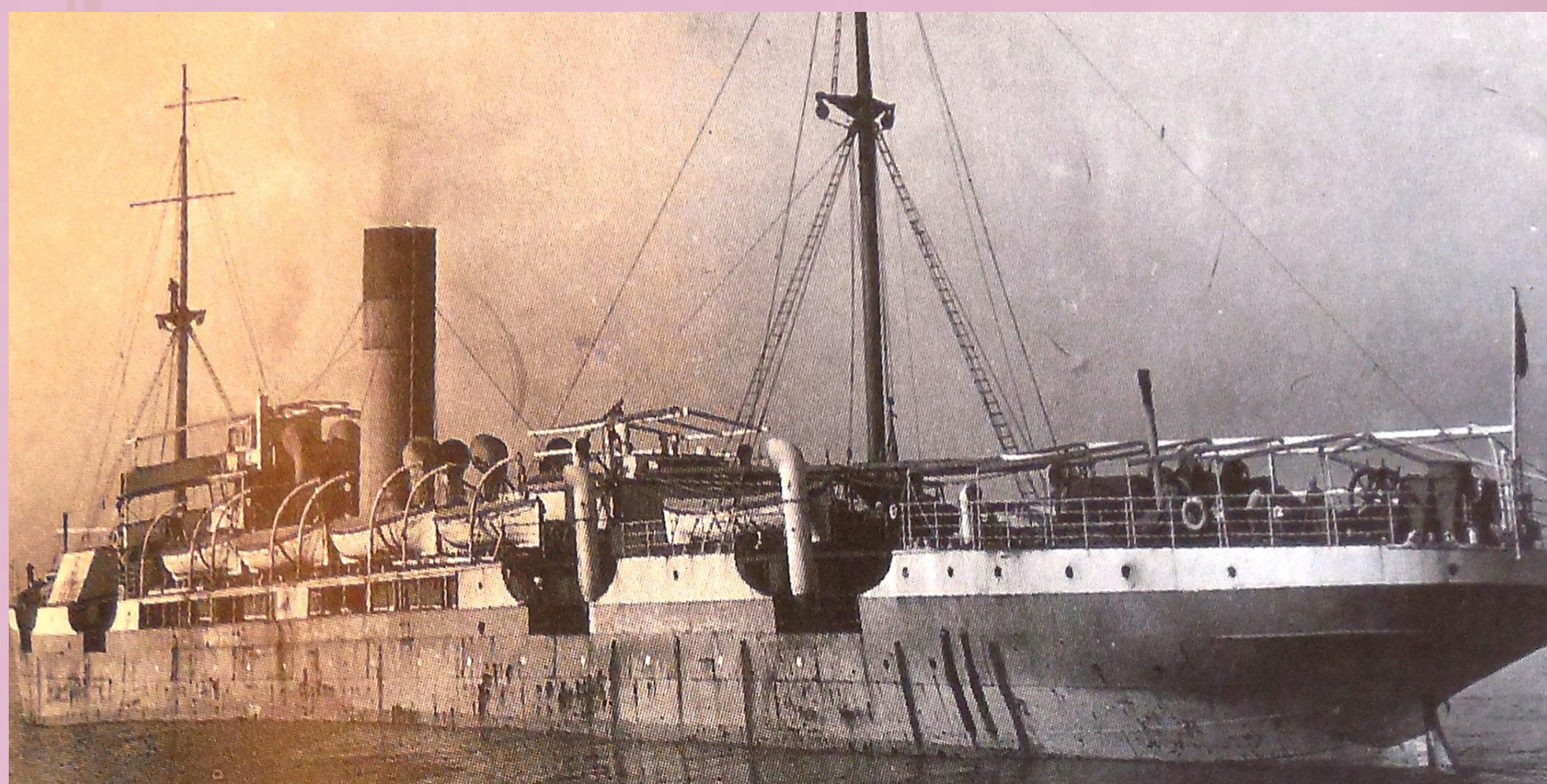


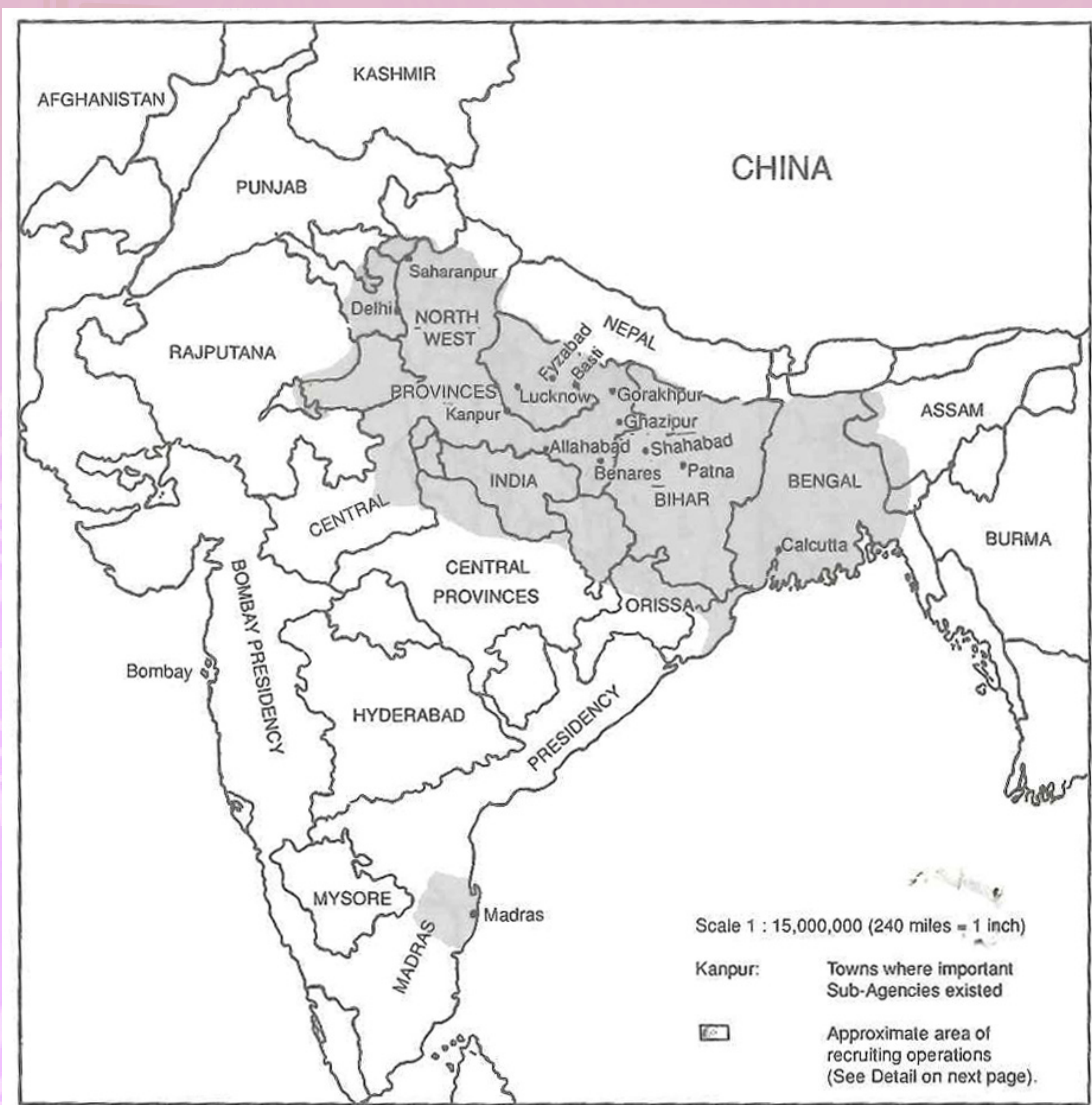
End of Indentureship

The end of the Indian Indentureship Scheme had its genesis in the politics of the Indian middle classes. In the late 1800s, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi initiated massive protests against the discrimination of free, professional Indians in Natal, South Africa. This protest later expanded to include Indian indentured labourers. This was taken up by the Indian nationalists in India and later spread to Fiji and Mauritius.

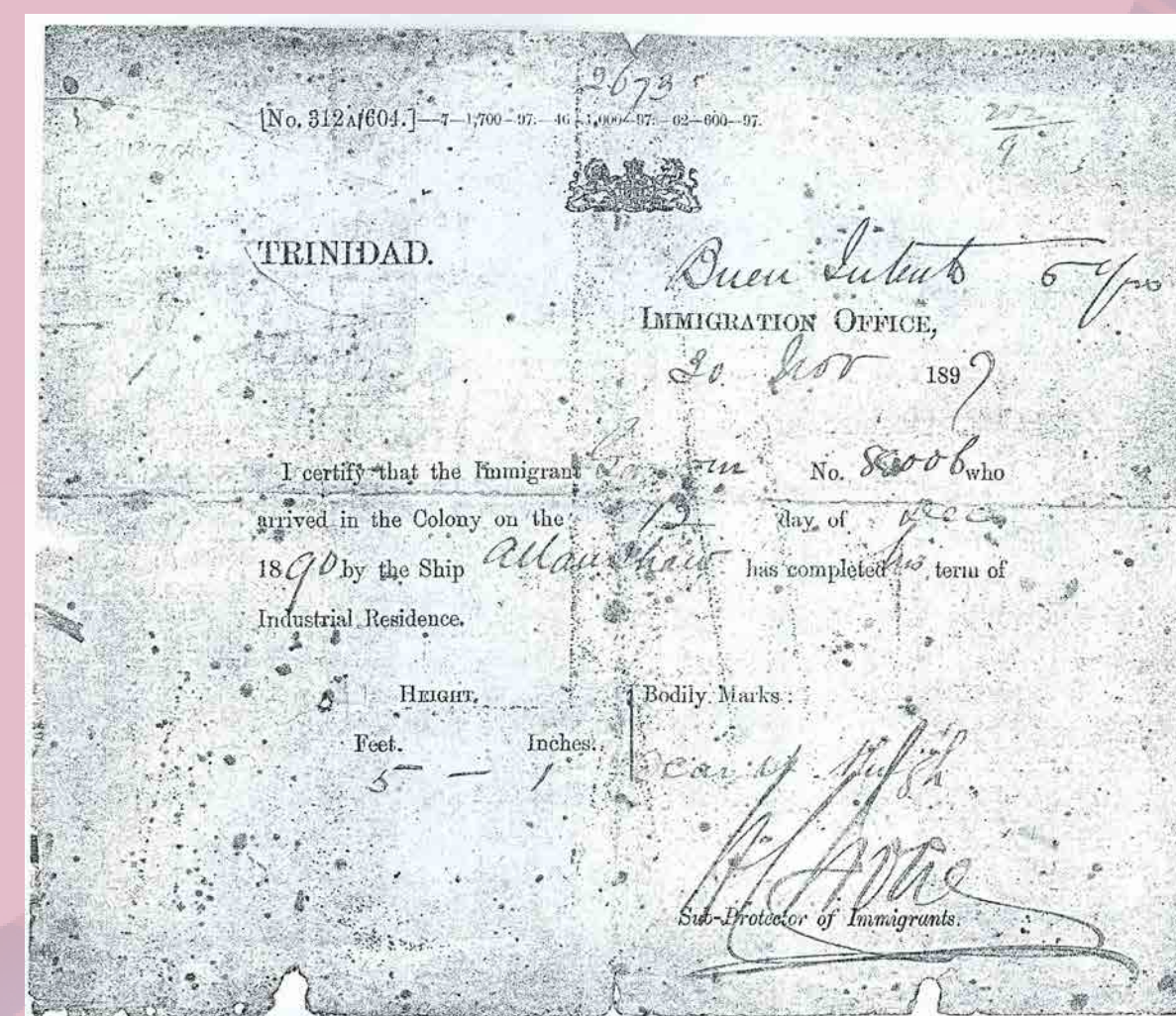
The recruitment of Indian labourers to work in overseas colonies was suspended on 12 March 1917 due to the military requirements of the First World War (under India's Defence of India Act 1917), but never resumed after the war. The anti-indentureship protests continued throughout India until the British Imperial Government and the Government of India had to give in to the pressure to end the system and on 1 January 1920 it was abolished completely.



The last ship to arrive with indentured labourers in Trinidad was the S.S. Ganges on 22 April 1917.



Emigrant recruiting areas in India



Certificate of Industrial Residence acquired by the indentured labourer at the end of the period of contract.

General Register 1916-1917 showing Indian immigrants arriving on the Ganges ship on 22 April 1917.

An Indenture Contract, the reverse side of which stipulated the terms and conditions of the contract in three languages: English, Hindi and Urdu.

Sources:
 Weller, Judith Ann, The East Indian Indenture in Trinidad, Puerto Rico, 1968
 Laurence, K.O. A Question of Labour - Indentured Immigration into Trinidad and British Guiana 1875-1917, Jamaica, 1994.

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