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Ref.: <u>CO167/879/4</u>			<u>102894</u>			
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MAURITIUS

CONFIDENTIAL



Government House,
Port Louis,
31st October, 1932.

Sir,

[N^o 4]

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential despatch of the 19th July in regard to the administration of the islands known as the Lesser Dependencies, and to transmit to you the accompanying statement of the terms on which the various islands are held by the several companies.

2. The revenue at present derived by the Government from the companies consists of an annual amount of Rs.705.50 representing rent, and the contribution of Rs.12,000 a year towards the cost of administration. It may be mentioned that so far no revenue has been derived from the royalty payable on guano imported from certain of the islands. The only potential source of additional revenue appears to be the imports of copra and poonac which have an annual average value of Rs.450,000; but under present conditions the companies are hardly in a position to bear taxation in this direction such as would justify the Government in providing from its own resources adequate means of communication between Mauritius and the islands. independently, however, of Government initiative there is now some prospect of improvement in communications with the islands

the Right Honourable

SIR PHILIP CONLIFFE LISTER, P.C., G.B.E., M.C.,

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Concl. 17

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islands as a result of the recent acquisition by a local firm of a small steamer which is to undertake trial voyages to certain of the islands with the possibility of a regular service being subsequently established. I will keep you informed of further developments in this regard.

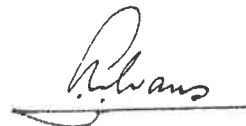
3. I am advised that the Government is not in a position to bring pressure on the companies by interference in the sphere of labour recruitment.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,



Officer Administering

the Government.