

REPORTS

ON THE

SCHEME FOR INDIAN EMIGRATION TO BRITISH GUIANA.

PART I—Report by

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AND

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WITH APPENDICES.



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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

 (EMIGRATION.)

Simla, the 24th October 1921.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE.

Towards the end of 1919 a deputation from British Guiana came to India to lay before the Government of India a scheme for the colonization of British Guiana by means of assisted emigration from India. This scheme was examined by a Committee appointed by the Legislative Council under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjee. The Committee were of opinion that no scheme of emigration of Indians should be approved unless it was certain that the position of the immigrants in their new homes would in all respects be equal to that of any other class of His Majesty's subjects resident in the Colony. In order to satisfy this condition, the deputation from British Guiana laid before the Committee a draft Ordinance assuring to Indians equal rights with other classes of British subjects in British Guiana. On receipt of this, the Committee passed the following Resolution:—

“ The Committee having heard Dr. Nunan and Mr. Luckhoo is inclined to take a favourable view of the scheme of colonization presented by them in view of guarantees and safeguards which they are prepared to provide by legislation and otherwise, but before recommending definite acceptance of it would advise the appointment of a deputation of three competent persons to proceed to British Guiana, investigate the conditions on the spot and report to the Government of India.”

The draft Ordinance prepared by the deputation was forwarded by the Government of India to the Secretary of State with the request that they might be informed whether the Government of British Guiana was prepared to undertake legislation on the lines suggested in it. It was added that if the promised guarantees were given, the Government of India would send a small deputation to British Guiana to investigate local conditions, to test on the spot the suitability of the colonization scheme, and to report whether any further guarantees were necessary before emigration was reopened. The Secretary of State reports that the Colonial Government is willing to undertake legislation assuring to Indian emigrants to the colony equal political rights with other classes of British subjects in British Guiana, and the necessary steps are being taken.

3. The Government of India have accordingly decided to despatch the promised deputation which will be composed of the following members :—

Mr. G. F. KEATINGE, C.I.E., I.C.S., Director of Agriculture, Bombay,
at present on leave in England.

M. R. RY. DIWAN BAHADUR PATTU KESAVA PILLAI, Deputy President,
Madras Legislative Council.

Mr. V. N. TIARY, M.A., Servants of India Society, Allahabad.

It is expected that the deputation will reach British Guiana early next year.

4. The terms of reference to the deputation are to investigate local conditions in British Guiana to examine on the spot the suitability of the colonization scheme prepared by the representatives of British Guiana and to report whether any further guarantees in respect of the status of Indian immigrants are necessary before emigration is reopened.

R. EWBANK,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.
