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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1276
B.P. No.

Press
Mis.

Dated 30. 3 - 1877 197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Famine Relief.

No. 919. Read the following Report of the Under-Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, dated 21st March 1877, No. 368-1.

Read the following letter from G. TEN, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce (Emigration), dated Calcutta, 21st March 1877, No. 44.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Secretary's letter, No. 368-1, dated the 3rd instant, in which it is proposed that in view to benefiting British Burma and at the same time affording relief to the famine-stricken districts of the Madras Presidency, immediate emigration of laborers from those districts to British Burma by introducing a system of advances.

2. In reply, I am to say that the Governor-General in Council approves of the proposal, and, subject to the condition that the emigrants are to be exclusively selected from the famine-stricken districts, has sanctioned the allotment of nineteen lakhs of rupees to meet the expenses to be incurred in making advances to the emigrants in question.

3. A copy of this correspondence has been forwarded to the Government of Madras, with whom you are authorized to enter into direct communication, with a view to arrangements being made for commencing the emigration without delay.

ENCLOSURE 1.

From Major C. W. STREET, Madras Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, dated 3rd March 1877, No. 368-1.

I AM directed by the Chief Commissioner to the Government of India, whether, in view of the prevalence of vermin, an impulse could not be given, by special arrangements, for a more extended emigration of laborers from the distressed tracts to British Burma, partly as a measure of relief from the spread of famine in the Presidency of Madras, and partly in promotion of the settlement of the population in this province.

2. The British Burma Labor Law, for regulating the transport of native laborers to this country, was passed in 1876, and came into force in January of that year. Many preliminaries, however, had to be arranged before the law could be put into operation; and the following details have now been settled. The Chief Commissioner (Madras) and the Government of India, has, under after reference to the local Government, appointed an Emigration Agent at the port of Cocanada, the most favorable, under ordinary circumstances, as a port of embarkation. Similarly, a Medical Inspector of Emigrants has been appointed at the same place; and the detailed rules required to be prepared by the Chief Commissioner, under Section 87 of the Act, for the general security, protection, and well-being of emigrants after their arrival in this province, have been published. It is necessary to await the attention of His Grace in Council has been called to the urgency of the matter. As soon as the rules are notified, the measures necessary to give effect to the law will be completed.

The Act will succeed in promoting
 of the Madras Presidency may, of itself,
 this year; but ordinarily it may be noticed,
 Madras to British Burma during the
 vessel which has arrived from the Madras
 to obtain employment in the mills. This
 emigrants are volunteers, who make their
 here; and experience shows that the
 to their homes, enriched with the
 the season in which the mills are at
 subject was primarily to regulate this
 for, it was thought to be open to many
 not come by their full rights. It was also,
 a well-organised system for regular
 induced to settle in the country, and, by
 stes, and thus benefit the province. The
 is no legal prohibition against the contractor
 ment arrangements under the Act of 1876;
 of labor in Burma, beyond those who need
 s, the Chief Commissioner has doubts whether
 tlement of emigrants in this province, in the
 The coolies from Madras will still come for
 ut they will probably return to Madras

The present opportunity is a favorable one for the emigration which the permanent character of the frontier (for which we need population here in every district for the Public Works Department. "If the large railway of the Promer line to the frontier (for which the Government is now planning) is completed, a large number of laborers might be engaged at once, under the law allows. Similar dispositions would be made for the new line to Toungoo (for which the Government is still in progress, while, for the present, the Government is not yet ready to make the law available behind the embankments in the frontier wastes ready to be occupied and cleared of five years' exemption from payment of any

There are now a million of people suffering from the
disease in the Madras Presidency. It is estimated
it will involve an outlay of six and a half millions
in British Burma can help to alleviate distress of
this in this province; and even the measure of its
extent to which the Government of India would
contribute for the purpose. Assuming, however,
that the population would show a greater willingness
to contribute a portion of the large unavoidable
expenditure of this project, the Chief Commis-
sioner within the next three months, and find them-
selves. If either of the large railway works before
the State the immediate employment of the emigrants
necessary to maintain them on their first arrival.

nine in Bengal in 1974, a scheme of a
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special difficulties and drawbacks, the
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a which laborers could be most easily
s in Rangoon are complete and ready for
will facilitate most advantageously the
ings in the interior.

The project that the greatest difficulties in part of the country in which severe ill not be in a position to settle or maintain some system of advances would have attempted. In the inquiries upon this I generally accepted that an advance of £, and say two young children,—to start follows:—

some other details a reduction might be less than Rupees 140 for each family, and would be of immense advantage, as tending to be sent over with their families; but who would be induced to emigrate, not their families, and in the case of single persons, perhaps not exceeding Rupees 80 per head in the way of advances would amount to $0 = 700,000$, and $15,000 \times 80 =$ Rupees

account would have to be established, the head-quarters depôt, in which a separate grant received in the province. As the collector of each district would maintain a list of the lands assigned to them, the moneys advanced as gradually adjusted. The end of the first year, would be fixed at the next meeting.

9. The almost daily representative duties which embarrass every branch of pressure from similar causes felt in bringing the subject thus prominently to a hope of its favorable reception. As rupees in an undertaking of the nature and in failure, even financially; and which is counted by millions for the measure to Madras, when it would be extravagant. Already, with the prospect to arrangements, for some time in cotton refineries, and extending the cultivation any project for the importation of labor would introduce these industries with the one want which has hindered his nature, and it can be overcome in any proposal under consideration involves would and, through them, of the revenues, or

Copy of the correspondence information

No. 920.

ORDER THERE

Miscellaneous.

To the Board of Revenue.

Accountant General

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

to the Chief Commissioner on the day this province from the want of labor, and the of the public service, must be his excuse for His Excellency in Council, and expressing if so it may be termed, of nineteen lakhs of and not, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, that Government is involved in an expenditure the assignment of £190,000 as a relief probably at the same time, does not seem the railway, an impulse has been given to working earth-oil mines, establishing sugar in various parts of the Pegu division; and country would be hailed by the gentlemen who ion. The scarcity of population is practically application of capital to all enterprises of this when the large initiative outlay which the provided by the rapid development of the resources, ma.

and the Government of Madras for

er.)

(Signed) C. J. LYALL,
Secretary to the Government of India.

March 1877, No. 1,276.

RECORDED, pending further communication from the Chief Commissioner of British Burma.

tract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

1276
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Emigration of Labourers from the Province of Madras to British Burma.
—Receiving copy of correspondence from the Government of India respecting the passing of the Bill for the Emigration of Labourers from the Chief Commissioner of that Province.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT, NO. 368-1.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT, NO. 368-1.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT, NO. 368-1.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT, NO. 368-1.

British Burma.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.—No. 368-1.

(Immigration).

FROM

MAJOR C. W. STREET, M.C.,

SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER,

BRITISH BURMA.

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE,

Dated Rangoon, 3rd March 1877.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Chief Commissioner to submit, for the consideration of the Government of India, whether, in view of the prevalence of very wide-spread famine in the Presidency of Madras, an impulse could not be given, by special arrangements, for a more extended emigration of labourers from the distressed tracts to British Burma, partly as a measure of relief from the famine, and partly in promotion of the settlement of population in this province.

2. The British Burma Labour Law, for regulating the transport of native labourers to this country, was passed in 1876, and came into force in January of that year. Many preliminaries, however, had to be arranged before the law could come into operation; and the following details have now been settled. The Chief Commissioner, after reference to the local Government (Madras), and the Government of India, has, under section 4, appointed an Emigration Agent at the port of Coconada, the most favourable, under ordinary circumstances, as a port of embarkation. Similarly, a Medical Inspector of Emigrants has been appointed at the same place; and the detailed rules required to be prepared by the Chief Commissioner, under section 87 of the Act, for the general security, protection, and well-being of immigrants after their arrival in this province, have been published. It is necessary to await the action of the M. J. and the attention of His Grace in Parliament of the matter. As soon as these rules are notified, the measures necessary to give effect to the law will be completed.

3. It is impossible to say, beforehand, to what extent the Act will succeed in promoting emigration to Burma. Possibly, the special condition of the Madras Presidency may, of itself, stimulate emigration from the distressed districts during this year; but ordinarily it may be noticed, there is a large number of labourers who come over from Madras to British Burma during the busy season of the rice operations; and lately, every vessel which has arrived from the Madras ports has brought from 600 to 900 Madras coolies, eager to obtain employment in the mills. This is without any intervention of Act III. of 1876. The emigrants are volunteers, who make their own arrangements with contractors for the labour market here; and experience shows that the great mass of such labourers who annually visit Burma return to their homes, enriched with the gains of high labour rates prevalent in Rangoon, as soon as the season in which the mills are at work is passed. The object of legislation on the subject was, primarily, to regulate this system of emigration. In the hands of contractors, it was thought to be open to many abuses; and the coolies, probably in all cases did not come by their full rights. It was also, perhaps, anticipated that, under formal contracts and a well-organized

system for regular employment at high wages, the people would be induced to settle in the country, and, by taking up lands, promote the cultivation of wastes, and thus benefit the province. The result of this has yet to be seen. As long as there is no legal prohibition against the contractor system, it will not cease to compete with the Government arrangements under the Act of 1874; and, as hitherto there have been large employers of labour in Burma, beyond those who need workmen for the limited season of the rice operations, the Chief Commissioner has doubts whether much will be gained by the Act as regards the settlement of emigrants in this province, in the absence of special measures to promote that object. The coolies from Madras will still come for the high wages which they receive as mill hands; but they will probably return to Madras when that work ceases.

4. It seems to the Chief Commissioner that the present opportunity is a favourable one for considering the practicability of giving a more permanent character to the emigration which the Act gives us the power of carrying out in detail. We need population here in every district for agricultural purposes, and in every branch of the Public Works Department. If the large railway works are to be continued, either by the extension of the Prome line to the frontier (for which application has been sent in), or for the construction of the new line to Toungoo (for which the estimates will shortly be submitted), a large number of labourers might be engaged at once, under contract for the full period of the three years which the law allows. Similar dispositions would be of advantage for the completion of the embankments which are still in progress, while, for people wishing to settle as agriculturists, lands are widely available behind the embankments in the Henzada, Bassem, and Thonkwa districts, and cultivable wastes ready to be occupied and cleared in most districts of the province, under liberal rules of five years' exemption from payment of any rent.

5. It would appear from the papers that there are now a million of people suffering from the famine, receiving relief at the Government expense in the Madras Presidency. It is estimated that the relief measures in Madras and Bombay will involve an outlay of six and a half millions sterling. It can be in a very small way at best that British Burma can help to alleviate distress of such wide proportions, by offering work and lands in this province; and even the measure of its aid in these respects would depend upon the extent to which the Government of India would favour the scheme, and promote it by a special allotment for the purpose. Assuming, however, that in their present calamity the Madras labouring population would show a greater willingness to emigrate, and that the Government of India would divert a portion of the large unavoidable expenditure imposed on it by the famine in furtherance of this project, the Chief Commissioner would be prepared to receive 20,000 persons within the next three months, and find them occupation, or lands upon which they could settle. If either of the large railway works, or the early completion of the scheme which would be necessary to maintain them on their first arrival.

6. Mr. Rivers Thompson is aware that, in the famine in Bengal in 1874, a scheme of a similar nature was approved and carried out with only partial success, under a system of State emigration. He is of opinion, however, that in face of special difficulties and drawbacks, the general outcome of those arrangements was of benefit to British Burma, with a corresponding relief, probably, to the famine-stricken districts from which the emigrants came, and that, if any similar scheme was favourably entertained now, we should commence operations under better securities for success. In the first place, the Bengalee has never amalgamated with the people here in the same way as the Madrasse. The latter is always in much greater demand as a labourer, and the people from Madras in this province are already so numerous as to impart to every new comer a stronger home feeling, and a greater readiness to remain than the Bengalee emigrant ever experienced, coming among a people alien in habits, language, and religion. Again, in giving effect to the measure of 1874, the Chief Commissioner had not the aid of a law to regulate emigration from the continent of India. The provisions in this respect are now ready at hand, and can be put in operation at any port in the Madras Presidency from which labourers could be most easily

embarked. So, on debarkation, the depot arrangements in Rangoon are complete and ready for immediate use, while the opening of the Railway to Prome will facilitate most advantageously the transport of immigrants with their families to many districts in the interior.

7. It will be, of course, in the cost of carrying out the project that the greatest difficulties will present themselves. The emigrants, coming from a part of the country in which severe famine prevails, to establish homes in a new country, will not be in a position to settle or maintain themselves for one year at least after their arrival; and some system of advances would have to be devised and sanctioned before the measure could be attempted. In the enquiries upon this subject which were made in 1874, it was ascertained and generally accepted that an advance of Rs. 150 would be required for each family,—man, wife, and say two young children,—to start them in this province. The calculation was made out as follows:—

The construction of a house	Rs.
One pair of bullocks	20
Thirty baskets of paddy, for consumption and seed	80
Salt and condiments	30
Ploughs and other agricultural implements	5
	15
Total	150

The cost of rice would be cheaper now than then, and in some other details a reduction might be feasible; but probably it would involve an outlay of not less than Rs. 140 for each family, as above constituted, to give effect to the measure. It would be of immense advantage, as tending directly to the permanency of settlement, if the men could be sent over with their families; but perhaps, taking the figure of 20,000 as the total number who would be induced to emigrate, not more than one-fourth of these would be accompanied by their families, and in the case of single men the preliminary expenses would be considerably less, perhaps not exceeding Rs. 30 per head. Upon these calculations, the expenses to be incurred in the way of advances would amount to a sum of nineteen lakhs of rupees, viz., $5,000 \times 140 = 700,000$, and $15,000 \times 80 =$ Rs. 1,200,000.

8. As on the previous occasion, an emigration account would have to be established, supervised by the officer in charge of the department at the headquarters depot, in which a separate entry would be kept of each family or individual emigrant received in the province. As these get settled in different districts, the Deputy Commissioner of each district would maintain a corresponding register of the settlers in his district, the lands assigned to them, the moneys advanced to them, and the re-payments on account of such advances as gradually adjusted. The rate of re-payment, which could not be enforced till the end of the first year, would be fixed at Rs. 3 per month in liquidation of the debt to Government.

9. The almost daily representations which are made to the Chief Commissioner on the difficulties which embarrass every branch of industry in this province from the want of labour, and the pressure from similar causes felt in departments of the public service, must be his excuse for bringing the subject thus prominently to the notice of His Excellency in Council, and expressing a hope of its favourable reception. An investment, if so it may be termed, of nineteen lakhs of rupees in an undertaking of the nature proposed, would not, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, and in failure, even financially; and if the Imperial Government is involved in an expenditure which is counted by millions for the alleviation of famine, the assignment of Rs. 1,900,000 as a relief measure to Madras, when it would benefit Burma so incalculably at the same time, does not seem extravagant. Already, with the prospect of the opening of the Railway, an impulse has been given to arrangements, for some time in contemplation, for working earth-oil mines, establishing sugar refineries, and extending the cultivation of jute and tea in various parts of the Pegu division; and any project for the importation of labour into the country would be hailed by the gentlemen who would introduce these industries with great satisfaction. The scarcity of population is practically the one want which has hindered hitherto the

(4)

application of capital to all enterprizes of this nature, and if it can be overcome, in any measure, even the large initiative outlay which the proposal under consideration involves would be soon repaid by the rapid development of the resources, and, through them, of the revenues, of British Burma.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

Sgt. L. W. Street. MAJOR,
Secretary to the Chief Commissioner.

11276
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703

Reg. No.
REV. (1877) DEPT.

(Immigration.)

From
THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, BRITISH BURMA.

D. 3rd Mar. } 1877. (No. 368-1.
R. } Enclosures,
Spare copies,

D. No. Progs.

L. No. No.

See 71844

Immigration to British Burma.

To Revenue Secretary, No. 368-1, dated 3rd March 1877.

Submits, for the consideration of the Government of India, the Chief Commissioner's suggestion as to whether, in view of the famine now prevailing in the Madras Presidency, special arrangements might not be made for a more extended emigration of labourers from the districts affected to British Burma.

No. 44-

FROM

G. H. ATTEN, Esquire,

Office Secretary to the Government of India,
Department of Revenue, Agriculture
and Commerce.

TO

The Chief Commissioner of
British Burma.

Calcutta, dated the 21st March 1877.

Emigration

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Secretary's letter No. 368-1 dated the 3rd instant, in which it is proposed that in view to benefitting British Burma and at the same time affording relief to the famine stricken districts of the Madras Presidency — immediate encouragement should be given to the Emigration of labourers from those districts to British Burma by introducing a system of advances.

2. In reply I am to say that the Governor General in Council approves of

the proposal, and, subject to the condition that the emigrants are to be exclusively selected from the famine stricken districts, have sanctioned the allotment of Nineteen lakhs of rupees to meet the expenses to be incurred in making advance to the emigrants in question.

3. A copy of this correspondence has been forwarded to the Government of Madras, with whom you are authorized to enter into direct communication with a view to arrangements being made for commencing the emigration without delay.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
Sd/- W. Batten,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

A.

No 45-

1276
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Copy of
to the Government
tion.

correspondence forwarded
to Madras for information.

By order,

Chas. W. F. Galt

Secretary to the Govt. of India

7th Dec. 1844

From.

The foot of ladder
Rev. T. D.

Dated 21 }
Rev 26 } (unrecd)

no. 45

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Forw: for information
copy of the correspondence
with the Chief Camps of
British Burmah respecting
the emigration of labour
from the famine stricken
dist of the Madras Presidency
to British Burmah.

Q 30 March 77 No. 1276-

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

• *F*. No. 1844

the Govt of India, Rev: H^{on} Secy

Dated 21st March 1877

FOR ORDERS.

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begin - and his don't
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the people. By must I con-

The people - We must I con.
- Civil activist action
of Commencement for
Burmah 24/6 MM

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being angry

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from Munich. & I am not
sure that he should be
right in actively promoting
immigration. Our present
disorder is not from our
population. LK

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Feb 18

Manager

From

Post of
Rev.

FOR ORDERS.

31/3/77

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