latona* (2nd voyage), arrived, having had measles on board during the voyage, and they were placed in quarantine on that account, and, except in one case, all the other ships were directed to land their coolies at a quarantine station to allow them to have sea-bathing, to receive clean clothing, and recover from the fatigues of the voyage before being distributed to their employers. The exception was in the case of the *Latona* (1st voyage) which arrived in July with her coolies in very good condition when the both quarantine stations were occupied, and which was allowed to land her coolies at once after the usual ablutions, and distribution of clean clothing.

11. The depôt medical officer, whose report I annex, considers that on the whole the sanitary condition of the new immigrants after their arrival from the quarantine station was very satisfactory.

12. Two steamers, the *Almora* and the *Malda* belonging to the British India Steam Navigation Company brought down coolies, and the fine condition in which they arrived shews how desirable it would be to employ such steamers generally, but the rates charged for the passage were much higher than by sailing ships, and consequently augmented the cost of introduction. Indeed the cost of introduction per adult male of those brought down by the *Malda* was the highest that has yet been paid.

13. The average charge levied on introducers was £12-14-0 per male adult from Calcutta, and £12-12-6 from Madras. Annexure 2 shews the charge for each ship.

14. The hurricane in March 1874 considerably affected the demand for labourers from India; the number asked for from Calcutta during the year being 1,725, and from Madras 785. No requisition on Madras was made after 23rd June, nor on Calcutta after 10th November.

15. One thousand two hundred and thirty-five of the labourers who arrived during the year were transferred by the requisitionists to other employers.

16. I desire here to call attention to a circumstance respecting one of these transfers which in my opinion shews the necessity for a change in the law. The contract into which new immigrants enter contains a clause that if the estate for which they are engaged be sold, alienated or transferred to another person, or succeeded to by another person, before the expiration of their service, they will serve such other person according to the terms of their contract, such new employer being held bound towards them in all the stipulations and obligations incumbent upon the employer so replaced by him.

17. A band of men engaged in India in compliance with a requisition from the proprietor of an estate, arrived in Mauritius after the requisitionist had sold his estate. I called upon the new proprietor to take over these men, because I thought that under the above clause he was as much bound to take them as they were to go to his estate. He declined to take them, stating that he was not responsible, and on consulting the Procureur-General he also was of that opinion. The requisitionist then transferred the immigrants to other parties.

18. I do not think it is right that immigrants should be obliged to go to an estate when it has changed hands, while the new proprietor is not obliged to take them. The obligation should be mutual, and I trust that when the law is revised this point will not be lost sight of.

19. In August seeing that inconvenience was experienced by some requisitionists in taking over the labourers for whom they had asked, I addressed a circular to all who had outstanding requisitions, asking them to inform me whether they wished their requisitions to be maintained or cancelled. The result was that requisitions for 1,579 men were cancelled.

20. The number of labourers due on unsatisfied requisitions at the end of the year was:

From Calcutta ...	1,227
„ Madras ...	680

a very great contrast to the number due at the end of the preceding year. 21. No requisition has been made this year, and as the labourers now due on unsatisfied requisitions will only require 4 or 5 ships to convey them it is probable that in 2 or 3 months hence emigration of coolies to Mauritius will for the present practically have ceased.

22. The proportion of females to males in the immigration of 1874 was as follows:

From Calcutta ...	45.61 per cent.
„ Madras ...	48.59 „
In total number introduced ...	46.86 „

but calculating only on the number of adult females and adult males the proportion was:

From Calcutta ...	41.48 per cent.
„ Madras ...	40.89 „

23. The number of marriages declared by the immigrants was:

From Calcutta ...	683
„ Madras ...	221

Of these 844 were confirmations of marriages declared before the emigration agents in India, and 63 were marriages declared to me under Article 71 of Ordinance 17 of 1871.

24. Among the immigrants introduced in 1874 there were 806 who declared that they had previously emigrated.

Return coolies.

	FROM CALCUTTA.			FROM MADRAS.		
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.
To Mauritius ...	276	118	83	71	56	2
„ Demerara ...	12	7	1	12	6	5
„ Jamaica ...	5	4	1	...	...	...
„ Reunion ...	3	...	...	11	3	2
„ Grenada ...	5	5	...	...	...	...
„ Trinidad ...	5	3	6	...	...	...
„ St. Lucia ...	2	...	...	...	...	...
„ Natal ...	...	...	...	3	...	...
„ Martinique ...	...	...	...	2	...	...
„ Straits Settlements ...	...	...	...	1	...	...
„ Ceylon ...	1	...	...	...	...	...
„ Burmah ...	1	...	...	...	...	...
„ China ...	17	2	2	5	...	...
„ Cachar ...	28	5	1	...	...	...
„ Assam ...	...	...	...	9	...	...
„ Rangoon ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	355	144	94	115	65	33

It will be seen that the greater number of them had formerly been resident in Mauritius.

25. The Government scale of wages (*vide* Annexure 3) remained unchanged.

26. The emigration of 1874 of Indian immigrants and their families was as follows (*vide* annexure 4):—

Males ...	2,874
Females ...	1,201
Total ...	4,075.

These numbers include 445 males and 422 females, who were born in Mauritius; the departures of immigrants were therefore—

Males ...	2,429
Females ...	779
Total ...	3,208

27. Some instances have come to my knowledge of coolies having left the island both for India and other places without obtaining the passport required by law, so that these figures cannot be considered as quite correct.

28. The proportion of females to males in the total emigration of 1874 was 41.78 per cent., being 4.58 per cent. less than in the immigration of last year.

29. The destinations of departing immigrants and their families were—

Calcutta ...	2,133
Madras ...	1,574
Bombay ...	332
Other places ...	36

Cost of return passage.

30. The cost of a return passage in 1874 was—

To Calcutta ...	2 15 0
„ Madras ...	2 10 0
„ Bombay ...	3 0 0

31. Of those who left the colony in 1874, 513 embarked at the expense of Government or of the Poor Law Commission, and 1,562 at their own expense. The amount paid into this office by the latter for their passage money was £7,941-19-10.

32. This figure must not be lost sight of when considering the amount of savings carried away by return coolies. From other colonies, a free return passage is given to immigrants after a certain period of residence; and consequently the whole amount of their savings can be carried away, no part of it being required to pay for their passage, and besides in many of the other colonies the females are, I believe, under contract of service and therefore earn money on their own account; which swells the amount of savings carried back to India.

33. The practice commenced in 1873 of enquiring of each coolie as he left the depôt for embarkation what savings he was carrying away with him was continued throughout the year 1874.

34. The amount so declared was Rs. 6,54,953, a detailed statement of which will be seen in Annexure 5. Another statement (*vide* Annexure 6) shews approximately the amounts carried away by individuals. In this latter statement it will be seen that women also declared savings, but in the majority of those cases, the women were the mothers or wives of coolies, and the savings declared by them were evidently the earnings of the men. I shall therefore in the following statement assume that the savings were those of the men—

455 men declared that they had nothing.	
239 " that they had less than 50 Rupees.	
257 " " 100 "	
341 " " 150 "	
237 " " 200 "	
299 " " 250 "	
133 " " 300 "	
133 " " 350 "	
99 " " 400 "	
84 " " 450 "	
60 " " 500 "	
And 302 " more than 500 "	
One of them having Rs. 22,600.	

Of the 455 who declared that they had no savings, 234 paid their own passage and 221 had free passages given to them.

35. Of the total amount declared, Rs. 2,34,972 was in gold, Rs. 2,56,969 in silver, and Rs. 1,63,012 in drafts. Of the latter amount Rs. 1,39,180 was paid into this office to be repaid to them by our Emigration Agents in India or the Magistrate or Treasury Officer in India nearest to their villages, and the remainder was in Bills of Exchange on the Oriental Bank Corporation. It would be for the benefit of the colony if the coolies who carry away their savings in coin could be induced to leave it here and take drafts in exchange; but no pressure is put on them to do so, though it is pointed out to them that it would be to their advantage. They pay a considerable premium to obtain sovereigns, and sometimes a small premium for Indian rupees, which would be saved if they took drafts, besides the security from robbery in not carrying coin with them.

36. The amount of savings mentioned above is independent of the jewellery worn by the women which is often considerable.

37. The amount paid into this office in 1874 to be remitted to India was Rs. 1,55,239 and exceeded the amount that had been paid in during the preceding four years, and shews that confidence in the safety of the money so deposited had spread among the immigrants.

38. The Protectors of Emigrants in Calcutta and Madras examine each ship which arrives with return coolies, and enquire into their treatment in the colony and on the return voyage, and forward to me a report thereon, which I am glad to say has always been satisfactory.

39. Annexure 7 shews the arrivals, departures, and deaths of Indian immigrants, and births in the Indian immigrant population during the year 1874.

40. The number of Indian immigrants in the colony on the 31st December 1874 was—

M.	F.	Total.
107,758	45,103	152,861

The number of male immigrants was less by 13 than it was on the 31st December 1873, the departures and deaths in 1874 having exceeded the arrivals by that number, while the female immigrants had increased by 392, the arrivals having by so many exceeded the departures and deaths.

41. The number of engagements entered into between labourers and employers in 1874 was 63,137; 40,214 were re-engagements with the same employers, and 22,923 with other employers.

42. The following figures shew the number of engagements and re-engagements for the last five years:—

	Engagements.	Re-engagements.	Total.
In 1870 ...	31,461	45,460	76,921
" 1871 ...	28,172	47,713	75,885
" 1872 ...	25,717	45,457	71,174
" 1873 ...	21,154	44,225	65,379
" 1874 ...	22,923	40,214	63,137

43. As will be seen, there has been a steady decrease in the number of labourers who have entered into written engagements; it may be, and probably is, the fact that a corresponding increase in the number of those who have taken out police passes has taken place during that period, but I have not been able to ascertain this, the books kept by the police not readily furnishing the information.

44. Annexure 8 shews the rates at which the engagements in 1874 were made; the greater number was (as in the previous year) at 16 shillings, and the average rate of the whole was 16s. 0½d.

45. Annexure 9 shews the periods for which engagements were made—

	Engagements.	Re-engagements.	Total.
For 3 months or less ...	117	21	138
More than 3 months and not more than 6 months ...	1,248	634	1,882
6 " 1 year ...	19,002	32,070	51,072
1 year " 18 months ...	633	3,405	4,038
18 months " 2 years ...	1,521	3,146	4,667
2 years " 4 years ...	317	765	1,082
For 5 years ...	85	173	258

46. Annexure 10 shews the classes of men who entered into engagements:

	Engagements.	Re-engagements.	Total.
New immigrants ...	54	186	240
Old do. ...	19,661	36,103	55,764
Other registered immigrants ...	471	333	804
Creoles of Indian extraction ...	2,725	3,585	6,310
Do. African do. ...	6		6
Others ...	6	7	13

47. The number of Indian Creoles who engaged in the last five years was:

In 1870 ...	3,004
" 1871 ...	4,259
" 1872 ...	5,425
" 1873 ...	5,561
" 1874 ...	6,310

It is very satisfactory to note this steady increase in the number of Indian Creoles who enter into written engagements.

63. I have not been able to obtain the amount expended by Government for immigration purposes in 1874, nor the amounts in the Savings Banks on 31st December 1874 standing to the credit of the various classes of the Indian population, but from a return presented to Council on the 23rd March last by the Acting Manager of the Savings Bank the amount held in deposit by the Indian population at the end of 1874, exclusive of interest was £119,892-19-7½.

64. From the reports of the Inspectors of Immigrants on the estates which they have visited during the second tour of inspection, I find that the Indians employed on those estates owned:—

7,164 cows,
19,314 pigs,
143,710 fowls.

Enclosure to the foregoing letter.

Dated Port Louis, 27th February 1875.

From—A. R. BARRAUT, Esq., Health Officer,

To—The Honourable the Protector of Immigrants.

I HAVE the honour to forward the report on the immigration depôt for the year 1874.

1. The number of immigrants admitted into the depôt was:—

	No.
New immigrants	7,052
Old immigrants	3,142
Vagrants	2,060
Total	12,254

2. The new immigrants arrived in 18 vessels, 13 from Calcutta and 5 from Madras—thus:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
From Calcutta	3,606	1,645	5,251
„ Madras	1,212	599	1,801
Total	4,818	2,244	7,052

3. The admissions to the sick list during the voyage were as follow for the Calcutta vessels.

Ships.	Fever.	Diarrhoea.	Dysentery.	Mumps.	Other diseases.	Total.	Mortality.
Allum Ghier	5	2	12	...	7	26	6
Glenroy	2	2	3	3	6	16	7
Lady Melville	2	5	2	...	4	13	1
Merchantman	2	5	9	10	7	34	4
Allum Ghier	10	16	12	...	1	39	4
Glenroy	16	13	14	33	7	83	11
Iskander Shah	1	1	4	...	2	8	...
Sr. Almorah	1	2	4	...	9	16	1
Sr. Mahda	2	1	2	...	3	8	2
Merchantman	20	7	5	...	3	35	2
Allum Ghier	2	3	7	15	2	29	9
Latona	8	5	7	11	3	34	8
Glenroy	6	8	10	35	27	115	9

Giving a total of 146 admissions and 64 deaths.

* Mumps.

4. The admissions to hospital for the Madras vessels were as follows:—

Vessels.	Fever.	Diarrhoea.	Dysentery.	Mumps.	Other diseases.	Total.	Mortality.
Mars	2	1	1	...	6	8	1
Fathe Salem	...	1	...	...	7	7	1
Reigate	4	2	2	9	3	20	2
Latona	1	...	2	...	2	6	1
Reigate	...	...	1	...	6	7	2

Giving a total of 48 admissions and 6 deaths.

5. The admissions to hospital in Port Louis after the return of the immigrants from the quarantine station were as follow:—

Diseases.	No. of cases.
Bronchitis	4
Contusions	1
Convulsions	2
Chorea	1
Dysentery	35
Diarrhoea	32
Fever	32
Hernia	1
Stomatitis	2
Marasmus	2
Itch	3
Ophthalmia	8
Paralysis	1
Rheumatism	1
Veneral	16
Spleen enlargement	1
Irisitis	2
Ulcers	2
Total	147

A statement of deaths among new immigrants sent from the depôt to the civil hospital during the year 1874 is herewith annexed:—

	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Madras	1	2	...	3	4	3	3
Calcutta	12	4	...	3	4	3	26
	13	6	...	3	4	3	29

The causes of death were as follows: dysentery 9 cases, diarrhoea 5, fever 8, colic 1, marasmus 1, convulsions 2, bronchitis 2, abscess of gum 1.—One woman went to hospital with her child who was ill; the child got well, but the mother died from fever in the hospital.

6. The examinations for marks of vaccination and small-pox were made on the newly arrived immigrants, and the following are the instances where the operation of vaccination was not performed:—

Allum Ghier	...	3 female infants.
Glenroy	...	1 " "
Mars	...	2 male "
Fathe Salem	...	1 female "
Allum Ghier	...	1 " "
Ditto	...	2 males.
Merchantman	...	1 " "
Ditto	...	1 female.
Glenroy	...	2 males.
Ditto	...	2 females.

Total ... 16

Iskendershah	Carried over	... 16
Reigate	...	... 1 male infant.
Ditto	...	... 2 "
Latona	...	... 1 female.
Glenroy	...	... 1 male.
	...	... 1 "
Total	...	... 22

The names of these children were duly reported to the chief medical officer and the Government vaccinator was requested to vaccinate them.

7. There were 5 births in the depôt during the year. Three among the immigrants for embarkation and 2 among the newly arrived immigrants.

8. There were 3 deaths in the depôt during the year: 1st, a Calcutta woman, 20 years of age, died on the 14th January from congestion of the lungs; 2nd, an infant boy, 1 month old, died from convulsions; and 3rd, a male Calcutta Indian, 50 years of age, died from apoplexy.

There was no casualty at the depôt among the newly arrived immigrants.

On the whole the sanitary condition of the newly arrived immigrants after their return from the Quarantine station was very satisfactory. In one batch, mumps and ophthalmia were very rife, and some of the worst cases had to be sent to the civil hospital. A good many minor operations had to be performed, such as opening abscesses, extraction of teeth, dressing wounds, &c.

9. The number of old immigrants sent to the poor law hospital from the depôt amounted to 349. The following form will shew the diseases under which they laboured, as well as the months of the year when they were sent.

Diseases.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Asthma	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	5
Ascites	...	...	...	1	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Bronchitis	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Contusions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	3	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Diarrhoea	...	1	1	4	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Fever	...	2	1	2	3	2	4	4	1	1	...	...	24
Fistula	...	19	16	9	11	21	16	8	4	1	1	...	109
Hydrocele	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	4
Hernia	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Itch	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	4
Lunacy	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Leprosy	...	1	1	3	...	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	17
Otitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	3
Paralysis	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	5
Parturition	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rheumatism	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Retention of urine	...	...	4	...	4	3	1	2	1	...	...	...	18
Disease of spleen	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
Do. of heart	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
Do. of liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Do. of the eye	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Do. of the skin	...	...	...	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Edema of feet	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	6
Syphilis	...	3	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	6
Ulcers	...	...	...	6	2	1	...	4	2	1	3	1	25
Disease of knee-joint	...	1	2	1	5	4	5	...	4	4	3	...	33
Epilepsy	...	...	...	3	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	6
Abcess	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	4
Total	32	29	38	40	49	50	27	26	14	20	9	14	348

10. 374 immigrants were brought before me for examination during the year. Of these 25 were found to be malingering and sent back to their masters; 20 from old age, leprosy, debility and blindness were unfit for further service, and the remainder were sent to hospital for treatment.

11. The provisions issued to the coolies were examined on several occasions and found to be of good quality.

12. Milk, bread and sago were ordered to 90 nursing mothers among the new immigrants, and to about 21 children from the ship *Glenroy*, who were in a very poor condition when they returned from the Quarantine station.

13. The return immigrants were examined in company with the medical attendants of the vessels several times before embarkation; and those who were unable to stand the fatigues of the voyage, either from sickness or other cause, were kept back. The number of rejected cases amounted to 5: 3 of dropsy and 2 of phthisis. On one occasion I was requested by the Honourable the Protector of Immigrants to visit the return immigrants per *Latona* from Madras and examine the medicine chest of that vessel.

14. No material changes were made in the depôt during the year. The bathing-place for women is still a desideratum. Mr. Hughes, the depôt-keeper has maintained the depôt in a very good sanitary condition and his attention to the immigrants has been very careful.

No. A-812, dated Colonial Office, Mauritius, 5th May 1875.

From—W. H. MARSH, Esq., Assistant Colonial Secretary,

To—The Honourable the Acting Protector of Immigrants.

I AM directed by His Excellency the Governor to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your annual report on immigration for 1874 which will be laid before the Council of Government.

2. The points referred to in paragraphs 16, 17 and 18 of your report will be considered when the new labour law is being framed.

3. With reference to paragraph 27 in which you state that coolies have left Mauritius without obtaining the passport required by law, His Excellency would be glad to know if there are any means of arriving at an approximate estimate of those who return without a passport and what is supposed to be their reason for so leaving.

4. With regard to the savings of return immigrants, His Excellency has no doubt it would be a great advent to the colony and to themselves if they were to take bills instead of coin, but they can only be advised on that subject. His Excellency is glad to find that remittances through the office have increased.

5. The Inspector-General of Police will be asked for a statement shewing the number of Indians who have taken out police passes during the past five years.

6. The table in paragraph 49 shews that there were 1,489 complaints for non-payment of wages in 1874 against 1,062 in the preceding year. His Excellency wishes to know if you can explain the reason for this great increase in 1874 over 1873.

7. Also in regard to duplicate tickets, why the names and numbers of applicants for duplicate tickets should not be published in one or more of the newspapers?

8. Paragraph 54 of your report shews an increase in 1874 of the number of convictions of Indians before the District Courts. Do you know of any cause why there should have been such a large increase?

9. As regards suicides mentioned in paragraph 55, the Governor requests you to inform him if the proportion of suicides among Indians is much greater than among coloured Creoles and if the mortality as shewn in section 56 is greater than among the general population.

10. As to forms for books touched upon by you in section 58, if such forms were given to planters would the books not be kept as required without a law?

11. Finally, His Excellency wishes to know if it is considered that the deductions mentioned in paragraphs 60, 61 and 62 were on the whole fairly made, and why the amounts mentioned in section 63 could not be procured.

No. A-44, dated Immigration Office, Mauritius, 28th May 1875.

From—T. ELLIOTT, Esq., Acting Protector of Immigrants, Mauritius,

To—The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, &c., &c.

In reply to your letter No. A-812 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to state with reference to paragraph 3 that I am not able to give even an approximate estimate of those who leave the colony without a passport because it has only been in a few cases that the fact has afterwards come to my knowledge. In the case of those who have returned to India they may have erred from ignorance, and were probably told by the agents of the country ships that if they left in their ships there would be no necessity for communicating their intended departure at the Immigration Office.

One who left for Natal probably also left in ignorance that a passport was required. As regards those who leave for Réunion their object I believe is to be enabled to return to Mauritius as passengers, and so escape the obligations of the labour laws.

Those who leave for Madagascar without passport do it knowingly, because if they were to apply for a passport it would be refused them, in obedience to the instructions in Colonial Secretary's letter D-84 of 8th July 1874.

The increase in 1874 of the convictions for non-payment of wages, was principally in the districts of Moka and Savanne and is probably attributable to large bands having gone in a body to complain; thus, in Moka only one band, numbering 32 men went to complain in 1873; while in 1874 four bands went, one numbering 316 men, another 74 men, and others 31 and 27 men respectively. So that the number of convictions may be largely increased because two or three employers get into difficulties or neglect to pay wages when due.

The returns furnished to this office by the Stipendiary Magistrate might be amended so as to give the number of cases and number of complainants.

The increase in 1874 of the convictions of Indians before the District Courts is attributable to a change that was made in the distribution of the business of the three Magistrates in Port Louis; whereby police contraventions that were formerly tried before the Police and Stipendiary Magistrate, (no return of which was furnished to this office,) were tried before the junior District Magistrate and are included in his return. There were 1,129 convictions on this head in 1874.

The lists of applicants for duplicate tickets are not required by law to be published in the daily newspapers, but the main reason why they are not is the expense of publishing them as advertisements. Last year I asked the editors of the *Commercial* and *Cermeen* newspapers to publish the list free of expense as useful information for their subscribers, but they declined to do so unless they were paid for.

The number of coloured Creoles cannot be ascertained, but even allowing that they form the major part of the general population, the proportion of suicides among Indians is very much greater than among them. Out of the 52 suicides of last year, 49 were Indians, one of the general population, one a Chinaman, and one unknown.

With reference to His Excellency's inquiry as to whether the mortality on sugar estates is greater than among the general population, I find that the Registrar-General in his last annual report gives the mortality among the general population as 33.2 per 1,000, and of the Indian population as 28.0 per 1,000. I had intended to include in my report a comparison between the mortality of the general and Indian population on the sugar estates, with the population on the sugar estates; but I found on examination that there were two estates which had sent in no returns, that there were 14 returns which gave no information respecting the women and children, and several other returns which seemed to me to be incorrect, so that I gave up the idea.

Taking however the figures as they stand, the population on sugar estates on the 31st December 1874 was 127,810; the mortality as shewn in annexure 16 of my report was 2,586, so that the rate of mortality was 28.0 per 1,000; 5.2 per 1,000 less than among the general population, and exactly the same as that of the Indian population given in Dr. Edward's report. I consider that the population on sugar estates given above is under-stated by about 3,000, so that, assuming that all the deaths given in annexure 16 did really occur on sugar estates, the mortality would be at a lower rate than among the Indian population not living on sugar estates.

But I doubt whether all the deaths did occur on the sugar estates. It, I believe, frequently happens that deaths in the neighbourhood are declared as having occurred on the estate, and I suggested in my report A288 of the 16th September 1873 that the Officers of Civil Status should request proprietors or managers of sugar estates to send a note when any person died on the estate; and in the absence of such note not to register the death as having occurred on the estate. I do not know whether this has been attended to or not.

With reference to paragraph 10 respecting a form of pay-book to be adopted generally, I think that a great many planters would use it, but that some may object to do so; and as legislation on the Labour Laws is near at hand, it may be well to leave the matter to stand over till then.

The deductions mentioned in paragraphs 60, 61 and 62 were on the whole fairly made, though on some few estates the practice still continues of sometimes fining men for non-completion of tasks and petty offences.

The amount expended by Government for Immigration purposes, can only be obtained from the Audit Office, and I myself asked the Chief Clerk to give me the necessary information; this was before the arrival of the mail on the 11th April; when he told me that as the Indian Accounts had not been received he could only at that time give it by estimate up to the end of the year, but that after the arrival of the mail, if I would send a clerk, he would then be able to give me correct figures. I did send a clerk three times to the Audit Office for the information, but he was told on the last occasion (about a week before I sent in my report) that it would require two or three weeks to prepare it correctly.

The information to be obtained from the Manager of the Savings' Bank as to the amounts (including interest) standing on the 31st December 1874 to the credit of the various classes of the Indian population, also depended on his books being checked by an Audit Examiner. This had not been done up to a few days of sending in my annual report, and as I could not wait any longer, I concluded it and sent it forward.

The number of immigrants despatched to Mauritius in 1874 was 7,035 and 20 were born on the voyage. The deaths including those of infants born on the voyage, were 71, equal to a mortality of a little more than 1 per cent. The deaths as usual were more numerous in the Calcutta, than in the Madras coolies. The cost of the immigration to the planters was heavy, averaging per male adult £12-14-0⁴ from Calcutta, and £12-12-6 from Madras. The average cost of passage being from Calcutta £6 and from Madras £5-17-8 per adult. The above sum however includes in addition to the recruiting expenses, the cost of the introduction of women and children. A considerable number were at once transferred by those who had applied for them to other employers, and a number of outstanding requisitions were withdrawn shewing that the circumstances of the planters are not at present flourishing. During the present year no new requisitions have been sent in, and as the number of unsatisfied requisitions is inconsiderable, it may be assumed that for the present at least the emigration will soon come to an end. This is of importance in considering the general question as to the restoration of the free return passage.

The number who returned to India in the year was 4,075 of whom 513 were sent back at the expense of the Government, and 3,562 paid for their own passages to the amount of £7,942. The amount of savings declared by these emigrants was Rs. 6,54,953 one man taking with him

no less a sum than Rs. 22,600. In addition to these money savings, the women had a considerable value in jewellery.

The number of immigrants in the colony was—

Males.	Females.	Total.
107,758.	45,103.	152,861.

This however does not include the Creole Indian population of 63,137 engagements or re-engagements entered into during the year; 53,092 were for periods of one year or less, and only 258 for 5 years. Wages varied from £1 to £9 a month but more than half the whole number were from 14s. to 16s.

The number of convictions on complaints preferred by immigrants against employers and overseers during 1874 were 1,979; of convictions on complaints of employers against immigrants 4,473; of the latter upwards of 78 per cent. were for unlawful absence or desertion, the former of which has increased but the latter diminished in the last year. Probably this result arises more from the mode of classifying the offence than from absolute change.

The acting Protector prosecuted 33 immigrants during the year, for obtaining duplicate tickets on false pretences, of whom 32 were convicted.

The number of immigrants who had been in the colony before, and returned to it in 1874, was 630.

No. 120

Copy forwarded for information to the local Governments and Administrations noted in the margin.

Madras.
Bombay.
Bengal.
North-Western Provinces.

Punjab.
Oudh.
Central Provinces

By order of the Governor-General in Council.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,
AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.
(EMIGRATION.)

C. J. LYALL.

Dated Calcutta, the 5th April 1876.)

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

Order in the Public Department of April 1876

Communicated to the Protector
of Emigrants and to the Revenue Dep^y.

(True Extract)

Wm. Lawrence Colonel
Asst. & Under Secy. for D. O. W.
for Chief Secretary

To The Revenue Department
Fort St. George

1876.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,
AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

EMIGRATION.

FROM

HER MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR INDIA.

Dated 20th January

Recd. 14th February

1876.

No. 6.
Enclosures.

D. No.

L. No.

}

Pros.

{ D.
No.

SUBJECT.

FORWARDS for information copy of the Mauritius
Immigration report for the year 1874, together
with a copy of a minute recorded thereon by the
Chairman of the Emigration Board.

1877
Dec 1870 Depart

1870. Public Reports

Public at April
Dec 4. May 1870

1878

Long since from 1870
and in January 1870, 1870
Summation Report for 1870

See in summer 1870
1870

1870

1870

1870