New No. Scott. I (i)-1—Old No. M.R.O. 1—10,000—10-6-02.

(1) Number of pages 22

(2) Date of repair 25-3-91

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

DEPARTMENT

Revenue

G.O. No. 2525 Press
B.P. No. Mis.

Dated 31 10 1876 196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1852

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
10th October 1876. *No.* 1131.

Emigration.

No. 37. *Read the following despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India:—*

Public (Emigration).
No. 90.

INDIA OFFICE, LONDON,
10th August 1876.

MY LORD,—I forward, herewith, for the information of your Excellency in Council, copy of the Report* of Agent-General of Immigrants as well as a copy of the Report† of the Sub-Intendant of Crown Lands in Trinidad for the year 1875.

* 18th March 1876.
† 29th February 1876.

I have, &c.,
SALISBURY.

His Excellency the Right Honorable
The Governor-General of India in Council.

This mortality at sea, viz., 67 on 2,540 = 2·63, is somewhat heavier than might have been reasonably anticipated from the careful selection and low death-rate in depôt previous to sailing; but in the first ship of the season measles broke out, contemporaneously, with its appearance in depôt and with similar malignity. Fortunately the Surgeon-Superintendent was a gentleman of high professional standing, whose experience was ably seconded by a first-class compounder and his mate; otherwise the heavy death-rate at sea (5·2 per cent.) might have been followed by a proportionately heavy flooding of the hospital on arrival. This, however, did not happen, as the coolies by the *Grafton Towers* were landed for the most part in good order. In the second ship, the *British Empire*, whose passengers were selected with equal care, the mortality was the same (5·2 per cent.). Here there was no epidemic, but a protracted voyage of 112 days, with frequent calms and rain, lowered the vitality of the people, and on careful inquiry afterwards it was found that the Surgeon-Superintendent had not met this condition with such change of diet and other hygienic measures as the case required. It will be seen from Table A that the three last ships offered a marked and satisfactory contrast to the two first, their mortality being on an average only 0·6 per cent.

2. Table B gives the number of coolies who have not terminated a five-years' residence in the colony. This table specifies the number of adults allotted during the five-years' cycle which ended on the 30th September 1875, with the annual rate of decrease by death, but not by purchase, for each year respectively up to that date.

TABLE B.

	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.
Numbers arrived ...	1,823				
Died ...	70				
Rate per cent. ...	3·8				
	1,753	1,491			
	124	25			
	7·	2·6			
	1,624	1,378	4,206		
	115	64	179		
	6·8	4·4	4·2		
	1,374	1,009	3,148	1,120	
	64	36	100	143	
	4·5	3·4	3·1	6·3	
	1,309	1,270	3,048	977	5,032 = 2,460 = 2·3
	81	37	98	89	124
	6·	2·8	3·1	8·	11·6

From the right-hand column of Table B it appears that the mortality among the coolies of the past year is a very low rate indeed. This result of estimation has been effected [illegible] means proposed to enable each cooly to use drinking water of [illegible] purchase during the three days on the voyage, and three months after landing. The average expenditure of water per cooly per year according to these data is 40 gallons. During the year 1875 the average duration of residence of those introduced in the same year was 210 days, having a

amount of rupees he should previously have accumulated, he was still bound to die at least near some one or other of the Indian holy places.

It was, however, essential to break through this caste prejudice, if possible, not only on account of the value of their labor, which was great, but of the financial embarrassment which might at any time accrue from an unusual number claiming return passage, or the money equivalent to which they were entitled if this were refused or delayed, as in 1864, when a bounty of £10,100 was paid to 1,010 immigrants for a further residence in the colony of five years. The first step taken in this direction was to offer the land-grants to those immigrants who were in their tenth year, but this met with no response—all were too eager to realise their full freedom, with privilege of repatriation at once on the close of their ten years' residence. The land-grants were then tendered to immigrants in their eighth and ninth year. This had somewhat of the desired effect, and in 1870 and 1871 the numbers rose slowly and gradually to 140 and 162. It was not till 1873, when the ten-acre grant was varied by an alternative of 25 and 5 acres, and 25 to such women as settled with their husbands, that this important movement really took root and flourished. Reference to Table C shows the progress made among both males and females in weaning them from their Indian proclivities, to such extent that in the year ending 30th September 1875 there were 497 men and 223 women settled in their own freeholds, forming a new West Indian population of nineteen hundred and seventeen adults, with children which bring up the aggregate to fully 5,000. Among the latter the boys and girls in some families number six, seven, and even eight.

One curious result of this extension of the land to coolies in their eighth, ninth, and tenth years is, that though they accepted the proposal in comparatively small numbers, the smaller as they opposed the original limit of ten years' residence (see Table D), yet they soon like those who headed first into pleasant pastures and thus induced increasing numbers of their elders to follow. It is also probable that this influence may have had something to do with the large number of persons returning their grants to Government, and taking passage to India. If this presumption be correct, the Indian settlements will certainly owe the way to gradual abandonment of the return passage; the few alone who have accumulated money in trade will desire to revisit India, while the masses will remain where they can gratify their ambition for land-holding and money-making. The numbers who migrate hither from other colonies increase annually. These work indifferently on the settlements or on estates, and look to Trinidad as in some respects a central rendezvous for the Indian. No less than forty of these steamers have applied to be allowed to pay their passages home to Calcutta in the first ship; an application which may be granted, provided the number of Trinidad coolies forthcoming be sufficient to fill the ship—an eventuality not unlikely, as the registration for return passage declines in each succeeding ship, the same proportion as the commutation for land increases.

TABLE D.

Commutation of Return Passage to India during the Year ending 30th September 1875, after completion of terms of residence entitled.

	Fifth Year.	Sixth Year.	Seventh Year.	Total.
Men	406	208	48	662
Women	167	83	50	250
	573	291	98	912

balance of 150 days during which a similar progressive mortality would raise the rate from 1·6 to 2·7. This calculation, however, would be merely hypothetical, and as these deaths, if any, must occur within the first half of the second year, the correction, if necessary, might then be verified by the event. As, however, these rates are merely given as a comparative view of one year's mortality with that of another, they may perhaps be allowed to stand as in the table.

The next class on roll who have not completed a residence of five years taken from the date of their arrival, are those who have completed a residence of three years and upwards, but less than four years. These, as per table, are 219 on 9,466 = 2·3—also very low; and when, in accordance with the mortality figures of the amended Ordinance of May 1873, we include in the five-years' class those who are nearing the completion of their term of such three years' indenture and their descendants who are nearing the balance of ten years to finish their five years' indenture and their proportion of deaths will be twenty-two, the rate still remains the same, 2·3.

The accurate analysis of these two classes is of great importance, because under existing conditions no estate, whose mortality has exceeded by 1 per cent. for the last five years the average annual death-rate of all indentured servants for the time being under original contract of five years, shall receive new coolies during the ensuing season.

Under the previous regulations no estate could receive coolies when the mortality on any given year exceeded 7 per cent. (on half-equalled emigration was considered too stringent and severely acted), unless under special circumstances, as estate usually healthy might lose more than 7 per cent. in any one given year, with perhaps an unusually wholesome one preceding or following it. Under the present regulations no estate can receive coolies when the mortality on any given year exceeds 6 per cent., or half-equalled emigration was considered too stringent and severely acted), unless under special circumstances, as estate usually healthy might lose more than 7 per cent. in any one given year, with perhaps an unusually wholesome one preceding or following it.

It would thus appear that Government was extended over an average of five years, and consequently with the lowest rate of mortality of thirteen years, to people [illegible] with the highest rate of mortality of the same thirteen years, the result being that the average death-rate for the colony during the last five years was 2·3 per cent., or 0·7 per cent. less than the average of the previous eight years, or 1·3 per cent. less than the average of the previous five years.

4. Of the [illegible] Arrivals from [illegible] 3,315, the results were 17 or 0·6 per cent. [illegible] 2·5 per cent. for the [illegible] 3,315, the results were 17 or 0·6 per cent. [illegible] 2·5 per cent. for the [illegible]

to secure the settlement of these 2,117 coolies with families which bring their number up to about 5,000 will be £6,285 which paid on the Warden's certificate that the grantee is actually in possession of his freehold, the usual payments up to 1st October from the Treasury to secure there settlers was £4,343 as against their complete loss to the colony by returning to India at a cost of, say, £11 per head with their families, or somewhere over £40,000. To give anything like an approximate estimate of the gradually increasing value of their settlements to a colony depending solely on the introduction of Indians to maintain the labour and efficacy of other kinds of labour is not easy, but without taking as a standard the opinion of assisting authorities that the first five years' toil [illegible] of them were handed to America have added one million sterling to the wealth of the United States, it may be quite safe to assume that these 2,000 settlers with their families have added £160 each to the wealth of Trinidad, present and prospective. It is true they are stigmatized by some as lazy, and as not fully withdrawing themselves from estate work, but nothing else [illegible] who are not under indenture to do the same. This moment is provided, as may be gathered from the present report of the Sub-Inspector, it will be there seen that the settlers work well on some estates, and thus the results of their labor on their own freeholds' [illegible] greatly enhanced the neighbouring lands of San Fernando from its fruitful dependence on the Spanish Main for provisions, and is surely laying the foundation in the colony of [illegible] fully supply with an [illegible] agriculture, after will always be [illegible]. This element is strictly [illegible] to be carefully fostered, but at the same time to be as carefully watched and [illegible] of its [illegible] [illegible] Calcutta [illegible] may prevent unwarranted [illegible] from [illegible] [illegible]. It must be remembered that the [illegible] which have [illegible] Trinidad are [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] themselves and [illegible] other [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

by regular and continuous industry make as much or more than the men. There are instances of rather frail women, with large families, five or even six children, who never miss their daily task except during the customarily prescribed period before and after their confinement. During the manufacturing season the hours in the buildings are limited to fifteen per day. This is also nearly all piece-work, and preferred by the people, who are mostly under shelter, more highly paid than in the field, and using more or less the abundant flow of sweets within reach. The only objection to the limit of fifteen hours is that no time-book is kept at the buildings to show when the limit is passed; in this it resembles the late South Carolina law, where the same limit, although fixed by law, was elastic in practice, but with this marked difference that there were no wages in South Carolina. Here they are paid every fortnight, and it must be allowed with great regularity. Some estates pay every week, others every month; the latter with consent of the laborers, who prefer the longer credit. The system altogether will bear comparison with the late important alterations in the English Labor Law; it is more liberal towards the coolly than the French Colonial Code, which thoughtfully left a portion of the monthly wages in the hands of the employer, and it stands out in something like strong relief to the contracts of the Fijian colonists with the Polynesian insulars, under which the wages are paid at the close of the three years' agreement—a "peculiar institution" which will no doubt meet with unpalatable modifications.

In the amended Ordinance No. 9, 1875, breach of contract, such as absenting oneself from labor without permission, is met by an order to work out such absences on the estate together with the time lost in appealing to the Magistrate. There is also further provision in the Ordinance which allows the Magistrate at his option to add fine or imprisonment for seven days for a first offence, and for one month for subsequent offences, according as the case may appear to him to merit such further punishment. It would perhaps be well to define, where possible, some of the cases to be so punished, and draw a distinct line between striking occasional idleness and absence from work accompanied by turbulence, or an absence of more than a certain numb[illegible] from the estate constituting what is called "desertion" in the Demerara Code. Imprisonment under such circumstances by the order of a sensible Magistrate and the time so lost in jail to be repaid to the employer afterwards would not press hard on the contract servants, as it must be borne in mind that full wages are always given for these days so repaid, while during a crop season at least the absence of one or more contract servants on estates of moderate size has to be immediately met by the employment of substitutes at double the wages, or the manufacture must stop for the day or longer—a dilemma to which the employer is not unfrequently reduced by preconcerted scheming among his laborers.

12. Absentees.

First Year.	Second Year.	Third Year.	Fourth Year.	Fifth Year.	
2	11	44	23	38	= 120

1·27 per cent. on original contract.

Of bounty indentures there were nineteen absent on 1,818 = 1·04.

Of coolies working out lost time under endorsation of indenture there are sixty-five on 755 = 8·60.

The disproportionate rate, as compared with all other classes, is easily accounted for. Their contracts have expired; they have dispersed wherever they were inclined, and the scapegraces who were bound to make up lost time naturally followed their example in considerable numbers.

Savings of Indian Laborers.

13. As the amounts not merely earned but saved by Indian immigrants and carried back by them to Calcutta are very imperfectly understood here and at the known to India owing to the officials

C

through whose hands they pass, and are deemed simply fabulous by the class of laborers in India whose interest it is to become conversant with such things, it has been suggested that an abstract of such moneys should be annually published for their information. In future therefore such table will be inserted in these reports as a sort of price current for republication in Calcutta.

TABLE E.

Tabular Statement of the number of Return Emigrant Ships and Emigrants' Savings.

Names of Ships.	Years	Amount deposited in Colonial Treasury. £ s. d.	Amount deposited with Surgeon's care. £ s. d.	Remarks.
Thos Stewart	1851	1,673 13 11		No record of the amounts deposited in Surgeon's hands from 1851 to 1855, inclusive.
Eliza	1851	4,532 3 3		
Clarendon	1852	1,534 10 0		
Equestrian	1853	6,259 0 0		
Schamyl	1855	4,751 3 3		
Scindian	1855	3,190 0 0		
Avalon	1856	3,290 0 0	8,225 0 0	
Evelina	1857	6,302 0 0	881 17 6	
Mareyanne	1858	6,900 18 11	948 10 3	
Franken Castle	1861	2,092 1 9	1,264 11 3	
British Tribune	1865	9,302 2 10	2,693 1 4	
Arima	1870	10,623 10 8	10,901 10 10	
Atalanta	1870	10,431 16 4	155 6 4	
Eskmere	1871	2,736 15 8		
Royal Mail Steamer	1871	1,092 10 0		
Flintera	1872	10,032 7 9	790 4 11	
Royal Mail Steamer	1873	4,479 18 2		
Ganges	1875	10,431 16 4	231 15 5	
Rajpur Mail Steamer	1876	568 15 6		
		98,063 6 6	29,820 9 0	

Total in silk and cash £127,883 0 6.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
10th October 1876. *No.* 1131.

14. TABLE F.

	Coolies Resident. M.	W.	Total.	Sugar. Hhds.	Trcs.	Bgs.	Molasses. Puns.	Trcs.	Rum. Puns.	No. of Immigrants allotted.	Years.
Contract...	7,595	2,479	10,072								
Free ...	1,481	585	2,066								
Total ...	9,076	3,064	12,138	37,394	6,549	4,867	8,920	187	2,547	1,228	1868
	7,445	2,342	9,787								
	1,577	603	2,180								
	9,022	2,945	11,967	39,634	6,788	5,324	15,227	408	611	1,228	1864
	7,376	2,125	9,492								
	1,727	756	2,483								
	9,101	2,881	11,982	36,837	6,148	5,315	9,324	293	935	1,210	1865
	8,005	3,092	10,097								
	2,136	899	3,035								
	10,141	3,991	13,042	44,627	8,315	5,893	12,184	486	870	1,067	1866
	7,152	2,288	9,440								
	2,028	825	2,847								
	9,154	3,163	12,337	46,720	7,226	5,561	13,340	515	412	2,468	1867
	6,995	2,446	9,448								
		647	647								
	6	3,205	13,095	47,935	6,717	5,529	16,624	717	315	1,635	1868
	7,514	2,697	10,211								
	2,382	896	3,278								
	9,896	3,593	13,489	51,019	7,473	2,629	18,861	968	193	1,880	1869
	7,807	3,040	10,847								
	2,755	1,201	3,956								
	9,962	4,241	14,203	60,780	6,408	1,976	12,978	853	93	2,224	1870
	7,682	3,179	10,861								
	2,017	1,254	3,271								
	10,454	4,433	14,887	56,418	14,846	3,412	19,945	755	864	1,963	1871
	7,044	3,253	10,297								
	2,900	1,499	4,399								
	11,049	4,752	15,796	44,284	11,647	1,035	14,087	754	350	1,500	1872
	7,088	3,215	11,192								
	3,715	1,579	5,294								
	11,553	4,794	16,477	49,266	11,051	1,837	14,151	414	1,13	2,466	1873
					580 Bags.		25,320 Gals.		744 Gals.		
	7,770	3,340	11,110								
	3,743	1,235	4,978								
	11,513	4,575	16,088	42,913	9,531	2,275	14,811	438	563	1,720	1874
					5,231 Bags.		15,201 Gals.		192 Gals.		
	7,605	3,120	10,725								
	3,707	1,278	4,985								
	11,312	4,398	15,710	76,587	...	...	17,953	729	519	2,020	1875
							25,824 Gals.		879 Gals.		

Table F exhibits the material progress of the Island as evinced by increasing values from 1865 to 1875, in which last year the quantity of sugar exported and nearly doubled that of the former year, while the remaining power in the form of molasses more than trebled that of the former year, while Indians to contain 10,672. The Indians now under engagement comes to number from 2,046 to 1,774. This reduction is due to sugar exports mainly arising from lack of hands, [illegible] highly for the future work [illegible] of the Colonial Company Limited, to Mr. Maitland, and Mr. Turnbull's valley the real interest of [illegible] to the colony. To estimate however, more would be necessary to examine Table F by the Total of the last column in the value of exact appraisement of the whole number of hands [illegible] which gives the total of last steps at nearly one-third 30 per cent. of its aggregate value, the only [illegible] reducing the current labor by various kinds of labor [illegible] at all [illegible] of the [illegible] are employed [illegible] where the value is [illegible] upwards of [illegible] exceeding [illegible] Say the loss on sugarcane [illegible] 50 per cent. In [illegible] to set to work during the earlier years [illegible] a great many women [illegible] weekly overlooked in the [illegible] Besides the items of 22,341 [illegible] and manufactures of sugar, there are [illegible] from the neighbouring villages [illegible] added to complete the [illegible]

Indians under five years' contract [illegible] 2,300
" [illegible] 795
" [illegible] 1,219
" [illegible] 5,518
Creoles resident [illegible] 3,438
" [illegible] 4,390
" [illegible] 5,068
Total [illegible] 25,127

The preceding figures show [illegible] of 28,127 laborers, 4[illegible] were not under contract, and as the latter [illegible] certainly not more [illegible] than the [illegible] the contract gives a very favorable

The [illegible] of laborers from the other [illegible] from 30th September 1874 to 30th September 1875, after deducting [illegible] Immigrants 4,191 men, 1,769 women, and 261 children.

Schools:

Orphan Home, Tacarigua [illegible] boys [illegible] girls
Orphan Home, Belmont [illegible] 25 16 41
Creoles [illegible] 12 13
[illegible] 25 18
[illegible] 25 [illegible]

Schools Conducted by the Rev. John Morton.

Report of Coolie Schools, 1875.

	On Roll.			Average Daily Attendance.		
	Coolies.	Creoles.	Total.	Coolies.	Creoles.	Total.
San Fernando	120	...	120	49	...	49
Esperanza	29	2	31	15½	1	16½
Marabella	14	13	27	11	10	21
Union	10	10	20	8	8	16
Pieton	18	15	33	12	8	20
Seville	22	2	24	15½	1½	16½
Wellington	17	15	32	11	8	19
Jordan Hill	33	4	37	27	2	29
Exchange	26	2	28	16½	1	17½
Phillippine	15	13	28	10½	8½	18½
Ced. Grove	14	12	26	10	8	18
Canaan	11	3	14	9	3	12
Palmiste	22	5	27	13	4	17
Perseverance	25	...	25	17	...	17
Spring	34	...	34	19	...	19
Total ...	410	98	508	245	62	308

Orange Grove School.

On roll 60
Average attendance 30

There are other schools in the colony supported by individual bounty, which, however, have not been reported to the Agent-General, with the exception of a private charity in town conducted at the expense and under the immediate care of Father Marie FranCois, where some dozen destitute Indian children are taught and partially fed and maintained.

(Signed) Hy. MITCHELL,
Agent-Genl. of Immigrants.

Hon. D. Wilson,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

From the Sub-Intendant of Crown Lands, Trinidad, to the Honorable the Acting Colonial Secretary, Government House, Trinidad, 20th January 1876, No. 15.

I have the honor to submit to you, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, the following Report on the transactions of the Crown Lands Department during the year 1875.

Squatting.

There have been but few cases of squatting which have come under my notice during the past year, and they were quickly confined to encroachments by the owners of properties adjoining Crown lands. The offenders were prosecuted as soon as discovered; but when the offence with which they were charged was found to have been unintentional, they have been allowed to purchase the encroached on lands.

The following table will show the number of squatters on Crown lands who have been prosecuted and the result of the trials:—

Wards.	Number prosecuted.	Number convicted.	Number discharged.	Number withdrawn.	Remarks.
Botanic Grande, North	3	...	1	2	
,, ,, South	5	3	1	1	
Tarrigua	3	3	...	...	
Total ...	11	6	2	3	

The Ordinance "to prevent certain offences being committed on Crown lands" which was passed by the Legislative Council on the 1st of November last will, I have every reason to believe, tend considerably to prevent encroachments on Crown lands, but how much more remains to be done in the first instance in providing proper land marks about the boundaries of private properties adjoining Crown lands.

The prevention of squatting in a country like this having a sparse population and abounding with the richest soils must necessarily be attended with some obstacles. Detection in remote districts is rather difficult, and the complaints of trespass are generally made when the squatters have reaped the greater part of the produce and built for themselves huts and permanent residences. It is certainly to be regretted that such an abuse should exist, but the remedy for preventing the practice I have noticed in the Act of Ordinance [illegible] which ought to operate as a deterrent to future squatters.

With the view of protecting the Crown lands, I have already had occasion to refer to the expediency of appointing a certain number of forest rangers as constables in the wastes.

It appears to me that the power given to the members by law to appoint Ward Constables and Conservators, Assistant Police Constables may be found useful to deter persons from trespassing on Crown lands, and if a small salary were attached to the appointment of some of these Assistant Police Constables on the understanding that besides their usual duties they should also act as forest rangers, such an arrangement would, I believe, strengthen considerably the authority of the members in the prevention of squatting. Besides the salary referred to, Constables or any other persons giving information leading to a conviction should be entitled to some remuneration.

It is, before me to mention that a Warden of the Tana Ward Union in the Sub-Inspectorate of Cuddalore, dated 31st December 1874, I alluded to the advisability of amending the Forest Act of Ordinance, No. 2 of 1865, so as to bring it somewhat into conformity with the corresponding Regulations in Ceylon, by which a reward is ordered to be paid to informers against squatters. I am still of opinion that it is desirable to alter the clause in the manner suggested.

Forest for the Sale of Crown Woods.

[illegible] have been passed partly on account of the little interest which some of the members have manifested in dealing with Crown land matters generally, and partly with the view of encouraging economy and expedition and relief. Although such amendments have somewhat lessened the duties and responsibilities of the Sub-Inspectors, it cannot be doubted by any one conversant with the subject that the efficiency of this department will thereby be much enhanced, and a clear saving to the Government effected. In consequence of the amendments referred to, the commission of 7½ per cent. collected [illegible] in 1873 to Rs. 1,710·81; in 1874 to Rs. 1,382·80; and in 1875 to Rs. 1,536·51.

It will also be noticed that the discount of 10 per cent. on the purchase-money hereto allowed has been discontinued.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
10th October 1876. *No.* 1131.

Grant of Land to Indian Immigrants in lieu of a return passage to India.

The settlement of Indian immigrants on Crown lands has progressed very satisfactorily, as will be seen by the subjoined tabular return (*marked A*).

It appears from Mr. Sub-Intendant Mitchell's Annual Report for 1870 that there were at that time only 130 ten-acre lots, or 1,200 acres of land granted to Indian immigrants in the colony, and these were in the Ward of Montserrat, where land was first allowed in commutation of return passages to India.

It will be observed that the total number of lots granted in the various settlements throughout the colony to the 31st December last was of 10-acre lots 923 and of 5-acre lots 794, making a total of 1,722. Of these no less than 1,123 were granted in the Ward of Montserrat to male Indian immigrants, who with their families have caused an addition to the population of that ward of about 3,000 souls.

The following extract from Mr. Robert Mitchell's report to which I have just referred is not unworthy of consideration at the present moment, and I think will interest those who, like myself, foresee a brilliant future for the colony in the permanent settlement of our Indian immigrants on Crown lands.

Referring to the coolie settlement of Montserrat, Mr. Mitchell observes:

"It may with safety be predicted that if this scheme of settlement be judiciously fostered by Government in the course of the next five years, several hundred families of immigrants will settle on the confines of the Montserrat Ward, which is destined to become not only the nursery of a large proportion of [illegible] but also to a [illegible] will make up those [illegible] of the Spanish main and adjacent islands. Settlements of coolies might with advantage be formed in other Ward Unions, especially those of Caroni, Couva, and the two Naparimas. Orders have just been issued to lay out a block of twenty allotments in the Caroni Ward Union, under the supervision of Mr. Commissioner Devenish, to meet for the present the requirements of that district. Success in the establishment of these coolie settlements depends mainly on the Warden or Commissioner, securing the confidence of the coolies who are only too suspicious of any thing that may appear to interfere with their return to India. A greater inducement, however, would be the grant of 5 acres with a money equivalent of £5 instead of the present 10-acre grant. The advantage to the colony, even in a financial point of view, would be considerable were a thousand immigrants induced to settle in judiciously selected localities, or near the centres of the principal sugar-growing districts, as the unalienated lands of the colony would allow.

"The location of a thousand coolies on 5-acre blocks would cost about £6,500, including the expenses of survey and gratuity of £5. The direct expense to the colony of return passages of 1,000 immigrants and their families (equal to about 2,000 statute adults) would be £25,000. The saving does not end here however, for every adult immigrant who returns to India 1½ must be introduced, as the death-rate here for the first ten years is about 33 per cent.: 3,000 immigrants therefore at £21 per head (the cost of introduction) would amount to £71,400—total of £96,400. The labor side of the question is also worthy of consideration. One acclimatised Indian is equal to at least two new hands, but as 90 per cent. of those entitled to a return passage to India are heads of families, which on an average consist of three adults, the comparative advantage of retaining the old hands would be 4 to 1."

I have always concurred in the views expressed by Mr. Mitchell in the above paragraph of his report, and I may add that his anticipations have been fully realized.

The subjoined tabular return clearly points to the fact that it was only after the £5 bounty was sanctioned that the great impetus was given to the permanent settlement of the Indian immigrants on Crown lands.

The following return will show the acreage in cultivation and the crops reaped, so far as it has been possible to ascertain, in the several settlements in the undermentioned Ward Unions:

Ward.	Acres in cultivation.	Quantity of Rice in bags.	Peas in barrels.	Indian Corn in barrels.	Remarks.
South Naparima ...	51	80	None.	None.	50 lbs. Gingan tobacco and other provisions.
Oropouche	60	120	...	8	
Savana Grande, North	72	90	...	132	Peas now bearing and other provisions.
Ditto, South ...	64	92	...	101	
Maraval	24	70	13	64	Ditto.
Montserrat	2,500	16,000	2,500	6,000	Ditto.
Chaguanbas	141	1,200	90	120	Ditto.
Lower Carenl	70	492	13	62	
Cocos	105	800	300	1,448	Besides plantains, tayers and other roots in large quantities.
Toco	...	...	...	...	
Arima	...	...	...	...	
	3,147	18,983	2,901	7,925	

I have just received from Mr. Warden d'Abadie very favorable accounts of the Montserrat settlements, which I visited in the [illegible] of April last.

The great interest which Mr. d'Abadie has always taken in the success of these settlements is deserving of commendation, and has contributed in no small degree to their present prosperous condition.

During the past year there were, as will be seen in the above return, 2,000 acres under cultivation in the seven settlements, which yielded over 16,000 bags of rice in husk, 2,500 barrels of peas, and the two crops of Indian corn exceeded 6,000 barrels. The coming crop of ground provisions comprising plantains, dasheen, tanias, and other roots is very promising, and will be more than double that of any previous year.

The rice is readily bought up in the settlements by coolies employed on the sugar plantations who, it now appears, prefer the native to the imported rice.

The scarcity and consequent dearness of food which has hitherto been the great drawback to the introduction of a larger supply of labor from the neighbouring colonies will, I have no doubt, cease before long owing to the continuous increase in the cultivation of provisions by Indian immigrants.

Already the inhabitants of Couva and the Naparimas are beginning to appreciate the invaluable boon of cheap and wholesome food which they obtain from these settlements.

The returns of births and deaths for 1875 furnished to me by Mr. d'Abadie shows seven births and one death to 120 of the population.

Although the same amount of prosperity and low rate of mortality are not to be found in the other settlements, yet so far as I have been able to ascertain they are relatively prosperous.

Considering the increase in the general receipts to which the laying out of these settlements must give rise, the cost of surveying the same should, I think, in future be borne by the general revenue, and not, as hitherto, by the Immigration funds.

The different roads which were made during the past year have conduced much to the comfort and prosperity of the settlers.

I regret to have to report that four lepers have obtained grants of land in the Chandernagore and Madras and two in the Montserrat settlements, and there are probably others who have obtained similar grants elsewhere.

As the sanitary condition of the settlements must be a consideration of the first importance, I would respectfully suggest that in granting lands to Indian immigrants in lieu of a return passage exemptions should be made in the case of those who are afflicted with this dreadful disease. How the unfortunate people so afflicted are to be subsequently dealt with is a question which can hardly come within the sphere of the Crown Lands Department.

I am fully aware of the difficulties which surround the subject, but in the face of the great increase of leprosy in the colony, I believe the suggestion I have made is deserving of serious consideration.

Next in importance to the sanitary condition of the settlements is perhaps the question of schools, to which the settlers in the Ward of Montserrat seem to have directed their attention.

Mr. Warden d'Abadie has reported to me that the coolies of the Calcutta settlement are endeavouring to raise among themselves a sufficient sum to build a school-house, and intend when it is completed to apply to the Government for aid to pay a teacher.

On reference to the following return it will be observed that in the Ward of Montserrat alone 4,107 acres of Crown land were alienated during the past year against 5,113 in all the other wards.

With the view of preserving the water-supply of the land which is also required for the town of San Fernando, I propose to reserve the rest.

sides of the hills at and near the sources of the principal streams. It would be desirable to make these reservations as soon as possible that the plans of survey of the same might be lodged in the office so as to prevent the alienation of any portion of the lands which it may be found advisable to reserve.

Return showing the Number of Acres of Crown Lands alienated in each ward during the year 1875, including free grants to Indian Immigrants.

	Acres.	Lots.
Arima	207	11
Carenl	1,973	...
Cedros	103	...
Couva	209	...
Diego Martin	50	...
Montserrat	4,107	1
Moruga	78	...
Mayaro	41	...
North Naparima	110	...
South Naparima	618	...
St. Ann's	56	1
Tacarigua	383	2
Toco	334	6
Total	8,307	21

Timber on Crown Lands.

The following table will show a considerable increase in the amount paid by the wardens into the Colonial Treasury for wood licenses during the past year as compared with the three preceding

years, but it does not, I am satisfied, give even a faint idea of the increased revenue which under a proper system of management should be derived from the timber on Crown lands.

Ward.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Arima	121 49	147 04	138 70	135 27
Carenl	100 0	115 32	114 36	262 56
Cedros	130 58	155 17	105 70	100 96
Couva	.....	.....	5 04	5 04
Diego Martin	21 76	7 02	.....	29 73
Mayaro	168 36	115 42	158 71	76 69
Montserrat	.....	.....	75 05	79 48
Moruga	10 58	61 82	30 04	224 16
North Naparima	177 62	389 0	113 50	240 38
South Naparima	105 0	113 40	108 45	391 20
St. Ann's	12 0	6 0	.....	.....
Tacarigua	.....	23 40	12 40	.....
Toco	41 10	24 04	1 52	50 19
	888 59	959 13	964 10	1,656 15

The gradual extension of the Guaracara or Cipero Tramway eastwards in the direction of the River Oropuche might be the means of providing for the location of Indian immigrants, to whom land might be granted on one side of the line, while the land on the other side of such line might [illegible] were given.

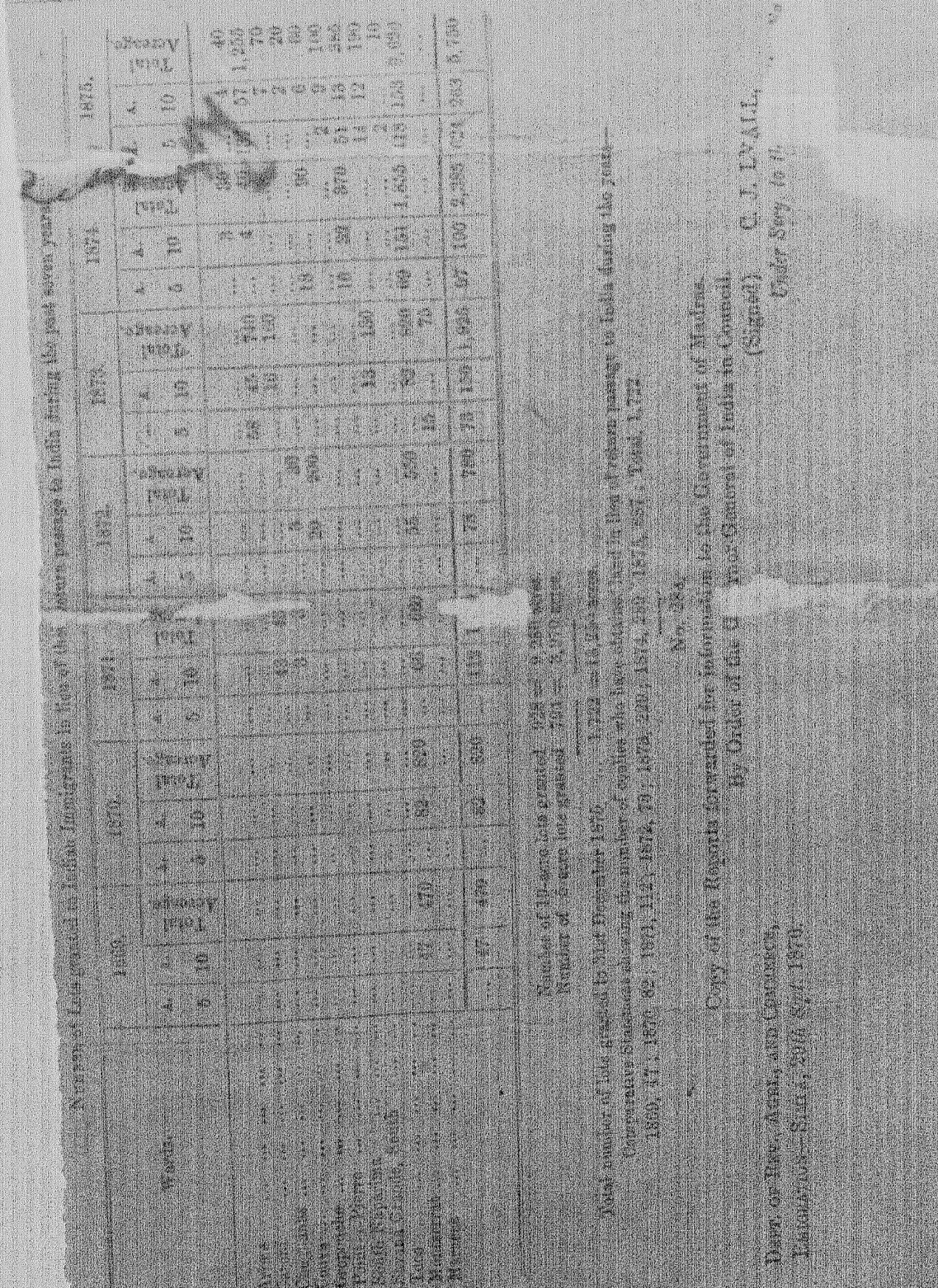
[illegible] would be many Indian immigrants in settlements apart from the other inhabitants, and would be the means of encouraging a fusion between the immigrants and the different nationalities of which the population of the island is composed.

In carrying out the scheme, I believe the formation of wood-cutting establishments worked by convicts might be undertaken with advantage.

Financial Summary.

	$	c.
Total amount received by the Wardens and paid into the Colonial Treasury, being the purchase-money for Crown lands sold, with fees of survey and grant	32,508	68
Total amount received by Sub-Inventant for Crown lands	121	50
Rent of encumbered lands	82	50
Rent of settlement properties	541	06
Rent of land expropriated by the Railway	17	50
Rent of Couva Lake lots	1,379	50
Arrears of quit-rent	60	48
Redemption of do	91	84
Sale of escheated properties	403	25
Licenses to search for mineral oils, &c.	24	0
	35,559	12
Total amount of receipts paid into the Colonial Treasury by the Secretary to the Defendant, being arrears of wood, wages, and sewerage rates, and costs and office fees	6,202	00
	13,349	21
Total amount paid to surveyors during the past year for surveying lands sold	6,485	50

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
10th October 1876. *No.* 1131.



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o. 38. ORDER THEREON, 10th October 1876, No. 1131.

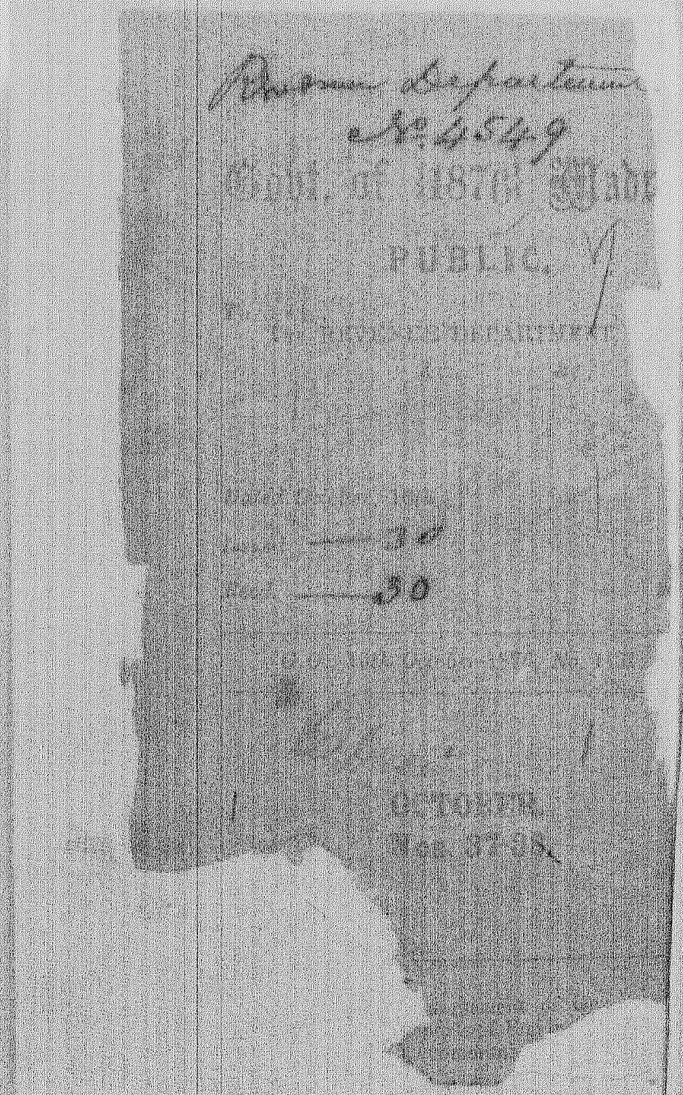
Communicated to the Revenue Department, Board of Revenue, and to the
etor of Emigrants.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.
,, Board of Revenue.
,, Protector of Emigrants.
,, British Consular Agent, Pondicherry.
,, do. do. do. Karikal.

Fred. J. Wright and H. O'Connor.



Dated 196

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