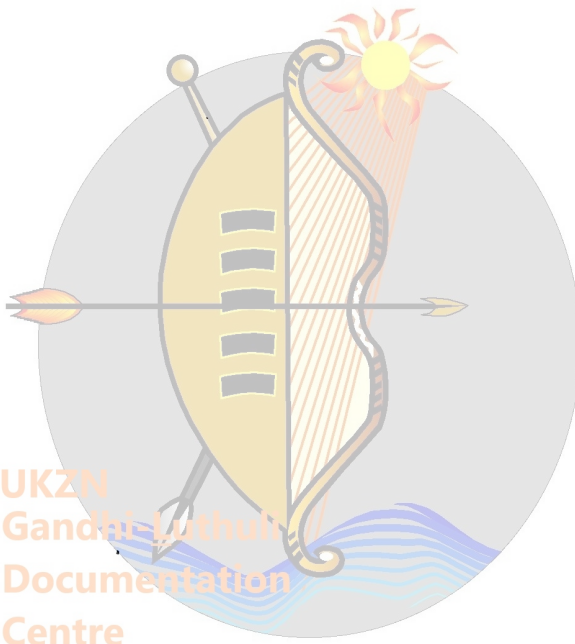


1878

[1] PROTECTOR OF INDIAN IMMI

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SECOND SESSION, EIGHTH COUNCIL—1879.

L. C.—No. 5.

The following Report by the Protector of Indian Immigrants for the year 1878, laid upon the table of the Council by direction of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, published for general information.

By order of the Legislative Council,

STEPHEN STRANACK,
Clerk.

Legislative Council Office, Natal,
12th November, 1879.

Department of Immigration, Durban,
Natal, June 14, 1879.

THE HONOURABLE THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, NATAL.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit for the information of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and for transmission to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State and to the Government of India, the following Report for 1878 upon the Indian Immigrants in the Colony:—

I.—ARRIVALS DURING THE YEAR.

During the past year fourteen ships with Emigrants from the East have arrived—four from Calcutta and ten from Madras. The numbers embarked and landed, and the births and deaths which occurred during the voyages, are shown by the following table:—

Name of Ship.	No. Embarked.	Births on Voyage.	Total.	Deaths on Voyage.	No. Landed.	Port of Embarkation.
Folk, 2nd	481	...	481	4	477	Madras.
Alabar	532	...	532	6	326	"
Arroti, 4th	220	1	221	1	220	"
Amphile Castle	323	...	323	...	323	"
Haroy, 2nd	486	4	490	4	486	Calcutta.
Merchantman, 2nd	396	...	396	1	395	"
Amah	500	4	504	1	503	"
Amavon...	371	...	371	...	371	Madras.
Arroti, 5th	218	...	218	...	218	"
Amir	351	...	351	13	338	Calcutta.
Amira	379	2	381	1	380	Madras.
Amings	252	...	252	...	252	"
Ambla	456	2	458	5	453	"
Amahagen	356	...	356	...	356	"
Total...	5,321	13	5,334	36	5,298	

The above ships were inspected on arrival, and the provisions of the Indian Emigration Act (VII. of 1871) found to have been complied with, except in the case of the *Copen-*... which was short of one boat and a book on Navigation required to be carried by Emigrant ships. This case has been reported to the Madras Government.

No difficulty has been experienced in obtaining Emigrants from either of the two Presidencies in which we have agents. The supply has, in fact, been in excess of the demand.

Old Immigrants continue to make their way back to the Colony, and the Coolies introduced during the year are fully to the average stamp of labourers.

II.—BIRTHS.

Two hundred and twenty-two (222) births have been reported during the year.

III.—DEATHS.

Two hundred and ninety-one (291) deaths have been reported during the year. Considering the number of Indians in the Colony, not a large mortality, when children are taken into calculation.

IV.—MARRIAGES.

Five hundred and ninety-eight (598) marriages have been registered during the year, principally amongst the newly-arrived immigrants.

V.—COMPLAINTS.

on careful enquiry, are found to be groundless.

The unsettled state of South Africa has upset the minds, in a great measure, of all classes, and the Indian population is not exempt. This state of affairs has increased during the Zulu Campaign up to this time; but now, I am happy to say, things are looking better, and the cause for uneasiness has to a great extent ceased, owing to the large reinforcements which have arrived, and also to the loyal manner in which the Natal Natives have behaved.

No great cordiality exists between the Indians and Kafirs, but fights amongst them are almost unknown.

VI.—VISITATION OF ESTATES.

The estates on the Coast, where Coolies are employed, have been visited. Indians are now, however, being employed by a considerable number of up-country farmers, and as it is impossible for the Protector to visit these widely-scattered places twice during the year, the necessity for the appointment of one or more Inspectors will shortly become pressing. Very often when Indians are employed in out of the way places, there exists a great difficulty in explaining themselves, there being very few who can speak their language. Fortunately the Indians themselves are very quick in most most instances in picking up both English and Kafir, but chiefly the latter. At first, this is a great drawback to their employment up-country, but it will be of short duration, as it is wonderful how quickly Free Indians are distributing themselves all over the Colony; in fact, from here to the Diamond Fields they are to be found, a distance of five hundred miles from Durban. So the language impediment will cease to exist in this Colony.

VII.—INCREASE AND DECREASE OF POPULATION SINCE 1877.

The following abstract shows the approximate number of Indians now in the Colony:—

Estimated number in 1877	...	12,668
Arrived during 1878	...	5,298
Born in the Colony	...	222
		13,188
Returned to India	...	57
Deaths during 1878	...	251
Left the Colony	...	18
		326
Estimated number in the Colony		
Dec. 31, 1878	...	17,862

VIII.—HEALTH.

The health of the Indian population has suffered somewhat in consequence of the drought which has prevailed. Zymotic diseases, which have been common amongst the general population, have caused the death rate to be rather higher than would otherwise have been the case, viz., fourteen per thousand.

Veneral diseases are prevalent, and owing to the fact that no Contagious Diseases Act has been passed to authorise the examination of the female portion of the Indians, a sufficient check to this pernicious complaint is impossible; consequently its deleterious effects are very large, as shown by the following extract from a report of the medical officer of the Mvoka Circle:—"This disease is at the roof of nine-tenths of the ailments of all kinds appearing on the sick list of the various estates in this circle. It is sapping the health and strength of the adults, and in many cases the children bear on their bodies evidence of the parents' diseased condition, and in this way not only do the patients suffer, but their helpless offspring too. The ravages this disease is making among the Indians will continue to be felt more and more as they settle down after leaving the estates."

IX.—HOSPITALS.

One of the central hospitals, that in the Veruian circle, has been completed, and two others are in course of construction. In the meanwhile, the General Hospital at Durban is employed for the more serious cases which it is found impossible to treat on the estates.

X.—EDUCATION.

A Law, No. 20, of 1878, having been passed to provide for the education of the children of the Indian population, a Board has been appointed, consisting of the Hon. the

voted for this service, and steps have been taken to procure the services of five teachers from India, with a sufficient supply of the requisite books.

XI.—SOCIAL STATUS.

Indians continue to elevate themselves in the social scale. More land is taken up, and more shops are opened by them yearly. Perhaps the greatest obstacle to their advancement as a whole, is the facility with which they can obtain opulent spirits, and the quantity consumed by them in consequence. Many of their diseases, and a large proportion of the crime for which they suffer, may safely be ascribed to this source.

XII.—IMMIGRANTS FROM MAURITIUS.

One hundred and eighty-six (186) Indians have been introduced from Mauritius during 1878, chiefly by the contractors for the Government Railways.

XIII.—COMMUNICATION WITH INDIA.

Remittances by Immigrants to their friends and relatives in India have amounted to one hundred and eighty-three pounds (£183) for the year.

XIV.—INTERPRETERS.

No change has taken place in this respect since the date of the last report.

Mr. Burton Jones, the Hindostani Interpreter attached to this office, having obtained leave of absence to allow of his

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visiting India, his place has been filled for the time by a qualified man.

XV.—CONCLUSION.

During my absence at the front, in command of a regiment of the Natal Native Contingent, His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor was pleased to confer the acting appointment on Mr. L. H. Mason, the Assistant Protector, who performed the duties of the department in a most satisfactory manner.

I cannot speak too highly of Messrs. Colepeper and Polkinghorne. Both of these gentlemen understand their duty thoroughly in all its details, and have given me entire satisfaction.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

S. GRAVES,

Protector of Immigrants.

SECOND SESSION, EIGHTH COUNCIL.—1879.

L. C.—No. 6.

THE following Reports of the various Libraries and Literary Institutes receiving Government Aid for the year 1878, laid upon the table of the House by direction of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, is published for general information.

By order of the Legislative Council,

STEPHEN STRANACK,

Clerk.

Legislative Council Office, Natal,
12th November, 1879.

REPORT UPON THE ESTCOURT LIBRARY FOR THE YEAR 1878.

This Library is still in its infancy, having only been opened in February, 1878.

It was commenced with 110 volumes of books purchased in the Colony, but 90 volumes have since been purchased in England, and were lying in Durban awaiting transport to Estcourt at the end of last year. These have since been received. In addition to these books, the following periodicals

Room.

The total number of subscribers for the past year has been 31, of whom 18 were annual subscribers at £1 ls. each, 2 quarterly subscribers at 7s. 6d. per quarter, and 11 monthly subscribers at 2s. 6d. per month. Monthly subscriptions are intended chiefly for the convenience of members of the Mounted Police, whose period of residence at Estcourt is uncertain.

The total amount received during the year has been £51 3s. 3d., exclusive of £3 3s. subscriptions for the current year, paid in advance to enable the Treasurer to meet the liabilities of the past year.

The total expenditure to 31st December, 1878, has been £52 19s. 6d. In addition to subscriptions a grant of £25 has been made by the Legislature for the past year, and a similar grant has been voted for the current year.

The great drawback to the progress of the Library has been the want of a proper room. Hitherto the Books and Periodicals have been kept in a room belonging to the Bridge Hotel, but this room has also been required and used for other purposes, which has prevented its being used as a Reading Room, and has exposed the books to damage and risk of loss.

The Committee are now endeavouring to obtain the sanction of Government to the erection of a small building upon Government land, and should they succeed in doing so, two rooms will be erected—one to contain the Books, which will be only issued to subscribers and at fixed hours, the other to be a Reading Room supplied with periodicals and newspapers, and open to the public free of charge.

PETER PATERSON,

Chairman of Library Committee.

Estcourt, 15th May, 1879.

VERULAM LIBRARY AND INSTITUTE.

JULY 17th. 1879.

TO THE SUBSCRIBERS VERULAM LIBRARY AND INSTITUTE.

Your Committee in resigning the trust imposed upon them in May of last year, do so with feelings of satisfaction and pleasure, in reviewing the work that has been accomplished during their tenure of office.

During the year five meetings of Committee have been held for the transaction of the ordinary business of the Institute, and one General Meeting of subscribers was held in October last, for the adoption of a new code of Rules, &c. Committee meetings have not been held so frequently as is desirable, on account of the difficulty of getting a quorum, owing to some of the members being away on Volunteer service and elsewhere.

Your Committee, immediately upon their appointment to office, made up and despatched an order for Books to Messrs. Mudie of London, which were received in September last, and at once placed in the Library for the use of subscribers. Another parcel of books was also purchased from the late Verulam Book Club, and placed with the other books upon the Library shelves.

Donations of books have also been received from Mrs. Leslie, and Messrs. W. Campbell and J. M. Wood, and also a donation to the funds of the Library from Mrs. Leslie; to all of whom the Committee tender their thanks.

Upon the arrival of the new books in September last, your Committee resolved to weed out the damaged and incomplete books from the Library, and re-catalogue the remainder, and issue printed copies of the same; this has proved a more laborious and expensive undertaking than was anticipated. The copies are now available for distribution, and your Committee trust that this effort to render the Library more useful, will be appreciated by the subscribers, and rewarded by an increase in their number.

The roof of the Institute, which had been for some years in a very dilapidated condition, was so much further damaged by a gale which occurred in October last, that your Committee resolved to cover the old thatch with galvanized iron; the work was contracted for by Mr. Bath, and performed by him to the satisfaction of the Committee. It was also resolved to put the building on its building with ceiling boards, but owing to the disturbed state of trade during the past few months