— 3,000—2-3-98.

Revenue (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 3118

DATED 25th July 98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Forwarding to the Board of Revenue Bros. Pole-Dept. regarding Encl. of the Govt. of India forwarding copy of a letter from Her Majesty's Brit. Consul General Zanzibar, regarding the treatment of Indian Emigrants in Zanzibar & British East Africa.

Revenue 1898 Department

Government {1898} of Madras.

PUBLIC.

Recd. 21 July } 1898. Enclosures

Regd. 21 " } Spare copies

G.O., No. 838, 1st July 1898.

Govt. Mis. no. 3118 of 25th July 98.

Forwarded to the Board of Revenue (O.C.) 24/7/98

JULY.

To the Board of Rev. Sep. Rev. Desks 21.7.98

Indian Emigrants in Zanzibar and British East Africa.

Recording endorsement of the Government of India forwarding copy of a letter from Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, Zanzibar, regarding the treatment of—.

22.VII.98

K.1 21

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper:—

Endorsement of the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department (Emigration), dated Simla, 23rd June 1898, No. 1260—7-5.

Forwarded to the Government of Madras, for information, in continuation of endorsement, No. 132—7-2-3, dated 19th January 1898.

(By order.)

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

Enclosure.

From Sir A. H. HARDINGE, K.C.M.G., Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, Zanzibar, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, dated Zanzibar, the 19th May 1898, No. 128.

In accordance with instructions which I have received from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to transmit herewith the accompanying reports on certain points connected with the treatment of Indian emigrants in Zanzibar and British East Africa. The information furnished by these reports has been drawn up under the separate heads enumerated in the despatch from the Government of India to Lord George Hamilton, No. 48 of the 14th of July last.

Memorandum respecting the immigration of Indian artizans, etc., to Zanzibar.

The questions on which the Government of India desire information are answered *seriatim* as follows:—

(*a*) Nature of employment offering and suitable for Indians.	Carpenters, blacksmiths, masons and coolies for agricultural and general work.
(*b*) Nature of climate.	Copies of reports by the Surgeon attached to Her Majesty's Agency at Zanzibar dealing with the health, conditions and climate of the town and Island of Zanzibar are attached hereto.
(*c*) Rate of wages.	Blacksmiths from Rs. 60 to Rs. 100 per month. Carpenters from Rs. 55 to Rs. 65 per month. Masons (competent to dress stones) from Rs. 55 to Rs. 65 per month. Labourers about Rs. 20 according to nature of their work.

(*d*) Cost of living.	For artizans, such as masons, carpenters and blacksmiths, between Rs. 30 and 40 per month including house-rent and maintenance. For labourers from Rs. 10 to 15 per month according to their means, and includes house-rent and maintenance.
(*e*) Cost of transport to scene of labour.	Cost of passage from Bombay to Zanzibar including food, Rs. 40. On arrival at the latter place an outlay of Rs. 10 will cover the cost of transport to any part of the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba.
(*f*) Treatment of Asiatics by employers.	Artizans coming to Zanzibar are employed at a daily or monthly wage in the town of Zanzibar or its immediate neighbourhood, and they are well-treated by their employers. In the event of ill-treatment they have recourse to Her Majesty's Agency, where their grievances will be enquired into.
(*g*) Whether agreements are usually made and kept.	This depends upon the nature and extent of the work to be performed. Agreements for various periods of service are sometimes entered into, and in the event of its conditions not being fulfilled the party aggrieved has access to Her Britannic Majesty's Court for redress.
(*h*) Whether Indians are subject to any special taxation.	No.

Report on the climate and health conditions of the town of Zanzibar.

There are two seasons of unequal duration at Zanzibar, marked by the prevailing winds and determined by the greater and lesser rains. The greater rains fall in March, April and May; and southerly winds blow more or less steadily from the beginning of May until October. The lesser rains are from mid-October until the end of the year; and from mid-December till about March north-east winds blow steadily, though during a shorter period and with a less maximum force than the south-west monsoon.

The average rainfall for the last five years is 56·90 inches, being a further decrease from that noted by Dr. Robb in 1880, of nearly 5 inches. Rain falls in about 120 days of the year. No month is rainless, though September is the driest, with an average rainfall of 1·80 inches. The mean temperature of five years is 80°·3 and the average yearly range from highest maximum to lowest minimum is 17°·3. The hottest months of the year are February and March with a mean temperature of 82°·9 and 83°·2 respectively. The cool months are July and August averaging 77°·2 and 77°·4.

To the small amplitude of the yearly fluctuation—rather less than 6°—and to the limited range of temperature is largely due the debilitating nature of the climate of Zanzibar.

The range of the barometer in Zanzibar is 0·186 and the mean pressure 29,935 being almost exactly that indicated by the barometer at the equator. Generally, the climate of Zanzibar is not such as would be expected so near the equator. On account of the conditions before described, it is debilitating, but the town at any rate

is practically free from malaria and bad forms of fever. The sanitary arrangements are of the most primitive description, but the effects of this are largely counteracted by the coralline formation and sandy soil. The town is kept fairly clean by sweepers. There is an abundant supply of excellent water easily accessible to all the inhabitants. Cholera is unknown since the epidemic of 1870.

There is practically no dysentery and no typhoid.

Small-pox is endemic and all immigrants should be protected by efficient vaccination. The healthiest months are February and March and the least healthy those succeeding the greater rains, namely June to August.

Memorandum respecting the immigration of Indian artizans, &c., to German East Africa.

There are only merchant Indians in German East Africa, no coolies, but the latter would be very acceptable. The climate is like that of Zanzibar; it is healthy up on the hills. Living is cheap, rice, fish, &c., being easily procurable. Asiatics are well treated; contracts are required by law to be made before the Court, and are enforced. There is no particular port of disembarkation. Indians are under the protection of Her Majesty's Consul-General. No Indian is required to serve in the army. Carpentering and coolie labour are required in German East Africa.

From C. H. CRAUFURD, Esq., Her Majesty's Sub-Commissioner and Vice-Consul, to Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, Zanzibar, *No. 46*, dated Mombasa, the 20th April 1898.

I have the honour to transmit herewith, with reference to Mr. Cave's Despatch No. 30, of the 8th ultimo, a copy of the report which I have received from the Chief Engineer of the Uganda Railway on the immigration of Indians to Mombasa. Mr. Whitehouse, in sending this report, says that he regrets the delay in its preparation which he states has been caused by press of other work.

I have made enquiries locally in conjunction with the Acting Protector of Immigrants and beg to reply, so far as the Indian labour in the Mombasa town itself is concerned, to the points raised in the letter from the Government of India, *No. 48*, dated 14th July last, in their order, as follows:—

(A) There is an opening for (1) Turners, (2) Joiners, (3) Carpenters, (4) Blacksmiths, (5) Silversmiths, (6) Fitters, (7) Riveters, (8) Masons, (9) Coolies, (10) Khalasies, (11) Stokers, (12) Painters, (13) Chaprasies, and (14) Potters.

(B) The climate is fairly well-suited to Indians. Fever is the chief complaint and 10 per cent. of the immigrants might be taken as the ratio of sick.

(C) Artizans and skilled workmen enumerated from Nos. 1 to 7 in paragraph A (of which class there are at present about 200 in Mombasa) can earn from 2 to 2½ rupees a day, and those designated from Nos. 8 to 13 in the same paragraph (of whom there are an equal number) from 12 annas to one rupee each daily.

(D) About 15 rupees a month may be taken as the average cost of Indian living.

(E) A deck passage from Bombay to Mombasa ranges from 20 to 30 rupees without food.

(F) There have been very few complaints in regard to the treatment of Asiatics by their employers.

(G) No agreements are made locally with *bonâ fide* free Indian immigrants. They engage either by the day or month unless they contract for labour.

(H) Indians are not subject to any differential taxation.

Report on immigration of bonâ fide *immigrants into Mombasa.*

The various points on which information is required have been grouped under the heads noted in Despatch No. 48, dated the 14th July, from the Government of India to Lord G. Hamilton.

(*a*) *Nature of employment offering and suitable for Indians.*—There is undoubtedly plenty of room for the employment of large numbers of labourers of all kinds on the Uganda Railway. The Government have imported several thousands under agreement with Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, but in addition a large number who have come to East Africa as *bonâ fide* emigrants are employed under contractors. Masons, carpenters, blacksmiths and coolies are in constant request and there must be some 40 or 50 small contractors on the Railway with from 30 to 200 coolies each. The rates for earthwork are high and the profits large, but then, on the other hand, the discomforts they undergo are considerable and there are difficulties in obtaining food and water. The work is very suitable for Indians as it is what they are accustomed to in their own country, and the majority of them work under native subordinates and under officers who have had Indian experience. There can be no doubt that a two or three years' residence in Mombasa and on the Railway enables a man to amass a considerable sum of money. By far the larger portion of the labour consists of Punjabis, Mekranis, Baluchis and men from Sindh and the North-West frontier of India, and on the whole they keep well and when working by contract or piecework can work as well here as in their own country.

(*b*) *Nature of climate.*—The climate of the country through which the Railway passes varies very much, namely, from the damp, hot zone stretching about 40 miles from the coast, to the cold bracing air of the hills of Kikuyu, 300 miles distant, while in between lies some 200 miles of dry, and with the exception of a few small rivers and streams, a nearly waterless country.

Of these three varieties of climate we have had experience of only the first two. In the coast zone the health of the coolies varies to an extraordinary degree in accordance with the rainfall. During 1896 there was very little sickness, but at the beginning of 1897, after an extraordinarily heavy rainfall during the north-east monsoon in November, a regular epidemic of fever broke out which certainly incapacitated more than half the coolies employed. It was probably aggravated by the fact that the soil had been recently turned, but it was undoubtedly a very severe visitation of fever. On the other hand, during the past six months the health has been very good. There were normal rains in November followed by a very dry hot weather, and there is practically no fever among the men. Beyond the rain zone the chief cause of illness has been the want of good water and the impossibility of procuring meat or green food for the coolies, and there was a considerable amount of scurvy in consequence, while ulcers, which are caused by the poisonous nature of the thorns in the dense scrub through which the Railway passes, have been a great scourge. In large numbers of cases coolies have been returned to India on account of the virulent and deep-seated nature of these ulcers which refused to heal in the coast climate.

The Railway will in three or four months be through this waterless and inhospitable zone and reach the open grassy plains of Athi and will a few months later reach the high ground of Kikuyu, where meat and green food is plentiful, and where they will enjoy an excellent climate.

(*c*) *Rate of wages.*—These are very high compared with local rates paid in the Punjab and Sindh and are generally as follows:—

	Rs.	Rs.	
Carpenters	45	to 60	
Blacksmiths	45	to 60	
Coolies	12	to 15	excluding food.
Stone Masons	45	to 60	there are no bricks in the place.

Skilled labour of any kind will command at least Rs. 15 a month.

(*d*) *Cost of living.*—This is both dear and bad. The country produces but little except Indian-corn, Mtama, Mahogo, bananas, cocoanuts, and of these there is not very much. All rice, atta, dhall, ghee, and such things as the Punjabi coolie eats are imported. The ration given to a Railway coolie consists of—

1½ lbs. atta,
4 oz. dhall,
1½ oz. ghee,
⅔ oz. salt,
⅛ oz. chillies,

and in addition when an opportunity occurs they are supplied with goats, potatoes and onions. The cost of rationing a coolie varies with the market in India and during the late famine rose considerably, but it may be taken generally at Rs. 6 per head per mensem.

(*e*) *Cost of transport to scene of labour.*—It would cost an emigrant about Rs. 40 to 50 to reach Mombasa from his home in the Punjab or Sindh, but would of course depend on his distance from Karachi. The actual steamer fare is Rs. 35 including food. The cost of transport from Mombasa to the scene of his labour would depend on the distance the rail had reached; the third-class fare is 6 pies per mile.

(*f*) The Protectorate of East Africa is now divided off into districts, each under a European officer in much the same way as India. Each District Officer has magisterial powers, and there is in addition a Judicial officer sitting at Mombasa with the powers of a District Judge. The fullest protection is afforded to emigrants who are as well off in this respect as they would be in their native homes.

(*g*) Few coolies come to East Africa under agreement except those for the Railway.

(*h*) There is no special taxation for Indians in the East Coast Protectorate so far as I am aware, but information under this could more easily be given by Her Majesty's Consul-General. Certainly no Indian coolie on the Railway is taxed at all.

The above remarks may help to give some idea of the conditions under which a coolie works on the Uganda Railway, and from what has been written it may be judged that, in my opinion, he can earn a considerable sum of money should he emigrate to Mombasa for a few years; while he has very little to fear from the climate, and in addition he is protected as much if not more than in his native country. Whether he will ever permanently locate himself is another question, but I should say that within 200 miles of the coast owing to the absence of water it is extremely unlikely.

ORDER—No. 838, Public, dated 1st July 1898.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

A. Hamilton
for *Chief Secretary.*

To the Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue),
through the Revenue Department.
„ Protector of Emigrants.
Editors' Table.

Ext. A. F. Eccleston.

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