

ARBITRATION UNDER ANNEX VII OF THE 1982 UNITED NATIONS  
CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

**REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS**

**v.**

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND NORTHERN IRELAND**



**REPLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS**

VOLUME II

ANNEXES 1 - 50

18 November 2013

## LIST OF ANNEXES

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Annex 1</b>  | An Account of the Island of Mauritius and its Dependencies, By a late Official Resident, Anonymous, (London, 1842) (Extract)                           |
| <b>Annex 2</b>  | Ordinance No. 5 of 1872  |
| <b>Annex 3</b>  | Report of Ivanoff Dupont, Acting Magistrate for the Lesser Dependencies of Mauritius, on the Islands of the Chagos Group, 11 June 1883                 |
| <b>Annex 4</b>  | Letters Patent, 16 September 1885  |
| <b>Annex 5</b>  | Note on Copra Production in the Chagos Archipelago, December 1932, CO 167/879/4  |
| <b>Annex 6</b>  | Report of Maurice Rousset, Acting Magistrate for Mauritius and the Lesser Dependencies, on the Chagos Group, 19 June 1939                              |
| <b>Annex 7</b>  | Courts Ordinance, 1945   |
| <b>Annex 8</b>  | Mauritius (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1947   |
| <b>Annex 9</b>  | Official Records of United Nations General Assembly, Fifth Session, Third Committee, 310th Meeting, 10 November 1950, 10.45 a.m., UN Doc. A/C.3/SR.310 |
| <b>Annex 10</b> | Official Records of United Nations General Assembly, Fifth Session, Third Committee, 311th Meeting, 10 November 1950, 3 p.m., UN Doc. A/C.3/SR.311     |
| <b>Annex 11</b> | Official Records of United Nations General Assembly, Fifth Session, Third Committee, 312th Meeting, 13 November 1950, 10.45 a.m., UN Doc. A/C.3/SR.312 |
| <b>Annex 12</b> | Official Records of United Nations General Assembly, Fifth Session, Third Committee, 318th Meeting, 17 November 1950, 3 p.m., UN Doc. A/C.3/SR.318     |
| <b>Annex 13</b> | Official Records of United Nations General Assembly, Fifth Session, 317 <sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting, 4 December 1950, 10.45 a.m., UN Doc. A/PV.317   |



- Annex 14** Extracts from the Mauritius Gazette, General Notices (General Notice No. 76 of 3 February 1951; General Notice No. 895 of 18 October 1952; General Notice No. 684 of 26 June 1953; General Notice No. 503 of 4 July 1953; General Notice No. 839 of 19 October 1957; General Notice No. 149 of 8 February 1963; General Notice No. 271 of 20 March 1964; General Notice No. 447 of 28 April 1964; General Notice No. 1011 of 29 October 1964; General Notice No. 406 of 23 April 1965)
- Annex 15** Draft International Covenants on Human Rights – Annotation, UN Doc. A/2929, 1 July 1955
- Annex 16** Mauritius (Constitution) Order in Council, 1958
- Annex 17** Alfred J.E. Orian, Assistant Entomologist, Department of Agriculture, Mauritius, Report on a visit to Diego Garcia, 9-14 October 1958
- Annex 18** Official Records of United Nations General Assembly, Fifteenth Session, 925th Plenary Meeting, 28 November 1960, 10.30 a.m., UN Doc. A/PV.925
- Annex 19** United Nations Yearbook, Chapter X, “Questions concerning Asia and the Far East”, 1961
- Annex 20** Scott, R., Limuria: The Lesser Dependencies of Mauritius (Greenwood Press, Connecticut, 1961) (Extract)
- Annex 21** Official Records of United Nations General Assembly, Sixteenth Session, 1085th Plenary Meeting, 20 December 1961, 10 a.m., UN Doc. A/PV.1085
- Annex 22** United Nations Economic and Social Council, Commission on Human Rights, Eighteenth Session, “Use of the Terms ‘Declaration’ and ‘Recommendation’”, UN Doc. E/CN.4/L.610, 2 April 1962
- Annex 23** Official Records of United Nations General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, 1194th Plenary Meeting, 14 December 1962, 8.30 p.m., UN Doc. A/PV.1194
- Annex 24** Higgins, R., Development of International Law through the Political Organs of the United Nations (1963)
- Annex 25** Official Records of United Nations General Assembly, Eighteenth Session, Fourth Committee, 1499th meeting, 3 December 1963, 3.50 p.m., UN Doc. A/C.4/SR.1499

- Annex 26** United Nations General Assembly, Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, UN Doc. A/5800/Rev.1 (1964-1965), Chapter X
- Annex 27** United Nations Year Book, Chapter XI, “Questions concerning the Middle East”, 1964
- Annex 28** Mauritius (Constitution) Order, 1964
- Annex 29** Memorandum by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the Secretary of State for Defence to the Defence and Oversea Policy Committee, “Defence Facilities in the Indian Ocean”, 7 April 1965
- Annex 30** Extract from Minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Defence and Oversea Policy Committee held on 12 April 1965, Cabinet Office, 13 April 1965
- Annex 31** Note dated 27 April 1965 by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Defence and Oversea Policy Committee, “Defence Interests in the Indian Ocean: Legal Status of Chagos, Aldabra, Desroches and Farquhar”
- Annex 32** Telegram No. 3665 dated 3 May 1965 from UK Foreign Office to UK Embassy, Washington
- Annex 33** Letter dated 13 July 1965 from Trafford Smith, Colonial Office to J.A. Patterson, Treasury, FO 371/184524
- Annex 34** Letter dated 22 July 1965 from E.J. Emery, British High Commission, Ottawa to J.S. Champion, UK Commonwealth Relations Office
- Annex 35** Letter dated 26 July 1965 from S. Falle, UK Foreign Office to F.D.W. Brown, UK Mission to the United Nations, New York, FO 371/184526
- Annex 36** Letter dated 2 August 1965 from J.S. Champion, UK Commonwealth Relations Office to E.J. Emery, British High Commission, Ottawa
- Annex 37** Letter dated 11 August 1965 from R. Terrell, Colonial Office to P.H. Moberly, Ministry of Defence, FO 371/184527
- Annex 38** Report submitted by Chiefs of Staff on 26 August 1965 for 1965 Mauritius Constitutional Conference, CO 1036/1150

- Annex 39** Memorandum by the Deputy Secretary of State for Defence and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Defence and Oversea Policy Committee, "Defence Facilities in the Indian Ocean", 26 August 1965
- Annex 40** Brief submitted by G.G. Arthur, UK Foreign Office for Secretary of State for use at D.O.P. Meeting held on 31 August 1965, FO 371/184527
- Annex 41** Extract from Minutes of 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Defence and Oversea Policy Committee held on 31 August 1965
- Annex 42** Minute dated 3 September 1965 from E.H. Peck to Mr. Graham, FO 371/184527
- Annex 43** Minute dated 15 September 1965 from E.H. Peck, UK Foreign Office to Secretary of State
- Annex 44** Points for the Secretary of State at D.O.P. meeting, 9.30 a.m. Thursday, September 16th, Pacific and Indian Ocean Department, 15 September 1965, CO 1036/1146
- Annex 45** Note for the Record relating to a Meeting held at No. 10 Downing Street on 20 September 1965 between the UK Prime Minister, the Colonial Secretary and the Defence Secretary
- Annex 46** Additional Brief for Secretary of State's visit to Washington, 10-11 October 1965
- Annex 47** Official Records of United Nations General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Fourth Committee, 1566th Meeting, 24 November 1965, 11 a.m., UN Doc. A/C.4/SR.1566
- Annex 48** Official Records of United Nations General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Fourth Committee, 1577th Meeting, 7 December 1965, 11 a.m., UN Doc. A/C.4/SR.1577
- Annex 49** Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs, Supplement No. 4 (1966-1969), Article 73
- Annex 50** United Nations General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, UN Doc. A/6300/Rev.1 (1966), Chapter XIV
- Annex 51** Letter dated 9 March 1966 from P.H. Moberly, UK Ministry of Defence to K.W.S. Mackenzie, Colonial Office

- Annex 52** Letter dated 29 April 1966 from A. Brooke Turner, UK Foreign Office to K.W.S. Mackenzie, Colonial Office
- Annex 53** Draft letter dated June 1966 from A.J. Fairclough to Sir John Rennie, Governor of Mauritius
- Annex 54** Note by UK Foreign Office, "Presentation of British Indian Ocean Territory in the United Nations", 8 September 1966, FCO 141/1415
- Annex 55** United Nations General Assembly, Report of Sub-Committee I: Mauritius, Seychelles and St. Helena, UN Doc. A/AC.109/L.335, 27 September 1966
- Annex 56** United Nations General Assembly, Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, UN Doc. A/6700/Add.9, Chapter X, 1967
- Annex 57** Minute dated 14 February 1967 from M.Z. Terry to Mr. Fairclough, "Mauritius: Independence Commitment", FCO 32/268
- Annex 58** United Nations General Assembly, Report of Sub-Committee I: Mauritius, Seychelles and St Helena, UN Doc. A/AC.109/L.398, 17 May 1967
- Annex 59** Extract from Minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Defence and Oversea Policy Committee held on 25 May 1967
- Annex 60** Letter dated 12 July 1967 from C.A. Seller to Sir John Rennie, Governor of Mauritius
- Annex 61** United Nations General Assembly, Special Committee on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States, Summary Record of the Sixty-Ninth Meeting, 4 August 1967, 10.30 a.m., UN Doc. A/AC.125/SR.69
- Annex 62** United Nations General Assembly, Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, UN Doc. A/6700/Add.8, Chapter XIV, 1967
- Annex 63** Official Records of United Nations General Assembly, Twenty-Second Session, 1641st Plenary Meeting, 19 December 1967, 3 p.m., UN Doc. A/PV.1641
- Annex 64** United Nations Yearbook, Chapter II, "Declaration on Independence for Colonial Countries and Peoples", 1968

- Annex 65** Extract from Mauritius Independence Order, 1968
- Annex 66** Letter dated 24 April 1968 from L.J.P.J Craig, General and Migration Department, Commonwealth Office to J.R. Todd, Office of the Administrator “BIOT”
- Annex 67** Official Records of United Nations General Assembly, Twenty-Second Session, 1643rd Plenary Meeting, 24 April 1968, 3 p.m., UN Doc. A/PV.1643
- Annex 68** Letter dated 6 September 1968 from A. Brooke Turner, UK Foreign Office to K.M. Wilford, British Embassy, Washington, FCO 31/134
- Annex 69** Telegram No. 3129 dated 22 October 1968 from British Embassy, Washington to UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, FCO 141/1437
- Annex 70** “Brief Reference Note on the British Indian Ocean Territory” by C.B.B. Heathcote-Smith, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 19 December 1968
- Annex 71** United Nations General Assembly, Report of the Special Committee on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States, UN Doc. A/7619, 1969
- Annex 72** Record of discussions between Mr. Foley and the Prime Minister of Mauritius on Oil Exploration in the Chagos Archipelago at meetings held on 4 and 5 February 1970, FCO 32/724
- Annex 73** Minute dated 26 February 1971 from A.I. Aust to Mr. D. Scott, “BIOT Resettlement: Negotiations with the Mauritius Government”
- Annex 74** Note from R.G. Giddens, British High Commission, Port Louis, 15 July 1971
- Annex 75** Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, “Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Singapore and United States of America: working paper on the settlement of law of the sea disputes”, Official Records Vol. III, 27 August 1974, A/CONF.62/L.7
- Annex 76** Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, Summary Records of the 57th-65th Plenary Sessions, Official Records Vol. V, UN Docs. A/Conf.62/SR.57-65

- Annex 77** Minute dated 31 May 1977 from [name redacted], East African Department, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office to [name redacted], Legal Advisers, “BIOT: Fishery Restrictions”
- Annex 78** Second Reading of Maritime Zones Bill (No. XVII of 1977), 31 May 1977
- Annex 79** Minute dated 1 July 1977 from [name redacted], Legal Advisers to Mr. [name redacted], East African Department, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, “BIOT: Fishing Rights”
- Annex 80** Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, Summary Records of the Plenary and Second Committee, Official Records Vol. XI:
- 112th Plenary Meeting, 25 April 1979, A/CONF.62/SR.112
  - 57th Meeting of the Second Committee, 24 April 1979, A/CONF.62/C.2/SR.57
  - 58th Meeting of the Second Committee, 24 April 1979, A/CONF.62/C.2/SR.58
- Annex 81** Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, Official Records Vol. XIV, Report of the President on the work of the informal plenary meeting of the Conference on the settlement of disputes, 23 August 1980, A/CONF.62/L.59
- Annex 82** Telegram No. 150 dated 18 September 1981 from UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office to British High Commission, Port Louis
- Annex 83** Minute dated 13 October 1981 from A.D. Watts to [name redacted], “Extension of the Territorial Sea: BIOT”
- Annex 84** Extracts from Platzöder, R. (ed), Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea: Documents (New York: Oceana Publications, 1982)
- Annex 85** Minute dated 19 January 1982 from [name redacted], East African Department, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office to Mr. Berman, Legal Advisers, “BIOT Maritime Zones”
- Annex 86** Minute dated 13 July 1983 from [name redacted], East African Department, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office to Mr. Watts, Deputy Legal Adviser, “BIOT: Fishing Ordinance”
- Annex 87** African Section Research Department, Detachment of the Chagos Archipelago: Negotiations with the Mauritians (1965), 15 July 1983

- Annex 88** Minute dated 5 August 1983 from Maritime, Aviation and Environment Department to East Africa Department, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, “BIOT: Fishing Ordinance”
- Annex 89** Note Verbale dated 10 February 1984 from Ministry of External Affairs, Tourism and Emigration, Mauritius to British High Commission, Port Louis, No. 6/84(1197/12)
- Annex 90** “British Indian Ocean Territory” Notice No. 7 of 1985, 21 February 1985
- Annex 91** Note Verbale dated 10 May 1985 from Ministry of External Affairs, Tourism and Emigration, Mauritius to British High Commission, No. 12/85(1197)
- Annex 92** “Conservation of Fish Stocks in the British Indian Ocean Territory: The Need for a Buffer Zone”
- Annex 93** Extract from Adede, A.O., “The system for settlement of disputes under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea: A drafting history and a commentary” (M. Nijhoff, 1987)
- Annex 94** Extracts from Nordquist, M.H., Rosenne, S. and Sohn, L.B., (eds), “United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982: A Commentary”, Vols. V, VI (Nijhoff, Dordrecht, 1989).
- Annex 95** Note Verbale dated 5 July 1990 from Ministry of External Affairs and Emigration, Mauritius to British High Commission, No. 31/90(1197)
- Annex 96** Letter dated 8 August 1990 from East African Department, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office to British High Commission, Port Louis, transmitting Speaking Note
- Annex 97** Submission dated 17 September 1990 from East African Department, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office to the Private Secretary to Mr. Waldegrave, “British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) Fisheries Limit”
- Annex 98** Note Verbale dated 7 August 1991 from Ministry of External Affairs, Mauritius to British High Commission, Port Louis, No. 35(91)1311
- Annex 99** Internal telegram dated 31 August 1991 from Chalker, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office to Port Louis, Mauritius, “BIOT: Extension of Fisheries Zone”

<b>Annex 100</b>	Letter dated 15 November 1991 from M.E. Howell, British High Commissioner to Mauritius, to [name redacted], East African Department, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office
<b>Annex 101</b>	UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, African Research Group Research Analysts Paper, “BIOT/Mauritius: Fishing Rights”, 11 October 1996
<b>Annex 102</b>	Inshore fishing licences issued to Mauritian fishing vessels by the Director of Fisheries on behalf of the Commissioner for the “British Indian Ocean Territory” in 1997, 1999 and 2006
<b>Annex 103</b>	Boyle, A.E., “Dispute Settlement and the Law of the Sea Convention: Problems of Fragmentation and Jurisdiction” (1997) 46 International and Comparative Law Quarterly
<b>Annex 104</b>	Edis, R, Peak of Limuria – The Story of Diego Garcia (Reprinted Edition, 1998) (Extract)
<b>Annex 105</b>	Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 1998
<b>Annex 106</b>	Mees, C.C., Pilling, G.M. and Barry, C.J., “Commercial inshore fishing activity in the British Indian Ocean Territory” in Ecology of the Chagos Archipelago (ed. C.R.C. Sheppard & M.R.D. Seaward, 1999)
<b>Annex 107</b>	Convention on Biological Diversity, Marine Coastal and Biological Diversity, COP Decision VII/5 (2004)
<b>Annex 108</b>	Extract from Law of the Sea Bulletin No. 54, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations, 2004
<b>Annex 109</b>	Note dated 2 July 2004 by Henry Steel, “Fishing by Mauritian Vessels in BIOT Waters”
<b>Annex 110</b>	Klein, N., Dispute Settlement in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (Cambridge University Press, 2005)
<b>Annex 111</b>	Second Reading of Maritime Zones Bill (No. I of 2005), 15 February 2005
<b>Annex 112</b>	Gautier, P., “The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea: Activities in 2006” (2007) 6 Chinese Journal of International Law 389
<b>Annex 113</b>	Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007



- Annex 114** Rao, P.C., “Delimitation Disputes under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea: Settlement Procedures”, in T. M. Ndiaye and R. Wolfrum (eds.), Law of the Sea, Environmental Law and Settlement of Disputes: Liber Amicorum Judge Thomas A. Mensah, (Nijhoff, 2007)
- Annex 115** Extract of Information Paper CAB (2007) 814 – Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, 29 November 2007
- Annex 116** Email exchange between Chris C. Mees, MRAG Ltd and Tony Humphries, Head of "BIOT" & Pitcairn Section, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 29-30 November 2007
- Annex 117** Email exchange between Africa Directorate and Joanne Yeadon, Head of “BIOT”& Pitcairn Section, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 4 January 2008
- Annex 118** Letter dated 7 February 2008 from the UK Prime Minister to the Prime Minister of Mauritius
- Annex 119** Letter dated 10 April 2008 from the UK Prime Minister to Baroness Amos and letter dated 14 March 2008 from Baroness Amos to the UK Prime Minister
- Annex 120** Email exchange between Andrew Allen, Overseas Territories Directorate, and Joanne Yeadon, Head of “BIOT” & Pitcairn Section, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 22 April 2008
- Annex 121** Information Note dated 28 April 2008 from Joanne Yeadon, Overseas Territories Directorate, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office to Meg Munn
- Annex 122** Email exchange between Joanne Yeadon, Head of “BIOT” & Pitcairn Section and Head of the Southern Africa Section, Africa Department, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 31 October 2008
- Annex 123** Email dated 5 November 2008 from Joanne Yeadon, Head of “BIOT” & Pitcairn Section, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office to John Murton, British High Commissioner to Mauritius
- Annex 124** Email dated 21 November 2008 from Joanne Yeadon, Head of “BIOT” & Pitcairn Section, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Annex 125** Email dated 31 December 2008 from Andrew Allen, Overseas Territories Directorate, to Joanne Yeadon, Head of “BIOT” & Pitcairn Section, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office

- Annex 126** Vine, D., Island of Shame (Princeton University Press, 2009) (Extract)
- Annex 127** Note Verbale dated 6 January 2009 from UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office to Mauritius High Commission, London, No. OTD 01/01/09
- Annex 128** UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Overseas Territories Directorate, “British Indian Ocean Territory: UK/Mauritius Talks”, 14 January 2009
- Annex 129** Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mauritius, “Meeting of Officials on the Chagos Archipelago/British Indian Ocean Territory held at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London, Wednesday 14 January 2009, 10 a.m.”, 23 January 2009
- Annex 130** Email dated 21 April 2009 from Joanne Yeadon, Head of “BIOT” & Pitcairn Section, to Colin Roberts and Andrew Allen, Overseas Territories Directorate, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Annex 131** Email dated 1 May 2009 to Joanne Yeadon, Head of “BIOT” and Pitcairn Section, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office & Minutes of a meeting between the Chagos Environment Network and the UK Government held at 11:30 hrs on 23 April 2009
- Annex 132** Paper submitted on 5 May 2009 by Colin Roberts, Director, Overseas Territories Directorate, to the Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary, “Making British Indian Ocean Territory the World's Largest Marine Reserve”(version with fewer redactions)
- Annex 133** Paper submitted on 5 May 2009 by Colin Roberts, Director, Overseas Territories Directorate, to the Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary, “Making British Indian Ocean Territory the World's Largest Marine Reserve”
- Annex 134** Email exchange between Colin Roberts, Director, Overseas Territories Directorate, and Matthew Gould, Principal Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 7 May 2009
- Annex 135** Email exchange between Joanne Yeadon, Head of “BIOT” & Pitcairn Section, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ian [surname redacted], 4 June 2009

- Annex 136** Email dated 6 July 2009 from [redacted]@mrag.co.uk to Joanne Yeadon, Head of “BIOT” and Pitcairn Section, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, “Summary of the activities of Mauritian Fishing Vessels”
- Annex 137** Email dated 9 July 2009 from Development Director of MRAG to Joanne Yeadon, Head of “BIOT” & Pitcairn Section, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, & “MRAG Comments on the proposal to designate the BIOT FCMZ as a marine reserve”
- Annex 138** Email exchange between Colin Roberts, Director, Overseas Territories Directorate, and Joanne Yeadon, Head of “BIOT” & Pitcairn Section, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 13-14 July 2009
- Annex 139** Note Verbale dated 16 July 2009 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mauritius to the British High Commission, Port Louis, No. 29/2009 (1197/28/4)
- Annex 140** Note Verbale dated 20 July 2009 from the British High Commission, Port Louis to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mauritius, No. 37/2009
- Annex 141** eGram dated 21 July 2009 from John Murton, British High Commissioner to Mauritius to UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Annex 142** Joint Communiqué, Second round of bilateral talks between Mauritius and the UK on the Chagos Archipelago, 21 July 2009, Port Louis, Mauritius
- Annex 143** UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Overseas Territories Directorate, “UK/Mauritius Talks on the British Indian Ocean Territory”, 24 July 2009
- Annex 144** Information Paper by the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Second Meeting at Senior Officials’ Level between Mauritius and UK on the Chagos Archipelago, CAB(2009) 624, 12 August 2009
- Annex 145** Submission dated 7 September 2009 from “BIOT” Administration, “BIOT Marine Reserve Proposal: Implications for US Activities in Diego Garcia and British Indian Ocean Territory”
- Annex 146** Draft report of workshop held on 5-6 August 2009 at National Oceanography Centre Southampton, “Marine Conservation in British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT): science issues and opportunities”, 7 September 2009

- Annex 147** Submission dated 29 October 2009 from Joanne Yeadon, Head of “BIOT” & Pitcairn Section to Colin Roberts, Director, Overseas Territories Directorate, and the Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary, “British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT): Public Consultation on Proposed Marine Protected Area”
- Annex 148** Extract of Information Paper CAB (2009) 953 – Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, 9 December 2009
- Annex 149** Keyuan, Z., “The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea: Procedures, Practices and Asian States” (2010) 41 Ocean Development and International Law 131
- Annex 150** Extract from Sohn, L.B., Noyes, J.E., Gustafson Juras, K., Franckx, E., “Law of the Sea in a Nutshell”(2nd ed. West, 2010)
- Annex 151** National Assembly of Mauritius, 18 January 2010, Reply to Private Notice Question
- Annex 152** Submission dated 30 March 2010 from Joanne Yeadon, Head of “BIOT” & Pitcairn Section, to Colin Roberts, Director, Overseas Territories Directorate, the Private Secretary to Parliamentary Under Secretary Chris Bryant and the Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary, ”British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT): Proposed Marine Protected Area (MPA): Next Steps”
- Annex 153** Email exchange between Sarah Clayton, Assistant Private Secretary to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Chris Bryant, and Joanne Yeadon, Head of “BIOT”& Pitcairn Section, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 30 March 2010
- Annex 154** Email dated 31 March 2010 from John Murton, British High Commissioner to Mauritius to Ewan Ormiston, British High Commission, Port Louis
- Annex 155** Email exchange between Catherine Brooker, Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary and Joanne Yeadon, Head of “BIOT”& Pitcairn Section, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 30-31 March 2010
- Annex 156** Email dated 31 March 2010 from John Murton, British High Commissioner to Mauritius, to Colin Roberts, Director, Overseas Territories Directorate and Joanne Yeadon, Head of “BIOT”& Pitcairn Section, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office

- Annex 157** Email exchange between Andrew Allen, Overseas Territories Directorate, Colin Roberts, Director, Overseas Territories Directorate, Joanne Yeadon, Head of “BIOT”& Pitcairn Section, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ewan Ormiston, British High Commission, Port Louis, 31 March 2010
- Annex 158** Minute dated 31 March 2010 from Joanne Yeadon, Head of “BIOT” & Pitcairn Section, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office to Colin Roberts, Director, Overseas Territories Directorate and the Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary, “British Indian Ocean Territory: MPA: Next Steps: Mauritius”
- Annex 159** Letter dated 8 April 2010 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mauritius to Hon. Edward Davey MP
- Annex 160** Letter dated 8 April 2010 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mauritius to Rt. Hon. William Hague MP
- Annex 161** Extract of Information Paper CAB (2010) 295 – Official Mission to France and the United Kingdom, 9 June 2010
- Annex 162** Submission dated 19 July 2010 from Joanne Yeadon, Head of “BIOT”& Pitcairn Section, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to the Private Secretary to Henry Bellingham, “British Indian Ocean territory: BIOT Policy”
- Annex 163** National Assembly of Mauritius, 27 July 2010, Reply to PQ No. 1B/324
- Annex 164** Submission dated 1 September 2010 from Joanne Yeadon, Head of “BIOT”& Pitcairn Section, to Colin Roberts, Director, Overseas Territories Directorate, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Private Secretary to Henry Bellingham and the Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary, “British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT): Marine Protected Area (MPA): Implementation and Financing”
- Annex 165** National Assembly of Mauritius, 9 November 2010, Reply to PQ No. 1B/540
- Annex 166** Witness Statement of Sylvestre Sakir, 17 August 2011
- Annex 167** Witness Statement of Louis Joseph Volly, 19 September 2011
- Annex 168** Buga, I., “Territorial Sovereignty Issues in Maritime Disputes: A Jurisdictional Dilemma for Law of the Sea Tribunals” (2012) 27 The International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law 59

- Annex 169** International Union for Conservation of Nature, Guidelines for Applying the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories to Marine Protected Areas (2012)
- Annex 170** Extract from Final Document adopted by the 16<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, Tehran, 26-31 August 2012
- Annex 171** Extracts from Declarations adopted by the Thirty-Sixth and Thirty-Seventh Annual Meetings of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Group of 77 held in New York on 28 September 2012 and 26 September 2013 respectively
- Annex 172** First Witness Statement of Richard Patrick Dunne, 8 October 2012
- Annex 173** Extract from the Malabo Declaration adopted by the Third Africa-South America Summit held on 20-22 February 2013, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
- Annex 174** Extract of Transcript, R (Bancoult) v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Examination and Cross-Examination of Mr. Colin Roberts, 15-17 April 2013
- Annex 175** African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government, 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration, 26 May 2013, Addis Ababa
- Annex 176** African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government, Declaration on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa, Assembly/AU/Decl.1(XXI), 27 May 2013, Addis Ababa
- Annex 177** National Report submitted by the Republic of Mauritius in view of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, July 2013
- Annex 178** Memorandum dated 18 July 2013 from Kailash Ruhee, Chief of Staff of the Prime Minister of Mauritius to the Secretary to Cabinet, Mauritius, 18 July 2013
- Annex 179** Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, “Catch and bycatch composition of illegal fishing in the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)”, IOTC–2013–WPEB09–46 Rev\_1
- Annex 180** Statement by the Prime Minister of Mauritius at the General Debate of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, 28 September 2013

<b>Annex 181</b>	Letter dated 3 October 2013 from Clifford Chance LLP to Treasury Solicitor's Department
<b>Annex 182</b>	Letter dated 10 October 2013 from Solicitor-General of Mauritius to Mr. L. Tolaini, Clifford Chance LLP
<b>Annex 183</b>	Statement of Dr the Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, 6 November 2013
<b>Annex 184</b>	Natural England, Marine Protected Areas, Definition, 11 November 2013
<b>Annex 185</b>	Redacted documents from the Judicial Review Proceedings (Bancoult v. Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs)

## **Annex 1**

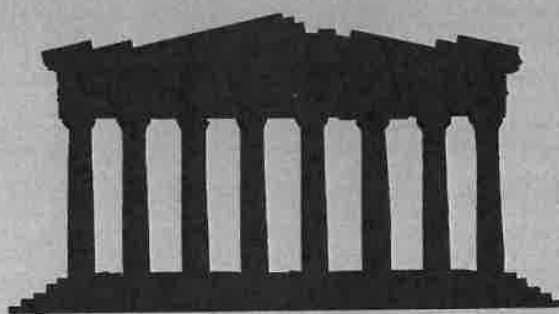
An Account of the Island of Mauritius and its Dependencies, By a late Official Resident, Anonymous,  
(London, 1842) (Extract)



General Historical Collections

# An Account of the Island of Mauritius, and its dependencies. By a late Official Resident.

Anonymous



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AN ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
ISLAND OF MAURITIUS,  
AND ITS

**Dependencies.**

BY A LATE OFFICIAL RESIDENT.

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LONDON:  
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR.  
1842.

MY LORD,

Your Lordship having appointed me as a Special Magistrate for the Mauritius, I am indebted to that circumstance, for whatever knowledge or information I possess of the Colony ; and to you, therefore, I respectfully beg leave to dedicate this account of the Island and its dependencies. It is a well known fact, that of all the British possessions, less is known of the Mauritius generally, than of any other of our Colonies ; and when the vast National and Commercial consequence of the Island is considered, whether in reference to produce or her important position, in relation to our East India possessions and Trade, is a matter of surprize.

Should this brief account of the Island and its dependencies meet your Lordship's approval, and add towards the better knowledge of this interesting possession, my object will be attained.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

And very humble servant,

THE AUTHOR.

To the Right Honourable the Lord Stanley,  
Secretary for the Colonial Department.

## CHAPTER VII.

*Customs Duties.—Import Duties—Entrepot, do.—  
Export, do.—Port Charge.*

### CUSTOMS DUTIES.

#### IMPORT DUTIES.

GRAIN of all sorts, ploughs, and harrows, steam and water engines, and other articles of machinery, calculated to diminish manual labour, and being of British manufacture, free of duty.

Salted meat, fish, duly certified to have been cured at the Cape of Good Hope, New South Wales, or Van Dieman's Land, free of duty.

All goods, the produce of the dependencies of the Mauritius, or of the Island of Madagascar, with the exception of ebony, if imported in British bottoms, are admitted free of duty.

## **Annex 2**

Ordinance No. 5 of 1872

Ordinance No. 5 of 1872.



AN ORDINANCE

*Enacted by The Governor of Mauritius and its Dependencies, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government thereof.*

To make better provision for the Administration of Justice in certain Dependencies of Mauritius.

L. S.

ARTHUR GORDON.

(10th February 1872.)

WHEREAS it is expedient to make better provision for the Administration of Justice in certain Dependencies of Mauritius ;

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED by His Excellency The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government, as follows :

Modification of Proclamations. 1.—The Proclamation dated 24th October 1864 and the Proclamation No. 14 of 10th June 1868 are hereby modified so far as they are repugnant to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance.

Extension of Laws. 2.—Ordinance No. 34 of 1852, entitled “ An Ordinance for amending and consolidating the Laws relating to the establishment of District Courts within the Colony,”—and Ordinance No. 35 of the same year, entitled :—“ An Ordinance for amending the Ordinance relating to the Jurisdiction of District Courts in Criminal Matters,” and Ordinance No. 11 of 1869 entitled “ An Ordinance to extend the Jurisdiction of District Courts in Criminal Matters,” and Ordinance No. 27 of 1871 entitled “ An Ordinance to bring within the Jurisdiction of the District Courts certain Misdemeanors, Contraventions and Offences hitherto excluded from such Jurisdiction, ” are hereby extended to the Islands

mentioned in Article 5 of this Ordinance, subject to the provisions hereinafter contained.

Jurisdiction of Magistrate in Port Louis

3.—The Junior District Magistrate of the District of Port Louis, in the Island of Mauritius, for the time being, is hereby constituted to be the District Magistrate for the said Islands, and he, the said Junior District Magistrate of Port Louis, and all the Officers of his Court, shall have the same powers, authority and jurisdiction respectively, to all intents and purposes, as if the said Islands formed part of the said District of Port Louis.

Procureur General's powers maintained.

4.—Nothing contained in this Ordinance shall be held to diminish, limit, or in any way affect the right and power of the Procureur General to reduce or refer back under the Ordinances No. 11 of 1869 or No. 27 of 1871, any Criminal charge concerning any offence committed in the said Islands.

Ordinance to apply to certain Islands.

5.—This Ordinance shall apply to the following Islands, namely:

Diego Garcia,  
Six Islands,  
Danger Island,  
Eagle Islands,  
Peros Banhos,  
Coetivy,  
Solomon Islands,  
Agalega Islands,

St. Brandon Islands, also and otherwise called Cargados Carayos.

PASSED in Council, at Port Louis, Island of Mauritius, this Sixth day of February One thousand Eight hundred and Seventy-two.

THOS. ELLIOTT,

Acting Secretary to the Council of Government.

Published by Order of His Excellency The Governor.

EDWARD NEWTON,

Colonial Secretary.



### **Annex 3**

Report of Ivanoff Dupont, Acting Magistrate for the Lesser Dependencies of Mauritius, on the Islands of  
the Chagos Group, 11 June 1883

COLONY OF MAURITIUS

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REPORT

OF

THE ACTING MAGISTRATE

FOR THE

LESSER DEPENDENCIES

ON THE

ISLANDS

OF THE

CHAGOS GROUP

FOR THE YEAR

1882.

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Report on visit to the Islands of the Chagos Group.

---

No. 3.  
—

Bambous, Black River,  
11th June 1883.

The Honorable  
The Colonial Secretary.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, for submission to His Excellency the Governor, my report on the result of my recent visit to the Islands of the "Chagos" Archipelago.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

IVANOFF DUPONT,

Acting Magistrate for the Lesser Dependencies.

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The total population of the Islands of the Chagos Group, viz :

Islands	Population
Diego Garcia	131
Six Islands	13
Eagle Island	13
Peros Banhos	13
Salomon Islands	13
Total	283

and was composed as follows :

Islands	Population
Diego Garcia	131
Six Islands	13
Eagle Island	13
Peros Banhos	13
Salomon Islands	13
Total	283

### Report of the Acting Magistrate for the Lesser Dependencies of Mauritius on the result of his recent visit to the Islands of the Chagos Group, viz :

Diego Garcia

Six Islands

Eagle Island

Peros Banhos

Salomon Islands.

1. I left Mauritius on the 18th April 1883 on board of the Steam Tug "Stella," and I arrived on the 27th at Diego Garcia, where we anchored at noon, at "Pointe de l'Est".

This Island, since my last visit in 1881, has become a coaling station for the Steamers of the Orient and Pacific Steam Navigation Companies, and others, and I have made a special report on the changes which have taken place by that fact.

2. Two sailing ships were then unloading coals :— the "Rothsay Bay" from Australia, for Lund & Co., and the "Religione e Liberta", from England, for the Orient Company.

The next morning at Roll Call I informed the labourers that I was ready to hear any complaint which they might have to make.

No complaints were made either by the Manager or by the labourers.



4. The total population of "Pointe de l'Est" on my arrival amounted to :

	Males	Females
Adults... ..	182	42
Children ... ..	18	12
	<hr/> 200	<hr/> 54
Total...	254	

and was composed as follows :

	Adults		Children	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Natives of Mauritius ... ..	35	26	14	6
Indians ... ..	35	9	3	3
Malgaches... ..	40	5	...	2
Mozambiques ... ..	14	2	1	1
Europeans ... ..	18	...	...	...
Somaulis (from Port Said) ... ..	40	...	...	...
	<hr/> 182	<hr/> 42	<hr/> 18	<hr/> 12
	<hr/> 224		<hr/> 30	
Total...	254			

Seventeen of the Europeans and the Somaulis are in the employ of the Orient Company, the first as workmen making iron lighters, and the last as labourers engaged at Port Said before the French Consul for one year.

The European workmen are expected to leave in the beginning of next year, after the completion of the iron lighters, and the Somaulis will be sent back to Port Said as soon as labourers will have been obtained from Mauritius.

One European, Mr. George Worsell, is Agent at Diego Garcia for Lund & Co.

The number of persons employed with the proprietors of the Island amounts to :

	Males	Females
Adults ... ..	123	39
Children ... ..	...	...
	<hr/> 123	<hr/> 39
Total...	162	

of which are under written engagement :

	Males	Females
Adults ... ..	74	16
Total...	90	

5. The Europeans and Somaulis in the employ of the Orient Company provisionally reside at Pointe de l'Est, no building having as yet been erected on the Islet, at the entrance of the Bay, which has been let by the Government to the Company.



6. I inspected the labourers' camp which I did not find in very good state of repair nor of cleanliness, and I called the attention of the Manager to this fact. Most of the huts belong to the labourers who have built them themselves.

7. The hospital was found by me in good order, and the supply of medicines sufficient.

The prisons are the same which I have reported on in February 1881.

I found from the prison register that 39 cases of imprisonment of labourers had taken place during the past 27 months, all of which for insolence, insubordination and disturbance.

No complaints were made by the labourers as regards those imprisonments.

9. I examined the Pay Book and found it properly kept.

The sum of Rs 28,230.76c has been paid to the labourers from the 1st of January 1881 to the 30th April 1883, showing monthly payments of Rs 1,008.24c; and the sum deducted for sickness and absences amounted to Rs 4,016.35c, giving monthly deductions of Rs 143.44c.

The wages are paid monthly.

10. The shop showed a pretty good supply of goods. The sum of Rs 17,132, 58c was paid by the labourers for merchandize from the 1st January 1881 to the 31st of March 1883, showing monthly purchases for the sum of Rs 634.54c.

The sales are made for cash, and on an average of 25 o/o above Mauritius prices.

11. The stores contained only 28 bags of rice, sufficient for two weeks rations, and when the ship of the company left on the 27th January last, there were in store rations for four months only instead of for six months, as required by the regulations.

The ship "Eva Joshua" was expected daily after my departure: she had arrived at Peros Banhos on the 11th of May.

The rations issued to the labourers are more than those to which they are entitled.

The labourers rear fowls and ducks. They are not allowed to rear pigs for which they could not procure food on the island, and would therefore be induced to steal cocoa-nuts to feed them.

The boats and nets of the establishment continue to be placed at their disposal for fishing.

12. The task works are fair and reasonable, and the Sunday "Corvée" is according to the Regulations.

13. The Sanitary condition of the island is good. There exists no prevailing disease.



14. I examined the Registers of the Civil Status which show that from the first January 1881 to the 30th April 1883 the following number of Births and Deaths had take place.

## BIRTHS.

Males	...	...	...	...	10
Females	...	...	...	...	7
				Total	17

## DEATHS.

				Males.	Females.
Adults	...	...	...	7	3
Children	...	...	...	1	7
				8	10
				Total 18	

of which one female died at sea on board the ship "Pelham" from Mauritius on the 27th August 1881, and one male, the master of the ship "Eleanor", from England, who died of Dysentery at "Pointe de l'Est" on the 10th February 1882.

The causes of deaths were as follows :—

	Adults		Children	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Erysipelas	...	1	...	...
Old Age...	1	1	...	...
Premature Birth	...	...	...	2
Cramp	...	...	...	1
Scrofula	1	...	...	...
Dysentery	1	...	...	...
Tambove (thrush)	...	...	1	4
Dropsy	1	...	...	...
Hernia	1	...	...	...
Consumption	...	1	...	...
Drowning (accidental)...	1	...	...	...
Fever	1	...	...	...
	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 7
	<hr/> 10		<hr/> 8	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total 18			

I made an enquiry into the case of drowning, and it was proved to have been accidental. The enquiry has been referred by me to the Honorable the Procureur General.

No still-birth has taken place, and no marriage has been celebrated by the Officer of the Civil Status.

15. The production of Pointe de l'Est has been in						
1881	...	...	...	...	...	
1882	...	...	...	...	...	41000 veltes
						31500 "
and is estimated for 1883, at						
by the Manager.	...	...	...	...	...	32000 "



16. The communications with Mauritius take place three times in the year.

17 Early in the morning of the 2nd of May I left for Pointe Marianne Establishment.

#### POINTE MARIANNE.

18. No complaints were made by the Manager against the labourers, nor by the labourers against the manager.

One labourer wanted to bring a charge of larceny against another, but as he had no evidence to support it I advised him to abstain, which he did.

19. The population of Pointe Marianne amounted to :

	M.	F.
Adults ... ..	81	21
Children ... ..	11	13
	<hr/> 92	<hr/> 34
Total	126	

out of which are employed :

	M.	F.
Adults ... ..	80	17
Children ... ..	2	...
	<hr/> 82	<hr/> 17
Total	99	

the number under written engagement amounted to :—

Males ... ..	27
Females ... ..	5
Total	32

20. The population is composed as follows :—

	Adults		Children	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Creoles ... ..	30	14	11	12
Malgaches ... ..	46	4	...	1
Mozambiques ... ..	4	3	...	...
Indians ... ..	1	...	...	...
	<hr/> 81	<hr/> 21	<hr/> 11	<hr/> 13
	<hr/> 102		<hr/> 24	
Total....	126.			

21. The camp was inspected by me and found to be in good order.

22. The hospitals were in good order and of the required dimensions.

The medicines in store were sufficient.



23. The prison which existed at the time of my last visit has been pulled down by the Manager, and, pending the erection of a new one, a room in a stone building, of proper dimensions, is used as a prison.

The punishment of imprisonment was inflicted on 30 labourers during the past 27 months, as follows.—27 were imprisoned for insolence, insubordination and disturbance and 3 for larceny. As regards these last I informed the Manager that they were illegal, and I desired him to confine himself to the cases for which the regulations authorize him to imprison, as otherwise he would be liable to the penalties provided for by the same regulations, should complaints be made against him.

He gave as an excuse that he thought that he was authorized to imprison also for larcenies, which, he stated, were of frequent occurrence.

No complaints were made by the labourers.

24. I examined the Pay Book and found that Rs 23,558.52 c. had been paid to the labourers from the 1st January 1881 to the 30th April 1883, showing monthly payments of Rs 841.27 c. and that the sum of Rs 4,520.14 c. had been deducted for sickness and absences, giving monthly deductions of Rs 161.43 c.

The wages are paid monthly.

25. The amount of the sales in the shop has been from the 1st May 1881, the accounts from 1st January to 30th April 1881 not being in the possession of the actual Manager, Rs 11,226.81 c. showing monthly sales of Rs 468.78 c.

The sales are made for cash, and, on an average, at about 40 o/o above the prices in Mauritius.

26. The stores contained only 24 bags of rice, sufficient for three weeks rations. The "Eva Joshua" was expected daily.

When the said ship left on the 27th January last there were in store 121 bags of rice, sufficient for four months rations only.

The labourers rear fowls and ducks, and easily procure fish by means of the boats and nets of the establishment.

27. The task works are fair and reasonable, and the Sunday Corvée is according to the regulations.

28. I examined the Registers of the Civil Status.

The following number of Acts have been registered from the 1st January 1881, to the 30th April 1883, viz :—

#### BIRTHS

Males	...	...	...	...	...	7
Females	...	...	...	...	...	5
Total						12



## DEATHS

	M.	F.
Adults ...	4	1
Children ...	4	5
	8	6
Total 14		

The causes of deaths were as follows:—

	Adults		Children	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Child Birth ...		1		
Dropsy ...	1			
Laryngitis ...	1			
Consumption ...			1	
Poisoning (accidental) ...				2
Hæmorrhage ...			1	
Fever ...	1			
Dysentery ...			2	
Sore throat ...				3
Cancer ...	1			
	4	1	4	5
	5		9	
Total 14				

I made an enquiry into the causes of deaths of the two children who died of poisoning, and found that they had been eating some of the fish called "Voultang", which had been cooked by a woman who was ignorant of its poisonous nature.

The enquiry has been referred by me to the Honorable the Procureur General.

## STILL BIRTHS

Males ...	0
Females ...	1
Total 1	

No marriage has been registered by the Officer of the Civil Status.

29. The production of the establishment for each of the past two years has reached 30,000 veltes, and is estimated at the same quantity for the year 1883.

30. I was informed by the Manager that no traffic of any kind exists with the vessels which come to Diego Garcia.

## MINIMINI ESTABLISHMENT.

31. On the 4th May 1883 I visited Minimini Establishment.

32. No complaints were made by the Manager against the labourers, nor by the labourers against the Manager.

33. The population of the Establishment amounted to :—

	M.	F.
Adults ... ..	37	38
Children ... ..	17	11
	<hr/> 54	<hr/> 49
Total	103	

out of which were employed :

	M.	F.
Adults ... ..	37	32
Children ... ..	1	...
	<hr/> 38	<hr/> 32
Total	70	

Twenty four labourers were under written engagement :

Males ... ..	13
Females ... ..	11
	<hr/> 24

The population was composed as follows ;

	Adults		Children	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Natives of Mauritius	15	32	17	11
Malagashes ...	20	5	...	...
Mozambiques ...	2	1	...	...
	<hr/> 37	<hr/> 38	<hr/> 17	<hr/> 11
	<hr/> 75		<hr/> 28	
Total	103			

34. The camp of the labourers was found by me to be in good and proper order.

35. The hospital was properly kept, and the supply of medicine was sufficient.

36. The prison is the same which I have reported on after my last visit.

The register of imprisonment shew nine cases of imprisonment : 8 for insolence and insubordination, and 1 for repeated absence. This last case was illegal and I informed and cautioned the Manager accordingly.

37. I examined the Pay Book which shows that Rs12,261.45 were paid to the labourers from the 1st January 1881 to the 30th April 1883, giving monthly payments of Rs 473.62, and that the sum of Rs 1,838.14c has been deducted for absences and sickness, showing monthly deductions of Rs 65.65c.

The wages are paid monthly.



When the ship left on the 27th January last there was in store a supply of rice for six months. The labourers have the same advantages as on the other establishments as regards fishing and rearing animals.

The produce of the sales for the last 28 months has amounted to Rs. 8,194.87c, giving a monthly average of Rs 292.67c.

41. I examined the Registers of the Civil Status, and found that the following Acts had been registered since the 1st January 1881:—

Males	...	...	...	...	...	4
Females	...	...	...	...	...	5
						<hr/> Total 9

Adults	...	...	...	...	M.	F.
Children	...	...	...	...	1	3
					2	4
					Total 6	

		Adults		Children	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
Cramp ...	...	...	...	1	1
Cold ...	...	1	...	...	...
Dropsy ...	...	...	1	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	2
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		1	1	1	3
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		2		4	
		Total 6			

42. The production of the establishment has been 34,476 veltes for the past three years, giving a yearly average of 11,492 veltes.

44. I left Diégo Garcia on the 6th May 1883 at 5 o'clock p.m. for "Six Islands."



## SIX ISLANDS.

45. On the 7th May at 10 o'clock a.m. we arrived at "Six Islands," but the "Stella" could not enter the bay as the depth of the water in the channel could not allow it. I waited until noon when a boat came and met us at about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the reefs, and I proceeded in it to the establishment, where I landed at 3.15 p.m.

46. When the labourers were informed by me that I was ready to hear any complaint they might have to make four of them stated that the manager had retained from each one month wages, for an alleged larceny of cocoa-nuts. The Manager having admitted the fact I ordered the money to be returned to the labourers, which was done in my presence.

The Manager could not prosecute the parties, as he had no sufficient evidence to obtain their conviction.

47. The population of the Island amounted to :—

	M.	F.
Adults ... ..	30	19
Children ... ..	10	12
	<hr/> 40	<hr/> 31
Total	71	

Out of which were employed :—

	M.	F.
Adults ... ..	30	14
Children ... ..	1	...
	<hr/> 31	<hr/> 14
Total	45	

Of this number were under written engagement :—

Males ... ..	17
Females ... ..	7
Total	24

The population was composed as follows :—

	Adults		Children	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
European ... ..	1	...	...	...
Creoles ... ..	11	13	10	12
Malgaches ... ..	10	...	...	...
Mozambiques ... ..	7	5	...	...
Indians ... ..	1	1	...	...
	<hr/> 30	<hr/> 19	<hr/> 10	<hr/> 12
	49		22	
	Total 71			

48. I inspected the camp which I found in very good order.



49. The hospital for the men was in good order, and according to the regulations, but the hospital for the women was found by me to be too small, and I directed the manager to lengthen it by 14 feet.

50. The prison is composed only of one room, of sufficient dimensions. Two rooms in a stone building are being fitted up to be used as prisons.

Two labourers were imprisoned for disturbance since the last visit of the Magistrate in August 1881.

51. I examined the Pay Book.

From the 1st August 1881 to the 30th April 1883 the sum of Rs. 7692.47 c. has been paid to the laborers for wages, showing monthly payments of Rs. 366.31c, and the sum of R. 279.29 c. has been deducted for sickness and absences, giving monthly deductions of Rs. 13.30 c.

The wages are paid monthly.

52. The sales of goods to the labourers from the 1st August 1881 to the 30th April 1883 have produced the sum of Rs. 4269, 45c, giving a monthly average of Rs. 203.30 c.

The goods are sold for cash and at 40 o/o above Mauritius prices.

53. The stores contained 35 bags of rice, sufficient for the rations of two months and a half. A ship was expected at the Island in the course of the month of June.

The labourers receive more rations than they are entitled to. They rear fowls and are offered for fishing the same facilities which are given to the labourers in the other Islands.

54. The task work and Sunday Corvée are fair and reasonable.

55. The Registers of the Civil Status showed that the following Acts were received from the 1st August 1881 to the 30th April 1883, viz :—

#### BIRTHS

Males	...	...	...	...	...	4
Females	...	...	...	...	...	2
						—
Total...						6

#### DEATHS

				M.	F.
Adults	...	...	...	...	1
Children	...	...	...	1	...
				—	—
				1	1
				—	—
Total...				2	

The adult female died of cancer, and the male child of cramp.



## STILL BIRTHS

Male	...	...	...	...	1
Female	...	...	...	...	...

Total... 1

No marriages have been celebrated by the Officer of the Civil Status.

56. The production of the Island has been :—

In 1881	...	...	12,000	vettes
„ 1882	...	...	12,000	„
and is estimated for 1883	...	...	9,000	„

The Manager could not account for the reduction.

57. The communications with Mauritius have taken place only twice a year up to the present, but they are expected to be more frequent for the future.

58 On the 8th May at 11 o'clock a.m. I left the establishment to go and meet the "Stella." I joined her at a distance of about one mile from the reefs, at sea, and at 12.30 p.m. we sailed off for "Eagle Island."

## EAGLE ISLAND.

59. On the 8th May 1883 I arrived at Eagle Island, where the ship was anchored at 5 o'clock p.m.

60. The next day early in the morning I went on shore.

One complaint was brought by the Manager Mr. Decamps Larrouget against the labourer Chéri Abel for neglecting to perform his stipulated work. The charge was proved and the accused was sentenced by me to 14 days imprisonment.

No complaint was made by the labourers.

61. The population of the Island on my arrival amounted to :—

Adults	...	...	...	M.	F.
Children	...	...	...	36	17
	...	...	...	6	3
				—	—
				42	20
				Total...	62

Of which were employed :—

Adults	...	...	...	M.	F.
Children	...	...	...	36	14
	...	...	...	1	...
				—	—
				37	14
				Total...	51

All the labourers are under verbal engagement.



The population was composed as follows :—

	Adults		Children	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Creoles ... ..	10	9	6	3
Malgaches ... ..	23	6	...	...
Mozambiques ... ..	3	2	...	...
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	36	17	6	3
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	53		9	
Total...	62			

62. The camp was in good and proper order.

63. The hospital is being rebuilt. The supply of medicines was sufficient.

64. The prison is the same which I have reported on last year.

Four labourers have been imprisoned for insubordination and disturbance since my last visit in July 1882.

65. I examined the Pay Book. From the 1st July 1882 to the 30th April 1883 the sum of Rs 4,168.64c has been paid for wages, showing monthly payments of Rs 416.86c and the sum of Rs 240.78c has been deducted for sickness and absences, showing monthly deductions of Rs. 24.08c.

The wages are paid monthly.

66. The sales in the shop from the 1st July 1882 to the 30th April 1883 have amounted to the sum of Rs 2,881.83c giving a monthly average of Rs 288.18c.

The goods are sold for cash, and at an average of 50 o/o above Mauritius prices.

67. The stores contained 79 bags of rice, sufficient for nearly four months rations.

68. The task work and Sunday Corvée are fair and reasonable.

69. I examined the Registers of the Civil Status.

One birth has been registered, that of a boy. Another one has taken place, that of the son of the manager, which has been registered at Mauritius.

One death has been registered, that of a male child who died of tetanus.

No still-births and no marriages have been registered.

70. The production of the Island is estimated at 10,000 veltes for 1882-83.

71. The communications with Mauritius continue to take place three times during the year.

72. On the 10th of May at 6 o'clock a.m. I left on the Stella for "Peros Banhos".



## PEROS BANHOS.

73. On the 10th of May at 2 o'clock p.m. the "Stella" anchored at Peros Banhos, and I at once went on shore.

74. No complaints were made by either the Manager or the labourers.

75. The population of the Island amounted to :

	M.	F.
Adults ... ..	81	35
Children ... ..	25	23
	<u>106</u>	<u>58</u>
Total	164	

of which are employed :

	M.	F.
Adults ... ..	80	33
Children ... ..	6	...
	<u>86</u>	<u>33</u>
Total	119	

out of this number were under written engagement :

Males ... ..	19
Females ... ..	9
	<u>28</u>

The population was composed of :

	Adults		Children	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Creoles ... ..	36	32	25	23
Malgaches ... ..	40	2	...	...
Mozambiques ... ..	4	1	...	...
Indians ... ..	1	...	...	...
	<u>81</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>23</u>
	<u>116</u>		<u>48</u>	
Total	164			

76. I inspected the camp which I found in good state of repair; the huts being according to the regulations.

77. The hospital was found by me to be in good order, and the supply of medicines sufficient.

78. The prison has been rebuilt since my last inspection. It consists of a stone building containing three rooms which measure only 7x6 feet. I desired the Manager to remove the partitions and to divide the building into two rooms only.



Eighteen cases of imprisonment have been registered since 1st of January 1881 :—

10 for disturbance.

3 for insubordination.

2 for insolence.

3 for repeated absences from work.

I warned the Manager as to the illegality of these three last cases. He gave for excuse that the parties were constantly absent from their work and behaved disorderly in the camp.

79. From the Pay Book it appeared that the sum of Rs.24,782.27c. has been paid for wages to the labourers from the 1st January 1881 to the 30th April 1883, showing monthly payments of Rs.885.08c. The amount deducted for sickness and absences was Rs.1,946.81c. giving monthly deductions of Rs. 69.53c.

The wages were paid monthly.

80. The sales in the shop from the 1st January 1881 to the 30th April 1883 have produced the sum of Rs. 16,105.57c., giving monthly purchases of Rs. 575.20c.

The sales are made for cash, and at about 25 o/o above Mauritius prices.

81. The number of bags of rice in store added to the quantity brought by the Ship "Eva Joshua" whilst I was at the Island exceeded the amount required by the regulations.

82. The task works are fair and reasonable, and the Sunday Corvée according to the regulations.

83. The Registers of the Civil Status showed that the following Acts have been registered since the 1st January 1881 :

#### BIRTHS :

Males	...	...	...	...	...	11
-------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Females	...	...	...	...	...	7
---------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Total 18 all natural

#### DEATHS :

	M.	F.
Adults	6	1

Children	9	4
----------	---	---

15	5
----	---

Total 20



The causes of death have been as follows :—

	Adults		Children	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Fever ... ..	...	...	2	...
Unknown ... ..	1	...	...	...
Debility ... ..	...	...	1	...
Old age ... ..	...	1	...	...
Cramp ... ..	...	...	4	4
Consumption ... ..	4	...	1	...
Dysentery ... ..	...	...	1	...
Poisoning (accidental) ...	1	...	...	...
	6	1	9	4
	7		13	
	Total 20			

The cause of the death given as "unknown" was reported on by me in February 1881. The death was only registered after I had examined the Registers of the Civil Status.

I made into the cause of the death given as "poisoning" an enquiry which I have referred to the Honorable the Procureur General. The death was caused by an excessive dose of laudanum, taken by the deceased out of a small flask which had been imprudently left in his possession by the then assistant manager of the Island.

No still-births and no marriages have been registered by the Officer of the Civil Status.

84. The production of the Island has been

for 1881 ... ..	...	22,336 veltes
for 1882 ... ..	...	19,750 „
and is estimated for 1883 at ... ..	...	23,000 „

85. The communications with Mauritius take place three times during the year.

86. On the 12th of May at 7 o'clock a. m. I left "Peros Banhos" Islands.

### SALOMON ISLANDS

87. I arrived at "Salomon" Islands on the 12th May 1883, at 4 o'clock p. m.

88. The same afternoon, when all the labourers were assembled, I enquired from them if they had any complaint to make. They all said that they had none.

No complaint was brought by the Manager.



89. The population of the Island amounted to :—

				M.	F.
Adults	...	...	...	44	16
Children	...	...	...	5	6
				49	22

Total 71

Of which were employed :—

				M.	F.
Adults	...	...	...	43	13
Children	...	...	...	...	...
				43	13

Total 56

None were under written engagement.

The population was composed as follows :—

				Adults.		Children.	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Creoles	...	...	...	19	12	3	5
Malgaches	...	...	...	21	3	2	1
Mozambiques	...	...	...	2	1	0	0
Indians	...	...	...	2	0	0	0
				44	16	5	6

60

11

Total... 71

90. The camp on inspection was found to be in good state of repair.

91. The hospital was not in good order. The Manager, on my remark to him, said that it was never used. That he did not insist on the laborers coming to the hospital, for which they showed disinclination, and that he attended on them in their huts.

I desired him however to comply with the regulations.

92. The prison has been rebuilt, and is in compliance with the regulations.

Two labourers were imprisoned since my last visit in July 1882 : one for disturbance and one for insubordination.

93. The Pay Book, after examination, showed that Rs 4799.04c. have been paid to the laborers since 1st July 1882, showing monthly payments of Rs 479.90c. and that Rs 306.76c. had been deducted for sickness and absences, giving monthly deductions of Rs 30.67c.

94. Goods for the sum of Rs 3767.84c. have been sold in the shop from 1st July 1882 to the 30th April 1883, or an average monthly sum of Rs 376.78c.

The goods are sold for cash, and at about 35 o/o above Mauritius prices.



95. The stores contained a stock of rice sufficient for 5 months' rations, and a further supply was expected in the course of the month.

96. The task work is fair and reasonable, and the Sunday Corvée is according to the regulations.

97. The Registers of the Civil Status showed that no births, no still-births, and no marriages had been registered for the past 10 months.

One death had happened, that of a male labourer who died of consumption.

98. The production of the Island is estimated by the Manager at 17,000 veltes for the present year.

99. The communications of the Island with Mauritius take place three times during the year.

100. On the 13th May, at noon, I left Salomon Islands for Diego Garcia where I arrived the next day; and on the 19th May, at 8 o'clock a.m. I left Diego Garcia for Mauritius where the "Stella" anchored on the 25th May at 11.30 in the night.

All of which is respectfully submitted for the information of His Excellency the Governor.

Bambous, Black River,  
11th June 1883

IVANOFF DUPONT,

Acting Magistrate for the Lesser  
Dependencies of Mauritius.

*Return of Cases heard by the Acting Magistrate for the Lesser  
Dependencies of Mauritius at "Eagle" Island.*

No. of Cases.	Complainant.	Accused.	Offence.	Decision.
3	R. Decamps Larrouget.	Chéri Abel.	Neglecting to perform sti- pulated work.	Proved. Accused sentenced to 14 days imprisonment and to pay costs (Art. 10 Ord. 15 of 1852, and Order in Council of 1838.)

IVANOFF DUPONT,

Actg. Magistrate for the Lesser Dependencies.

#### **Annex 4**

Letters Patent, 16 September 1885

Letters Patent 16th September 1885

VICTORIA, by the grace of God, &c.

Recites of Letters Patent of 22nd March 1879.

WHEREAS the Council of Government of Our Colony of Mauritius is now constituted and possesses powers of legislation under and according to the provisions of certain Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, bearing date the 22nd day of March 1879.\*

\* [see p. 12.]

AND WHEREAS We are minded to alter the constitution of the said Council of Government;

NOW KNOW YE that We do by these Our Letters Patent declare Our will and pleasure as follows:—

Council of Govern- 1.— There shall be in and for the Colony  
ment established. of Mauritius a Council of Government con-  
stituted as hereinafter mentioned.

Constitution of the 2.—The Council shall consist of the Go-  
Council. vernor, of eight *ex officio* members, of nine  
nominated members, and of ten elected members.

The *ex-officio* members shall be the Senior Military Officer for the time being in command of Our regular troops in the Colony, the persons for the time being lawfully discharging the functions of the respective offices of Colonial Secretary, Procureur General, Receiver General, Auditor General, Collector of Customs, Protector of Immigrants, Surveyor General, or such officers as We may by Instructions under Our Sign Manual and Signet from time to time think fit to appoint.

The nominated members, of whom one third at least shall be persons not holding any office in the public service of the Colony, shall be such persons, not exceeding nine in number at any one time, as We may from time to time appoint by any Instruction or Warrant under Our Sign Manual and Signet, or as the Governor in pursuance of the powers hereby vested in him may from time to time provisionally appoint.

The elected members shall be persons to be elected as hereinafter provided.

Precedence of mem- 3.— The *ex-officio* Members of the Council  
bers. shall take precedence of the other members  
and shall rank amongst themselves in the  
order in which they are hereinbefore named. The other members  
shall rank amongst themselves in the order of date of their  
appointment or election, and two or more members appointed  
or elected on the same day shall rank in the alphabetical order  
of their names.

Tenure of seats 4.—The nominated Members of the Council [L. P. 23 Sept.  
of nominated shall hold their seats until the next dissolution 1894, cl. 1.]  
members. of the Council after their appointment, unless  
previously removed by virtue of an Instruct-  
ion or Warrant under Our Sign Manual and Signet, or  
suspended by the Governor under the power for that pur-  
pose hereby vested in him, \* or unless they shall previously [see cl. 7. p. 18.]  
resign their seats. Nominated Members may be re-appointed  
ed.

Provisional appoint- 5.—For the purpose of constituting the  
ment by Governor of Council without unnecessary delay, the Go-  
nominated members. vernor may forthwith by instruments under  
the Public seal appoint provisionally fit per-  
sons, not exceeding nine in number, to be nominated Members



Letters Patent, 1885.

of the Council. Every such appointment may be disallowed or confirmed by Us through one of Our Principal Secretaries of State, and, until so confirmed, may be revoked by the Governor by an instrument under the said seal.

Public officers must accept seat in Council if so required. 6.— Any person holding any office in the public service of the Colony to which he shall have been appointed after the publication of these presents in the Colony may be required to serve as a nominated Member of the Council, and if any such person having been appointed by Us or by the Governor a member shall decline to act in that capacity he shall *ipso facto* vacate his office.

Suspension of nominated members. 7.—The Governor may, by an instrument under the Public seal, suspend any nominated member from the exercise of his functions as a Member of the Council. Every such suspension shall be forthwith reported by the Governor to Us through one of Our Principal Secretaries of State, and shall remain in force unless and until either it shall be removed by the Governor by an instrument under the said seal or it shall be disallowed by Us through one of Our Principal Secretaries of State, and such disallowance shall be published in the Gazette.

[L. P. 23 Sept.  
1894, cl. 2]

Provisional appointment of nominated members to fill temporary vacancies. 8.—Whenever any nominated Member shall, by writing under his hand, resign his seat in the Council, or shall die or be suspended from the exercise of his functions as a Member of the Council, or be declared by the Governor by an instrument under the public Seal to be incapable of exercising his functions as a member of the Council, or be temporarily absent from the Colony, the Governor may, by an instrument under the Public Seal, appoint some person to be provisionally a Member of the Council in the place of the Member so resigning or dying, or being suspended or declared incapable, or temporarily absent.

Every such provisional appointment may be disallowed by Us through one of Our Principal Secretaries of State, or may be revoked by the Governor by any such instrument as aforesaid.

Position of provisional members. 9.—Every person provisionally appointed shall be to all intents and purposes a Member of the Council until his appointment shall be disallowed, or revoked, or superseded by the permanent appointment of a nominated Member of the Council, or until the person in whose place he had been appointed shall be relieved from suspension or declared by the Governor by an instrument under the

Public seal to be capable of exercising the functions of a Member of the Council, or shall return to the Colony, as the case may be.

Qualification of elect-  
ed members.

10.—No person shall be capable of being elected a Member of the Council, or, having been elected, shall sit or vote in the Council, who—

(1) Is the holder of any office of emolument under the Crown, or under a Municipal Corporation within the Colony ; or,

(2) Is a minister of religion ; or,

(3) Is the returning officer of the district for which the election is held ; or,

(4) Is not entitled to vote at the election of a member of the Council for some electoral district.

The term “ office of emolument ” in this and the twelfth section does not extend to the Mayor or any other Member of a Municipal Corporation, and does not include a pension or other allowance to an officer who has ceased to be in the service of the Crown or of a Municipal Corporation.

Penalty for unquali-  
fied person sitting or  
voting.

11.—Every person who, having been re-  
turned as an elected Member of the Council,  
but not having been at the time of his election  
qualified to be an elected member, shall sit or vote in the Council, shall for every day on which he sits or votes, and every person who shall sit or vote in the Council after his seat has become vacant shall for every day on which he sits or votes after his seat has become vacant, be liable to a penalty of Rs 500 to be recovered by action in the Supreme Court of the Colony by any person who shall sue for the same.

Seat of elected mem-  
ber, how vacated.

12.—If any elected Member of the Council shall, by writing under his hand, addressed to the Governor, resign his seat in the Council, or shall, without the leave of the Governor previously obtained, be absent from the sittings of the Council during a whole session, or shall make any declaration or acknowledgment of allegiance to any Foreign State or Power, or shall become a citizen or subject of any Foreign State or Power, or shall be adjudicated a bankrupt, \* or shall be sentenced in any part of Our dominions to death, penal servitude, or imprisonment with hard labour, or for a term exceeding twelve months, or shall for the period of one month remain a party to any contract with the Government of the Colony, or shall accept any office of emolument under the Crown or under a Municipal Corporation within the Colony, his seat in the Council shall thereupon become vacant.

\* [cf. No. 23 of 1887  
art. 36: Vol. 2 p.  
941.]

Letters Patent, 1885.

Writ for election to supply vacancy. Whenever it shall be shown to the satisfaction of the Governor that the seat of an elected member has become vacant, the Governor shall, as soon as possible, issue a writ for the election of a new member in the place of the member whose seat has become vacant, but if any question shall arise as to the fact of such vacancy, it shall be referred to and decided by the Council.

Oath of allegiance to be taken by Members of Council. 13—No Member of the Council shall sit or vote therein until he shall have taken and subscribed the following oath before the Governor, or some person authorized by the Governor to administer such oath:—\*

\*[cf. No. 12 of 1869, art. 9 and Sched. Fourth Part. Vol. 3. p. 1139.] "I, A. B., do sincerely promise and swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, her heirs and successors according to law.  
"So help me God."

Provided that every person authorized by law to make an affirmation instead of taking an oath may make such affirmation  
†[cf. ib. art. 13.] instead of the said oath. †

Electoral districts. 14.—For the purpose of the election of members of the Council, the nine districts of the Island of Mauritius ‡ shall form nine electoral districts.  
‡[cf. No. 27 of 1875, Vol. 3. p. 1767.]

Two members shall be elected for the district of Port Louis, and one member for each of the other districts.

Qualification of electors. 15.—Every male person shall be entitled to be registered in any year as a voter for any electoral district, and when registered to vote at the election of a Member of the Council for such district, who is qualified as follows, that is to say:—

- (1) Has attained the age of twenty-one years.
- (2) Is under no legal incapacity, and is in possession of his civil rights.
- (3) Is a British subject by birth or naturalization.
- (4) Has resided in the colony for three years at least previous to the date of registration, and possesses some one of the following qualifications:—

(a) is on the 1st day of January in such year, and has during the preceding six calendar months been, the owner of immoveable property within such district of the annual value of Rs 300,

or the monthly value of Rs 25 above all charges and encumbrances affecting the same :

(b) is at the date of registration paying, and has for six calendar months previous to the 1st day of January in such year paid, rent in respect of immoveable property, situate within such district, at the rate of at least Rs 25 per month :

(c) has for three calendar months previous to the 1st day of January in such year resided, or had his principal place of business or employment within such district, and is the owner of moveable property within the colony of the value of at least Rs 3,000 :

(d) is the husband of a wife, or the eldest son of a widow, possessing any one of the above qualifications :

(e) has for three calendar months previous to the 1st day of January in such year resided, or had his principal place of business or employment within such district, and is in receipt of a yearly salary of at least Rs 600, or a monthly salary of at least Rs 50 per month :

(f) has for three calendar months previous to the 1st day of January in such year resided, or had his principal place of business or employment within such district, and pays license duty to the amount of at least Rs 200 per annum.

Provided—

(1) That no person shall be registered as a voter or be entitled to vote for the election of a Member of the Council who has been convicted of perjury in any Court in Our Dominions, or who has been sentenced by any such Court to death, or penal servitude, or imprisonment with hard labour, or for a term exceeding twelve months, and has not either suffered the punishment to which he was sentenced or such other punishment as by competent authority may have been substituted for the same or received a free pardon from Us.

(2) That no person shall be registered as a voter in any year who has within twelve calendar months immediately preceding the 1st day of January in that year received any relief from public or parochial funds.

(3) That no person shall be registered as a voter in any year unless he shall in the presence of the registering officer or of a magistrate with his own hand subscribe his name to his claim to be registered, and write thereon the date of such subscription, and the qualification in respect of which he claims to be registered.

(4) That no person claiming to be registered in the district in which he resides, in respect of either of the qualifications (c), (d), (e), (f), shall be registered in respect of the same qualification in the district in which he has his principal place of business or employment, or *vice versa*.

Letters Patent, 1885.

Registers of voters  
to be made in each  
district.

\*[See *post* No. 5  
of 1887, and No. 22  
of 1895.]

16.—In each of the said electoral districts a register shall be made in every year of the persons entitled to vote at the election of a Member of the Council for such district.\* The first registers to be made shall come into force on a day to be appointed by the Governor by proclamation, and shall remain in force until the registers to be made in the following year come into force, and all registers after the first shall come into force at such times as shall be appointed by any law to be enacted by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council, and until any such law shall be enacted, at such times as shall be appointed by the Governor by proclamation, and shall remain in force for one year.

Returning officers.

†[*cf. post* No. 6 of  
1889, arts. 4-6.]

17.—The Governor shall from time to time appoint a fit and proper person to be the returning officer of each electoral district, and may at any time cancel any such appointment †; and if any returning officer shall by sickness or other cause, be prevented or disabled from acting, or shall refuse or neglect to act at any election, the Governor may at any time appoint some fit and proper person to act in the place of such returning officer at such election. Every appointment of a returning officer shall be valid until his death or resignation, or until such appointment shall be cancelled by the Governor. Every appointment or cancellation of appointment of a returning officer shall be notified in the Gazette.

§[With regard to  
elections, see also  
*post* No. 6 of 1889.]

Writs of election. §

18.—For the purpose of every general election of Members of the Council, and for the purpose of the election of members to supply vacancies caused by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Governor shall issue writs of election under the Public seal, addressed to the returning officers of the respective electoral districts for which members are to be returned. Every such writ shall specify the day and place of election, and the day on which it is returnable to the Governor; upon receipt of such writ every returning officer shall proceed to hold the election thereby directed; and after such election he shall certify the return of each member elected by endorsement on the writ, and shall return the writ so endorsed to the Governor within the time for that purpose specified therein. He shall also, as soon as possible, give public notice of each candidate elected, and in the case of a contested election of the number of votes given for each candidate whether elected or not.

Nomination of can-  
didates.

19.—Every candidate for election as a Member of the Council shall be nominated in writing by not less than six registered electors of the electoral district for which he seeks to be elected.

Poll at elections. Ballot. 20.—In the case of a poll at an election of a Member of the Council the votes shall be given by ballot. The ballot of each voter shall consist of a paper (in these Letters Patent called a ballot paper) showing the names and description of the candidates. Each ballot paper shall have a number printed on the back, and shall have attached to it a counterfoil with the same number printed on the face. At the time of voting the ballot paper shall be marked on both sides with an official mark and delivered to the voter within the polling station, and the number of such voter on the register of voters shall be marked on the counterfoil, and the voter having secretly marked his vote on the paper, and folded up the paper so as to conceal his vote, shall place it in a closed box in the presence of the officer presiding at the polling station after having shown to him the official mark at the back.

Each voter in the Port Louis district may, if he so desires, vote for two candidates when two members are to be elected, but in no other case shall any voter have more than one vote in any one district.

Any ballot paper which has not on its back the official mark, or on which votes are given to more candidates than there are members to be elected, or on which anything except the said number on the back is written or marked, by which the voter can be identified, shall be void and not counted.

After the close of the poll the ballot boxes shall be sealed so as to prevent the introduction of additional ballot papers and shall be taken charge of by the returning officer, who shall, in the presence of such agents (if any) of the candidates as may be in attendance, open the ballot boxes and ascertain the result of the poll by counting the votes given to each candidate, and shall forthwith declare to be elected the candidate to whom the majority of the votes have been given.

The decision of the returning officer as to any question arising in respect of any ballot paper shall be final, subject to reversal on petition questioning the election or return.

Provision for voters physically incapacitated from voting or unable to read. 21.—If any voter is incapacitated by blindness or other physical cause from voting in the manner prescribed by these Letters Patent, or by any law or proclamation in force for the time being, or if any voter shall, at the time of polling, in the presence of the officer presiding at the polling station, sign with his name or mark, attested by such presiding officer, a declaration that he is unable to read the ballot paper, such



Letters Patent, 1885.

presiding officer shall, at the request of such voter, in the presence of the agents of the candidates, cause his vote to be marked on a ballot paper in manner directed by such voter, and the ballot paper so marked to be placed in the ballot box, and the name and number on the register of voters of every voter whose vote is so marked for him, and the reason why it is so marked, shall be entered on a list which shall be delivered to the returning officer.

Casting vote of re- turning officer. 22.—Whenever there is an equality of votes between candidates at any election of a Member of the Council, and the addition of a vote would entitle any of such candidates to be declared elected, the returning officer, if he is a registered elector of the electoral district for which the election is held, may give such additional vote, but the returning officer shall not, in any other case, be entitled to vote at an election for which he is the returning officer.

Petitions against disputed elections. 23.—A petition complaining of an undue return or undue election of a Member of the Council, in these Letters Patent called an election petition, may be presented to the Supreme Court by any one or more of the following persons, that is to say,—(1) some person who voted or had a right to vote at the election to which the petition relates, (2) some person claiming to have had a right to be returned at such election, (3) some person alleging himself to have been a candidate at such election.

Trial of election petitions. 24.—Every election petition shall be tried by a Judge of the Supreme Court sitting alone without a jury in open Court.\* At the conclusion of the trial, the Judge shall determine whether the Member of Council whose return or election is complained of or any and what other person was duly returned or elected, or whether the election was void, and shall certify such determination to the Governor, and, upon such certificate being given, such determination shall be final; and the return shall be confirmed or altered, or a writ for a new election shall be issued, as the case may require, in accordance with such determination.

\*[cf. No. 6 of 1889 art. 46 post, which provides that the petition is to be tried like an action entered by plaint with summons.]

Power of Judge. 25.—At the trial of an election petition the Judge shall, subject to the provisions of these Presents or of any proclamation to be made by the Governor under these Letters Patent, have the same powers, jurisdiction, and authority, and witnesses shall be subpoenaed and sworn in the same manner as nearly as circumstances will admit, as in a

Summoning witnesses.

trial of a civil action in the Supreme Court, and shall be subject to the same penalties for perjury.

Provision for holding elections, for registration of voters, and for determining disputed elections to be made by local laws, or by the Governor's proclamation.

26.—Subject to the provisions of these Pre-sents, the election of Members of the Council shall be held and the registration of voters for the election of such members shall be effected at such times, in such places, and in such manner and form, and by such officers, and with such provisions for ascertaining the qualifications of voters and candidates, and all questions and disputes as to the validity or as to the results of elections of elected members shall be determined by such tribunals and in such manner, as shall be ordained by any law or laws to be enacted by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council,\* and, in the meantime, and until provision has been made for the purposes aforesaid by the enactment of any such law or laws as aforesaid, as shall be directed by any proclamation or proclamations to be issued by the Governor and published in the Gazette. Every proclamation made in pursuance of this clause shall from the publication thereof have the same force and effect as if it had been embodied in and formed part of these Letters Patent.

\* [cf. the laws contained in this group : *post.*]

Definition of bribery. 27.—The following persons shall be deemed guilty of bribery within the meaning of these Letters Patent :—

(1) Every person who directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives, lends, or agrees to give or lend, or offers, promises, or promises to procure or to endeavour to procure, any money or valuable consideration to or for any voter, or to or for any person on behalf of any voter, or to or for any other person in order to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting, or corruptly does any such act as aforesaid on account of such voter having voted or refrained from voting at any election.

(2) Every person who directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives or procures, or agrees to give or procure, or offers, promises, or promises to procure or to endeavour to procure, any office, place, or employment to or for any voter, or to or for any person on behalf of any voter, or to or for any other person in order to induce such voter to vote or refrain from voting, or corruptly does any such act as aforesaid on account of any voter having voted or refrained from voting at any election.

(3) Every person who directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, makes any such gift, loan,



Letters Patent, 1885.

offer, promise, procurement, or agreement as aforesaid to or for any person in order to induce such person to procure, or endeavour to procure, the return of any person as an elected Member of the Council, or the vote of any voter at any election.

(4) Every person who, upon or in consequence of any such gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement, or agreement, procures or engages, promises or endeavours to procure the return of any person as an elected Member of the Council, or the vote of any voter at any election.

(5) Every person who advances or pays, or causes to be paid, any money to or to the use of any other person, with the intent that such money, or any part thereof, shall be expended in bribery at any election, or who knowingly pays, or causes to be paid, any money to any person, or discharge or repayment of any money wholly or in part expended in bribery at any election.

(6) Every voter who, before or during any election, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person in his behalf, receives, agrees, or contracts for any money, gift, loan, or valuable consideration, office, place, or employment for himself or for any other person, for voting or agreeing to vote, or for refraining or agreeing to refrain from voting at any election.

(7) Every person who, after any election directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, receives any money or valuable consideration on account of any person having voted or refrained from voting or having induced any other person to vote or refrain from voting at any election.

(8) Every person who directly or indirectly corruptly pays any rate or tax on behalf of any other person for the purpose of enabling him to be registered as a voter in order thereby to influence his vote at any future election, and every person on whose behalf, and with whose privity, any such payment as last aforesaid is made.

Definition of treating. 28.— The following persons shall be deemed guilty of treating within the meaning of these Letters Patent :—

(1) Every person who corruptly, by himself or by any other person, either before, during or after an election, directly or indirectly gives or provides or pays wholly or in part the expense of giving or providing any food, drink, entertainment, or provision to or for any person for the purpose of corruptly influen-

cing that person, or any other person, to vote or refrain from voting, at such election, or on account of such person or any other person having voted or refrained from voting at such election.

(2) Every elector who corruptly accepts or takes any such food, drink, entertainment or provision.

Definition of undue influence. 29.—Every person who directly or indirectly,

ly, by himself, or by any other person on his behalf, makes use of or threatens to make use of, any force, violence, or restraint, or inflicts or threatens to inflict, by himself or by any other person, any temporal or spiritual injury, damage, harm, or loss upon or against any person, in order to induce or compel such person to vote or refrain from voting or on account of such person having voted or refrained from voting at any election, or who by abduction, duress, or any fraudulent contrivance, impedes or prevents the free exercise of the franchise of any elector or thereby compels, induces or prevails upon any elector, or thereby compels, induces, or prevails upon any elector either to give or refrain from giving his vote at any election shall be guilty of undue influence within the meaning of these Letters Patent.

Definition of personation. 30.—Every person who at an election applies for a ballot paper in the name of another person, whether that name be the name of a person living or dead, or of a fictitious person, or who, having voted once at any election, applies at the same election for a ballot paper in his own name, shall be guilty of personation within the meaning of these Letters Patent.

Penalty for bribery, treating or undue influence. 31.—Every person who is guilty of bribery, treating, or undue influence, shall, on conviction thereof, be liable to be imprisoned, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding one year, or to be fined any sum not exceeding Rs. 2,000.

Penalty for personation. 32.—Every person who is guilty of personation, or of aiding, abetting, counselling, or procuring the commission of the offence of personation, shall, on conviction thereof, be liable to be imprisoned, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding two years.

Disqualification for bribery, &c. 33.—Every person who is convicted of bribery, treating, undue influence, or personation, or of aiding, counselling, or procuring the commission of the offence of personation, shall (in

Letters Patent, 1885.

addition to any other punishment) be incapable during a period of seven years from the date of his conviction—

(1) Of being registered as a voter, or voting at any election of a Member of the Council.

(2) Of being elected a Member of the Council, or, if elected before his conviction, of retaining his seat as such member.

Penalty for certain  
illegal practices at  
elections.

34.—Every person who—

(1) Votes, or induces or procures any person to vote, at any election, knowing that he or such other person is prohibited by these Letters Patent, or by any law, from voting at such election ;

(2) Before or during an election knowingly publishes a false statement of the withdrawal of a candidate at such election for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of another candidate ;

shall be guilty of an illegal practice, and shall, on summary conviction thereof, be liable to a fine not exceeding Rs 1,000, and be incapable, during a period of five years from the date of his conviction, of being registered as a voter, or voting at any election of a Member of the Council for the electoral district in which the illegal practice was committed.

Offences in respect of  
ballot papers, &c., &c.

35.—Every person who—

(1) Forges or counterfeits, or fraudulently defaces or destroys, any ballot paper or the official mark on any ballot paper ; or,

(2) Without due authority supplies a ballot paper to any person ; or,

(3) Fraudulently puts into any ballot box any paper other than the ballot paper which he is authorized by law to put in ; or,

(4) Fraudulently takes out of the polling station any ballot paper ; or,

(5) Without due authority destroys, takes, opens, or otherwise interferes with any ballot box or packet of ballot papers then in use for the purposes of any election ;

shall be guilty of misdemeanour, and be liable, if he is a returning officer or presiding officer or clerk employed at a polling

station, to imprisonment for any term not exceeding two years, with or without hard labour, or to a fine not exceeding Rs 2,000, and if he is any other person, to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months, with or without hard labour, or to a fine not exceeding Rs 500.

Any attempt to commit any offence specified in this clause shall be punishable in the manner in which the offence itself is punishable.

In any information or prosecution for an offence in relation to the ballot boxes, ballot papers, and other things in use at an election, the property in such ballot boxes, ballot papers, or things may be stated to be in the returning officer at such election.

Infringement of secrecy.

**36.**— Every officer, clerk, and agent, in attendance at a polling station shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting in such station, and shall not communicate, except for some purpose authorised by law, before the poll is closed, to any person any information as to the name or number on the register of voters of any voter who has or has not applied for a ballot paper or voted at that station, and no person whosoever shall interfere with or attempt to interfere with a voter when marking his vote, or otherwise attempt to obtain in the polling station any information as to the candidate for whom any voter in such station is about to vote or has voted, or as to the number on the back of the ballot paper given to any voter at such station.

Every officer, clerk, and agent in attendance at the counting of the votes shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting, and shall not attempt to ascertain at such counting the number on the back of any ballot paper or communicate any information obtained at such counting as to the candidate for whom any vote is given in any particular ballot paper. No person shall, directly or indirectly, induce any voter to display his ballot paper after he has marked it so as to make known to any person the name of the candidate for or against whom he has so marked his vote.

Every person who acts in contravention of the provisions of this clause shall be liable, on summary conviction before two or more Justices of the Peace,\* to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months, with or without hard labour.

\*[Bench of Magistrates : cf. No. 6 of 1889, art. 45.]

Power to make laws. **37.**— It shall be lawful for the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council, to make laws for the peace, order, and good Government of the Colony.



Letters Patent, 1885.

Assent to laws.

38.— No law made by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council, shall take effect untill either the Governor shall have assented thereto in Our name and on Our behalf, and shall have signed the same in token of such assent, or until We shall have given Our assent thereto by Our Order in Our Privy Council or through one of Our Principal Secretaries of State.

Disallowance of laws.

39.— When the Governor assents to a law he shall, by the first convenient opportunity, transmit to one of Our Principal Secretaries of State a copy of the law, authenticated under the Public seal and by his own signature, and if at any time within two years after such copy shall have been received by Our said Secretary of State, We shall notify to the Governor Our disallowance of such law through one of Our Principal Secretaries of State, every law so disallowed shall become null and void from and after the day on which the Governor shall signify such disallowance by proclamation in the Gazette.

Ordinances reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure.

40.— The Governor may reserve any Ordinance passed by the Council for the signification of Our pleasure thereon, and shall so reserve any such Ordinance by which any provision of these Our Letters Patent is repealed, altered, or amended, or which is in any way repugnant to or inconsistent with any of the provisions of these presents. An Ordinance so reserved shall take effect so soon as We shall have given Our assent thereto, either by Our Order in Our Privy Council or through one of Our Principal Secretaries of State, and the Governor shall have signified such assent by proclamation in the Gazette.

[L. P. 4 June 1896  
cl. 1.]

Questions, &c., for  
debate.

41.— It shall be competent for any Member of the Council to propose any question for debate therein; and such question, if seconded by any other Member, shall be debated and disposed of according to the standing Rules and Orders: Provided always, that no Ordinance, vote, resolution, or question, the object or effect of which may be to dispose of or charge any part of Our revenue arising within the Colony, shall be proposed, except by the Governor or with his consent.

Governor or his  
appointee or senior  
member present to  
preside.

42.— The Governor, if present, or, in his absence, any Member of the Council appointed by him in writing, or, in default of such appointment, the member present who stands first in order of precedence, shall preside at every meeting of the Council.

Letters Patent, 1885.

Voting

43.—All questions proposed for decision in the Council shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the members present, and the Governor or other presiding member shall have an original vote on all such questions, and also a casting vote if the votes shall be equally divided.

Casting vote.

Council may transact business notwithstanding vacancies.

44.—The Council shall not be disqualified for the transaction of business by reason of any vacancy or vacancies among the *ex-officio*, nominated, or elected members.

Quorum.

45.—Until otherwise provided by the Council, no business except that of adjournment shall be transacted, unless there shall be present nine members besides the Governor or presiding member.

Rules to be observed by Council.

46.—Subject to the provisions of these presents the Council shall, in the transaction of business and passing of laws, conform as nearly as may be to the directions as to the transaction of business and passing of laws by the Council as hereafter constituted, conveyed to the Governor in certain Instructions under Our sign manual and signet, bearing date the 22nd day of March 1879,\* until otherwise provided by

Royal instructions of 22nd March 1879 &

Us, and to such further instructions, under Our sign manual and signet as may be hereafter addressed to the Governor in that behalf, but no law enacted by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council, shall be invalid by reason that in the enactment thereof any such Instructions were not duly observed. †

\* [Revoked by Instructions, 27 Dec. 1888, *post.*]

† [cf. 28 & 29 Vict. c. 63 *post.*]

Power to make standing orders.

47.—Subject to the provisions of these presents, and such Instructions as aforesaid, the Council may make standing rules and orders for the regulation of its own proceedings, and until any such rules and orders have been made the standing rules and orders of the now existing Council shall

Existing standing orders to remain in force until new orders made.

remain in force, and apply, so far as the same are applicable thereto, to the Council hereby constituted.

Sessions of Council.

48.—The sessions of the Council shall be held at such times and places as the Governor shall from time to time by proclamation appoint. There shall be at least one session in the Council in every year, and there shall not be an interval of twelve months between the last sitting in one session and the first sitting in the next session. The first session shall be held within six months after the Proclamation of these presents in the Colony.

Letters Patent, 1885.

Governor may prorogue or dissolve Council.

49.—The Governor may at any time, by proclamation, prorogue or dissolve the Council.

Duration of Council.

50.—The Governor shall dissolve the Council at the expiration of five years from the date of the return of the first writs at the last preceding general election, if it shall not have been sooner dissolved.

Times of first and subsequent general elections.

51.—The first general election of Members of the Council shall be held at such time, not more than three months after the Proclamation of these presents in the Colony, as the Governor shall by proclamation appoint, and a general election shall be held within two months after every dissolution of the Council, at such time as the Governor shall in like manner appoint.

Interpretation.

52.—In these presents—

“ The Colony ” means the Island of Mauritius and its Dependencies.

“ The Council ” means the Council of Government as hereby constituted.

“ The Governor ” means the person for the time being lawfully administering the Government of the Colony.

“ The Public Seal ” means the Public Seal of the Colony.

“ The Gazette ” means the Mauritius Government Gazette.

“ Minister of Religion ” means any clergyman, minister, priest, or other person who exercises spiritual functions or performs the offices of religion for or in respect to any Christian or other church, community, or body within the Colony.

Revocation of so much of the said Letters Patent of the 22nd day of March 1879 as relates to the constitution and functions of the Council.

53.—From and after the date of the return of the first writs for the election of members of the Council hereby constituted, so much of Our said Letters Patent of the 22nd day of March 1879 as relates to the constitution and functions of the Council (namely, the seventh and eighth articles thereof) shall cease to be in force, but without prejudice to anything lawfully done thereunder.

Reserves power to revoke, alter, or amend Letters Patent, and to make laws.

54.—We do hereby reserve to Ourselves, Our heirs and successors, full power and authority to revoke, alter, or amend these Our Letters Patent as to Us or them shall seem fit : and nothing herein contained shall affect Our or their undoubted right, by and with the advice and consent of Parliament, or with the advice of Our or their Privy Council, to make

Instructions, 1888.

from time to time all such laws as may to Us or them appear necessary for the peace, order, and good government of the Colony.

Publication of Letters Patent.

55.—And We do further direct and enjoin that these Our Letters Patent shall be read and proclaimed at such place or places as Our said Governor shall think fit within Our said Colony of Mauritius. [Proclaimed 30 Oct. 1885. Procl. 36 of 1885.]

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## **Annex 5**

Note on Copra Production in the Chagos Archipelago, December 1932, CO 167/879/4

COPY

Dec.  
32.

16

## CHAGOS ISLANDS

The freehold ownership of the Agalega Islands and the Islands of the Chagos Archipelago, respectively, is vested in three separate Companies established in Mauritius.

All the Islands mentioned are dependencies of the Government of Mauritius.

The three Companies owning the said Islands are:

- 1) The NOUVELLE SOCIETE HUILIERE DE DIEGO ET PEROS  
with a paid up Capital of £40,888.
- 2) The SOCIETE HUILIERE DE SALOMON  
with a paid up Capital of £19,259.
- 3) The SOCIETE D'AGALEGA  
with a paid up Capital of £44,074.

The several Islands in question are planted with cocoanut palms. The aggregate output of Copra of the Islands belonging to the three Companies is about 2,400 tons yearly. Only a small proportion of the copra, viz. about 470 tons is turned into oil on the Islands by a primitive process and produces about 269 tons of inferior grade cocoanut oil which is shipped to Mauritius for sale.

The balance of the copra, viz. 2,400 - 470 = 1,930 tons is also shipped to Mauritius where it is sold for export. These 2,400 tons of copra would produce, if pressed and refined in Mauritius by a modern oil factory, about 1,500 tons of edible oil, which could be turned into more valuable products such as margarine and stearine. It is proposed that the factory should be equipped so as to produce an oil which will not become cloudy and which will produce the valuable product stearine.

Under

Under present circumstances, these Companies cannot work at a profit, nearly 4/5ths of their copra production being sold for export at a very low price. It is therefore necessary, if the work of the Islands is to continue, that the Companies should be enabled, with a modern oil mill and refinery in Mauritius, to turn their copra into edible oil and other valuable derivative products.

In 1931 the total imports of various edible oils in Mauritius were as follows:

Groundnut oil	1,448 tons
Soya Oil	97 "
Mustard Seed Oil	418 "
Cocoanut oil from Island Dependencies of Mauritius	269 "
	<u>2,232</u>

The quantity of soya oil imported that year from England was practically nil - 48 tons. Imported oils nearly all come from foreign countries and the balance from India. These oils are sold locally in the Colony at practically the same price as the cocoanut oil from the Dependencies, viz. £33.10.0.

The establishment of an Oil Industry in Mauritius would, in the first place, create employment for our local labour whose present difficulties are well-known; and would greatly help towards the policy of creating new industries in a Colony which at present is practically entirely dependent upon sugar which represents 97% of its exports.

At the same time, the industry of the Oil Islands, now in a precarious position, would thereby be enabled to maintain itself by working at a profit. Unless the contemplated

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contemplated scheme is carried out there is a great danger of these islands ceasing to employ labour, and thus aggravating the present position of unemployment in the Colony.

It is contemplated that this new local industry would supply practically the whole of the local edible oil requirements. The factory to be established would be able to produce over 2,000 tons of oil yearly, of which 1,500 tons would be cocoanut oil and the balance could well be produced by the manufacture of groundnut oil, the nuts being produced locally by extension of groundnut cultivation with an assured market on the spot, and if need be imported to a certain extent.

For such an industry to establish itself on a sound basis, however, it is necessary that its products should be effectually safeguarded, otherwise it is much to be feared that foreign countries now exporting to Mauritius would dump their products to ruin the new concern. Therefore it is indispensable that adequate protective tariff be imposed by the Government.

On the other hand, the industry would pledge itself to sell its products at present prices of oils, subject naturally to world market fluctuations affecting similar products - the Government thus receiving a guarantee that the consumer should not be in any way victimised.

The necessary steps will also be taken by the new Concern to ensure a regular steamship service between Mauritius and the Islands, so as to secure a steady and entirely reliable supply.

In



In view of the fact that Mauritius is importing practically the whole of its foodstuffs, one cannot lay too much stress on the necessity of establishing such an industry - besides the other advantages above-mentioned.

The cost of putting up a modern oil and refining factory equipped with all modern machinery capable of manufacturing various valuable derivatives from oil would be about £30,000. It is proposed to ask the Colonial Development Fund to assist by lending a sum of £20,000, out of which an amount of about £12,000 will be spent in purchasing machinery in the United Kingdom.

## **Annex 6**

Report of Maurice Rousset, Acting Magistrate for Mauritius and the Lesser Dependencies, on the Chagos Group, 19 June 1939

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MAURITIUSNo. 9

Government House,

Port Louis,

14<sup>th</sup> January, 1940.

13 FEB 1940

C. O. REGD.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a report from Mr. Maurice Rousset, Acting Magistrate for Mauritius and the Lesser Dependencies, on a visit which he made to Diego Garcia, Peros Banhos and Salomon Islands in May 1939. These Islands were last visited in October, 1938 and the Magistrate's report on that visit was forwarded with my despatch No. 47 of the 3rd February, 1939.

2. The local Agents of the groups of Islands visited have been furnished with copies of the various portions of the Report which require attention.

3. A copy of paragraph 3 of the Magistrate's General Remarks regarding Health and Sanitation was communicated to the Director of the Medical and Health Department who reports that it will not be possible to arrange for the Dispenser-Stewards of the Islands to undergo a course of practical instruction in the duties of Sanitary Inspectors. The name of a suitable text book, a study of which it is considered will enable them to dispose of all normal sanitary problems, will be communicated/

The Right Honourable

MALCOLM MACDONALD, P.C.,

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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- 2 -

be communicated to the Companies and it is hoped to encourage the development of sanitary knowledge in the islands.

4. The Comptroller of Customs and Harbour Master comments in the following terms on the observations made by the Magistrate in paragraph 7 of the General Remarks in regard to the S.S. "Zambezia":-

"(i) Since the visit of the Magistrate to Diego in May 1939, the S.S. "Zambezia" has made more than a dozen voyages and is still afloat.

(ii) The leak mentioned was due to a slack rivet which was made good on the return trip of the steamer from Diego Garcia".

Mr. Doyle adds that in accordance with Board of Trade rules the hull of every vessel is surveyed annually in dry dock.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

*Burkhard*

Governor.



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**ENCLOSURE****TO MAURITIUS DESPATCH No 9 OF 4.1.40**

Report of Mr. Magistrate M. Rousset on the  
Chagos Group.

- Departure. 1.- In compliance with instructions received from the Hon. Procureur General, I left Mauritius on 22.5.39 on board S.S. "Zambezia", 879 tons register. A. Nicolin, master, M. Ross, Mate.
- Arrival. 2.- I arrived at Pointe de l'Est, Diego Island, on 29/5, in the early morning.
- Last visit. 3.- Diego Island had been last visited by Mr. Magistrate M. Lavoipierre in October, 1938.
- Manager. 4.- Mr. Lois Dumee. Assistant Mr. Charoux.
- Population. 5.- On my arrival the population consisted of 157 men, 177 women, 82 boys and 74 girls.
- Civil status. 6.- The Civil Status registers examined by me showed that from October 1938 to June 1939, 10 births have been registered.
- Deaths. 7.- 12 deaths have been registered during the same period.
- Still births. 8.- Two still births were registered.
- Marriages 9.- Five marriages have been celebrated since last visit.
- Causes of death. 10.- Causes of death were registered to be: Pneumonia (2); Dysentery (1); Septicaemia (2); Intestinal Haemorrhage (1); Infantile debility (1).
- Remarks. 11.- As a whole I found that the Civil Status registers were kept in a fairly good way. I had to correct or rectify only two acts.

12.-

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● Live stock. 12.- As far as could be ascertained at the time of my visit the animals numbered 60 asses, 40 horses, 68 pigs and poultry.

On all the Islands I visited fresh meat is sold to the population at least once a week at about 0.25cs per lb.

Prison. 13.- I visited the prison building which I found clean. Invariably all the buildings on these islands are given a fresh coat of paint in expectation of the Magistrate's arrival.

An enquiry revealed that in all cases prisoners confined in the cells have received treatment as provided by law. I examined the prison register and approved of various sentences of imprisonment inflicted by the Manager. 3 cases of disturbance (quarrel in camp) and one case of insubordination were dealt with and the delinquents were sentenced to undergo short terms of imprisonment ranging from one to six days' imprisonment. I have been satisfied that in no case the Manager abused his powers.

Administration of justice. 14.- I received only one complaint. On the morning of our departure a labourer complained to me that his shed had been broken open and various articles (rice, utensils etc) had been stolen. In spite of close searches made under my own supervision and guidance no satisfactory evidence could be gathered.

The victim of this larceny had come from a camp situate at about 5 miles from the main establishment for purposes of loading the ship. I urged on the

Manager /

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-3-

manager the necessity of having a watchman to keep constant watch of uninhabited huts during absence of their occupants at work else such occurrences would be bound to recur. A labourer was suspected of being the author of the larceny; it appeared that he had been dismissed from service some time ago for gross misconduct and had managed to return on the island by some means or other. As the presence of this man on the island was a source of trouble to the manager and to his fellow labourers he was ordered to return to Mauritius.

Hospital

15.- The hospital was clean and well kept and was under the care of a new warder. I visited the hospital daily and paid close attention to the work done by the dispenser whom I found efficient and industrious. It was a moving sight to see <sup>two</sup> ~~how~~ centenarians coming every afternoon to rest in the hospital bed when they are given tea; one of them was suffering from "cataract"; in spite of all persuasive argument and solicitations the old man refused obstinately to come to Mauritius when I tried to convince him that he could successfully be operated upon. He refused, saying that he preferred to die on his island and be buried together with his wife.

Register.

16.- The hospital register was kept up to date and showed that from October 1938 to June 1939, 88 patients were admitted for treatment, the commonest diseases being influenza, ankylostomiasis (amongst adults) dysentery.

17.-

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+ Another 637 bags

-4-

Pharmacy

17.- At the time of my visit the value of medicine and drugs in stock was reckoned to be about Rs.400 worth. Another Rs.135 worth were just landed. The surgical and other instruments were in a good state of preservation.

Shop. 18. The shop was abundantly stocked. The value of goods in stock at the date of my arrival amounted to Rs.14,802,90cs to which must be added another Rs. 6,895,06cs worth of other goods just landed. I checked the invoices, the weights and measures which I found correct. I also examined the price list and caused an error to be corrected in the case of retail price of Gold Flake cigarette tins.

Rice. 19.- The stock of rice on my arrival was 536 bags<sup>+</sup> were received by S.S.Zambezia. The rice was of good quality. The average monthly consumption was given to be 100 bags.

Wages. 20.- The total amount of wages received by the labourers from October 1938 to May 1939 has been Rs.20,500,79 cs.

Extras 21.- The extra sums paid during the same period amounted to Rs.2,579,72cs.

Destruction of rats. 22.- Extras paid for the destruction of rats have been Rs.554.37cs. About 32,000 of these rodents are killed yearly.

Capture of turtles. 23.- The sums paid for the capture of turtles amounted to Rs.123.



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Savings Bank. 24.- The sum of money deposited in the hands of the manager amounted to Rs.2,152,25cs.

\* \*

\*

#### POINTE MARIANNE

25-Diego Island comprises two establishments for purposes of facilitating and dividing the work, the one at Pointe de l'Est being the main establishment, the other being at Pointe Marianne, situate on the other side of the bay, at a distance of about two miles. On my arrival the manager of this establishment received order to go to Peros group and was replaced by Mr. A.Talbot.

About 15 or 20 men are employed and reside on this establishment.

26.- I found the camp in a state of abandonment and the house threatening ruin and an imminent fall. Most of them were supported by poles. I urged on the new manager that such a state of matters should not be allowed to obtain and that the houses should be attended to immediately. I also impressed on the manager the necessity of sending the dispenser of <sup>Pointe de l'Est</sup> Diego establishment at least once a week to Pointe Marianne where labourers would consult him.

#### PART II

##### Peros Banhos Group.

##### Arrival.

27.- I left Diego Island on the 2nd of June last and reached Peros on the next day.

The headquarters of this group are on Ile de Coin which is at a distance of about 130 miles from Diego Garcia.

28.-

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Manager. 28.- Mr.W.Thatcher, Assistant H.Rambert.

Population 29.- On my arrival the population numbered:-  
 Males ... 100      Adults ... 73 boys  
 Females... 89      Adults ... 78 girls  
 3 men, 3 women and 3 children arrived by S.S.Zambezia.

Civil Status 29.- The Civil Status registers examined by me showed that from October 1938 to June 1939 -  
 Births 13, 1 still birth and 4 deaths were registered.

Cause of death 30- The causes of death were reported to be Bronchitis, nutritis and tetanus.

Marriages. 31.- No marriage was celebrated since last visit.

Hospital 32.- I examined the hospital building which I found very clean. Some bed sheets were old and torn; the dispenser Mr. K.Zelia told me he had ordered a new set.

The surgical instruments were clean and neat. The register was kept up to date <sup>and showed that from October 1938 to date of</sup> my visit. 23 persons were admitted for treatment. The diseases treated including cases of lying-in were abdominal pains, wounds of minor character, abscesses, dyspepsia, hepatitis, fractures, influenza, lumbago, nutritis and rheumatism. The midwife attached to the hospital was suffering from tuberculosis and had to go back to Mauritius, in the meantime the dispenser's wife is performing her duties with even more competency.

Pharmacy. 33.- The pharmacy was well stocked at the date of my arrival, the value of drugs etc in stock was about Rs.500. Another Rs.84 worth of medicine arrived by S.S.Zambezia.

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-7-

Prison

34.- The prison building was clean. Since last visit in October 1938, only one labourer was sentenced to undergo 55 hours imprisonment for plundering coco nuts. I duly signed the prison register and approved of the sentence inflicted.

Administration of Justice.

35.- I received no complaint during my stay.

Shop

36.- The shop was fairly well stocked. At my arrival the value of goods in stock was Rs.8,571,62cs. About Rs.3,492,90 worth of goods were just landed. I duly checked the invoices and price list and tested the weights and measures which were found correct.

Rice

36.- The stock of rice was 273 bags to which was to be added 185 bags just landed. The average monthly consumption was given to be about 48 bags.

Sales

37.- Rs.9,653,85cs value of goods have been sold from October 1938 to April 1939.

Camp

38.- I visited the camp which I found in a fairly good state of repair.

Live stock

39.- As far as could be ascertained the animals on the island were 50 asses, 130 pigs and poultry.

Wages.

40.- The net total amount of wages paid to the labourers from October 1938 to May 1939 have been Rs.11,078, 15cs. The pay book was checked at random with the attendance book and found correct.

Extras

40.- The extras paid for the same period were Rs.1253,25 cs

Capture of turtles

41.- Since last visit 84 turtles were captured and labourers received a total of Rs.420, making Rs.5 per turtle captured.

41.-

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-8-

Savings Bank

42.- The sums deposited in the hands of the Manager amounted to Rs.946,56cs.

Exports

43.- The following have been the exports of the island from October 1938 - 328 veltis of oil, 568 tons of coprah and 74 kgs of tortoise shell.

Remarks

44.- The population of this island struck me as being the most docile and disciplined of the whole lot. The manager is a young and efficient man who is most liked by his subordinates.

\* \*

\*

PART III

Salomon Islands.

Departure

45.- We left Peros Island on the 3rd of June and arrived at Salomon group on the next day. The distance between the two groups is about 30 miles. Our stay on this island was much prolonged on account of a flat calm which delayed the loading and unloading operations.

Manager.

Population

Assistant. M. Charoux.

46.- On my arrival the population numbered:-

Males .....	80	Adults	...	47 boys
Females .....	66	Adults	...	46 girls

Civil Status

47.- The Civil Status registers examined by me showed that during the period starting from October 1938 to June 1939 -

Births	...6	} were registered
Deaths	...4	
4 marriages		

A/



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-9-

A few errors or omissions in certain entries were set right.

Wages.

48.- The total amount of wages paid to the labourers, after lawful deductions made amounted to Rs.8,789,25cs. The pay book was checked and found correct.

Extras

49.- The amount paid for extras since last visit was Rs.569,32cs and a further sum of Rs.55 for capture of turtles.

Savings Bank

50.- At the time of my visit the sums deposited in the hands of the manager amounted to Rs.1,760,23cs.

Shop.

51.- The value of the articles in stock at the time of my visit was Rs. 2295,36cs. Another 4,199,43cs worth of goods was just landed. The weights and measures were tested and found correct.

Rice

52.- The stock of rice was 187 bags. 128 bags were just landed. The monthly consumption is about 55 bags.

Hospital.

53.- The hospital was clean. The surgical instruments were in good condition. The dental instruments being rusty. I recommended their renewal. I examined and signed the register which showed that since last visit 11 patients were admitted for treatment. Out of this number 6 women were admitted to be delivered of child; the 5 others were suffering from bronchitis, wounds of minor character and intestinal obstruction.

The midwife was dismissed towards the end of last year and pending the arrival of a duly registered midwife from Mauritius she is replaced by a female labourer.

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-10-

I have been told that great difficulty is experienced in finding competent midwives to work on the island on account of the unattractive pay they receive, Rs.12 per mensem, I believe.

When I last visited this island in 1936, I had been most <sup>unfavourably</sup> ~~unfortunately~~ impressed by the look and unhealthy appearance of the children. I record my appreciation of the good work performed by the dispenser, Mr. Madeleine, who has succeeded in eliminating ankylostomiasis by generous distribution of "chenopod" and "ricin" oil. Only a few adults are now suffering from this disease which has worked so much havoc in the past amongst the inhabitant.

Cause of death. 54.- The cause of death was reported to be Bronchitis, Intestinal obstruction.

Pharmacy. 55.- The value of medicine, drugs etc in stock at time of my visit was about Rs.300. Another Rs.154.55 worth was just landed.

Live stock. 56.- As far as could be ascertained the animals on the island were:

60 pigs, 7 horses, 24 asses, poultry, 10 ~~sheep~~,  
1 cow, 2 bulls and 2 heifers.

Camp. 57.- I visited the camp which I found very clean and well kept.

The camp has been rebuilt entirely on modern lines and the wooden houses look pretty and comfortable.

Administration of Justice. 58.- I dealt with two cases during my stay. One was a case of attempt at wounds and blows on the person

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-11-

of a commandeur (one local sirdar). Being given the trifling nature of this offence and the particular circumstances of this case I sentenced the accused to pay a fine of Rs.5, with costs. The evidence adduced disclosed that on the occasion of the new year the male population indulged in prolonged libations in the course of which a quarrel broke out between victim and the accused.

The second case was one of wounds and blows inflicted by a labourer on his paramour. He pleaded guilty and was fined Rs.10, with costs. These amounts have been handed to the Assistant District Clerk IIInd Division to be paid to the Treasury.

#### Prison.

59.- The prison building was clean. The prison register showed that since last visit ~~no~~ sentence had been inflicted by the manager.

#### Exports

60.- Since last visit 387 tons of coprah have been exported.

\* \*

\*

#### PART IV

#### Six Islands.

61.- Only recently there used to be a permanent establishment on this small group.

As it proved too costly the Company has decided to close it down, as a separate establishment. It now depends on Solomon group for purposes of control and administration. At the time of my visit there were 8 men working on these islands: I met them on their return to Salomon Islands; all were content and happy.

9-12

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- 12 -

A nice little vessel plies every month between the islands and bring the labourers back to their headquarters where they received their pay and rations.

\* \*

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#### PART V

#### General Remarks.

This time, a good weather permitting I availed myself of every opportunity afforded to me to collect as much material on matters connected with the well being of the islands and the welfare of the inhabitant.

Much praise is due to Reverend Father R.Dussercle for his good and generous work for the moral and spiritual welfare of the labourers on the islands.

From the day of the arrival of the ship up to very day on which she leaves this kind-hearted and very zealous missionary is to be seen constantly and freely mixing with the labourers of the island with a view to making them profit by benefit of christian teaching.

It is in no small measure due to his excellent work on the islands that discipline and well behaviour of the labourers is so good.

#### Work

- 1.- Boys and girls start to work at the age of 15.

Until they are physically strong enough to perform the work of adults, they are given same work as female labourers. The men, women and children camp on islands ~~adjourned~~ <sup>adjourned</sup> to the main island where they are provided with decent sheds, rations and water. The

female/



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-13-

female labourers and the younger <sup>population is employed</sup> on clearing work; the task set ~~out~~ is 10 "gaulettes" ( of 10 feet each) per day. The task of the men consists in collecting and husking from about 500 to 600 coco nuts per day. A good worker can collect and husk about 1000 nuts per day and thus earn extra wages.

The men earn R.2 per mensem for their task; the boys and women get Rs.6. A bonus of R.1 per mensem is given to those who work full time. Those other labourers who stay permanently on the main establishment also collect and husk nuts and are otherwise employed in the manufacture of coprah.

Those rendered unfit for labour by age or illness are given a pension of Rs.3.- per mensem and also receive rations.

#### Oarsmen

- 2.- There are two teams of oarsmen on each island (main). They ply every day between the main establishment and the adjoining islands to carry <sup>nuts</sup> across the lagoon. Their tasks consists in carrying 2000 nuts per day; an average of 5000 is easily carried. The boats used by them are locally made by competent marine carpenters and are of remarkable build. Except for a certain season of the year the sea is generally smooth.

From what I saw an average worker may easily earn Rs.20 per mensem. When the earnings of the wife and children are added to that of the head of the family the amount is more than sufficient to keep the whole family comfortably.

#### Health and sanitation.

- 3.- On the whole the population on the island is now very healthy. The men are of a fine and strong build

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-14-

especially at Peros and Solomon islands where most of them have been born. An ill-defined disease had prevailed until recently and was commonly termed "guim-guimbe"; the people suffering from it felt weak in the limbs and were slack at work. About two years ago Dr. Barbeau visited the islands at the request of the agent in Mauritius and he came to the conclusion that this disease was the "dingue" fever, well known in Mauritius. He prescribed tonics and the consequential result is that now this disease has disappeared. I was also pleased to find that ankylostomiasis had almost been eliminated. This gratifying state of affairs can only be maintained by constant supervision on the part of the dispenser who should take preventive measures and ~~to~~ exert sanitary control.

The state of things would be made better if the dispenser stewards were subjected to a special training and underwent a course of practical instruction in the duties of sanitary inspector; they would then be in a position to give reliable advice on sanitary subject and disseminate the knowledge of elementary hygiene practice. Almost all confinements were conducted in the hospitals. The dietary in hospitals consists of chicken, bread, tea, milk and sago.

#### Water.

4.- The water collected from wells in the camp is of good quality; up to the present day there has been no outbreak of disease attributable to water-born infection. I think it would be unnecessary to impose on the company to provide each hut with its own water

This is  
said to  
be  
dengue  
by 07

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-15-

saving cistern; the population would not use them.

#### Agriculture.

5.- Vegetables obtainable all the year round are "langue de vache", pumpkins and bredes. There are also plenty of bananas and lemons. Each hut is provided with a small garden but unfortunately the labourers, all of negro stock are reluctant to till the soil. This voyage a mission of scientists composed of Messrs Guerandel and P.O.Wiehe and F.E.Lionnet visited the island at the request of Mr. B.Lionnet the agent in Mauritius. I have no doubt that their report, especially on the more practical subject, will result in most beneficial effect. For instance use of guano available on the island would bring the soil into a state of greater fertility and gardens would maintain a steady supply of vegetables.

#### Milk supply.

6.- As a result of recommendations made in 1933 relative to experiment in the raising of dairy cattle there exist at present on Solomon Island one bull, one cow and two heifers. The cow, at the time of my visit, was giving about 8 bottles of milk daily. I congratulated the Government Veterinary Surgeon, Dr.F.E.Lionnet for the care and pains taken by him in order to supply the island with fresh milk. During last visit he supplied to the manager all possible information concerning the feeding of the animals. I had long talks with this officer on the subject of rearing cattle on the islands and he told me that after careful investigation he thought that the conditions prevailing on them would render them suitable sites for breeding centres. I have always thought

among 239 people

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-16-

that the question of fresh milk supply should be one of the aims of a competent manager. I was pleased to see that the milk supply at Solomon Island was sufficient enough to allow of milk being sold at a very reasonable price to the inhabitants.

Arrival.

7.- I left Diego Island on the 14th of June and arrived at Port Louis on the 20th instant.

Soon after we had left Diego harbour a leak was detected. It seems as if that before the boat is allowed to proceed out to sea a sufficient examination of its hull is not made with the result that on any one of these trips a disaster may occur.

Before concluding my report I beg to report my appreciation of the courtesy extended to me by the manager, the agent in Mauritius, Mr. Richard Lionnet as well as by the captain, officers and other members of the crew.

19th June, 1939.

(sd) Maurice Rousset  
Ag. District Magistrate  
Lesser Dependencies.