

Ref.:

C0167/879/4

102894

Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet

E
N
C
L
S
L

MAURITIUS

No. 109

Government House,

Port Louis,

29th March, 1932.

Sir,

*1. on 844643/31
76603*

I have the honour to refer to paragraphs 2 and 3 of my despatch No. 437 of the 16th November, 1931, in which I reported that information had reached me as to certain indications of unrest among the labourers of Peros Banhos and to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a Report by Mr. Magistrate W. J. Hanning who was despatched on the 30th October, 1931, with a small Police detachment, to make an enquiry into the position.

Amended (4)

2. The proposal in paragraphs 6 and 7 of Part II of the Magistrate's report that the islands should be linked up by Wireless Telegraphy would I think be more expensive than he anticipates and in the present state of depression I doubt whether the Companies could find the money for such an installation and the maintenance of the necessary operators. There is more prospect of bringing about an improvement by the termination of the present unsatisfactory arrangements by which the different groups maintain separate vessels which only visit the islands of their particular Company and not the neighbouring groups. The absurd situation described by Mr. Hanning in paragraph 5 of Part II of his report was a result of this

arrangement/

The Right Honourable

SIR PHILIP CUNLIFFE-LISTER, P.C., G.B.E., M.C.,

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

arrangement. I have brought the matter to the notice of the Companies and trust that in due course it may be remedied.

3. The sentences imposed by the Magistrate in these cases appear to me excessive and I enclose a copy of a minute by the Procureur General on this point. I agree with Mr. Nairac that in view of the remote situation and general conditions in these islands an immediate reduction of the sentences on the arrival of the prisoners in Mauritius would have had an undesirable reaction in the islands. I propose however shortly to review the sentences in consultation with Mr. Hanning with a view to their reduction. I also agree with the Procureur General that it is in the Companies' own interest to avoid the engagement of bad characters and that no alteration of the law is necessary.

4. I cannot say that I feel at all satisfied with the situation disclosed in Mr. Hanning's reports but no immediate remedial action is practicable at the moment. I propose to address you separately on the general question of the administration of these islands.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,
humble servant,

W. Jackson

Governor

ENCLOSURE / TO MAURITIUS DESPATCH No. 109 ~~OF~~ 29.3.32
REPORT ON VISIT TO PEROS BANHOS.

I have considered it advisable to divide this report into two Parts: the first one dealing with the facts and the action taken by me, the second part will deal with the deductions to be drawn from those facts and the opinion I shall have formed at the conclusion of the Judicial Enquiry into the causes of the unrest. This enquiry was started by me at Peros Banhos and is being continued in Mauritius in order to hear the evidence of two or three witnesses who were not in Peros Banhos at the time of my visit.

P A R T I

On receipt of instructions from the Procureur General I left Mauritius on the sailing vessel "DIEGO" on the 31st October, 1931, with an armed guard at my disposal of 10 Police Constables and 2 N.C.O's under the command of Police Inspector Old. Police Inspector Fitzgibbon of the Criminal Investigation Branch was also placed under my orders to assist in all necessary enquiries.

We sighted Peros Banhos on the 17.11.31 but could not enter the lagoon that day owing to the approach of darkness. The ship had to sail away and on the 18th we again made for the pass, but owing to the very light breeze progress was very slow. At about noon the Manager's boat came alongside. We were then at about 7 miles from the coast and 9 or 10 miles from the landing stage of Ile du Coin, where the establishment is situated (this landing stage can be reached only by making for one of the channels into the lagoon and is on the inner side of the island.)

I decided to go ashore in the Manager's rowing boat accompanied by the two Police Inspectors. We landed at 5.30 p.m. and I made the necessary arrangements for billeting the armed party.

The ground/

4	CHS	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	1	2	E N C E S L
Ref.: CO167/879/4		102894					
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet							

-2-

The ground floor of the Manager's house consists of three large rooms opening on to a spacious verandah and a room at the back, also opening on to a verandah. The front room on the right (on entering the building) is the estate office. The centre room was used as Court room, the left front room as the guard room. It was large enough to allow the armed party to sleep in. The room at the back was strengthened (window and two doors barred) and prepared for use as a lock-up cell.

There were already three strong prison cells in an isolated stone building some distance away from the Manager's quarters.

Immediately after completing these arrangements, accompanied by Inspector Old, I made a tour of inspection round the camp. I then noticed that there was a dangerous feeling among the labourers, the women and young men in particular. (I must say here that I had enjoyed on the oarsmen who had brought us ashore, and who had remained loyal to the Manager, complete silence as to the presence of the armed party on board). The attitude of the labourers was a most insolent one. They stood looking at me face to face heads uncovered, hands in their pockets and a deliberate provocative sneer on their countenance. I could see that this show of disrespect was calculated and wilful. I spoke severely to the first man I saw and had to use strong words before something like respect began to be shown. As we pressed along the row of huts we heard muttering and shouts of derisive laughter behind us.

When we returned to our quarters we were informed that the Diego had been again unable to enter the pass and had sailed away for the night.

Early next morning (19.11.31) I attended roll call at which every one was ordered to be present. I addressed the labourers, told them the object of my visit which was to enquire into the disorders that had occurred; that those whom I would find/

-3-

find guilty of any illegal acts would be severely dealt with, and that I was ready within certain fixed hours daily, to listen to any complaints which any one might wish to bring before me, and would deal with them fairly and justly.

Inspector Fitzgibbon had started his enquiry soon after we landed.

In the afternoon the Diego was again seen making for the pass: as there was again a possibility of her being unable to come to an anchorage, I caused the rowing boat to be sent out to her with instructions to the Police Sergeant on board to come ashore with the armed party. This boat returned to the landing stage with the men at about 10.30 p.m.

In the meantime Inspector Fitzgibbon had recorded statements from a number of persons which were sufficient to justify the arrest of part of the gang of labourers who had committed various offences.

At roll call on the 20.11.31 the armed party was paraded before the labourers and 11 men were arrested by Inspector Fitzgibbon, handed over to the armed guard and taken to the guard room, each prisoner was charged and his statement taken down. Later on 14 other men and two women were arrested in connection with their participation in the disturbances, one other woman was brought up for possession of stolen property belonging to her mistress (no connection with the disorders).

Before going into the further steps and action taken by me, I shall now give a history of the disturbances as they occurred in their chronological order, prior to my visit.

Mr. Magistrate Roger Espitalier Noel paid the annual visit at Peros Banhos in June last. No complaints were made to or received by him from the labourers.

On the 16.8.31, the Manager, Mr. Jean Baptiste Adam, gave instructions through "Commandeur" Oscar Hilaire to 15 men (Armon Rangasamy, Emile Casimir, Willy Christophe, Edgar Floricourt

Gustave/

-4-

Gustave Jean Baptiste, Gabriel Marie, Ulrick Armand, Jean Louis Madelon, Elysee Julien, Joseph Antoine, Leonel Casimir, Emilien Mooza, Ange Bonhomme, and Auguste Bruneau) to proceed to Petit Bè Island (three miles from the Establishment) and there to gather and husk cocoanuts for the week. (The task per man is 500 nuts a day, but the six days task of 3,000 nuts is almost always completed in three days, the men returning to camp on the Wednesday evening or Thursday morning. They are then free from work for the rest of the week). On each of the 32 Islands of Peros Banhos there is a thatched shed which the labourers use as shelter for the night. Another "Commandeur" Labourdonnais by name accompanied the men, in addition to Oscar Hilaire. Instead of leaving for Petit Bè on the Monday morning, the men delayed their departure until Wednesday morning, advancing all sorts of lame excuses before leaving. They returned the same afternoon after completing one day's task of 500 nuts each. On enquiring as to the reason of their return, Mr. Adam was informed by Labourdonnais that it was because the shed at Petit Bè was in a dilapidated state. It was pointed out to them that there was a shed in good condition at Grand Bè Island, less than 100 yards across, which they could have used, and which in fact, they had already used on previous occasions. These labourers abstained from work for the remainder of the week, although Mr. Adam informed them that they could go to Petit Bè and back every day. Neither of them made complaint to Mr. Adam personally as to the state of the shed at Petit Bè.

On the 22.8.31 the following labourers Etienne Labiche, Jean Pierre Casimir, Alfred Elysee, David Bottelave, Jean Calle, Gabriel Aristide, Selmour Volfrin, Roger John, and Jean Louis Volfrin, all employed as labourers went to the plantation ("abatis")

where/

-5-

where Mr. Dagorne the Manager's Assistant was distributing the task (weeding) at the women. These men objected to the amount of the task; they had no right and no excuse for being on the spot.

On the 23.8.31 (Sunday) at the "corvée" the Manager noticed that there was something unusual in the attitude of the labourers while at their work. In the afternoon, a woman called Helena Louis, while coming out of Mr. Dagorne's compound, was stopped by a number of labourers who threatened to do injury to any one from the camp, who reported to the staff what was being said and done in the camp.

On the 24.8.31 after roll call, a number of labourers again went to the "abatis" and compelled Mr. Dagorne by means of threats, to reduce the women's tasks. At about 11 a.m. a woman Christine L'Introuvable, was brutally assaulted by another woman in the camp, for having advised her fellow workers at the "abatis" to obey the orders of the staff and to refuse to obey to those who wished to create a disorder on the estate. The victim of the ~~assault~~ assault went to complain to the Manager. She was followed by a crowd which used threatening language towards Mr. Adam.

As the woman was being taken to the hospital for treatment, the same crowd rushed into a shed where the copra-kiln is placed; they took possession of a rod used for measuring lengths of coir-rope (bastain) made by old sick women at their homes. This rod was nailed to the wall, and was torn by the crowd from its support. It is a measure called a "brasse" (french fathom measuring six feet, french measurement). The crowd brought the rod to Mr. Adam saying that it was a false measure. In view of the threatening attitude of the crowd, Mr. Adam could not prevent them taking the rod away. The crowd re-entered the copra-kiln shed and marked out a new measure on the wall, which was found to be that of an English fathom (six feet/

-6-

feet English measure) a difference of 8 inches (french) with the standard rod.

On the 25.8.31, the same gang interfered with the women's work (shelling cocoa nuts), threatening the stoppage of work, if an extra hand (male labourer) was not put on to the work at the kilns. Mr. Adam was compelled to comply as a stoppage of work in the kilns would have meant a serious damage to the great quantity of copra in the kilns (these work night and day without ceasing). The ringleader Etienne Labiche assaulted the Dispenser Mr. Hurry, by turning him out of the shed by force, telling him that he had no business there, and to go and mind his hospital.

The crowd again interfered with the work being done by women at the "abatis" (weeding and cleaning) compelling Mr. Adam to reduce the task; all the women abandoned their work save two. The men's attitude grew more threatening and dangerous, stating that they would refuse to work at the ship's cargo on her arrival unless Messrs Adam and Daborne were sent on board for their return to Mauritius.

Mr. Adam had lost all authority over these men who by their threats of assault and worse had forced the hitherto peaceful among the labourers to obey their orders. This state of things continued until the 4.9.31.

On that day one Joseph Bizrall who had been sent with two others to a small islet close to the establishment to fetch cocoanuts by boat fell overboard accidentally and disappeared. (It had been strictly forbidden to cross the bar and to use a sail when proceeding to the Islet and Bizrall using a sail and crossing the bar fell a victim to his own act of disobedience). This was reported to Mr. Adam and he took immediate steps to try and save the man and recover the body.

At/

-7-

At 1 p.m. before the boats he had sent out had returned, and before anything positive could be known as to the fate of Bizrall, a crowd of the insurgents, at whose head was the concubine of Bizrall, rushed into the office and using threatening language demanded that a pension should be granted to the woman and her child. Mr. Adam replied that he could not take upon himself to do anything, but that he would transmit the request to the Agent with his favourable recommendation. Mr. Adam told the woman that if she called at the shop she would be given a free issue of coffee, candles, sugar etc which was usually allowed for the usual "wake". The crowd went away but returned an hour after, their attitude more threatening than ever and led by the woman. They blocked all the exits from the office, and compelled Mr. Adam by their attitude and their threats to sign the document granting a pension to the woman.

On the 12.9.31 Mr. Dagorne was seen to receive at his quarters David Bottelave, Frederic Julien, Xavier Clement, Emilien Botte, Willy Christophe, Gabriel Aristide and Stephen Louis Cheri (all forming part of the gang of insurgents). He went to the shop followed by these men purchased ten litres of wine (of which he paid half the cost the other half being debited to his account). The wine, contained in demi-john, was taken to the camp by the men. This action of Mr. Dagorne was unauthorised by the Manager and in spite of the fact that these men had just been sold their half weekly quantum of wine (1/2 litre each). There was a disturbance in the camp on that night, during which blows were exchanged.

On the 17.8.31 Mr. Dagorne again, and without authority gave the same men an issue of wine, although the Manager had a few minutes before issued wine to them.

On the/

Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet

-8-

On the 23.9.31 Etienne Labiche tried to interfere with a task given to the women, and used the following words in creole: "You are going on again because I am remaining quiet. We shall see when the boat arrives. 'ca boule-la pour devirer' ". The task was finished at 8.15 a.m.

On the 26.9.31 Etienne Labiche, one of the ringleaders followed by the crowd, came to Mr. Adam, who was compelled to follow them to Mr. Dagorne's quarters. They surrounded the place and asked that a woman who was living with Mr. Dagorne as his mistress should be turned out of his quarters. The woman came out and Mr. Adam had to accompany her to prevent the crowd from doing her harm. Mr. Adam thereupon suspended Mr. Dagorne from his duties for scandalous conduct.

On the 2.10.31 Mr. Adam was in the shop to assist Mr. Rouillon, the shop clerk. An old "Syndic" (or asst. Commandeur) was placed in the doorway as usual to allow the admission of only one person at a time at the counter. Some soap had been made locally and there being a small quantity on hand Mr. Adam was present, with his Time-book to see that each labourer had his or her share. One man Edgar Floricourt came in and asked for the price of soap. He was given the information, and went out. He returned followed by Etienne Labiche and his crowd. The old Syndic was brutally pushed aside. Labiche asked Mr. Adam to reduce the price of soap. This he said in a threatening and arrogant tone. Mr. Adam refused to do so. Willy Christophe, the second of the ringleaders, then demanded to see the shop price list. Mr. Adam went to his office to get it and returned followed all the time by the crowd. Not finding the invoice, he showed them the copy in the Magistrate's book and signed by Mr. Magistrate Noel. They refused to believe in its genuineness, hurling an insult/

insult at the mention of Mr.Noel. The crowd followed Mr. Adam to the shop in such a threatening manner, that he was compelled to sanction a reduction in the price of soap. No sooner had the sales begun that there was a wild scramble in front of the counter, some of the crowd succeeding in making away with pieces of soap without payment. At the same time, Mr.Harry the Dispenser, having noticed a movement on the part of some of the crowd towards the back of the shop, rushed towards it and arrived there at the same time as two men who were followed by others. Their intention was to have started looting the shop from the back, while the row about the soap was happening. Mr.Harry drew out his revolver and threatened to blow out the brains of the first man who tried to enter the shop. This action stopped the men who turned and ran away. It also prevented the looting of the shop which would have been followed by more serious offences, and showed the insurgents that the members of the staff were prepared to go any length to defend the property of their employers.

On the 15.10.31 at 5 p.m., the Diego was sighted. This was immediately followed by a blast from a conch-shell which had become a signal for the meeting of the insurgents. Mr.Adam went on board when the vessel had anchored, and returned ashore at about 8.50 p.m., accompanied by his brother Captain H.Adam, Master of the Diego. The whole of the population met them at the landing stage, uttering loud shouts, and demanding to see the invoice of goods now on board for sale in the shop. This invoice, which contains the prices at which articles are to be sold at the shop, was still in the official mail box which Mr.Adam had not even had time to open. The crowd accompanied him and his brother to the Manager's quarters, shouting and threatening, climbed up the balcony stairs, and even/

-10-

and even into his dining room. The crowd demanded to see the invoice. Mr. Adam was compelled to open the box, unsealed the official letter containing the invoice and show them the latter. One of the crowd, looked over his shoulder and read aloud the prices. Having noticed a mention in the official letter about a case of tobacco (plug) and the rise in the price owing to the increase of Customs duty, the crowd demanded the return of the case to Mauritius. They then returned to the camp.

On the 16.10.31 all the male labourers were absent from roll call. Captain Adam, who was present having noticed the labourers standing at the entrance of the camp, called them to him and asked them why they were not at work. They replied that they would do so if the Manager (Mr. Adam) and Mr. Dagorne were immediately placed on board and sent back to Mauritius. The men then returned to their huts.

On the 17.10.31, Captain Mazoué, mate of the Diego, came ashore, and made a vain appeal to the men to resume work. Mr. Adam then called the "Commandeur" and explained to them that it was urgent, in view of the small stock of rice and drugs, to take steps to land a certain quantity of rice and the case of drugs at least. The commandeur, after conferring among themselves, replied that the insurgents having threatened to use violence towards them, they were compelled to abstain from carrying out Mr. Adam's wishes.

Captain Adam then told the crowd that this state of affairs gave him no other choice but to ~~sail~~ sail to Mauritius early next morning to fetch assistance. The Diego sailed on the 18.10.31.

Since her departure Mr. Adam has been able to send a boat to Salomon (forty miles away) and obtain a sufficient supply of rice on loan to last for a month.

And now/

-11-

And now I shall pass on to the action taken by me during my stay.

The Inquiry made by Inspector Fitzgibbon, having revealed the commission of a number of offences, including some that would have been triable before the Assizes, it was decided to enter informations against the principal offenders, each information relating to a distinct offence, reserving the consideration of any Preliminary Inquiry until the results of the prosecution.

The names of the accused, nature of offences, and decisions given will be found in annexed tabular statement.

I have thought it advisable, using the powers conferred on me by law, and in order to avoid assize cases (which would have entailed heavy expenditure and inconvenience by the removal of all necessary witnesses - including the whole of the staff at Peros - to Mauritius), to make the sentences consecutive, and thus give such an exemplary punishment that the penalties incurred will have a deterrent effect not only at Peros Banhos but in all the other Lesser Dependencies, where the names of the offenders, and the punishment received will be read out at roll call, and posted up, in accordance with instructions I have issued and am issuing to the managers.

Three of the commandeurs who, instead of supporting the management, remained indifferent or appeared to support the insurgents, have been dismissed on my instructions and repatriated to Mauritius, and others more reliable appointed in their stead.

Before submitting the second part of my report, I have the honour to state that quiet has been restored at Peros, and the Manager although he is now alone with the dispenser, has expressed to me his feeling of absolute security following the measures taken by me.

I cannot/

- 12 -

I cannot conclude this part of my report without a word of thanks to Inspector Old and his armed party. (Police Sgt Sarah was particularly useful in the court work-preparing records, making entries in registers, preparation of the numerous Warrants of Commitments - all manuscript as there were no printed forms available). Their duties were very arduous, in a torrid temperature, beset by flies and mosquitoes by day, swarms of the latter by night. The outdoor night sentries had a very hard task being without shelter in heavy rain and in a sweltering heat.

Inspector Fitzgibbon also put in some hard work in his enquiries the results of which can be seen in the annexed table.

The discomforts of a sailing vessel the not very high standard of catering board were bravely borne by the members of the Police Force, who were unused to this tedious form of travelling.

I must also praise the conduct and courage of Mr. Adam the Manager of Peros, and of Mr. Harry, the Dispenser, during those very serious disturbances. It was only by their calm demeanour and stern determination to prevent damage to the estate and buildings under their charge that there were not more serious offences to report.

22nd December, 1931.

(Sd) W.J. HANNING

Magistrate

Lesser Dependencies

REPORT ON VISIT TO PEROS BANHOS.

PART II.

Having completed the Judicial Enquiry into the cause or causes of the disturbances at Peros Banhos, I am now in a position to report to you the results of that Enquiry, and the conclusions I have been able to draw from them, and from the information I have obtained in all the other trials held by me.

1. The population of Peros Banhos when Mr. Noel visited the place was as follows:-

Men labourers	...	125
Women	...	103
Children	...	74

2. I made a close investigation into the grievances of the labourers and found them all to be imaginary. The tasks imposed by the Manager, are those that have been instituted for quite a considerable time. They are light, and the labourer is economically many times better off than the Mauritian labourer. These tasks are enquired into by every Magistrate on his visit.

3. One or two of the bad elements, (Etienne Labiche and Willy Christophe, to mention two of them) had thought that with signs of disagreement between the Manager and his immediate assistant, Mr. Dagorne, and with the encouragement of their "Commandeurs", they could gain the upper hand and issue orders to the Manager. They unfortunately succeeded in this for a time, but their illusions were dispelled as soon as the power of the Law could be shown and used.

-2-

4. I am again constrained to repeat what I stated in my report on Agalega and on Salomon and Six Islands, that men of bad character must not be sent to these Islands. In this case two of the convicted prisoners have been identified as undesirable elements.

(1) Ramsamy Veerapen (known also as Armon Barasam alias Armon Barasamy) has six previous convictions against him, and

(2) Michel Ferdinand (alias Abraham Ferdinand alias Michel Abraham) had 8 months hard labour in November, 1928, for larceny.

The former was brought over to Mauritius in 1928, charged with attempting to poison a fellow-labourer at Salomon (one of his actual co-prisoners). The case was not brought to the Assizes, but was dropped through want of prosecution - witnesses not being available. The law should be altered so as to give power to the Magistrate to refuse to engage any person who is reported as of being a bad character.

5. I should like to call attention to the want of inter communication between the Islands of the Chagos Archipelago. I was at Salomon, which is 40 miles from Peros, at the very time (end of July) when the disturbances had started at the latter place. Had I been aware of them, a visit paid by me would have put an end to any further disquiet. All these Islands are at short distances from one another, (e.g. Diego Garcia is about 60 miles from Six Islands, the latter 50 miles from Trois Freres, thence 40 miles to Peros Banhos.

6. It appears to me that with the immense progress made in wireless, it would not be a costly scheme to link up these Islands with small transmitting and receiving sets including/

-3-

including Loud Speakers.

7. As the Islands are on the big trade routes from South Africa and Mauritius, to Colombo and India, and from the Red Sea to Australia, steamers are constantly passing within short distances of one or either of them, and they could thus easily and cheaply be brought into touch with the outer world.

8. Although no complaints were made by labourers as to the price of Imported articles sold at the shops I would like to offer a few remarks on this subject.

9. The Law allows these articles to be sold at a price not exceeding 25% of retail prices in Mauritius. This is only a maximum and I think, it should be impressed on the owners who impose the maximum increase on all articles, that they should exercise some leniency as regards articles of necessity (principally plug tobacco, calico, needles, sewing cotton, fish-hooks etc).

29th December, 1931.

(Sd) W.J. HANNING

Magistrate Lesser Dependencies.

	Larceny soap	Larceny rope measure	Extortion of document	Coalition to prevent unloading cargo	Coalition to prevent work	Wounds & Blows
1. Etienne Labiche	12 months H.L.	12 months H.L.	Not charged	3 months H.L. with costs.	3 months H.L.	
2. Emilien Mooza	12 months H.L.	12 months H.L.	12 months H.L.			
3. Edgard Floricourt	12 months H.L.	12 months H.L.	12 months H.L.			
4. Gustave Jean Baptiste	3 months H.L.	3 months H.L.	3 months H.L.			
5. Jean Louis Madelon	12 months H.L.	12 months H.L.	12 months H.L.			
6. Emile Casimir	12 months H.L.	12 months H.L.	12 months H.L.			
7. Armon Rangasamy	3 months H.L.	3 months H.L.	3 months H.L.			
8. Michel Ferdinand	12 months H.L.	12 months H.L.	12 months H.L.			
9. Ramsamy Veerapen	12 months H.L.	discharged	not charged			
10. Wilfrid Alfred	12 months H.L.	12 months H.L.	12 months H.L.			
11. Willy Christophe	12 months H.L.	12 months H.L.	12 months H.L.			
12. Ernest Francois	3 months H.L.	discharged	not charged			
13. Florimond Amadis	12 months H.L.	12 months H.L.	not charged			
14. Gabriel Marie	12 months H.L.	12 months H.L.	12 months			
15. David Bottelave	3 months H.L.	3 months H.L.	not charged	- - - -	- - - -	15 days (concurrent)
16. Xavier Clement	acquitted	3 months H.L.	not charged	- - - -	- - - -	
17. Alfred Elysee	3 months H.L.	3 months H.L.	3 months H.L.	- - - -	- - - -	Doubt
18. Ange Emilien alias Pounac	3 months H.L.	3 months H.L.	not charged			
19. Ulric Armand	3 months H.L.	2 months H.L.	3 months H.L.			
20. Jean Louis Volfrin	3 months H.L.	3 months H.L.	not charged			
21. Raymond Paul	3 months H.L.	discharged	not charged			
22. Emilien Botte	acquitted	3 months H.L.	not charged			
23. Elysee Julien	3 months H.L.	3 months H.L.	not charged			
24. Frederic Julien	acquitted	3 months H.L.	not charged			
25. Ange Bonhomme	not charged	3 months H.L.	3 months H.L.			
26. Albertine Chamous	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	7 days (Peros)
27. Edmee Botte	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	7 days (Peros)
28. Pauline Vitale	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	7 days

Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet

WZOW 51

16. Xavier Clement	acquitted	3 months H.L.	3 months H.L.	not charged	---	---	Doubt
17. Alfred Elysee	3 months H.L.	3 months H.L.	3 months H.L.	3 months H.L.	---	---	
18. Ange Emilien alias Roumac	3 months H.L.	3 months H.L.	3 months H.L.	not charged	---	---	
19. Ulric Armand	3 months H.L.	2 months H.L.	3 months H.L.	3 months H.L.	---	---	
20. Jean Louis Volfrin	3 months H.L.	3 months H.L.	3 months H.L.	not charged	---	---	
21. Raymond Paul	3 months H.L.	discharged	not charged	not charged	---	---	
22. Emilien Botte	acquitted	3 months H.L.	not charged	not charged	---	---	
23. Elysee Julien	3 months H.L.	3 months H.L.	not charged	not charged	---	---	
24. Frederic Julien	acquitted	3 months H.L.	not charged	not charged	---	---	
25. Ange Bonhomme	not charged	3 months H.L.	3 months H.L.	3 months H.L.	---	---	
26. Albertine Chamons	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	7 days (Peros)
27. Edmee Botte	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	7 days (Peros)
28. Esoline Vitale	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	7 days (Peros)
29. Judith Morin	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	7 days (Peros)
30. Marie Augusta	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	7 days (Peros)
31. Rosemonde Sakir	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	7 days (Peros)
32. Sabine Jalby	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	7 days (Peros)
33. Therese Langevin	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	15 days (Lauritius)
34. Virginia Javotte	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	7 days (Lauritius)
35. Abertine Hocho	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	(Lauritius)
36. Philorene Chinameh	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	Perjury - one month impr. to be undergone in Lauritius.

2 109 29.3.32

The Honourable

The Colonial Secretary,

I think the method resorted to by the Magistrate to inflict in most cases consecutive sentences of 12 months each, which leads practically to sentences of 3 years, makes the penalty rather heavy.

2. I do not think however there should be any interference now, so as to allow the energetic action of the law to produce its effects. But in time, none of these men, saving the ~~worst~~ worst cases, should in my opinion serve more than 12 full months.

3. If my opinion is upheld Mr. Hanning might be asked his views, especially on what he considers are the worst cases.

4. On the general aspect of the question it seems Mr. Hanning's action was both energetic and justifiable in the circumstances.

5. I am not satisfied that the Manager shewed at the debut of the crisis at least, all the energy demanded. Why should he have felt compelled to do so many things? Nor do I think sufficient effort was made to land the cargo of the ship before she left the island and its Managers possibly helpless.

6. I cannot understand why the Company here should not realise that it is their own interest not to employ unworthy characters and why it should be necessary to alter the law.

26th January, 1932.

(Sd) E. Nairac
Procureur General