

Government of Madras

HOME DEPARTMENT (MISCELLANEOUS)

G.O. No. 692, 5th October 1918

Quarantine restrictions, Ceylon

Issuing instructions for facilitating the issue of certificates of good health and freedom from infection to passengers proceeding to Ceylon.

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ORIGINAL

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Issuing instructions for facilitating the issue of certificates of good health and freedom from infection to passengers proceeding to Ceylon.

READ—the following papers :—

I

G.O. No. 349, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 22nd November 1916.

ABSTRACT.—Authorizing District Medical and Sanitary Officers to grant certificates of good health to intending passengers to Ceylon, charging a fee therefor, and communicating to the officers concerned their appointment as ex-officio visitors to the Mandapam quarantine camp.

G.O. No. 150, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 16th February 1917.

ABSTRACT.—Directing the distribution of books of forms of medical certificate of health among District Medical and Sanitary Officers and issuing general instructions in the matter of granting certificates by District Medical and Sanitary Officers.

II

Letter—from the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur R. RAMACHANDRA RAO Avargal, Secretary to the Government of Madras, Home (Miscellaneous) Department.

To—the Hon'ble the Colonial Secretary, Colombo.

Dated—the 1st August 1918.

No.—Ref. 2181-1.

I am directed to invite a reference to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 3826, dated the 13th March 1917, on the subject of the quarantine regulations at Mandapam, and to state that the instructions issued for the guidance of District Medical and Sanitary Officers in G.O. No. 150, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 16th February 1917, on the lines suggested in paragraph 2 of your letter No. 1263, dated the 30th January 1917, have given rise to considerable discontent. This has found expression in two resolutions moved in the Legislative Council suggesting the withdrawal of the instructions in G.O. No. 150, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 16th February 1917. It has been represented that one inevitable consequence of these has been to restrict considerably the issue of certificates inasmuch as District Medical and Sanitary Officers cannot be expected to have personal knowledge in most cases of the places of residence and destination of persons who apply for certificates of health.

2. The Governor in Council recognises that the responsibility imposed on District Medical and Sanitary Officers of satisfying themselves as to the place of residence of the applicant in this Presidency and the destination to which he is proceeding in Ceylon is outside the scope of their regular duties and he considers it desirable that they should be relieved of this obligation. The only points which these officers can fairly be asked to certify are whether the applicant's place of residence is infected or not and whether or not the applicant himself is free from infection. The Governor in Council has accordingly announced in the course of the discussion on a resolution on the subject moved at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 5th April 1918 that, in regard to the two points of residence and destination, local revenue officers not lower than Deputy Tahsildars would be in the best position to furnish certificates, and that on the strength of these, District Medical and Sanitary Officers might very well issue certificates of good health and freedom from infection, satisfying themselves only as to the requirements of the quarantine authorities from a purely sanitary and medical aspect. The Governor in Council

also observed that there is no objection to District Medical and Sanitary Officers accepting on their own responsibility certificates on the two points of residence and destination from a respectable member of society not necessarily a local revenue officer. On an assurance given on the above lines the additional member withdrew the resolution. The Governor in Council therefore proposes to issue orders relieving District Medical and Sanitary Officers of the obligation of certifying as to the places of residence and destination and empowering revenue officers not lower than Deputy Tahsildars to furnish preliminary certificates on these two points. It is also proposed to leave it to the discretion of District Medical and Sanitary Officers to accept on their own responsibility certificates on these two points from any respectable member of society.

3. The Governor in Council feels confident that in the light of the facts explained above, His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon will be ready to co-operate in allaying this prevalent dissatisfaction by removing from the restrictions a clause against which public criticism in this Presidency may very fairly be directed. The officers whom it is proposed to authorise are men who have an established status and responsibility and the Governor in Council has no reason to believe that the power will be exercised otherwise than with discretion. I am to inquire whether the Ceylon Government agree to the issue of orders as proposed.

III

Letter—from A. T. PAGDEN, Esq., Acting Colonial Secretary, Ceylon.

To—the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Home (Miscellaneous) Department.

Dated—Colombo, the 10th September 1918.

No.—22474.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2181-1 of 1st August 1918, which I have laid before His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government together with the reports of the proceedings in the Madras Legislative Council published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* of 22nd May 1917 and 11th June 1918.

2. His Excellency desires me in the first place to ask you to convey to the Governor of Madras in Council his thanks for having given this Government the opportunity of expressing its views before the issue of orders to make effective the modifications which are found necessary in order to obviate the difficulties said to be experienced at present by District Medical and Sanitary Officers in granting certificates.

3. It would appear that the terms of the Madras G.O. No. 150 of 16th February 1917 have perhaps been interpreted in too literal a manner, and that the wording has been taken to imply that the District Medical and Sanitary Officer should only issue certificates in cases where he has actual personal knowledge of the circumstances of the applicant. So strict an interpretation was not intended by this Government.

4. While this Government cannot agree to the substitution of a series of certificates, issued as a matter of mere routine, for the personal responsibility of trustworthy officers of the Madras Government, it does not wish in any way to bind down these officers within the limits of hard and fast official regulations. If they, as responsible officers of Government, with the local knowledge they possess, are satisfied by the evidence put before them by an applicant, whether in the form of a certificate from a Tahsildar or otherwise, as to the identity of an applicant, the sanitary conditions under which he lives and his reliability as regards his statement as to his intended residence in Ceylon, this Government would not wish to question their action. It must however be thoroughly understood by the District Medical and Sanitary Officer that the certificate is his, and in issuing it he must act with a due sense of his personal and official responsibility.

5. I am to add that, so far as this Government is aware there is at present no dissatisfaction as regards the working of the quarantine regulations on the part of the large Indian community living in Ceylon, who with their friends practically form the whole travelling public between the districts of the Madras Presidency and

Ceylon. Many do obtain certificates from the District Medical and Sanitary Officers, and others can readily obtain permits from the Chairman, Plague Committee, while even those detained find in the new camp separate quarters in which they can spend the necessary term of detention without any discomfort.

On the other hand the quarantine restrictions have secured the continued immunity of Ceylon from cholera, in spite of twelve outbreaks among passengers and coolies detained in the camp in 1917, and have minimised the incidence of smallpox to isolated outbreaks.

6. His Excellency trusts therefore that, in any modification of the existing rules which may be published, no departure may be made from the main principle of limiting the issue of permits to persons, whose circumstances and reliability can be vouched for on the responsibility of a trustworthy and qualified officer of the Madras Government, such as the District Medical and Sanitary Officer.

Order—No. 692, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 5th October 1918.

Under the Ceylon Quarantine Rules passengers proceeding to Ceylon have ordinarily either to produce certificates of good health and freedom from infection granted by District Medical and Sanitary Officers in this Presidency or to undergo quarantine at the Mandapam camp. In G.O. No. 349, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 22nd November 1916, District Medical and Sanitary Officers were authorized to grant these certificates in a prescribed form which is appended to these proceedings (Annexure I), charging small fees therefor. In order to regulate the issue of these certificates instructions were issued in G.O. No. 150, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 16th February 1917, that they should be granted only to known persons of fixed occupation who give a fixed and traceable address in Ceylon and to whose circumstances the Medical Officer is in a position to certify. A note of instructions on the subject prepared by the Chairman, Plague Committee, Colombo, explaining the requirements of the quarantine authorities in regard to the issue of these certificates was also circulated for the information and guidance of District Medical and Sanitary Officers. It will be observed from these instructions, printed as Annexure II to this order, that District Medical and Sanitary Officers have to satisfy themselves as to the place of residence of the applicant in this Presidency and the destination to which he is proceeding in Ceylon, a responsibility which the Government recognize is outside the scope of their regular duties. It was brought to the notice of Government at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 5th April 1918 that as a consequence of the instructions issued in G.O. No. 150, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 16th February 1917, the issue of certificates has been much restricted owing to the inability of District Medical and Sanitary Officers to certify to these two particulars. In regard to these two points therefore local Revenue Officers not lower than Deputy Tahsildars may furnish preliminary certificates. Unless they have reason to reject these certificates, District Medical and Sanitary Officers may accept them and may issue the certificates of good health and freedom from infection in the prescribed form. The Government have no objection to District Medical and Sanitary Officers accepting on their own responsibility certificates on the points of residence and destination from a respectable member of society, not necessarily a local Revenue officer.

2. Collectors of districts are requested to instruct their subordinate Revenue Officers not lower than Deputy Tahsildars to issue preliminary certificates mentioned above to passengers proceeding to Ceylon who apply for them.

(True extract)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To all Collectors and District Magistrates.

„ the Surgeon-General.
„ the Inspector-General of Police.
„ the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Southern Range, Trichinopoly.
„ the District Superintendent of Police, Ramnad.
„ the Subdivisional Magistrate, Ramnad.
„ the Sanitary Commissioner.

Copy to the Local and Municipal (Medical) Department.
Revenue Department.

Hon'ble Khan Bahadur A. T. G. M. Ahmad Tambi Marakkayar
[through Local and Municipal (Legislative)].

ANNEXURES

I

Form of Certificate.

Serial number of certificate.

[This certificate must be used within 48 hours of date. A copy should be posted to the Quarantine Medical Officer, Mantapam.]

Name of passenger

Race

Sex

Age

Place of residence in India—

Taluk

Village

Address to which proceeding in Ceylon—

Village or town

Street

Name and address of Ceylon resident to whom reference can be made

I certify that the abovenamed passenger has been residing for the last seven days in

a place free from infection and in circumstances which render it unlikely that he has been exposed to infection; and that he is free from disease.

He undertakes to report himself to the Port Surgeon, Colombo, or to the Government Medical Officer of the district immediately on arrival and for five days thereafter.

A.B.,

District Medical and Sanitary Officer.

II

Notes on Certificates to be issued by District Medical and Sanitary Officers.

Apart from the actual certificate the requirements of which are clearly specified in the form, the most important factors are:—

(1) The address in Ceylon—street and town required. The District Medical and Sanitary Officer must satisfy himself that this information is reliable by questioning the applicant and similarly the full name and address of the Ceylon resident to whom reference can be made must only be accepted after satisfactory proof is given.

(2) The District Medical and Sanitary Officer must be satisfied that the man is really proceeding to the address specified. He cannot be sure that a coolie without property or ties will do so and should not therefore issue certificates to unknown persons of a class which is likely to sleep and live in any place convenient and not necessarily in the place and house to which he at the time of departure proposes to proceed.

(3) By infection is meant "infected with cholera, plague or smallpox." This does not mean "proclaimed infected" but that cases of these diseases are known to exist in the locality specified.

(4) The wording of the certificate that the "applicant has been residing for the last seven days in a place free from infection," is not intended to mean that District Medical and Sanitary Officer should encourage the establishment of camps in the neighbourhood of their office where people would be kept under supervision by them but is meant to convey that the certificate should only be given to people whose place of residence is known to the District Medical and Sanitary Officer and that he knows they have actually been there during the previous week and that it is a sanitary and healthy place in sanitary and healthy surroundings.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 692, HOME (MISCELLANEOUS),
DATED 5TH OCTOBER 1918

[SUBJECT.—Quarantine arrangements at Mantapam.]

Previous papers:

G.O.	601,	Marine,	6th July	1897	G.O.	1770,	Public,	9th Dec.	1915
"	398	Pl.,	22nd May	1907	"	1771	"	9th	"
"	424	"	1st June	"	"	85	Pl.,	8th Feb.	1916
"	270	"	20th Mar.	1909	"	795,	Public,	24th Apr.	"
"	291	Ry.,	10th May	"	"	821	"	27th	"
"	355-56	Pl.,	20th June	1910	"	980-81	"	20th May	"
"	377,	Marine,	8th Dec.	1913	"	1432-33	"	30th July	"
"	41	"	7th Feb.	1914	"	196,	Home (Mis.),	4th Oct.	"
"	391,	Public,	30th Mar.	"	"	349	"	22nd Nov.	"
"	318	Pl.,	10th June	"	"	424	"	15th Dec.	"
"	228,	Marine,	20th July	"	"	150	"	16th Feb.	1917
"	23	"	21st Jan.	1915	"	85,	Pub. (Marine),	17th	"
"	619,	Public,	21st Apr.	"	"	292,	Home (Mis.),	20th Mar.	"
"	244-45,	Marine,	12th July	"	"	326	"	30th	"
"	1161-62	"	5th Aug.	"	"	605	"	19th June	"
"	1467,	Public,	9th Oct.	"	"	971-72	"	6th Aug.	"
"	339,	Marine,	26th	"	"	1273	"	18th Dec.	"
"	1619,	Public,	15th Nov.	"	"	212	"	9th Mar.	1918
"	388	"	9th Dec.	"	"				

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur A. T. G. M. AHMAD TAMBI MARAKKAYAR:—

"XXVII. This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that necessary steps be taken with the Ceylon Government to withdraw G.O. No. 150, dated 16th February 1917, and to adhere to the announcements made in G.O. No. 349, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 22nd November 1916, regarding the quarantine restrictions imposed on Indian passengers proceeding to Ceylon."

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

The resolution which the Additional Member now proposes to move is almost similar to the one (No. XXV) as subsequently amended which was moved at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 4th April 1917 and which was lost. Attention is invited to the notes written on the previous resolution which set out a full history of the quarantine restrictions at Mantapam and the discussions thereon at the Legislative Council meeting—pages 1-3 of G.O. No. 605, dated 19th June 1917.

2. Under G.O. No. 349, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 22nd November 1916, passengers proceeding to Ceylon have ordinarily either to produce certificates of good health and freedom from infection granted by District Medical and Sanitary Officers of this Presidency or to undergo quarantine at the Mantapam camp. The District Medical and Sanitary Officer, Ramnad, having issued at the very outset certificates of health indiscriminately the Quarantine Medical Officer at Mantapam refused to accept them (vide paper VII at pages 4-5 of G.O. No. 150, dated 16th February 1917). At the instance of the Chairman, Plague Committee, Colombo, the

Ceylon Government asked this Government to make it clear to the medical officers that certificates of health should be granted only to known persons of fixed occupation who give a fixed and traceable address in Ceylon and to whose circumstances the medical officer is in a position to certify. Mr. Bowes, the Chairman, Plague Committee, Colombo, also forwarded demi-officially a statement of points to put the District Medical and Sanitary Officers on their guard against issuing certificates which he was unable to accept (paragraph 2 of demi-official from Mr. Bowes at page 2 of Notes to G.O. Nos. 150-51, dated 16th February 1917). These points were embodied as an annexure to G.O. No. 150, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 16th February 1917, for the information and guidance of District Medical and Sanitary Officers and instructions were issued in the same Government Order on the lines desired by the Ceylon Government.

3. The Additional Member (Mr. Marakkayar) took objection to these instructions on the following grounds when the subject was discussed at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 4th April last :—

(1) That it will be difficult for a District Medical and Sanitary Officer to certify that an intending passenger proceeds direct to the place mentioned in the certificate.

(2) That it is quite impossible for a District Medical and Sanitary Officer to certify that a particular individual has resided in a certain place for seven days.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. Gillman in replying stated as follows :—

* * * * *

“Taking the case of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer, who has been authorized to give the certificates, I submit that, in order to give that certificate, he need not have necessarily personal knowledge; he has got his assistants who are assistant surgeons or sub-assistant surgeons and other people with whom he is acquainted and on whom he can rely and on whose statements he feels that he is in a position to certify in the manner that the Ceylon Government desire.”

* * * * *

The Government were unable to accept the resolution as the time was not opportune to press the Ceylon Government to modify the further restrictions which they placed on the issue of these certificates.

4. It is submitted that the instructions are only for the guidance of District Medical and Sanitary Officers and are intended mainly for checking the indiscriminate issue of certificates. No complaints have been brought to the notice of Government since the issue of these instructions about any inconvenience caused to passengers applying for certificates by these instructions. In the circumstances it is for consideration whether the resolution should not be opposed.

5. Orders of the Honourable Member may be taken whether the Honourable Member will take charge of the resolution and whether any further information is desired. (It is understood that the resolution has been admitted.)

T.C.N.—21-3-18.

P.S.R.—22-3-18.

C. H. BROWN—22-3-18.

L. D. SWAMIKANNU—22-3-18.

I will take the resolution. The Government Order of 16th February 1917 restricts the operation of the Government Order of 22nd November 1916 by requiring that certificates may be issued by District Medical and Sanitary Officers only to ‘known persons of fixed occupation who give a fixed and traceable address in Ceylon and as to whose circumstances the District Medical and Sanitary Officer is in a position to certify.’ The propriety of the restrictions as to occupation and address cannot be challenged, for it is obviously necessary that the men to whom these certificates are issued should furnish information from which they can be traced without difficulty on arrival in Ceylon. The third condition, viz., that the District Medical and Sanitary Officer should be in a position to certify to the circumstances of the passengers, was the one to which most serious exception was taken by non-official members in

the course of the debate last year, and though I tried to explain that it was not necessary for the District Medical and Sanitary Officer to be personally acquainted with the applicant, still it is possible that these officers are running into the other extreme and refusing certificates in cases in which they might properly grant them. I think that we may promise an inquiry into this point with a view to determine whether it is possible to relieve District Medical and Sanitary Officers of the obligation of certifying to the applicant's last place of residence and his address in Ceylon by imposing this duty on some local officer, say a deputy tahsildar or sub-assistant surgeon, whose certificate the District Medical and Sanitary Officer might be authorized to accept. The latter officer might then sign the complete certificate on satisfying himself that the applicant is in good health.

I shall mention the resolution in Council.

H. F. W. GILLMAN—23-3-18.

Extract from the Proceedings of an Adjourned Meeting of the Council of the Governor of Fort St. George assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of the Act of Parliament, 5 and 6 Geo. V, Ch. 61.

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Friday, the 5th day of April 1918.

RESOLUTION RE THE CEYLON QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur A. T. G. M. AHMAD TAMBI MARAKKAYAR :—“Your Excellency, the resolution that I have the honour to move runs as follows :—

‘XXIII. This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that necessary steps be taken with the Ceylon Government to withdraw G.O. No. 150, dated 16th February 1917, and to adhere to the announcement made in G.O. No. 349, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 22nd November 1916, regarding the quarantine restrictions imposed on Indian passengers proceeding to Ceylon.’

“It will, doubtless, be in the recollection of Honourable Members that a similar resolution was moved by me at the April session of the Council last year, which was, however, rejected by Government on the score that that was not an opportune time for making any representation to the Ceylon Government in regard to the matter of withdrawing the new restrictions imposed on the District Medical and Sanitary Officers in the issue of certificates by them to passengers proceeding to Ceylon. The point of view then urged by Government was that after an arrangement had been arrived at between them and the Ceylon Government which was embodied in G.O. No. 349, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 22nd November 1916, and by which District Medical and Sanitary Officers were empowered to grant certificates of health and freedom from infection to passengers proceeding to Ceylon—an improper use of the concession was made by one of the District Medical and Sanitary Officers, as the result of which the Ceylon Government lost their confidence in the medical officers of this Government, and imposed the restrictions which are contained in G.O. No. 150, dated 16th February 1917. It was then pointed out by the non-official members that ‘in large measures affecting the public one such impropriety on the part of one subordinate should not stand seriously in the way.’ However, the Government did not see their way to accept the resolution.

“In this connexion I wish to quote a portion of the speech your Excellency made in the last year's debate—

‘I am as anxious as anybody here to obtain the fullest privileges for our own people. In the end we are obliged to respect the control of the Ceylon Government over Ceylon. It is best, I think, to take what seems to be the ordinary common sense view of things, which has been created by certain circumstances to leave the matter as it is and let the present system work in harmony and co-operation with the Ceylon Government and if at any time we can obtain a favourable relaxation in regard to certificates or in any other direction to secure the free ingress of our people into Ceylon, let us do so.’

“One year has now elapsed since the resolution was moved, and yet, it is painful to note, no steps have been taken by our Government to minimize the inconvenience and difficulties of our countrymen proceeding to Ceylon. The one Government Order (viz., G.O. No. 349, dated 22nd November 1916), which had sought to minimize them has been nullified by another—G.O. No. 150, dated 16th February 1917.

"It has already been explained to the Council how G.O. No. 150 has converted the concession extended by the former Government Order into no concession at all. The points, on which the District Medical and Sanitary Officers are to satisfy themselves before the grant of certificates, are so minute and elaborate that it would extremely be impracticable for them to grant any certificates at all. They should have personal knowledge of the applicants for certificates, personal knowledge of their places of residence, personal knowledge of the different turns of their minds—whether they are steady-minded people who would go to the places mentioned by them without any halts in the middle and whether they would stay and sleep in the particular houses and localities which they specify as their addresses in Ceylon. The Hon'ble Mr. Gillman, however, pointed out last year that it was not absolutely necessary that the District Medical and Sanitary Officers should have personal knowledge of the intending passengers but that they might issue certificates on the statements of their subordinates, such as Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons. This is, more or less, putting the District Medical Officers on quicksandy ground; and I don't know if any of them would dare to issue any such certificates at all when it is so very distinctly stated in the Government Order that 'certificates should be granted only to *known* persons of fixed occupation, who give a fixed and traceable address in Ceylon, and to whose *circumstances* the Medical Officer is in a position to certify.'

"Now, it will be admitted that the District Medical and Sanitary Officer could not be expected to have personal knowledge of all the applicants for health certificates, and he would be careful not to issue such certificates on assurances from his subordinates alone, especially as the procedure might involve severe reprimands from the Surgeon-General, the Madras Government and the redoubtable Ceylon Government.

"Then, a proposal was put forward that Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons, who have local knowledge, might be authorized to grant such certificates, which was rejected on the plea that, when the Ceylon Government had considered even the District Medical and Sanitary Officers were not above suspicion, they would not consent to invest such powers in the hands of the subordinates of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer.

"The poor passengers, therefore, necessarily undergo untold sufferings: and if the Madras Government do not now come to their rescue, who else would care to extend them any protection.

"When a concession had already been given, why should the Ceylon Government make it void by imposing severe restrictions on the responsible Medical Officers of the Madras Government? Surely, it cannot be urged that the fault of a single officer was a sufficient provocation for the Ceylon Government to impose such hard restrictions."

"I beg to say, Your Excellency, the minds of the people are very sore in regard to this point, and they wonder why should our Government climb down before the Ceylon Government with regard to a matter which vitally affects their subjects."

"If, however, the Ceylon Government do not agree to the terms of this resolution, then, I submit, my Lord, the only alternative step that could be taken by our Government consistent with their prestige, is to impose similar restrictions on passengers coming from Ceylon to this Presidency. The Madras Government, too, have every right to protect their subject from plague, or other infections, and they are surely entitled to take this course in view of the fact that it is found—as pointed out by the Honourable the Raja of Ramnad on the last occasion—that 'a larger number of imported cases of plague in India from Ceylon are discerned, rather than from India to Ceylon.'

"As the resolution has already been fully discussed last year, I have nothing further to urge, except an earnest appeal to Government for sympathetic response to the grievance of their subjects.

"It will not, here, be out of place if I bring to Your Excellency's kind recollection the reply made by Your Excellency to the address presented by the Nattukottai Chettivars during Your Excellency's tour in the Chettinad in September 1916, which reads as follows:—

'In your address you mention one question which is of special interest to you as a community, namely, the Ceylon Quarantine Regulations. This is a matter which has engaged our anxious attention. It is at present under further discussion with the Ceylon Government, and you will, therefore, not expect me to deal with it in detail. I sincerely trust, however, that we shall arrive at an agreement which while securing to the Ceylon Government all that is necessary to safeguard the health of the people committed to its charge, will obviate all unnecessary interference with those whom business or employment takes to that island.'

"I may also be permitted to bring to Your Excellency's notice the following resolution passed at the First Annual Conference of the Madras Presidency Association, in December last:—

'That the Madras Provincial Conference having for two successive years appealed in vain for the removal of the highly obnoxious Quarantine Regulations enforced by the Ceylon Government at Mantapam and Tuticorin on passengers and labourers going to the island, this conference now respectfully approaches the Government of India on the subject praying that

suitable measures may be adopted to have the said regulations abolished by the Ceylon Government as early as possible, and, if within a reasonable period of time this proposal proves to be unacceptable to the Ceylon Government, to prevent effectively the recruitment in India of labourers for Ceylon plantations.'

"One other peculiar point which I wish to bring to the notice of the Council is—

To my personal knowledge, I have known several cases where passengers who proceed from India to Ceylon are allowed to go free from Quarantine Restrictions at Mantapam Camp. These passengers are allowed to pass free on production of a permit issued by the Chairman of the Plague Committee at Ceylon. It will not be out of place here to point out that such permits are generally issued by the officer more on the influence of the people of the place than following the general principles connected with the issue of the permits. The wordings of the certificate, if I remember right, is, to permit 'XYZ' to pass free from India to Ceylon without any restrictions at the Mantapam Quarantine Camp. The issue of such kinds of certificates, Your Excellency's Government will, doubtless, consider, is based on no principle and the certificates are issued without due regard to whether the said XYZ is by himself free from any infectious diseases or is coming out from a place, which is free from such diseases. In these circumstances, I wish to know whether the action of the Ceylon Government is justified in issuing such kinds of permits.

"It is really a matter of great surprise that while the Ceylon Government and the Government of Madras are able to find fault on a particular Medical Officer, who issued medical certificates on the principles laid down in G.O. Mis. No. 349, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 22nd November 1916, are not now able to check their own officers issuing such inadequate permits referred to above.

"In these circumstances and in view of the unanimity of the public opinion in the matter, I fully trust that Your Excellency's Government will not hesitate to accept this resolution."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur S. R. M. ANNAMALAI CHETTIYAR:—"Your Excellency, in seconding this resolution I wish to say a few words. The Honourable Mover has explained the difficulties experienced by those who proceed to Ceylon. At the April meeting last year when a similar resolution was brought forward it was stated on behalf of the Government that on account of some improper certificates granted by a certain District Medical and Sanitary Officer it was not the proper time to press the Ceylon Government to remove the restrictions. At that time the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman expressed sympathy with the suffering passengers, and said that he was as anxious as any body else to obtain the fullest privileges for them and that he only wanted time in order to secure those privileges. He advised the Honourable Members of this Council to wait until a more favourable opportunity came. Now, my Lord, one full year has passed since then, and I trust Your Excellency's Government will take effective steps to remove all the unnecessary restrictions which for a long time have been imposed upon the people of this Presidency and which have given rise to a good deal of heartburning in the minds of the people. I beg to submit that if even now the Government tell us that the proper time has not come yet, I am sure that the people will think either that the Government do not sympathise with the people or they are powerless to do anything in the matter. Last year the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman said that the Ceylon Government had the right to protect their country from disease. If that be the case, I should like to know whether the Madras Government have not the right to protect the rights and privileges of the people committed to their care. Certainly the Ceylon Government have no right to insult us in our own land and the Madras Government can no more allow merchants and other respectable people of this Presidency to be treated as coolies.

"In this connexion I would draw the attention of the Council to the answer given by this Government at the February meeting of this Council this year. My Hon'ble Friend Mr. Chidambaramatha Mudaliyar put an interpellation asking whether the Government will be pleased to take steps to modify the restrictions regarding the passengers proceeding to Ceylon. In answer to this, the Government were pleased to state that they do not propose to take any action in the matter. My Lord, in spite of the assurance given by Your Excellency, after so much has been spoken at the April meeting last year and after so much of sympathy has been expressed by the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman, if the Government were pleased to give such an answer, I do not know by whom else this evil can be remedied. Your Excellency, the removal of this evil is a matter of urgency, and I trust that Your Excellency's Government will be pleased at least now, having regard to the feelings of the public in the matter, take effective steps to remove the restrictions either directly or through the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Madras Government should not hesitate to ask the Ceylon Government to be reasonable in their anxiety to protect their country from infection, and to see that our interests are protected. With these words I second the resolution."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN:—"Your Excellency, the motion before this Council is not, as seems to be understood by the Hon'ble Mr. Annamalai Chettiyar, to remove what he has been pleased to call the evils of the quarantine restrictions at Mantapam, but the question whether G.O. No. 150 of February last which amplified the former G.O. No. 349 of November 1916 should be cancelled. I may just remark that on the general question of the removal of

restrictions I had an interview at Colombo at Christmas with the Ceylon authorities on the subject, and I found that they were fully resolved to adhere to their restrictions because they were quite satisfied that diseases and epidemics were thereby prevented from reaching Ceylon. I have not heard of any case of plague brought from Ceylon into India, and if the Hon'ble the Raja of Ramnad has any precise information on the subject I shall be very glad to consider it.

"The original Government Order prescribed that every passenger who wished to proceed to Ceylon without undergoing quarantine restrictions should produce a certificate from a district medical and sanitary officer furnishing particulars on three points. The first was his residence in Ceylon, which I think you will agree is very necessary to safeguard that country; the second was that he had, previous to the issue of the certificate, been residing for seven days in a place free from infection; the third point was that he was free from disease. By the second Government Order which is really the subject of this debate, the responsibility for the correct answering of these provisions on these matters was placed upon the District Medical and Sanitary Officer and I understand from a conversation with the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmad Tambi Marakkayar that in consequence the issue of certificates has been very much restricted, and that we are asking too much of the District Medical Officer when we require that he shall guarantee the place of residence here and the destination to which the man is proceeding in Ceylon. So on this point I can meet the Honourable Member, because it seems to me that the local officers, the deputy tahsildar or the tahsildar, would be in the best position to furnish a certificate in regard to occupation and residence. If he furnishes that certificate, it is a certificate which the District Medical and Sanitary Officer may very well accept. Therefore I propose to issue instructions now, that the District Medical and Sanitary Officer may accept certificates from local revenue officers, not lower than deputy tahsildars, on these two questions of residence and occupation. It follows therefrom that the only point on which he himself will have to certify is the question of the freedom from disease and that will largely remove the complaint that has been brought to the notice of the Council by the Honourable Member.

"There is only one other point, Your Excellency, which has been mentioned by the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmad Tambi Marakkayar, which I would like to notice; and that is, as to the certificates of persons being allowed to proceed to Ceylon on permits issued from there by the chairman of the plague committee. I understand that, in the first place, the person applying for the certificate has to guarantee that the man who is going over is proceeding to a certain place, and secondly when the man does proceed over there he is kept under medical observation for fifteen days. It seems to me that these two qualifications very materially affect the position and do not render this certificate such an impropriety as the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmad Tambi Marakkayar seems to suggest. In view of what I have said, I hope the Honourable Member will see fit to withdraw this resolution."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO:—"My Lord, I would just like to say a few words in answer to the observations of the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman. In regard to the general position, it will be within the recollection of Honourable Members that two or three years ago I moved a resolution in this Council setting forth all the objections to the existing system and I may assure the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman that I do not wish to bring it under discussion on this resolution. But I continue to receive letters from friends in Ceylon to the effect that, notwithstanding the representations made by Your Excellency's Government in answer to the motion made in this Council, the annoyances and troubles have not in any way decreased. You may take the assurance that they continue to exist and if Your Excellency's Government can do anything to remove them, it will be a matter for very great satisfaction.

"Of course, one suggestion has been made that some representation should be made to the Colonial Office. I cannot say whether that would be feasible or not. The Hon'ble Mr. Gillman will be in a better position than myself to say whether it is possible or not; but if there is anything to be done to bring pressure on the Ceylon Government to modify the regulations I trust it will be done. It is true it is Colonial Government independent of the Government of India; but I am perfectly certain that Your Excellency is aware of the means and methods by which a Colonial Government can be brought round to the views which may be entertained by Your Excellency's Government.

"As regards the suggestion of a certificate being given by the deputy tahsildar, may I point out to the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman that the procedure which he has indicated will mean two certificates; first of all, a man intending to go to Ceylon will have to go to the tahsildar and obtain from him a certificate of identity, and probably his position in this country, and satisfy him as to his address and whereabouts and his address and business in Ceylon. Armed with this certificate which he has obtained from the tahsildar, who after all is a touring officer, he has to go to the District Medical and Sanitary Officer in some other station, and then see whether he is at headquarters and then obtain a certificate of health from him. I would, in order to obviate these objections to going to all places and trying to get certificates from two officers, suggest that, if possible, he may relax the rules so as to permit the civil assistant or sub-assistant surgeon at the headquarters of the tahsildar or deputy tahsildar to issue a certificate of health to the person who wishes to go to Ceylon. My Lord, these officers' certificates, those of the civil assistant surgeon or sub-assistant surgeon, are good enough in India for all purposes; the Government accept certificates from them as regards health, age, fitness for Government service and

such other matters in which certificates from medical men are necessary. In these circumstances I do not see why the Ceylon Government should ask for a certificate from the District Medical and Sanitary Officer alone. That is the point which I should like to place before the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman. If it is possible to arrange for the certificate of health as well as the certificate of identity at the same station, it would possibly avoid a certain amount of inconvenience which must necessarily be involved in going to two places and obtaining two different certificates from two different officers. I would ask the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman to consider this inconvenience and see whether it is possible to adopt the suggestion I have made."

The Hon'ble Mr. T. RANGA ACHARIYAR:—"There was one remark made by the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman. I think the certificate required was freedom from disease. Is it freedom from infection or freedom from disease?"

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN:—"That he comes from a place free from infection and that he is himself free from disease."

The Hon'ble Mr. T. RANGA ACHARIYAR:—"That is a very large order, that he must be free from disease himself. What diseases?"

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN:—"From all diseases."

The Hon'ble Mr. T. RANGA ACHARIYAR:—"Cannot some alteration be made? No medical officer can be in a position to certify that a man is free from disease. It may be enough if the man is free from infectious disease."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO:—"Suppose a man has a bad tooth, does that prevent him from going to Ceylon?"

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN:—"The word is 'disease,' and it means infectious disease."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. RAMA AYYANGAR:—"Your Excellency, I have not heard from the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman the circumstances under which G.O. No. 349 was modified and the condition imposed in G.O. No. 150 was accepted by this Government. The wording of the first order is this—

"Under the Ceylon Quarantine Rules passengers proceeding to Ceylon have ordinarily either to produce certificates of good health and freedom from infection granted by district medical and sanitary officers in this Presidency or to undergo quarantine at the Mantapam camp. The Government hereby authorize all district medical and sanitary officers in the Presidency to grant these certificates in the form appended to these proceedings. They are permitted to charge a fee of Rs. 5 for an individual case and of Rs. 8 for a family. An officer in charge of the duties of a district medical and sanitary officer can grant the certificate."

"Therefore, the original arrangement between this Government and the Government of Ceylon was that there should be certificates of freedom from infection, granted by district medical and sanitary officer of this Presidency, otherwise there should be quarantine at the Mantapam camp. This was apparently accepted by the other Government also. The reason indicated in the second Government Order for restrictions being placed and certain conditions being imposed is contained in paragraph 2 of the second Government Order which says:—

"The attention of Government has recently been drawn to certain cases of the indiscriminate issue of certificates of health. The Government direct that certificates should be granted only to known persons of fixed occupation who give a fixed and traceable address in Ceylon and to whose circumstances the medical officer is in a position to certify. A note prepared by the Chairman, Plague Committee, Colombo, explaining the requirements of the quarantine authorities so far as the issue of certificates is concerned is annexed to these proceedings for the information and guidance of district medical and sanitary officers."

"The indiscriminate issue of certificates has been the reason for the second Government Order, but what does the second Government Order state? It does not refer to additional safeguards that have to be taken in connexion with the issue of certificates, but it says that 'the Ceylon Government have now forwarded eight books containing medical certificate forms for distribution at the segregation camp at Mantapam and signature.' That is what it says; but the notes to the district medical and sanitary officer added as annexure to this Government Order say:—

"The address in Ceylon—street and town required. The district medical and sanitary officer must satisfy himself that this information is reliable by questioning the applicant and similarly the full name and address of the Ceylon resident to whom reference can be made must only be accepted after satisfactory proof is given."

"It does not come under any safeguards of the Quarantine Regulations so far as I can see. How could a district medical and sanitary officer go and ascertain except on information given that the man will go and reside at a particular place, the address being made clear to him. No. 2 of the instructions says—

"The district medical and sanitary officer must be satisfied that the man is really proceeding to the address specified.' He cannot be sure that a coolie without property or ties

will do so and should not therefore issue certificates to unknown persons of a class which is likely to sleep and live in any place convenient and not necessarily in the place and house to which he at the time of the departure proposes to proceed.

"This also comes under the previous clause. It only deals with the matter of ascertaining the whereabouts of the individual to whom the certificate is given. Here again the district medical and sanitary officer is expected to do a business which is clearly beyond his control. Thirdly,—

"By infection is meant "infected with cholera, plague or smallpox." This does not mean "proclaimed infected," but that cases of these diseases are known to exist in the locality specified."

"No. 4 is—

"The wording of the certificate that the "applicant has been residing for the last seven days in a place free from infection" is not intended to mean that district medical and sanitary officers should encourage the establishment of camps in the neighbourhood of their office where people would be kept under supervision by them but is meant to convey that the certificate should only be given to people whose place of residence is known to the district medical and sanitary officer and that he knows they have actually been there during the previous week and that it is a sanitary and healthy place in sanitary and healthy surroundings."

"These are the four instructions that have been given. I ask, my Lord, whether there is, even as the Government Order stands, room for the contention that has now been put forward by the Ceylon Government in the matter of the detention of these people? I only request that the wording of the first Government Order which in effect has been explained in the second may be adopted as the final stand upon which this Government will support this case. The question is this. It is not that this Government have not got the power to issue instructions to their various local officers to report infectious diseases to the district medical and sanitary officers, if they happen in villages of the districts in their charge. In fact if there is plague, cholera or smallpox in any village, a report of it must be made to the authorities as early as possible. If there are no specific instructions already given, that within two or three days or five or six days of the happening of any one of these diseases in the villages—if there is no specific rule asking for information to be given by the village officers or other persons responsible to the district medical and sanitary officer—steps may be taken to assure such information being given properly. The next position will be that the district medical and sanitary officer for the matter of that may have information from the assistant surgeon or sub-assistant surgeon in charge of the dispensaries or hospitals in rural areas. They will communicate with him immediately if there are any infectious diseases in the villages. Then if within seven days of the man reaching the district medical and sanitary officer the particular locality is known to be free from such diseases, if he has not got information about any attacks of any one of these diseases, it may be taken that he is entitled to give a certificate that the person comes from an area which is not infected. He must be presumed to know, in fact, there is no doubt that cases of cholera, smallpox and plague are immediately asked to be reported to the officers concerned and wired to the district medical and sanitary officer and also the higher authorities."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN :—"Also the tahsildar is informed?"

The Hon'ble Mr. K. RAMA AYYANGAR :—"Yes, the tahsildar knows it. The District Medical Officer knows it. Either of these officers is quite competent to declare that a particular village from which the particular person comes is not affected or infected in the sense of the Government Order that I have now read."

"Then the first question arises as to where is the necessity for two certificates. In fact only one certificate is necessary irrespective of the person coming from the infected locality; in fact the tahsildar's certificate would not add to it at all. Instructions may be given to the tahsildar or any other subordinate officer in any area to directly communicate—I believe there is already a rule requiring direct communication—diseases of this kind to the higher authorities. So that it might very well be presumed that the district medical and sanitary officer is in possession of information as to the particular areas in his jurisdiction which are affected with the disease; so his certificate will practically answer the point that has been raised in the note to the subsequent Government Order."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN :—"May I ask how could he know that the man comes from a particular village?"

The Hon'ble Mr. K. RAMA AYYANGAR :—"That is the point on which the Government may make the district medical and sanitary officer satisfy himself by getting some responsible person of the locality to testify to the identity of the person as coming from a particular village, that it would be quite different from making a man go and wait at the deputy tahsildar's or tahsildar's office, meet his clerk and induce him to grant a certificate, take it before the tahsildar, get his signature, and then go before the district medical and sanitary officer's clerk, make him prepare another certificate, take it to the officer and take his signature and then go. We can simplify the difficulty that may exist. The Hon'ble Mr. Ahmad Tambi Marakkayar was telling me of case after case of getting plague passports from the Ceylon officer. The cost of getting the plague passport from the Ceylon officer—he would not give it

out in the course of his speech—he put at Rs. 25 for a certificate. I do not want to dwell very much on details. But we do know what a certificate is. We do pay for it in criminal cases or other matters in Taluk offices or the District Medical and Sanitary office. Much discussion on that point may not be useful."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur A. T. G. M. AHMAD TAMB MARAKKAYAR :—"I only meant the cost of getting passports for proceeding to the Straits Settlement."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. RAMA AYYANGAR :—"If it is the cost of going to the Straits Settlement I do not want to use it. My general remark is that it is necessary to avoid the production of a number of certificates in cases of this kind."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—"We are not discussing the general question. We are discussing how we can make it more easy for the district medical and sanitary officer to certify that a man has resided for seven days in a place free from disease. I would ask the Council to concentrate their attention upon that point. We are really wasting the time of the Council by travelling over the whole ground. The district medical and sanitary officers are required to certify that a man has resided in a place for seven days before he proceeds on his journey. Exception was taken to this provision last year, and it was pointed out that it was very difficult for the district medical and sanitary officer to certify—a man may know it but he may not be willing to certify on his word—that it has been so. The Government have now proposed, in order to make it easier for these district medical and sanitary officers to sign any such certificate, that they should have the authoritative information of the tahsildar or the deputy tahsildar on the matter which is not a health matter. It is a matter of fact whether the man has or has not resided for seven days in a particular place. That will make it easy for the medical officer to give the certificate. What the Government are anxious to do is to facilitate the granting of certificates. As has been stated by the Honourable Member, they wish to remove this particular difficulty. We need not work out future difficulties. We must do one thing at a time. The point is that we should remove this difficulty. If it is agreeable to the Honourable Member that the Government should take this step, we will take the step."

The Hon'ble the RAJA of RAMNAD :—"How is it possible for the deputy tahsildar or the tahsildar to know that a particular man has lived in a particular village?"

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—"As I understand the tahsildar is given official information that a certain village is free from disease. He can also find out that a certain person has been an inhabitant of that village. With that information he can identify the particular individual. The District Medical and Sanitary Officer cannot travel about the district to get information from those who know."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. RAMA AYYANGAR :—"It was in that connexion I was making a suggestion. The real question is as to what would help the district medical and sanitary officer, and what will be the proper method of helping him. When I compared both the Government Orders the earlier and the later one, my point was that the Ceylon Government did not want anything more than that the place the man came from was free from these diseases, and that the person was a resident in the village for seven days; and there was the medical officer's certificate. Those are the three things required by these Government Orders. The district medical officer's certificate was condemned in the meanwhile. But all the same the only point required is seven days' previous stay in a place free from disease; that should be known to the Ceylon Government. Therefore is it the tahsildar that will be the best man to know the thing under these circumstances? The district medical officer may get information from a person who knows and who he thinks is reliable and respectable, it may be that it is the village Nattamaikaran or the headman of the village or a person of such status as will satisfy the Government and also the district medical and sanitary officer. Anything more than that will only complicate the matter, because if the man has to go to the tahsildar, some proof will have to be given before him if he is to issue the certificate and the same thing may be done by the district medical officer. Looking to the spirit of both the Government Orders and the contentions of both the Governments, I do not think it will be proper to put these persons to greater restrictions than those to which they were put before 1916. I hope there will be complete deliberation on the situation and a redress of the grievances."

The Hon'ble Lieut.-Col. GIFFARD :—"May I add a word from the point of view of a doctor? The district medical and sanitary officers are, as their name implies, medical and sanitary officers. In their capacity of sanitary officers they do know in their own districts what is going on in the villages of the district and therefore they are able to say whether a village is infected or not. They are not able to say whether a particular man comes from a particular village or not, and the district medical and sanitary officers would like to have their work restricted to what they know. They may be asked to give two pieces of information :—"In my district such and such a village is not affected; and this person is not infected." I personally do not think it will save Ceylon from epidemics if you bring a patient before me, and I say I find him well to-day. It does not prove that he will not get plague or smallpox or any other infectious disease within a week. They can also certify that sanitarily the village from which he is said to have come is infected or not and the person as he appears before them shows no signs of disease. I request this Council to remember these two points. In any

Government Order that the Government may issue, we will loyally support them in every way as far as honestly can be done, but I think it is not wise and it is not fair to ask us to fill up the certificates on information which is not at our disposal."

The Hon'ble Mr. T. RANGA ACHARIYAR :—" May I move an amendment? "

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" The Honourable Member has exhausted his right of speech."

The Hon'ble Mr. T. RANGA ACHARIYAR :—" By asking a question? "

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" I thought the Honourable Member addressed the meeting."

The Hon'ble Mr. T. RANGA ACHARIYAR :—" The question is bristling with difficulties and has caused sore grievance. I therefore suggest the following amendment: 'This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that they be pleased to appoint a committee to make suggestions regarding the quarantine restrictions imposed upon Indian passengers proceeding to Ceylon.' The Government may take in the assistance of a committee in order to consider whether the quarantine regulations may not be improved. I understand that it is the desire of Your Excellency's Government to remove unnecessary restrictions which may exist. It is hardly possible in a full Council like this to make suggestions for the purpose of executive action; therefore I commend this amendment to Your Excellency's consideration."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. CHIDAMBARANATHA MUDALIYAR seconded the amendment.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" I think myself that this raises a much wider issue, as Honourable Members will see, than the original motion. I hardly think that the Council will desire to discuss it. It is much better to bring forward this resolution on another occasion. The Government are not prepared to discuss this amendment. It raises a much wider issue than the resolution. It reads thus: This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that they be pleased to appoint a committee to make suggestions regarding the quarantine restrictions imposed upon Indian passengers proceeding to Ceylon. I hardly think it is definite enough to be brought in as an amendment. I am afraid I must rule it out of order. I think we had better continue the debate."

The Hon'ble Mr. A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" Your Excellency, I have been waiting for a decision on the amendment moved by my Honourable Friend Mr. Ranga Achariyar, as to whether it is to be discussed by the Council or not. As it has been ruled out of order, I feel it is necessary to place certain facts before this Council. In view of the discussion which took place in April last year, it is but desirable that we should ascertain as best as we can what has taken place during the interval. Two questions are raised by this resolution. One is, as Your Excellency has already pointed out and as the Hon'ble Surgeon-General has also pointed out, whether the Medical officers themselves are in a position to give information about the residence of the intending passengers; and it is with reference to that point that the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman said that the Tahsildar or the Deputy Tahsildar may be instructed to give a certificate to the District Medical officer to enable him to certify about it. The other point raised by this resolution is whether it is necessary that District Medical officers alone should have the privilege of certifying either to the health or residence of the intending passengers and whether that function cannot be delegated to officers subordinate to them."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN (*interrupting*) :—" No question of delegation of the powers of the District Medical and Sanitary officer is raised in the resolution."

The Hon'ble Mr. A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" If the former Government Order is allowed to be retained and the latter is abrogated, will not that follow? "

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN :—" The former Government Order prescribed that these certificates should be issued by the District Medical and Sanitary officers alone."

The Hon'ble Mr. A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" That will obviate some of the difficulties pointed out. Otherwise we shall be introducing a more complicated machinery for the purpose of issuing the certificates, one set of officers who, it is suggested, are to be the revenue officers certifying to the residence and another set of officers certifying as to the health of the person concerned. It is desirable to avoid new machinery and to simplify matters; while at the same time these restrictions are efficiently carried out. Your Excellency will kindly notice that even on the former occasion when this resolution was brought forward these suggestions were made to Your Excellency's Government. Your Excellency then said 'It is best, I think, to take what seems to be the ordinary commonsense view of things which has been created by certain circumstances—to leave the matter as it is and let the present system work in harmony and co-operation with the Ceylon Government; and if at any time we can obtain a favourable relaxation in regard to certificates or in any other direction to secure the free ingress of our people into Ceylon, let us do so.' I am heartily with the Honourable Gentlemen with the general principles that have been referred to. But I doubt whether we have a strong case to press at the present moment. I should be inclined to say let us drop this discussion and resume it when circumstances present a more favourable opportunity.' I would only request Your Excellency's

Government to consider whether all the incidents which have taken place during the last twelve months are not sufficient to enable the Government to make further representation to the Ceylon authorities."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" I hope the Honourable Gentleman will not raise a wider question. I do not want to restrict the debate. What we are trying to do is to make it easier for the District Medical and Sanitary Officer to grant certificates. We are afraid—we do not know, but it is possible—that the District Medical and Sanitary Officer may have difficulty in granting certificates, and we want if possible to obviate and remove that little bit of difficulty. We cannot get a perfect world. We are trying bit by bit to improve the machinery. The Hon'ble Mr. Gillman has offered to consider whether it would not be possible to assure the District Medical Officer in regard to points which are not medical points at all. Therefore the Medical officer will have less difficulty because he will be assured of the identity of the people by officers who can speak to them. There will then be less difficulty in granting the certificate. We need not open the whole field of suggestion, because it is not opened by the resolution."

The Hon'ble Mr. A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" To help the discussion I think it will be better if the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman will inform us as to whether any inquiry has been made as to the importation of plague from Ceylon to India. I find that the Hon'ble the Raja of Ramnad stated on the last occasion 'as a matter of fact we find a larger number of imported cases of plague in India from Ceylon than from India to Ceylon.'"

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN :—" There is no information of plague coming from Ceylon to India."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" My Lord, I should like to propose a small amendment to give effect to the intention of the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman and that is 'that the Government Order should be modified by permitting village officers to issue a certificate of identity for the information of District Medical Officers.' Instead of having Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildars to issue these certificates, I propose that the village officers who are equally responsible to the Government should be permitted to issue certificates of identity. As pointed out by the Hon'ble the Surgeon-General, the two matters which the Medical officer has to decide are as to whether the person is free from disease and whether the place wherefrom he comes is free from disease. If these are the only two matters he has to decide, the other matter is only the question of identity, whether a particular person belongs to a particular village. On that matter no better person can be selected than the village officer who can say whether such and such a person belongs to that village and intends to go to Ceylon. On the basis of that certificate, it will be open to the medical authority to examine the man and see if the village is free, according to his information. It seems to me, my Lord, that it is a very simple solution of the problem. I do not really see why the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman should insist on the Tahsildar or the Deputy Tahsildar giving a certificate of identity and parentage when there are hundreds of villages. If you throw the responsibility on a village officer the matter is very much simplified. If he issues a false certificate, he can be dealt with. I trust the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman would consider this amendment and accept it."

The Hon'ble Mr. A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" I second the amendment."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" The Honourable gentleman has already exhausted his right of speech."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" On the original proposition."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" There is only one proposition."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" Does it exhaust my right to propose an amendment? "

The Hon'ble Mr. P. SIVA RAO PANTULU :—" I second the amendment."

The Hon'ble Mr. T. RANGA ACHARIYAR :—" May I know whether Your Excellency rules the amendment in order? "

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" This debate is irregular. Honourable Gentlemen have introduced irrelevant matters."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" It is really in furtherance of what the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman has said."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" I am not talking of that. I am talking with reference to the rules of order. I am sure the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman will be quite willing to consider all suggestions. The question is, we have to work out a system which will be satisfactory. The Council will be pleased to hear what the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman has to say on the amendment."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN :—" With regard to this amendment I would only like to say that the person who is to be satisfied is the District Medical and Sanitary Officer. We are prepared to prescribe that he may accept the reports of certain responsible officers."

The Hon'ble Mr. T. RANGA ACHARIYAR :—" I wish to rise to a point of order. Unless Your Excellency rules the amendment to be in order, the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman cannot speak."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" Will not the Council hear what the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman has to say? We want to obtain an adjustment of the matter."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN :—" The Government consider that a certificate granted by a Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildar carries such weight that it should invariably be accepted by the District Medical and Sanitary Officer. We are not prepared to issue a rule that certificates may be issued by village officers on non-medical matters. There are village munsifs and village munsifs. If the District Medical and Sanitary Officer is prepared to accept on his own responsibility a certificate from an Honourable Member of a Council or a respectable member of society he is welcome to do so."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO :—" I do not know if I am in order in moving that this House do go into committee in discussing this matter."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" What is the meaning of going into committee?"

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO :—" We can discuss the question without formal proposing and seconding."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" Will the Honourable Gentleman quote the rule?"

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO :—" I cannot quote the rule."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" We are doing it already."

The Hon'ble Mr. Yaqub Hasan :—" I wish to move an amendment (Laughter)."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" It depends upon the amendment."

The Hon'ble Mr. Yaqub Hasan :—" My amendment will simplify the matter. The resolution as amended will run as follows: 'This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that necessary steps be taken to modify the quarantine restrictions imposed on Indian passengers proceeding to Ceylon.'"

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" I think that will not be in order. I have already ruled that such an amendment will not be in order. Let us take the vote on this small amendment and see whether the Council will accept it. It is suggested that the resolution should be amended in this form, that the Government Order should be modified to permit village officers to issue certificates of identity for the benefit of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer."

The Hon'ble the RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" If the village officer is permitted to do this, it will highly complicate matters and will put people to great inconvenience. It is a great complaint of the zamindars that these village officers are not doing their duties properly and if you are going to burden them with this work also, I am afraid their regular work will suffer. I am entirely opposed to the delegation of powers to them and therefore I oppose the amendment."

The Hon'ble Mr. Yaqub Hasan :—" I am sorry Your Excellency did not allow me to move my amendment. I take it that the object of this resolution and the amendment now before us for discussion is that the quarantine restrictions should be modified. That is the object of both the mover of the original resolution and the mover of the amendment. This question has been fully discussed and the Government are in a position to know the feelings of the Council. Therefore if they are given a free hand, as I proposed in my amendment, they will take the necessary steps themselves to modify the quarantine restrictions."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" The Honourable Gentleman has merely expressed his views in favour of his own amendment which has really nothing to do with the amendment now before the Council. I will now put the amendment to the Council."

The amendment of the Hon'ble Mr. Ramachandra Rao was put and lost.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" I must ask the Hon'ble Mr. Marakkayar to reply."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur A. T. G. M. AHMAD TAMBIL MARAKKAYAR :—" Your Excellency, I thought my resolution would be accepted to-day without any difficulty, as it was a matter of very great importance and it had been often admitted by the Government that this kind of difficulty must be removed as early as possible. As to the suggestion made by the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman to empower tahsildars and deputy tahsildars to give certificates of identity, on consideration, I find that it is a good suggestion. At the same time, as my Honourable Friend Mr. Rama Ayyangar has explained, he has not fully heard me. The question of going to sub-magistrates and other officials to secure passports for the Straits Settlements was brought to my notice. No doubt it is a hard job and they have to sacrifice a certain amount of their wealth and time. Besides, in addition to the multifarious work which these officers have, I do not know whether it will simplify the standpoint of the officers themselves and the standpoint of the passengers. There are so many complicated questions in which we have to decide as to how to grant certificates. The Hon'ble Mr. Ranga Achariyar has explained that the wording of the certificate is rather vague. It is 'I hereby certify that the above person has been residing in such and such a place and the place is free from infection.' The Hon'ble the Surgeon-General says that the District Medical and Sanitary Officer will surely be in a position to know the circumstances which render it likely that the place is exposed to infection. The wording is 'free from disease' and as my Honourable Friend Mr. Ranga Achariyar has stated unless it means free from infectious disease that will complicate the matter. There is no man without disease.

All these matters must be carefully considered and it is for this reason that the Hon'ble Mr. Ranga Achariyar moved an amendment to refer the matter to a committee to sit quietly, and discuss the whole matter and decide as to what to do and how to do. It is a very good idea and it is the same thing which I suggested yesterday to the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman. If that is accepted, the whole matter—"

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN :—" What is it?"

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur A. T. G. M. AHMAD TAMBIL MARAKKAYAR :—" We can refer the matter to a committee suitable both to the Ceylon Government and our Government. It will be very convenient for us to decide the matter, whether these regulations are good or not. I strongly recommend that the matter should be referred to a committee consisting of both officials and non-officials to arrive at a decision and the recommendations of that committee may be forwarded to the Ceylon Government. That is a suitable way of minimising the difficulty."

"Secondly, with reference to the remark made by the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman regarding importation of cases from Ceylon referred to by the Hon'ble the Raja of Ramnad, I would bring to the recollection of the Government that some years ago a case of plague occurred in Tanjore; a Muhammadan who came from Colombo died and he was burnt. I brought it to the notice of the Government and the Government passed an order that no Muhammadan should be burnt when he died of any disease. Another case happened at Dhanushkodi of a Bombay Sait who, immediately he landed from Ceylon in 1916, was found suffering from fever and he died, and the authorities declared that he died of plague. The Tahsildar and the District Medical Officer ordered the burning of that Muhammadan dead body. I got a telegram, and I brought it to the notice of the Government and the Collector that there is a distinct order that Muhammadan dead bodies should not be burnt. There are two important cases brought to the notice of the Government. So, what the Honourable Member says—that he does not remember any case of importation of plague from Ceylon—is not right. There are many cases imported from Colombo."

"With regard to the other remark as to the restrictions imposed by the Ceylon authorities on the permits issued by the chairman of the plague committee, he has to be under medical observation for fifteen days. According to the certificate issued by our medical officer he is put under observation for seven days after his arrival at Colombo. Therefore there is no hardship in getting permits from the chairman of the plague committee. All these points can easily be discussed in a committee so as to arrive at a certain conclusion and then decide the matter. So I would request the Government to accept the amended resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Ranga Achariyar whereby we can decide the whole thing if the Government really think that the difficulties that Your Excellency's Government's subjects are undergoing are to be remedied. That is the only way to remedy them. With these few remarks I strongly recommend that the amended resolution be accepted."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN :—" Your Excellency, the Honourable Mover has been addressing his concluding remarks on an amendment which has been ruled out of order. There is no question before the Council of appointing a committee to consider the general amelioration of the quarantine regulations. The question is not at all raised by the motion before the Council. There is no question of having certificates issued by any one except the Medical officer; even under the Government Order of November 1916 it was the District Medical and Sanitary Officer only who was authorized to issue the certificates. The question before the Council is to see if in any way the duties imposed on him can be relaxed, so that he has nothing to do except to issue certificates in regard to purely medical matters. I made a suggestion to the Honourable Member of the direction in which the Government are prepared to meet him if he is prepared to accept it. I will withdraw it, if he does not accept it. If he presses the resolution I do not know what attitude the Government will adopt."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" Will the Honourable Gentleman be good enough to say whether he will press the resolution?"

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur A. T. G. M. AHMAD TAMBIL MARAKKAYAR :—" Rather than to have nothing, I will have something and accept the proposal made by the Honourable Member."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" I should just like to assure the Honourable Gentleman and the Council that we are just as anxious as any Member of this Council—the Government are anxious as any Member of the Council can be—to enable these regulations to work smoothly. Our desire is to maintain good understanding and to endeavour to get a smooth working of these regulations."

With the permission of His Excellency the President, the resolution was withdrawn.

R. A. GRAHAM,
Acting Secretary to Govt., L. & M. (Legislative) Dept.

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

The resolution was withdrawn after a good deal of discussion, on the assurance of Honourable Member that the Government were prepared to issue instructions that the District Medical and Sanitary Officer may accept certificates from local Revenue officers not lower than Deputy Tahsildars on the two questions of residence

and occupation, himself certifying as to freedom of the applicant from disease and of the place of residence from infection. In the course of the discussion Honourable Member also expressed that if the District Medical and Sanitary Officer is prepared to accept on his own responsibility a certificate from an additional member of Council or a respectable member of society he is welcome to do so. It is for consideration whether instructions on the above lines may now be issued. A draft order is submitted, which if approved, may go u.o. to Revenue for acceptance before issue. As the order will have to be communicated by Collectors to all subordinate Revenue officers not lower than Deputy Tahsildars a precis of the previous orders is set out therein for their information.

C.H.B.—5-7-18.

For orders whether the draft may be placed on Editor's table.

J.C.N.—23-6-18.

P.D.R.—4-7-18.

C. H. BROWN—5-7-18

Please examine whether before the issue of the draft Government Order the Government of Ceylon has to be consulted.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—5-7-18.

The question raised by the Secretary is examined below.

2. The idea of the production of certificates of health by passengers in substitution for quarantine emanated from this Government. When the relaxation of quarantine restrictions formed the subject of controversy in 1915 between the Local and the Colonial Governments, the chief change which this Government advocated was the acceptance by the Ceylon Sanitary authorities of a health certificate granted by a responsible medical officer of this Presidency in substitution for quarantine (vide paragraph 3, page 2 of letter No. 1620, dated 15th November 1915). This suggestion was not accepted readily at first by the Ceylon Government, for while they conceded this change in favour of better classes of passengers travelling at a distance, they still required others to undergo quarantine detention (paragraph 14, page 5 of G.O. No. 980, dated 20th May 1916). This Government, however, pressed for the further consideration of the Colonial Government that the provision for accepting certificates of health in substitution for quarantine should not be restricted to passengers of the "better classes" but that such certificates should be accepted on their merits from all passengers irrespective of their position in life (paragraph 7, page 3 of letter No. 981, dated 20th May 1916). It was also suggested that certificates from all responsible medical officers of this Government not below the rank of assistant surgeons should be accepted. The Colonial Government while agreeing to the abolition of the distinction between passengers of different classes as regards the grounds upon which they should be exempted from detention pointed out that certificates might be issued by District Medical and Sanitary Officers only and that there was no reason to extend this authority to any but officers acting in such posts (paragraph 5, paper IV at pages 3-4 of G.O. No. 349, dated 22nd November 1916). Accordingly District Medical and Sanitary Officers alone were authorized to issue certificates of health. The reasons which led to the issue of general instructions in G.O. No. 150, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 16th February 1917, for the guidance of District Medical and Sanitary Officers in the issue of these certificates have already been set out in paragraph 2 at page 1 ante. It will be seen that these instructions require District Medical and Sanitary Officers to be satisfied about three points:—

- (1) applicant's place of residence
- (2) his destination and
- (3) freedom of the place of residence from infection and of the man from disease.

It will be seen also that the Colonial Government took advantage of indiscretion on the part of one District Medical and Sanitary Officer and asked this Government to issue general instructions to all District Medical and Sanitary officers which in effect are no doubt bound to restrict the issue of these certificates. At the time the instructions were issued the question was not considered whether District Medical and Sanitary officers should personally satisfy themselves as to the applicant's place of residence and his destination. Honourable Member however conceded soon after, in the course of the discussion of a resolution on the subject moved at the meeting of

the 4th April 1917, that it was not necessary that a District Medical and Sanitary officer should have personal knowledge on these points but that he might rely on the statements of some one with whom he was acquainted (portion M at page 14 of G.O. No. 605, dated 19th June 1917). The present proposal is only to regulate the procedure for District Medical and Sanitary officers obtaining authoritative information on the applicant's residence, etc. No devolution of authority is thereby involved, as the District Medical and Sanitary officers will continue to issue certificates of health. In the circumstances it does not appear that any reference should be made to the Ceylon Government. In any case from the previous history of the question it does not appear desirable to consult them, nor does it seem necessary to communicate a copy of the proposed order to them as it is purely a question of internal arrangement.

For orders.

T.C.N.—8-7-18.

P.D.R.—11-7-18

C. H. BROWN—12-7-18.

With reference to the Colonial Secretary's letter on page 5 of G.O. No. 150, dated 16th February 1917, I think that the Government of Ceylon has to be consulted. If the grounds of the present proposal be explained, that Government will readily agree.

If the Honourable Member thinks otherwise, the draft put up is for orders; Revenue has to be consulted before issue.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—13-7-18.

I think that we had better obtain the Ceylon Government's consent before issuing orders. Let me see the draft.

H. F. W. G[ILLMAN]—13-7-18.

A draft letter to the Ceylon Government is submitted for approval.

T.C.N.—16-7-18.

P.D.R.—18-7-18.

C.H.B.—13-7-18.

First to Revenue for acceptance of draft.

R.R.—18-7-18.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

This department may, it is submitted, agree to revenue officers not lower than Deputy Tahsildars being empowered to furnish certificates as to the places of residence and destination of persons applying for certificates of health for proceeding to Ceylon. District Medical and Sanitary officers will issue certificates of good health and freedom from infection. The draft may, it is submitted, be accepted.

U.K.—20-7-18.

A.S.R.—22-7-18.

V. PONNAYYA—22-7-18.

G. H. JACKSON—23-7-18.

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

Draft for approval.

R.R.—25-7-18.

H. F. W. G[ILLMAN]—29-7-18.

P[ENTLAND]—30-7-18.

[Letter to the Colonial Secretary, Colombo, No. 2181-1, dated 1st August 1918—II.]

III

From the Colonial Secretary, Colombo, dated 10th September 1918, No. 22474.

The Ceylon Government's reply discloses that while that Government are not opposed to the modifications proposed by this Government in regard to the procedure to be adopted in granting certificates of health by District

Medical and Sanitary officers, they are at the same time anxious to see that the District Medical and Sanitary officers are made personally responsible for all the points on which the certificate is issued. But it will be noticed from this Government's letter to Ceylon Government that it was specifically put to that Government that District Medical and Sanitary officers can be expected to certify only on the points whether the applicant's place of residence is infected or not and whether or not the applicant himself is free from infection. It is submitted, therefore, that the District Medical and Sanitary officer cannot be said to incur a personal responsibility if he issues a certificate on all the points required to be certified, relying on the preliminary certificates of the Revenue officer or a respectable non-official gentleman. It is for consideration whether in the orders now to issue special instructions should issue to District Medical and Sanitary officers on the lines of paragraph 4 of the Ceylon Government's letter. The adoption of such a course would appear to be fruitful of further agitation on this already heated question.

If no special instructions are called for, the draft put up may issue.

A.V.S.—18-9-18.

P.D.R.—18-9-18.

The suggestions in paragraph 4 of the Ceylon Government's letter seem to me rather impractical. They don't seem to realise that the District Medical and Sanitary officer's action must either be the result of personal inquiry and knowledge or a more or less routine acceptance of the certificate laid before him. They want the District Medical and Sanitary officer to steer a middle course which does not exist. I have added a few words at the close of paragraph 1 of the original draft. I think it would be better without them as they can only confuse and obscure instructions which are otherwise tolerably clear; but if the somewhat hazy position of the Ceylon Government is to receive expression they may be retained.

C. H. BROWN—19-9-18.

The objections of the Government of Ceylon substantiated as they are by results are certainly sound. But they have missed the only point at present at issue. The rules as they stand fix personal responsibility on the District Medical and Sanitary officer; and an ultra conscientious officer may decline to certify. So we propose to instruct the District Medical and Sanitary officer that in certain matters it is competent for him to certify on the strength of subsidiary certificates the nature of which is now prescribed. I do not think Ceylon does really object to this.

I have corrected in red ink the draft to convey my meaning.

Draft first to Revenue for acceptance.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—20-9-18.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

The draft may, it is submitted, be accepted.

U.K.—24-9-18.

G. H. JACKSON—26-9-18.

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted for orders as to circulation.

A.V.S.—27-9-18.

P.D.R.—27-9-18.

C.H.B.—30-9-18.

R.R.—1-10-18.

H. F. W. G[ILLMAN]—3-10-18.

P[ENTLAND]—3-10-18.

[G.O. No. 692, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 5th October 1918.]

Quarantine restrictions, Ceylon.— Issuing instructions for facilitating the issue of certificates of good health and freedom from infection to passengers proceeding to Ceylon.

READ AGAIN G.O. No. 349, Home (Mis.), dated 22nd November 1916.

See Slip. " " " " 150, " " " " 16th February 1917.

READ ALSO:—

C. No. , From the , No. , dated 191

" " " " " " " " 191

" " " " " " " " 191

ORDER.

Press.

No. 692, dated 5-10-1918.

Under the Ceylon Quarantine Rules passengers proceeding to Ceylon have ordinarily either to produce certificates of good health and freedom from infection granted by the D.M. & S.Os. in this Presidency or to undergo quarantine at the Mandapam camp. In G.O. No. 349, Home (Mis.), dated the 22nd November 1916, D.M. & S.Os. were authorised to grant these certificates in a prescribed form which is appended to these proceedings, charging small fees therefor. In order to regulate the issue of these certificates instructions were issued in G.O. No. 150, Home (Mis.), dated the 16th February 1917, that they should be granted only to known persons of fixed occupation who give a fixed and traceable address in Ceylon and to whose circumstance the Medical Officer is in a position to

2. Collectors of districts are requested to instruct their subordinate Revenue officers not lower than Deputy Tahsildars to issue preliminary certificates mentioned above to passengers proceeding to Ceylon who apply for them.

H.B.
5-7-18.

R.R.R.
20-9-18

Annexure I (H.E. form of certificate)

II (H.E. note of instructions)

See next Page.

To

All Collectors and District Magistrates
The Surgeon General.
" I.G. of Police.
" Dy. I.G. of Police, Southern Range, Trichy.
" District Supdt. of Police, Ramnad.
" Subdivisional Magistrate, Ramnad.
" Sanitary Commissioner
Copy to the L. & M. (Medical) Department.
... Revenue Department.
... Hon'ble Khan Bahadur
A.T.G.M. Ahmad Tambi Marakkayar,
through L. & M. (Legislative)

For orders whether this may be placed on
E.T.

No.

certify. A note of instructions on the subject prepared by the Chairman, Plague Committee, Colombo, explaining the requirements of the quarantine authorities in regard to the issue of these certificates was also circulated for the information and guidance of D.M. & S.Os. It will be observed from these instructions, printed as annexure II to this order, that D.M. & S.Os. have to satisfy themselves as to the place of residence of the applicant in this Presidency and the destination to which he is proceeding in Ceylon, a responsibility which the Government recognise is outside the scope of their regular duties. It has been brought to the notice of Government at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 5th April 1918 that as a consequence of the instructions issued in G.O. No. 150, Home (Mis.), dated the 16th February 1917, the issue of certificates has been much restricted owing to the inability of D.M. & S.Os. to certify to these two particulars. In regard to these two points therefore local Revenue officers not lower than Deputy Tahsildars may furnish preliminary certificates. Unless they have reason to reject these certificates, D.M. & S.Os. may accept them and may issue the certificates of good health and freedom from infection in the prescribed form. The Government have no objection to D.M. & S.Os. accepting on their own responsibility certificates on the points of residence and destination from a respectable member of society, not necessarily a local Revenue officer.

10 of C.O. 150
16.2.17

Done with
for
order

W. P. S.

P.T.O.

Annexure I

APPENDIX

[Specimen form referred to.]

Serial number of certificate.

[This certificate must be used within 48 hours of date. A copy should be posted to the Quarantine Medical Officer, Mandapam.]

Name of passenger

Race

Sex

Age

Place of residence in India—

Taluk

Village

Address to which proceeding in Ceylon—

Village or town

Street

Name and address of Ceylon resident to whom reference can be made

I certify that the abovenamed passenger has been residing for the last seven days in a place free from infection and in circumstances which render it unlikely that he has been exposed to infection; and that he is free from disease.

He undertakes to report himself to the Port Surgeon, Colombo, or to the Government Medical Officer of the district immediately on arrival and for five days thereafter.

(Signed) A.B.,

District Medical and Sanitary Officer.

ANNEXURE II

Notes on Certificates to be issued by District Medical and Sanitary Officers.

Apart from the actual certificate the requirements of which are clearly specified in the form the most important factors are :—

(1) The address in Ceylon—street and town required. The District Medical and Sanitary Officer must satisfy himself that this information is reliable by questioning the applicant and similarly the full name and address of the Ceylon resident to whom reference can be made must only be accepted after satisfactory proof is given.

(2) The District Medical and Sanitary Officer must be satisfied that the man is really proceeding to the address specified. He cannot be sure that a cooly without property or ties will do so and should not therefore issue certificates to unknown persons of a class which is likely to sleep and live in any place convenient and not necessarily in the place and house to which he at the time of departure proposes to proceed.

(3) By infection is meant "infected with cholera, plague or small-pox". This does not mean "proclaimed infected" but that cases of these diseases are known to exist in the locality specified.

(4) The wording of the certificate that the "applicant has been residing for the last seven days in a place free from infection," is not intended to mean that District Medical and Sanitary Officer should encourage the establishment of camps in the neighbourhood of their office where people would be kept under supervision by them but is meant to convey that the certificate should only be given to people whose place of residence is known to the District Medical and Sanitary Officer and that he knows they have actually been there during the previous week and that it is a sanitary and healthy place in sanitary and healthy surroundings.

Order—No. 349, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 22nd November 1916.

Under the Ceylon Quarantine Rules passengers proceeding to Ceylon have ordinarily either to produce certificates of good health and freedom from infection granted by District Medical and Sanitary Officers in this Presidency or to undergo quarantine at the Mandapam camp. The Government hereby authorize all District Medical and Sanitary Officers in the Presidency to grant these certificates in the form appended to these proceedings. They are permitted to charge a fee of Rs. 5 for an individual case and of Rs. 8 for a family. An officer in charge of the duties of a District Medical and Sanitary Officer can grant the certificate.

- (1) The Surgeon-General.
- (2) Inspector-General of Police.
- (3) The District Magistrate, Rāmnād.
- (4) The Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Trichinopoly.
- (5) The Superintendent of Police, Rāmnād.
- (6) The District Medical and Sanitary Officer, Rāmnād.
- (7) The Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Rāmnād.
- (8) The Sanitary Commissioner.

2. The Ceylon Government have agreed to the appointment of the marginally-noted officers as ex-officio visitors to the Mandapam quarantine camp. The District Magistrate of Rāmnād will be requested to bring such of the observations of the visitors as are of special interest to the notice of the Government.

(True Extract)

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR,
Secretary to Government.

To the Local and Municipal (Medical) Department,
" the Surgeon-General,
" the Inspector-General of Police,
" the District Magistrate, Rāmnād.
" the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Trichinopoly
" the Superintendent of Police, Rāmnād.
" the District Medical and Sanitary Officer, Rāmnād.
" the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Rāmnād.
" the Sanitary Commissioner.
" all District Magistrates.

Order only with appendix.

[Appendix.]

G.O. No. 692, 5th October 1918

Quarantine restrictions, Ceylon.
Issuing instructions for facilitating the issue of certificates of good health and freedom from infection to passengers proceeding to Ceylon.

READ—the following papers:—

G.O. No. 349, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 22nd November 1916.

ABSTRACT.—Authorizing District Medical and Sanitary Officers to grant certificates of good health to intending passengers to Ceylon, charging a fee therefor and communicating to the officers concerned their appointment as ex-officio visitors to the Mandapam quarantine camp.

G.O. No. 150, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 16th February 1917.

ABSTRACT.—Directing the distribution of books of forms of medical certificate of health among District Medical and Sanitary Officers and issuing general instructions in the matter of granting certificates by District Medical and Sanitary Officers.

Order—No. 692, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 5th October 1918.

Under the Ceylon Quarantine Rules passengers proceeding to Ceylon have ordinarily either to produce certificates of good health and freedom from infection granted by District Medical and Sanitary Officers in this Presidency or to undergo quarantine at the Mandapam camp. In G.O. No. 349, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 22nd November 1916, District Medical and Sanitary Officers were authorized to grant these certificates in a prescribed form which is appended to these proceedings, charging small fees therefor. In order to regulate the issue of these certificates instructions were issued in G.O. No. 150, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 16th February 1917, that they should be granted only to known persons of fixed occupation who give a fixed and traceable address in Ceylon and to whose circumstances the Medical officer is in a position to certify. A note of instructions on the subject prepared by the Chairman, Plague Committee, Colombo, explaining the requirements of the quarantine authorities in regard to the issue of these certificates was also circulated for the information and guidance of District Medical and Sanitary officers. It will be observed from these instructions, printed as Annexure II to this order, that District Medical and Sanitary officers have to satisfy themselves as to the place of residence of the applicant in this Presidency and the destination to which he is proceeding in Ceylon, a responsibility which the Government recognise is outside the scope of their regular duties. It was brought to the notice of Government at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 5th April 1918 that as a consequence of the instructions issued in G.O. No. 150, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 16th February 1917, the issue of certificates has been much restricted owing to the inability of District Medical and Sanitary officers to certify to these two particulars. In regard to these two points therefore local Revenue officers not lower than Deputy Tahsildars may furnish preliminary certificates. Unless they have reason to reject these certificates, District Medical and Sanitary officers may accept them and may issue the certificates of good health and freedom from infection in the prescribed form. The Government have no objection to District Medical and Sanitary officers accepting on their own responsibility certificates on the points of residence and destination from a respectable member of society, not necessarily a local Revenue officer.

2. Collectors of districts are requested to instruct their subordinate revenue officers not lower than Deputy Tahsildars to issue preliminary certificates mentioned above to passengers proceeding to Ceylon who apply for them.

(True extract)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To all Collectors and District Magistrates,
" the Surgeon-General,
" the Inspector-General of Police,
" Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Southern Range, Trichinopoly.
" the District Superintendent of Police, Rāmnād.
" the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Rāmnād.
" the Sanitary Commissioner.

Copy to the Local and Municipal (Medical) Department,
" Revenue Department.
" Hon'ble Khan Bahadur A. T. G. M. Ahmad Tambi Marakkayar,
through Local and Municipal (Legislative).

[Annexures.]

Proof approved
Sent issue
w/mt
20/10/18

G.O. No. 892, 31st October 1917

Quarantine regulations, Ceylon.
The following regulations for facilitating the issue of certificates of health and freedom from infection to passengers proceeding to Ceylon from India are hereby notified.

1. The following regulations shall apply to passengers proceeding to Ceylon from India.
2. A passenger proceeding to Ceylon from India shall be required to produce a certificate of health and freedom from infection issued by a Medical Officer of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer of the place of residence in India, dated not more than seven days prior to the date of departure for Ceylon.

3. The certificate of health and freedom from infection shall be issued by a Medical Officer of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer of the place of residence in India, who shall be satisfied that the passenger is free from infection and is in good health.

4. The certificate of health and freedom from infection shall be issued by a Medical Officer of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer of the place of residence in India, who shall be satisfied that the passenger is free from infection and is in good health.

5. The certificate of health and freedom from infection shall be issued by a Medical Officer of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer of the place of residence in India, who shall be satisfied that the passenger is free from infection and is in good health.

6. The certificate of health and freedom from infection shall be issued by a Medical Officer of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer of the place of residence in India, who shall be satisfied that the passenger is free from infection and is in good health.

7. The certificate of health and freedom from infection shall be issued by a Medical Officer of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer of the place of residence in India, who shall be satisfied that the passenger is free from infection and is in good health.

8. The certificate of health and freedom from infection shall be issued by a Medical Officer of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer of the place of residence in India, who shall be satisfied that the passenger is free from infection and is in good health.

ANNEXURES

I
Form of Certificate.

[This certificate must be used within 48 hours of date. A copy should be posted to the Quarantine Medical Officer, Mandapam.]

Name of passenger
Race
Sex
Age
Place of residence in India—
Taluk
Village
Address to which proceeding in Ceylon—
Village or town
Street

Name and address of Ceylon resident to whom reference can be made
I certify that the abovenamed passenger has been residing for the last seven days in a place free from infection and in circumstances which render it unlikely that he has been exposed to infection; and that he is free from disease.
He undertakes to report himself to the Port Surgeon, Colombo, or to the Government Medical Officer of the district immediately on arrival and for five days thereafter.

A.B.,

District Medical and Sanitary Officer.

II

Notes on Certificates to be issued by District Medical and Sanitary officers.
Apart from the actual certificate the requirements of which are clearly specified in the form the most important factors are:—

- (1) The address in Ceylon—street and town required. The District Medical and Sanitary Officer must satisfy himself that this information is reliable by questioning the applicant and similarly the full name and address of the Ceylon resident to whom reference can be made must only be accepted after satisfactory proof is given.
- (2) The District Medical and Sanitary Officer must be satisfied that the man is really proceeding to the address specified. He cannot be sure that a coolie without property or ties will do so and should not therefore issue certificates to unknown persons of a class which is likely to sleep and live in any place convenient and not necessarily in the place and house to which he at the time of departure proposes to proceed.
- (3) By infection is meant "infected with cholera, plague or smallpox." This does not mean "proclaimed infected" but that cases of these diseases are known to exist in the locality specified.
- (4) The wording of the certificate that the "applicant has been residing for the last seven days in a place free from infection," is not intended to mean that District Medical and Sanitary Officer should encourage the establishment of camps in the neighbourhood of their office where people would be kept under supervision by them but is meant to convey that the certificate should only be given to people whose place of residence is known to the District Medical and Sanitary Officer and that he knows they have actually been there during the previous week and that it is a sanitary and healthy place in sanitary and healthy surroundings.

Print for approval
28/10/18
G.O. No. 692, 5th October 1918

Quarantine restrictions, Ceylon

Issuing instructions for facilitating the issue of certificates of good health and freedom from infection to passengers proceeding to Ceylon.

Read—the following papers:—

G.O. No. 349, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 22nd November 1916.

ABSTRACT.—Authorizing District Medical and Sanitary Officers to grant certificates of good health to intending passengers to Ceylon charging a fee therefor and communicating to the officers concerned their appointment as ex-officio visitors to the Mandapam quarantine camp.

G.O. No. 150, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 16th February 1917.

ABSTRACT.—Directing the distribution of books of forms of medical certificate of health among District Medical and Sanitary Officers and issuing general instructions in the matter of granting certificates by District Medical and Sanitary Officers.

II

Letter—from the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur R. RAMACHANDRA RAO Avargal, Secretary to the Government of Madras, Home (Miscellaneous) Department.

To—the Hon'ble the Colonial Secretary, Colombo.

Dated—the 1st August 1918.

No.—Ref. 2181-1.

I am directed to invite a reference to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 3826, dated the 13th March 1917, on the subject of the quarantine regulations at Mandapam, and to state that the instructions issued for the guidance of District Medical and Sanitary Officers in G.O. No. 150, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 16th February 1917, on the lines suggested in paragraph 2 of your letter No. 1263, dated the 30th January 1917, have given rise to considerable discontent. This has found expression in two resolutions moved in the Legislative Council suggesting the withdrawal of the instructions in G.O. No. 150, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 16th February 1917. It has been represented that one inevitable consequence of these has been to restrict considerably the issue of certificates inasmuch as District Medical and Sanitary Officers cannot be expected to have personal knowledge in most cases of the places of residence and destination of persons who apply for certificates of health.

2. The Governor in Council recognises that the responsibility imposed on District Medical and Sanitary Officers of satisfying themselves as to the place of residence of the applicant in this Presidency and the destination to which he is proceeding in Ceylon is outside the scope of their regular duties and he considers it desirable that they should be relieved of this obligation. The only points which these officers can fairly be asked to certify are whether the applicant's place of residence is infected or not and whether or not the applicant himself is free from infection. The Governor in Council has accordingly announced in the course of the discussion on a resolution on the subject moved at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 5th April 1918 that, in regard to the two points of residence and destination, local revenue officers not lower than Deputy Tahsildars would be in the best position to furnish certificates, and that on the strength of these, District Medical and Sanitary Officers might very well issue certificates of good health and freedom from infection, satisfying themselves only as to the requirements of the quarantine authorities from a purely sanitary and medical aspect. The Governor in Council also observed that there is no objection to District Medical and Sanitary Officers accepting on their own responsibility certificates on the two points of residence and destination from a respectable member of society not necessarily a local revenue officer. On an assurance given on the above lines the additional member withdrew the resolution. The Governor in Council therefore proposes to issue orders relieving District Medical and Sanitary Officers of the obligation of certifying as to the places of residence and destination and empowering revenue officers not lower than Deputy Tahsildars to furnish preliminary certificates on these two points. It is also proposed to leave it to the discretion of District Medical and Sanitary Officers to accept on their own responsibility certificates on these two points from any respectable member of society.

3. The Governor in Council feels confident that in the light of the facts explained above, His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon will be ready to co-operate in allaying this prevalent dissatisfaction by removing from the restrictions a clause against which public criticism in this Presidency may very fairly be directed. The officers whom it is proposed to authorise are men who have an established status and responsibility and the Governor in Council has no reason to believe that the power will be exercised otherwise than with discretion. I am to inquire whether the Ceylon Government agree to the issue of orders as proposed.

III

Letter—from A. T. PAGDEN, Esq., Acting Colonial Secretary, Ceylon.
To—the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Home (Miscellaneous) Department.

Dated—Colombo, the 10th September 1918.
No.—22474.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2181-1 of 1st August 1918, which I have laid before His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government together with the reports of the proceedings in the Madras Legislative Council published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* of 22nd May 1917 and 11th June 1918.

2. His Excellency desires me in the first place to ask you to convey to the Governor of Madras in Council his thanks for having given this Government the opportunity of expressing its views before the issue of orders to make effective the modifications which are found necessary in order to obviate the difficulties said to be experienced at present by District Medical and Sanitary Officers in granting certificates.

3. It would appear that the terms of the Madras G.O. No. 150 of 16th February 1917 have perhaps been interpreted in too literal a manner, and that the wording has been taken to imply that the District Medical and Sanitary Officer should only issue certificates in cases where he has actual personal knowledge of the circumstances of the applicant. So strict an interpretation was not intended by this Government.

4. While this Government cannot agree to the substitution of a series of certificates, issued as a matter of mere routine, for the personal responsibility of trustworthy officers of the Madras Government, it does not wish in any way to bind down these officers within the limits of hard and fast official regulations. If they, as responsible officers of Government, with the local knowledge they possess, are satisfied by the evidence put before them by an applicant, whether in the form of a certificate from a Tahsildar or otherwise, as to the identity of an applicant, the sanitary conditions under which he lives and his reliability as regards his statement as to his intended residence in Ceylon, this Government would not wish to question their action. It must however be thoroughly understood by the District Medical and Sanitary Officer that the certificate is his, and in issuing it he must act with a due sense of his personal and official responsibility.

5. I am to add that, so far as this Government is aware there is at present no dissatisfaction as regards the working of the quarantine regulations on the part of the large Indian community living in Ceylon, who with their friends practically form the whole travelling public between the districts of the Madras Presidency and Ceylon. Many do obtain certificates from the District Medical and Sanitary Officers, and others can readily obtain permits from the Chairman, Plague Committee, while even those detained find in the new camp separate quarters in which they can spend the necessary term of detention without any discomfort.

On the other hand the quarantine restrictions have secured the continued immunity of Ceylon from cholera, in spite of twelve outbreaks among passengers and coolies detained in the camp in 1917, and have minimised the incidence of smallpox to isolated outbreaks.

6. His Excellency trusts therefore that, in any modification of the existing rules which may be published, no departure may be made from the main principle of limiting the issue of permits to persons, whose circumstances and reliability can be vouched for on the responsibility of a trustworthy and qualified officer of the Madras Government, such as the District Medical and Sanitary Officer.

Order—No. 692, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 5th October 1918.

Under the Ceylon Quarantine Rules passengers proceeding to Ceylon have ordinarily either to produce certificates of good health and freedom from infection granted by District Medical and Sanitary Officers in this Presidency or to undergo quarantine at the Mandapam camp. In G.O. No. 349, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 22nd November 1916, District Medical and Sanitary Officers were authorized to grant these certificates in a prescribed form which is appended to these proceedings, charging small fees therefor. In order to regulate the issue of these certificates instructions were issued in G.O. No. 150, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 16th February 1917, that they should be granted only to known persons of fixed occupation who give a fixed and traceable address in Ceylon and to whose circumstances the Medical officer is in a position to certify. A note of instructions on the subject

P. P. nt

prepared by the Chairman, Plague Committee, Colombo, explaining the requirements of the quarantine authorities in regard to the issue of these certificates was also circulated for the information and guidance of District Medical and Sanitary officers. It will be observed from these instructions, printed as Annexure II to this order, that District Medical and Sanitary officers have to satisfy themselves as to the place of residence of the applicant in this Presidency and the destination to which he is proceeding in Ceylon, a responsibility which the Government recognise is outside the scope of their regular duties. It was brought to the notice of Government at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 5th April 1918 that as a consequence of the instructions issued in G.O. No. 150, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 16th February 1917, the issue of certificates has been much restricted owing to the inability of District Medical and Sanitary officers to certify to these two particulars. In regard to these two points therefore local Revenue officers not lower than Deputy Tahsildars may furnish preliminary certificates. Unless they have reason to reject these certificates, District Medical and Sanitary officers may accept them and may issue the certificates of good health and freedom from infection in the prescribed form. The Government have no objection to District Medical and Sanitary officers accepting on their own responsibility certificates on the points of residence and destination from a respectable member of society, not necessarily a local Revenue officer.

2. Collectors of districts are requested to instruct their subordinate revenue officers not lower than Deputy Tahsildars to issue preliminary certificates mentioned above to passengers proceeding to Ceylon who apply for them. (True extract)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To all Collectors and District Magistrates,
the Surgeon-General,
the Inspector-General of Police.
Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Southern Range, Trichinopoly.
the District Superintendent of Police, Ramnad.
the Subdivisional Magistrate, Ramnad.
the Sanitary Commissioner.

Copy to the Local and Municipal (Medical) Department.
Revenue Department.
Hon'ble Khan Bahadur A. T. G. M. Ahmad Tambi Marakkayar,
through Local and Municipal (Legislative).

[Annexures.

prepared by the Chairman, Plague Committee, Colombo, explaining the requirements of the quarantine authorities in regard to the issue of these certificates was also circulated for the information and guidance of District Medical and Sanitary Officers. It will be observed from these instructions that as far as possible the order that District Medical and Sanitary Officers have to satisfy themselves as to the place of residence of the applicant in this country and the destination to which he is proceeding in Ceylon, and the responsibility which the Government assumes in this side the scope of their regular duties. It was brought to the notice of Government at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 26th April 1912 that as a consequence of the instructions issued in G.O. No. 156, 1912 (Mandapam), dated the 18th February 1912, the issue of certificates has been much restricted owing to the inability of District Medical and Sanitary Officers to comply to these two conditions in regard to these two points. District Medical and Sanitary Officers have been asked to furnish preliminary certificates. Unless they have means to reject these certificates, District Medical and Sanitary Officers may accept them and may issue the certificates of good health and freedom from infection in the prescribed form. The Government have no objection to District Medical and Sanitary Officers accepting on their own responsibility certificates on the points of residence and destination from a respectable member of society, not necessarily a local Government Officer.

2. Collectors of Customs are requested to instruct their subordinate Revenue Officers not to allow passengers to leave the ship without presenting a valid certificate above to passengers proceeding to Ceylon who apply for them.

3. Collectors of Customs are requested to instruct their subordinate Revenue Officers not to allow passengers to leave the ship without presenting a valid certificate above to passengers proceeding to Ceylon who apply for them.

ANNEXURES
I

Form of Certificate.

[This certificate must be used within 48 hours of date. A copy should be posted to the Quarantine Medical Officer, Mandapam.]

Serial number of certificate.

Name of passenger
Race
Sex
Age
Place of residence in India—
Taluk
Village
Address to which proceeding in Ceylon—
Village or town
Street

Name and address of Ceylon resident to whom reference can be made
I certify that the abovenamed passenger has been residing for the last seven days in a place free from infection and in circumstances which render it unlikely that he has been exposed to infection; and that he is free from disease.
He undertakes to report himself to the Port Surgeon, Colombo, or to the Government Medical Officer of the district immediately on arrival and for five days thereafter.

A.B.,
District Medical and Sanitary Officer.

II

Notes on Certificates to be issued by District Medical and Sanitary officers.

Apart from the actual certificate the requirements of which are clearly specified in the form the most important factors are:—

(1) The address in Ceylon—street and town required. The District Medical and Sanitary Officer must satisfy himself that this information is reliable by questioning the applicant and similarly the full name and address of the Ceylon resident to whom reference can be made must only be accepted after satisfactory proof is given.

(2) The District Medical and Sanitary Officer must be satisfied that the man is really proceeding to the address specified. He cannot be sure that a coolie without property or ties will do so and should not therefore issue certificates to unknown persons of a class which is likely to sleep and live in any place convenient and not necessarily in the place and house to which he at the time of departure proposes to proceed.

(3) By infection is meant "infected with cholera, plague or smallpox." This does not mean "proclaimed infected" but that cases of these diseases are known to exist in the locality specified.

(4) The wording of the certificate that the "applicant has been residing for the last seven days in a place free from infection," is not intended to mean that District Medical and Sanitary Officer should encourage the establishment of camps in the neighbourhood of their office where people would be kept under supervision by them but is meant to convey that the certificate should only be given to people whose place of residence is known to the District Medical and Sanitary Officer and that he knows they have actually been there during the previous week and that it is a sanitary and healthy place in sanitary and healthy surroundings.

29 OCT 1918
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NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 692, HOME (MISCELLANEOUS),
DATED 5TH OCTOBER 1918

[SUBJECT.—Quarantine arrangements at Mantapam.]

Previous papers:							
G.O.				G.O.			
601,	Marine,	6th July	1897	1770,	Public,	9th Dec.	1915
398	Pl.,	22nd May	1907	1771	"	9th	"
424	"	1st June	"	85 Pl.,	"	8th Feb.	1916
270	"	20th Mar.	1909	795,	Public,	24th Apr.	"
291	Ry.,	10th May	"	821	"	27th	"
355-56	Pl.,	20th June	1910	980-81	"	20th May	"
377,	Marine,	8th Dec.	1913	1432-33	"	30th July	"
41	"	7th Feb.	1914	196,	Home (Mis.),	4th Oct.	"
391,	Public,	30th Mar.	"	349	"	22nd Nov.	"
318	Pl.,	10th June	"	424	"	15th Dec.	"
228,	Marine,	20th July	"	150-51	"	16th Feb.	1917
23	"	21st Jan.	1915	85,	Pub. (Marine),	17th	"
619,	Public,	21st Apr.	"	292,	Home (Mis.),	20th Mar.	"
244-45,	Marine,	12th July	"	326	"	30th	"
1161-62	"	5th Aug.	"	605	"	19th June	"
1467,	Public,	9th Oct.	"	971-72	"	6th Aug.	"
339,	Marine,	26th	"	1273	"	18th Dec.	"
1619,	Public,	15th Nov.	"	212	"	9th Mar.	1918
388	"	9th Dec.	"				

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur A. T. G. M. AHMAD TAMBI MARAKKAYAR:—
"XXVII. This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that necessary steps be taken with the Ceylon Government to withdraw G.O. No. 150, dated 16th February 1917, and to adhere to the announcements made in G.O. No. 349, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 22nd November 1916, regarding the quarantine restrictions imposed on Indian passengers proceeding to Ceylon."

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

The resolution which the Additional Member now proposes to move is almost similar to the one (No. XXV) as subsequently amended which was moved at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 4th April 1917 and which was lost. Attention is invited to the notes written on the previous resolution which set out a full history of the quarantine restrictions at Mantapam and the discussions thereon at the Legislative Council meeting—pages 1-3 of G.O. No. 605, dated 19th June 1917.

2. Under G.O. No. 349, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 22nd November 1916, passengers proceeding to Ceylon have ordinarily either to produce certificates of good health and freedom from infection granted by District Medical and Sanitary Officers of this Presidency or to undergo quarantine at the Mantapam camp. The District Medical and Sanitary Officer, Ramnad, having issued at the very outset certificates of health indiscriminately the Quarantine Medical Officer at Mantapam refused to accept them (vide paper VII at pages 4-5 of G.O. No. 150, dated 16th February 1917). At the instance of the Chairman, Plague Committee, Colombo, the

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Ceylon Government asked this Government to make it clear to the medical officers that certificates of health should be granted only to known persons of fixed occupation who give a fixed and traceable address in Ceylon and to whose circumstances the medical officer is in a position to certify. Mr. Bowes, the Chairman, Plague Committee, Colombo, also forwarded demi-officially a statement of points to put the District Medical and Sanitary Officers on their guard against issuing certificates which he was unable to accept (paragraph 2 of demi-official from Mr. Bowes at page 2 of Notes to G.O. Nos. 150-51, dated 16th February 1917). These points were embodied as an annexure to G.O. No. 150, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 16th February 1917, for the information and guidance of District Medical and Sanitary Officers and instructions were issued in the same Government Order on the lines desired by the Ceylon Government.

3. The Additional Member (Mr. Marakkayar) took objection to these instructions on the following grounds when the subject was discussed at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 4th April last:—

(1) That it will be difficult for a District Medical and Sanitary Officer to certify that an intending passenger proceeds direct to the place mentioned in the certificate.

X (2) That it is quite impossible for a District Medical and Sanitary Officer to certify that a particular individual has resided in a certain place for seven days.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. Gillman in replying stated as follows:—

* * * * *
“Taking the case of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer, who has been authorized to give the certificates, I submit that, in order to give that certificate, he need not have necessarily personal knowledge; he has got his assistants who are assistant surgeons or sub-assistant surgeons and other people with whom he is acquainted and on whom he can rely and on whose statements he feels that he is in a position to certify in the manner that the Ceylon Government desire.”
* * * * *

The Government were unable to accept the resolution as the time was not opportune to press the Ceylon Government to modify the further restrictions which they placed on the issue of these certificates.

4. It is submitted that the instructions are only for the guidance of District Medical and Sanitary Officers and are intended mainly for checking the indiscriminate issue of certificates. No complaints have been brought to the notice of Government since the issue of these instructions about any inconvenience caused to passengers applying for certificates by these instructions. In the circumstances it is for consideration whether the resolution should not be opposed.

5. Orders of the Honourable Member may be taken whether the Honourable Member will take charge of the resolution and whether any further information is desired. (It is understood that the resolution has been admitted.)

T.C.N.—21-3-18.

P.S.R.—22-3-18.

C. H. BROWN—22-3-18.

L. D. SWAMIKANNU—22-3-18.

I will take the resolution. The Government Order of 16th February 1917 restricts the operation of the Government Order of 22nd November 1916 by requiring that certificates may be issued by District Medical and Sanitary Officers only to ‘known persons of fixed occupation who give a fixed and traceable address in Ceylon and as to whose circumstances the District Medical and Sanitary Officer is in a position to certify.’ The propriety of the restrictions as to occupation and address cannot be challenged, for it is obviously necessary that the men to whom these certificates are issued should furnish information from which they can be traced without difficulty on arrival in Ceylon. The third condition, viz., that the District Medical and

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NOTES TO G.O. No. 692, HOME (MISCELLANEOUS), 5TH OCTOBER 1918 3

Sanitary Officer should be in a position to certify to the circumstances of the passengers, was the one to which most serious exception was taken by non-official members in the course of the debate last year, and though I tried to explain that it was not necessary for the District Medical and Sanitary Officer to be personally acquainted with the applicant, still it is possible that these officers are running into the other extreme and refusing certificates in cases in which they might properly grant them. I think that we may promise an inquiry into this point with a view to determine whether it is possible to relieve District Medical and Sanitary Officers of the obligation of certifying to the applicant's last place of residence and his address in Ceylon by imposing this duty on some local officer, say a deputy tahsildar or sub-assistant surgeon, whose certificate the District Medical and Sanitary Officer might be authorized to accept. The latter officer might then sign the complete certificate on satisfying himself that the applicant is in good health.

I shall mention the resolution in Council.

H. F. W. GILLMAN—23-3-18.

Half.
Extract from the Proceedings of an Adjourned Meeting of the Council of the Governor of Port St. George assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of the Act of Parliament, 5 and 6 Geo. V, Ch. 61.
The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Friday, the 5th day of April 1918.

RESOLUTION RE THE CEYLON QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur A. T. G. M. AHMAD TAMBI MARAKKAYAR:—"Your Excellency, the resolution that I have the honour to move runs as follows:—

'XXIII. This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that necessary steps be taken with the Ceylon Government to withdraw G.O. No. 150, dated 16th February 1917, and to adhere to the announcement made in G.O. No. 349, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 22nd November 1916, regarding the quarantine restrictions imposed on Indian passengers proceeding to Ceylon.'

"It will, doubtless, be in the recollection of Honourable Members that a similar resolution was moved by me at the April session of the Council last year, which was, however, rejected by Government on the score that that was not an opportune time for making any representation to the Ceylon Government in regard to the matter of withdrawing the new restrictions imposed on the District Medical and Sanitary Officers in the issue of certificates by them to passengers proceeding to Ceylon. The point of view then urged by Government was that after an arrangement had been arrived at between them and the Ceylon Government which was embodied in G.O. No. 349, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 22nd November 1916, and by which District Medical and Sanitary Officers were empowered to grant certificates of health and freedom from infection to passengers proceeding to Ceylon—an improper use of the concession was made by one of the District Medical and Sanitary Officers, as the result of which the Ceylon Government lost their confidence in the medical officers of this Government, and imposed the restrictions which are contained in G.O. No. 150, dated 16th February 1917. It was then pointed out by the non-official members that 'in large measures affecting the public one such impropriety on the part of one subordinate should not stand seriously in the way.' However, the Government did not see their way to accept the resolution.

"In this connexion I wish to quote a portion of the speech your Excellency made in the last year's debate—

"I am as anxious as anybody here to obtain the fullest privileges for our own people. In the end we are obliged to respect the control of the Ceylon Government over Ceylon. It is best, I think, to take what seems to be the ordinary common sense view of things, which has been created by certain circumstances to leave the matter as it is and let the present system work in harmony and co-operation with the Ceylon Government and if at any time we can obtain a favourable relaxation in regard to certificates or in any other direction to secure the free ingress of our people into Ceylon, let us do so."

"One year has now elapsed since the resolution was moved, and yet, it is painful to note, no steps have been taken by our Government to minimize the inconvenience and difficulties of our countrymen proceeding to Ceylon. The one Government Order (viz., G.O. No. 349, dated 22nd November 1916), which had sought to minimize them has been nullified by another—G.O. No. 150, dated 16th February 1917.

"It has already been explained to the Council how G.O. No. 150 has converted the concession extended by the former Government Order into no concession at all. The points, on which the District Medical and Sanitary Officers are to satisfy themselves before the grant of certificates, are so minute and elaborate that it would extremely be impracticable for them to grant any certificates at all. They should have personal knowledge of the applicants for certificates, personal knowledge of their places of residence, personal knowledge of the different turns of their minds—whether they are steady-minded people who would go to the places mentioned by them without any halts in the middle and whether they would stay and sleep in the particular houses and localities which they specify as their addresses in Ceylon. The Hon'ble Mr. Gillman, however, pointed out last year that it was not absolutely necessary that the District Medical and Sanitary Officers should have personal knowledge of the intending passengers but that they might issue certificates on the statements of their subordinates, such as Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons. This is, more or less, putting the District Medical Officers on quicksandy ground; and I don't know if any of them would dare to issue any such certificates at all when it is so very distinctly started in the Government Order that 'certificates should be granted only to known persons of fixed occupation, who give a fixed and traceable address in Ceylon, and to whose circumstances the Medical Officer is in a position to certify.'

"Now, it will be admitted that the District Medical and Sanitary Officer could not be expected to have personal knowledge of all the applicants for health certificates, and he would be careful not to issue such certificates on assurances from his subordinates alone, especially as the procedure might involve severe reprimands from the Surgeon-General, the Madras Government and the redoubtable Ceylon Government.

"Then, a proposal was put forward that Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons, who have local knowledge, might be authorized to grant such certificates, which was rejected on the plea that, when the Ceylon Government had considered even the District Medical and Sanitary Officers were not above suspicion, they would not consent to invest such powers in the hands of the subordinates of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer.

"The poor passengers, therefore, necessarily undergo untold sufferings: and if the Madras Government do not now come to their rescue, who else would care to extend them any protection.

"When a concession had already been given, why should the Ceylon Government make it void by imposing severe restrictions on the responsible Medical Officers of the Madras Government? Surely, it cannot be urged that the fault of a single officer was a sufficient provocation for the Ceylon Government to impose such hard restrictions."

"I beg to say, Your Excellency, the minds of the people are very sore in regard to this point, and they wonder why should our Government climb down before the Ceylon Government with regard to a matter which vitally affects their subjects."

"If, however, the Ceylon Government do not agree to the terms of this resolution, then, I submit, my Lord, the only alternative step that could be taken by our Government consistent with their prestige, is to impose similar restrictions on passengers coming from Ceylon to this Presidency. The Madras Government, too, have every right to protect their subject from plague, or other infections, and they are surely entitled to take this course in view of the fact that it is found—as pointed out by the Honourable the Raja of Ramnad on the last occasion—that 'a larger number of imported cases of plague in India from Ceylon are discerned, rather than from India to Ceylon.'

"As the resolution has already been fully discussed last year, I have nothing further to urge, except an earnest appeal to Government for sympathetic response to the grievance of their subjects.

"It will not, here, be out of place if I bring to Your Excellency's kind recollection the reply made by Your Excellency to the address presented by the Nattukottai Chettiyars during Your Excellency's tour in the Chettinad in September 1916, which reads as follows:—

"In your address you mention one question which is of special interest to you as a community, namely, the Ceylon Quarantine Regulations. This is a matter which has engaged our anxious attention. It is at present under further discussion with the Ceylon Government, and you will, therefore, not expect me to deal with it in detail. I sincerely trust, however, that we shall arrive at an agreement which while securing to the Ceylon Government all that is necessary to safeguard the health of the people committed to its charge, will obviate all unnecessary interference with those whom business or employment takes to that island."

"I may also be permitted to bring to Your Excellency's notice the following resolution passed at the First Annual Conference of the Madras Presidency Association, in December last:—

"That the Madras Provincial Conference having for two successive years appealed in vain for the removal of the highly obnoxious Quarantine Regulations enforced by the Ceylon Government at Mantapam and Tuticorin on passengers and labourers going to the island, this conference now respectfully approaches the Government of India on the subject praying that

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suitable measures may be adopted to have the said regulations abolished by the Ceylon Government as early as possible, and, if within a reasonable period of time this proposal proves to be unacceptable to the Ceylon Government, to prevent effectively the recruitment in India of labourers for Ceylon plantations.

"One other peculiar point which I wish to bring to the notice of the Council is—

To my personal knowledge, I have known several cases where passengers who proceed from India to Ceylon are allowed to go free from Quarantine Restrictions at Mantapam Camp. These passengers are allowed to pass free on production of a permit issued by the Chairman of the Plague Committee at Ceylon. It will not be out of place here to point out that such permits are generally issued by the officer more on the influence of the people of the place than following the general principles connected with the issue of the permits. The wordings of the certificate, if I remember right, is, to permit 'XYZ' to pass free from India to Ceylon without any restrictions at the Mantapam Quarantine Camp. The issue of such kinds of certificates, Your Excellency's Government will, doubtless, consider, is based on no principle and the certificates are issued without due regard to whether the said XYZ is by himself free from any infectious diseases or is coming out from a place, which is free from such diseases. In these circumstances, I wish to know whether the action of the Ceylon Government is justified in issuing such kinds of permits.

"It is really a matter of great surprise that while the Ceylon Government and the Government of Madras are able to find fault on a particular Medical Officer, who issued medical certificates on the principles laid down in G.O. Mis. No. 349, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 22nd November 1916, are not now able to check their own officers issuing such inadequate permits referred to above.

"In these circumstances and in view of the unanimity of the public opinion in the matter, I fully trust that Your Excellency's Government will not hesitate to accept this resolution."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur S. R. M. ANNAMALAI CHETTIYAR :—"Your Excellency, in seconding this resolution I wish to say a few words. The Honourable Mover has explained the difficulties experienced by those who proceed to Ceylon. At the April meeting last year when a similar resolution was brought forward it was stated on behalf of the Government that on account of some improper certificates granted by a certain District Medical and Sanitary Officer it was not the proper time to press the Ceylon Government to remove the restrictions. At that time the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman expressed sympathy with the suffering passengers, and said that he was as anxious as any body else to obtain the fullest privileges for them and that he only wanted time in order to secure those privileges. He advised the Honourable Members of this Council to wait until a more favourable opportunity came. Now, my Lord, one full year has passed since then, and I trust Your Excellency's Government will take effective steps to remove all the unnecessary restrictions which for a long time have been imposed upon the people of this Presidency and which have given rise to a good deal of heartburning in the minds of the people. I beg to submit that if even now the Government tell us that the proper time has not come yet, I am sure that the people will think either that the Government do not sympathise with the people or they are powerless to do anything in the matter. Last year the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman said that the Ceylon Government had the right to protect their country from disease. If that be the case, I should like to know whether the Madras Government have not the right to protect the rights and privileges of the people committed to their care. Certainly the Ceylon Government have no right to insult us in our own land and the Madras Government can no more allow merchants and other respectable people of this Presidency to be treated as coolies.

"In this connexion I would draw the attention of the Council to the answer given by this Government at the February meeting of this Council this year. My Hon'ble Friend Mr. Chidambaramatha Mudaliyar put an interpellation asking whether the Government will be pleased to take steps to modify the restrictions regarding the passengers proceeding to Ceylon. In answer to this, the Government were pleased to state that they do not propose to take any action in the matter. My Lord, in spite of the assurance given by Your Excellency, after so much has been spoken at the April meeting last year and after so much of sympathy has been expressed by the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman, if the Government were pleased to give such an answer, I do not know by whom else this evil can be remedied. Your Excellency, the removal of this evil is a matter of urgency, and I trust that Your Excellency's Government will be pleased at least now, having regard to the feelings of the public in the matter, take effective steps to remove the restrictions either directly or through the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Madras Government should not hesitate to ask the Ceylon Government to be reasonable in their anxiety to protect their country from infection, and to see that our interests are protected. With these words I second the resolution."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN :—"Your Excellency, the motion before this Council is not, as seems to be understood by the Hon'ble Mr. Annamalai Chettiyyar, to remove what he has been pleased to call the evils of the quarantine restrictions at Mantapam, but the question whether G.O. No. 150 of February last which amplified the former G.O. No. 349 of November 1916 should be cancelled. I may just remark that on the general question of the removal of restrictions I had an interview at Colombo at Christmas with the Ceylon authorities on the subject, and I found that they were fully resolved to adhere to their restrictions because they were quite satisfied that diseases and epidemics were thereby prevented from reaching Ceylon. I have not heard of any case of plague brought from Ceylon into India, and if the Hon'ble the Raja of Ramnad has any precise information on the subject I shall be very glad to consider it.

But a homecoming

"The original Government Order prescribed that every passenger who wished to proceed to Ceylon without undergoing quarantine restrictions should produce a certificate from a district medical and sanitary officer furnishing particulars on three points. The first was his residence in Ceylon, which I think you will agree is very necessary to safeguard that country; the second was that he had, previous to the issue of the certificate, been residing for seven days in a place free from infection; the third point was that he was free from disease. By the second Government Order which is really the subject of this debate, the responsibility for the correct answering of these provisions on these matters was placed upon the District Medical and Sanitary Officer and I understand from a conversation with the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmad Tambi Marakkayar that in consequence the issue of certificates has been very much restricted, and that we are asking too much of the District Medical Officer when we require that he shall guarantee the place of residence here and the destination to which the man is proceeding in Ceylon. So on this point I can meet the Honourable Member, because it seems to me that the local officers, the deputy tahsildar or the tahsildar, would be in the best position to furnish a certificate in regard to occupation and residence. If he furnishes that certificate, it is a certificate which the District Medical and Sanitary Officer may very well accept. Therefore I propose to issue instructions now, that the District Medical and Sanitary Officer may accept certificates from local revenue officers, not lower than deputy tahsildars, on these two questions of residence and occupation. It follows therefrom that the only point on which he himself will have to certify is the question of the freedom from disease and that will largely remove the complaint that has been brought to the notice of the Council by the Honourable Member.

"There is only one other point, Your Excellency, which has been mentioned by the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmad Tambi Marakkayar, which I would like to notice; and that is, as to the certificates of persons being allowed to proceed to Ceylon on permits issued from there by the chairman of the plague committee. I understand that, in the first place, the person applying for the certificate has to guarantee that the man who is going over is proceeding to a certain place, and secondly when the man does proceed over there he is kept under medical observation for fifteen days. It seems to me that these two qualifications very materially affect the position and do not render this certificate such an impropriety as the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmad Tambi Marakkayar seems to suggest. In view of what I have said, I hope the Honourable Member will see fit to withdraw this resolution."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO:—"My Lord, I would just like to say a few words in answer to the observations of the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman. In regard to the general position, it will be within the recollection of Honourable Members that two or three years ago I moved a resolution in this Council setting forth all the objections to the existing system and I may assure the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman that I do not wish to bring it under discussion on this resolution. But I continue to receive letters from friends in Ceylon to the effect that, notwithstanding the representations made by Your Excellency's Government in answer to the motion made in this Council, the annoyances and troubles have not in any way decreased. You may take the assurance that they continue to exist and if Your Excellency's Government can do anything to remove them, it will be a matter for very great satisfaction.

"Of course, one suggestion has been made that some representation should be made to the Colonial Office. I cannot say whether that would be feasible or not. The Hon'ble Mr. Gillman will be in a better position than myself to say whether it is possible or not; but if there is anything to be done to bring pressure on the Ceylon Government to modify the regulations I trust it will be done. It is true it is Colonial Government independent of the Government of India; but I am perfectly certain that Your Excellency is aware of the means and methods by which a Colonial Government can be brought round to the views which may be entertained by Your Excellency's Government.

"As regards the suggestion of a certificate being given by the deputy tahsildar, may I point out to the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman that the procedure which he has indicated will mean two certificates; first of all, a man intending to go to Ceylon will have to go to the tahsildar and obtain from him a certificate of identity, and probably his position in this country, and satisfy him as to his address and whereabouts and his address and business in Ceylon. Armed with this certificate which he has obtained from the tahsildar, who after all is a touring officer, he has to go to the District Medical and Sanitary Officer in some other station, and then see whether he is at headquarters and then obtain a certificate of health from him. I would, in order to obviate these objections to going to all places and trying to get certificates from two officers, suggest that, if possible, he may relax the rules so as to permit the civil assistant or sub-assistant surgeon at the headquarters of the tahsildar or deputy tahsildar to issue a certificate of health to the person who wishes to go to Ceylon. My Lord, these 'officers' certificates, those of the civil assistant surgeon or sub-assistant surgeon, are good enough in India for all purposes; the Government accept certificates from them as regards health, age, fitness for Government service and such other matters in which certificates from medical men are necessary. In these circumstances I do not see why the Ceylon Government should ask for a certificate from the District Medical and Sanitary Officer alone. That is the point which I should like to place before the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman. If it is possible to arrange for the certificate of health as well as the certificate of identity at the same station, it would possibly avoid a certain amount of inconvenience which must necessarily be involved in going to two places and obtaining two different certificates from two different officers. I would ask the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman to consider this inconvenience and see whether it is possible to adopt the suggestion I have made."

The Hon'ble Mr. T. RANGA ACHARIYAR:—There was one remark made by the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman. I think the certificate required was freedom from disease. Is it freedom from infection or freedom from disease?"

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN:—"That he comes from a place free from infection and that he is himself free from disease."

The Hon'ble Mr. T. RANGA ACHARIYAR:—"That is a very large order, that he must be free from disease himself. What diseases?"

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN:—"From all diseases."

The Hon'ble Mr. T. RANGA ACHARIYAR:—"Cannot some alteration be made? No medical officer can be in a position to certify that a man is free from disease. It may be enough if the man is free from infectious disease."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO:—"Suppose a man has a bad tooth, does that prevent him from going to Ceylon?"

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN:—"The word is 'disease,' and it means infectious disease."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. RAMA AYYANGAR:—"Your Excellency, I have not heard from the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman the circumstances under which G.O. No. 349 was modified and the condition imposed in G.O. No. 150 was accepted by this Government. The wording of the first order is this—

'Under the Ceylon Quarantine Rules passengers proceeding to Ceylon have ordinarily either to produce certificates of good health and freedom from infection granted by district medical and sanitary officers in this Presidency or to undergo quarantine at the Mantapam camp. The Government hereby authorize all district medical and sanitary officers in the Presidency to grant these certificates in the form appended to these proceedings. They are permitted to charge a fee of Rs. 5 for an individual case and of Rs. 8 for a family. An officer in charge of the duties of a district medical and sanitary officer can grant the certificate.'

"Therefore, the original arrangement between this Government and the Government of Ceylon was that there should be certificates of freedom from infection, granted by district medical and sanitary officer of this Presidency, otherwise there should be quarantine at the Mantapam camp. This was apparently accepted by the other Government also. The reason indicated in the second Government Order for restrictions being placed and certain conditions being imposed is contained in paragraph 2 of the second Government Order which says:—

'The attention of Government has recently been drawn to certain cases of the indiscriminate issue of certificates of health. The Government direct that certificates should be granted only to known person of fixed occupation who give a fixed and traceable address in Ceylon and to whose circumstances the medical officer is in a position to certify. A note prepared by the Chairman, Plague Committee, Colombo, explaining the requirements of the quarantine authorities so far as the issue of certificates is concerned is annexed to these proceedings for the information and guidance of district medical and sanitary officers.'

"The indiscriminate issue of certificates has been the reason for the second Government Order, but what does the second Government Order state? It does not refer to additional safeguards that have to be taken in connexion with the issue of certificates, but it says that 'the Ceylon Government have now forwarded eight books containing medical certificate forms for distribution at the segregation camp at Mantapam and signature.' That is what it says; but the notes to the district medical and sanitary officer added as annexure to this Government Order say:—

'The address in Ceylon—street and town required. The district medical and sanitary officer must satisfy himself that this information is reliable by questioning the applicant and similarly the full name and address of the Ceylon resident to whom reference can be made must only be accepted after satisfactory proof is given.'

"It does not come under any safeguards of the Quarantine Regulations so far as I can see. How could a district medical and sanitary officer go and ascertain except on information given that the man will go and reside at a particular place, the address being made clear to him. No. 2 of the instructions says—

'The district medical and sanitary officer must be satisfied that the man is really proceeding to the address specified. He cannot be sure that a coolie without property or ties will do so and should not therefore issue certificates to unknown persons of a class which is likely to sleep and live in any place convenient and not necessarily in the place and house to which he at the time of the departure proposes to proceed.'

"This also comes under the previous clause. It only deals with the matter of ascertaining the whereabouts of the individual to whom the certificate is given. Here again the district medical and sanitary officer is expected to do a business which is clearly beyond his control. Thirdly:—

'By infection is meant "infected with cholera, plague or smallpox." This does not mean "proclaimed infected," but that cases of these diseases are known to exist in the locality specified.'

"No. 4 is—

'The wording of the certificate that the "applicant has been residing for the last seven days in a place free from infection" is not intended to mean that district medical and sanitary officers should encourage the establishment of camps in the neighbourhood of their office where people would be kept under supervision by them but is meant to convey that the certificate should only be given to people whose place of residence is known to the district medical and sanitary officer and that he knows they have actually been there during the previous week and that it is a sanitary and healthy place in sanitary and healthy surroundings.'

"These are the four instructions that have been given. I ask, my Lord, whether there is, even as the Government Order stands, room for the contention that has now been put forward by the Ceylon Government in the matter of the detention of these people? I only request that the wording of the first Government Order which in effect has been explained in the second may be adopted as the final stand upon which this Government will support this case. The question is this. It is not that this Government have not got the power to issue instructions to their various local officers to report infectious diseases to the district medical and sanitary officers, if they happen in villages of the districts in their charge. In fact if there is plague, cholera or smallpox in any village, a report of it must be made to the authorities as early as possible. If there are no specific instructions already given, that within two or three days or five or six days of the happening of any one of these diseases in the villages—if there is no specific rule asking for information to be given by the village officers or other persons responsible to the district medical and sanitary officer—steps may be taken to assure such information being given properly. The next position will be that the district medical and sanitary officer for the matter of that may have information from the assistant surgeon or sub-assistant surgeon in charge of the dispensaries or hospitals in rural areas. They will communicate with him immediately if there are any infectious diseases in the villages. Then if within seven days of the man reaching the district medical and sanitary officer the particular locality is known to be free from such diseases, if he has not got information about any attacks of any one of these diseases, it may be taken that he is entitled to give a certificate that the person comes from an area which is not infected. He must be presumed to know, in fact, there is no doubt that cases of cholera, smallpox and plague are immediately asked to be reported to the officers concerned and wired to the district medical and sanitary officer and also the higher authorities."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN:—"Also the tahsildar is informed?"

The Hon'ble Mr. K. RAMA AYYANGAR:—"Yes, the tahsildar knows it. The District Medical Officer knows it. Either of these officers is quite competent to declare that a particular village from which the particular person comes is not affected or infected in the sense of the Government Order that I have now read."

"Then the first question arises as to where is the necessity for two certificates. In fact only one certificate is necessary irrespective of the person coming from the infected locality; in fact the tahsildar's certificate would not add to it at all. Instructions may be given to the tahsildar or any other subordinate officer in any area to directly communicate—I believe there is already a rule requiring direct communication—diseases of this kind to the higher authorities. So that it might very well be presumed that the district medical and sanitary officer is in possession of information as to the particular areas in his jurisdiction which are affected with the disease; so his certificate will practically answer the point that has been raised in the note to the subsequent Government Order."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN:—"May I ask how could he know that the man comes from a particular village?"

The Hon'ble Mr. K. RAMA AYYANGAR:—"That is the point on which the Government may make the district medical and sanitary officer satisfy himself by getting some responsible person of the locality to testify to the identity of the person as coming from a particular village, that it would be quite different from making a man go and wait at the deputy tahsildar's or tahsildar's office, meet his clerk and induce him to grant a certificate, take it before the tahsildar, get his signature, and then go before the district medical and sanitary officer's clerk, make him prepare another certificate, take it to the officer and take his signature and then go. We can simplify the difficulty that may exist. The Hon'ble Mr. Ahmad Tambi Marakkayar was telling me of case after case of getting plague passports from the Ceylon officer. The cost of getting the plague passport from the Ceylon officer—he would not give it out in the course of his speech—he put at Rs. 25 for a certificate. I do not want to dwell very much on details. But we do know what a certificate is. We do pay for it in criminal cases or other matters in Taluk offices or the District Medical and Sanitary office. Much discussion on that point may not be useful."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur A. T. G. M. AHMAD TAMBI MARAKKAYAR:—"I only meant the cost of getting passports for proceeding to the Straits Settlement."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. RAMA AYYANGAR:—"If it is the cost of going to the Straits Settlement I do not want to use it. My general remark is that it is necessary to avoid the production of a number of certificates in cases of this kind."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:—"We are not discussing the general question. We are discussing how we can make it more easy for the district medical and sanitary officer to certify that a man has resided for seven days in a place free from disease. I would ask the Council to concentrate their attention upon that point. We are really wasting the time of the Council by travelling over the whole ground. The district medical and sanitary officers are required to certify that a man has resided in a place for seven days before he proceeds on his journey. Exception was taken to this provision last year, and it was pointed out that it was very difficult for the district medical and sanitary officer to certify—a man may know it but he may not be willing to certify on his word—that it has been so. The Government have now proposed, in order to make it easier for these District Medical and Sanitary Officers to sign any such certificate, that they should have the authoritative information of the tahsildar or the deputy tahsildar on the matter which is not a health matter. It is a matter of fact whether the man has or has not resided for seven days in a particular place. That will make it easy for the medical officer to give the certificate. What the Government are anxious to do is to facilitate the granting of certificates. As has been stated by the Honourable Member, they wish to remove this particular difficulty. We need not work out future difficulties. We must do one thing at a time. The point is that we should remove this difficulty. If it is agreeable to the Honourable Member that the Government should take this step, we will take the step."

The Hon'ble the RAJA of RAMNAD:—"How is it possible for the deputy tahsildar or the tahsildar to know that a particular man has lived in a particular village?"

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:—"As I understand the tahsildar is given official information that a certain village is free from disease. He can also find out that a certain person has been an inhabitant of that village. With that information he can identify the particular individual. The District Medical and Sanitary Officer cannot travel about the district to get information from those who know."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. RAMA AYYANGAR:—"It was in that connexion I was making a suggestion. The real question is as to what would help the district medical and sanitary officer, and what will be the proper method of helping him. When I compared both the Government Orders the earlier and the later one, my point was that the Ceylon Government did not want anything more than that the place the man came from was free from these diseases, and that the person was a resident in the village for seven days; and there was the medical officer's certificate. Those are the three things required by these Government Orders. The district medical officer's certificate was condemned in the meanwhile. But all the same the only point required is seven days' previous stay in a place free from disease; that should be known to the Ceylon Government. Therefore is it the tahsildar that will be the best man to know the thing under these circumstances? The district medical officer may get information from a person who knows and who he thinks is reliable and respectable, it may be that it is the village Nattamaikaran or the headman of the village or a person of such status as will satisfy the Government and also the district medical and sanitary officer. Anything more than that will only complicate the matter, because if the man has to go to the tahsildar, some proof will have to be given before him if he is to issue the certificate and the same thing may be done by the district medical officer. Looking to the spirit of both the Government Orders and the contentions of both the Governments, I do not think it will be proper to put these persons to greater restrictions than those to which they were put before 1916. I hope there will be complete deliberation on the situation and a redress of the grievances."

The Hon'ble Lieut.-Col. GIFFARD:—"May I add a word from the point of view of a doctor? The district medical and sanitary officers are, as their name implies, medical and sanitary officers. In their capacity of sanitary officers they do know in their own districts what is going on in the villages of the district and therefore they are able to say whether a village is infected or not. They are not able to say whether a particular man comes from a particular village or not, and the district medical and sanitary officers would like to have their work restricted to what they know. They may be asked to give two pieces of information:—"In my district such and such a village is not affected; and this person is not infected." I personally do not think it will save Ceylon from epidemics if you bring a patient before me, and I say I find him well to-day. It does not prove that he will not get plague or smallpox or any other infectious disease within a week. They can also certify that sanitarily the village from which he is said to have come is infected or not and the person as he appears before them shows no signs of disease. I request this Council to remember these two points. In any Government Order that the Government may issue, we will loyally support them in every way as far as honestly can be done, but I think it is not wise and it is not fair to ask us to fill up the certificates on information which is not at our disposal."

10 NOTES TO G.O. No. 692, HOME (MISCELLANEOUS), 5TH OCTOBER 1918

The Hon'ble Mr. T. RANGA ACHARIYAR :—" May I move an amendment ? "

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" The Honourable Member has exhausted his right of speech."

The Hon'ble Mr. T. RANGA ACHARIYAR :—" By asking a question ? "

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" I thought the Honourable Member addressed the meeting."

The Hon'ble Mr. T. RANGA ACHARIYAR :—" The question is bristling with difficulties and has caused sore grievance. I therefore suggest the following amendment: 'This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that they be pleased to appoint a committee to make suggestions regarding the quarantine restrictions imposed upon Indian passengers proceeding to Ceylon.' The Government may take in the assistance of a committee in order to consider whether the quarantine regulations may not be improved. I understand that it is the desire of Your Excellency's Government to remove unnecessary restrictions which may exist. It is hardly possible in a full Council like this to make suggestions for the purpose of executive action; therefore I commend this amendment to Your Excellency's consideration."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. CHIDAMBARANATHA MUDALIYAR seconded the amendment.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" I think myself that this raises a much wider issue, as Honourable Members will see, than the original motion. I hardly think that the Council will desire to discuss it. It is much better to bring forward this resolution on another occasion. The Government are not prepared to discuss this amendment. It raises a much wider issue than the resolution. It reads thus: This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that they be pleased to appoint a committee to make suggestions regarding the quarantine restrictions imposed upon Indian passengers proceeding to Ceylon. I hardly think it is definite enough to be brought in as an amendment. I am afraid I must rule it out of order. I think we had better continue the debate."

The Hon'ble Mr. A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" Your Excellency, I have been waiting for a decision on the amendment moved by my Honourable Friend Mr. Ranga Achariyar, as to whether it is to be discussed by the Council or not. As it has been ruled out of order, I feel it is necessary to place certain facts before this Council. In view of the discussion which took place in April last year, it is but desirable that we should ascertain as best as we can what has taken place during the interval. Two questions are raised by this resolution. One is, as Your Excellency has already pointed out and as the Hon'ble Surgeon-General has also pointed out, whether the Medical officers themselves are in a position to give information about the residence of the intending passengers; and it is with reference to that point that the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman said that the Tahsildar or the Deputy Tahsildar may be instructed to give a certificate to the District Medical officer to enable him to certify about it. The other point raised by this resolution is whether it is necessary that District Medical officers alone should have the privilege of certifying either to the health or residence of the intending passengers and whether that function cannot be delegated to officers subordinate to them."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN (*interrupting*) :—" No question of delegation of the powers of the District Medical and Sanitary officer is raised in the resolution."

The Hon'ble Mr. A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" If the former Government Order is allowed to be retained and the latter is abrogated, will not that follow ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN :—" The former Government Order prescribed that these certificates should be issued by the District Medical and Sanitary officers alone."

The Hon'ble Mr. A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" That will obviate some of the difficulties pointed out. Otherwise we shall be introducing a more complicated machinery for the purpose of issuing the certificates, one set of officers who, it is suggested, are to be the revenue officers certifying to the residence and another set of officers certifying as to the health of the person concerned. It is desirable to avoid new machinery and to simplify matters; while at the same time these restrictions are efficiently carried out. Your Excellency will kindly notice that even on the former occasion when this resolution was brought forward these suggestions were made to Your Excellency's Government. Your Excellency then said: 'It is best, I think, to take what seems to be the ordinary commonsense view of things which has been created by certain circumstances—to leave the matter as it is and let the present system work in harmony and co-operation with the Ceylon Government; and if at any time we can obtain a favourable relaxation in regard to certificates or in any other direction to secure the free ingress of our people into Ceylon, let us do so. I am heartily with the Honourable Gentlemen with the general principles that have been referred to. But I doubt whether we have a strong case to press at the present moment. I should be inclined to say let us drop this discussion and resume it when circumstances present a more favourable opportunity.' I would only request Your Excellency's Government to consider whether all the incidents which have taken place during the last twelve months are not sufficient to enable the Government to make further representation to the Ceylon authorities."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" I hope the Honourable gentleman will not raise a wider question. I do not want to restrict the debate. What we are trying to do is to make it easier

for the District Medical and Sanitary Officer to grant certificates. We are afraid—we do not know, but it is possible—that the District Medical and Sanitary Officer may have difficulty in granting certificates, and we want if possible to obviate and remove that little bit of difficulty. We cannot get a perfect world. We are trying bit by bit to improve the machinery. The Hon'ble Mr. Gillman has offered to consider whether it would not be possible to assure the District Medical Officer in regard to points which are not medical points at all. Therefore the Medical officer will have less difficulty because he will be assured of the identity of the people by officers who can speak to them. There will then be less difficulty in granting the certificate. We need not open the whole field of suggestion, because it is not opened by the resolution."

The Hon'ble Mr. A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" To help the discussion I think it will be better if the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman will inform us as to whether any inquiry has been made as to the importation of plague from Ceylon to India. I find that the Hon'ble the Raja of Ramnad stated on the last occasion 'as a matter of fact we find a larger number of imported cases of plague in India from Ceylon than from India to Ceylon.'

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN :—" There is no information of plague coming from Ceylon to India."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" My Lord, I should like to propose a small amendment to give effect to the intention of the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman and that is 'that the Government Order should be modified by permitting village officers to issue a certificate of identity for the information of District Medical Officers.' Instead of having Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildars to issue these certificates, I propose that the village officers who are equally responsible to the Government should be permitted to issue certificates of identity. As pointed out by the Hon'ble the Surgeon-General, the two matters which the Medical officer has to decide are as to whether the person is free from disease and whether the place wherefrom he comes is free from disease. If these are the only two matters he has to decide, the other matter is only the question of identity, whether a particular person belongs to a particular village. On that matter no better person can be selected than the village officer who can say whether such and such a person belongs to that village and intends to go to Ceylon. On the basis of that certificate, it will be open to the medical authority to examine the man and see if the village is free, according to his information. It seems to me, my Lord, that it is a very simple solution of the problem. I do not really see why the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman should insist on the Tahsildar or the Deputy Tahsildar giving a certificate of identity and parentage when there are hundreds of villages. If you throw the responsibility on a village officer the matter is very much simplified. If he issues a false certificate, he can be dealt with. I trust the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman would consider this amendment and accept it."

The Hon'ble Mr. A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" I second the amendment."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" The Honourable gentleman has already exhausted his right of speech."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" On the original proposition."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" There is only one proposition."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" Does it exhaust my right to propose an amendment?"

The Hon'ble Mr. P. SIVA RAO PANTULU :—" I second the amendment."

The Hon'ble Mr. T. RANGA ACHARIYAR :—" May I know whether Your Excellency rules the amendment in order."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" This debate is irregular. Honourable Gentlemen have introduced irrelevant matters."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" It is really in furtherance of what the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman has said."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" I am not talking of that. I am talking with reference to the rules of order. I am sure the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman will be quite willing to consider all suggestions. The question is, we have to work out a system which will be satisfactory. The Council will be pleased to hear what the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman has to say on the amendment."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN :—" With regard to this amendment I would only like to say that the person who is to be satisfied is the District Medical and Sanitary Officer. We are prepared to prescribe that he may accept the reports of certain responsible officers."

The Hon'ble Mr. T. RANGA ACHARIYAR :—" I wish to rise to a point of order. Unless Your Excellency rules the amendment to be in order, the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman cannot speak."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—" Will not the Council hear what the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman has to say? We want to obtain an adjustment of the matter."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN :—" The Government consider that a certificate granted by a Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildar carries such weight that it should invariably be accepted by the District Medical and Sanitary Officer. We are not prepared to issue a rule that

certificates may be issued by village officers on non-medical matters. There are village munsifs and village munsifs. If the District Medical and Sanitary Officer is prepared to accept on his own responsibility a certificate from an Honourable Member of a Council or a respectable member of society he is welcome to do so."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO:—"I do not know if I am in order in moving that this House do go into committee in discussing this matter."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:—"What is the meaning of going into committee?"

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO:—"We can discuss the question without formal proposing and seconding."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:—"Will the Honourable Gentleman quote the rule?"

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO:—"I cannot quote the rule."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:—"We are doing it already."

The Hon'ble Mr. Yaqub Hasan:—"I wish to move an amendment (Laughter)."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:—"It depends upon the amendment."

The Hon'ble Mr. Yaqub Hasan:—"My amendment will simplify the matter. The resolution as amended will run as follows: 'This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that necessary steps be taken to modify the quarantine restrictions imposed on Indian passengers proceeding to Ceylon'."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:—"I think that will not be in order. I have already ruled that such an amendment will not be in order. Let us take the vote on this small amendment and see whether the Council will accept it. It is suggested that the resolution should be amended in this form, that the Government Order should be modified to permit village officers to issue certificates of identity for the benefit of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer."

The Hon'ble the RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"If the village officer is permitted to do this, it will highly complicate matters and will put people to great inconvenience. It is a great complaint of the zamindars that these village officers are not doing their duties properly and if you are going to burden them with this work also, I am afraid their regular work will suffer. I am entirely opposed to the delegation of powers to them and therefore I oppose the amendment."

The Hon'ble Mr. Yaqub Hasan:—"I am sorry Your Excellency did not allow me to move my amendment. I take it that the object of this resolution and the amendment now before us for discussion is that the quarantine restrictions should be modified. That is the object of both the mover of the original resolution and the mover of the amendment. This question has been fully discussed and the Government are in a position to know the feelings of the Council. Therefore if they are given a free hand, as I proposed in my amendment, they will take the necessary steps themselves to modify the quarantine restrictions."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:—"The Honourable Gentleman has merely expressed his views in favour of his own amendment which has really nothing to do with the amendment now before the Council. I will now put the amendment to the Council."

The amendment of the Hon'ble Mr. Ramachandra Rao was put and lost.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:—"I must ask the Hon'ble Mr. Marakkayar to reply."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur A. T. G. M. AHMAD TAJI MARAKKAYAR:—"Your Excellency, I thought my resolution would be accepted to-day without any difficulty, as it was a matter of very great importance and it had been often admitted by the Government that this kind of difficulty must be removed as early as possible. As to the suggestion made by the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman to empower tahsildars and deputy tahsildars to give certificates of identity, on consideration, I find that it is a good suggestion. At the same time, as my Honourable Friend Mr. Rama Ayyangar has explained, he has not fully heard me. The question of going to sub-magistrates and other officials to secure passports for the Straits Settlements was brought to my notice. No doubt it is a hard job and they have to sacrifice a certain amount of their wealth and time. Besides, in addition to the multifarious work which these officers have, I do not know whether it will simplify the standpoint of the officers themselves and the standpoint of the passengers. There are so many complicated questions in which we have to decide as to how to grant certificates. The Hon'ble Mr. Ranga Achariyar has explained that the wording of the certificate is rather vague. It is 'I hereby certify that the above person has been residing in such and such a place and the place is free from infection.' The Hon'ble the Surgeon-General says that the District Medical and Sanitary Officer will surely be in a position to know the circumstances which render it likely that the place is exposed to infection. The wording is 'free from disease' and as my Honourable Friend Mr. Ranga Achariyar has stated unless it means free from infectious disease that will complicate the matter. There is no man without disease. All these matters must be carefully considered and it is for this reason that the Hon'ble Mr. Ranga Achariyar moved an amendment to refer the matter to a committee to sit quietly, and discuss the whole matter and decide as to what to do and how to do. It is a very good idea and it is the same thing which I suggested yesterday to the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman. If that is accepted, the whole matter—"

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN:—"What is it?"

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur A. T. G. M. AHMAD TAMBI MARAKKAYAR:—"We can refer the matter to a committee suitable both to the Ceylon Government and our Government. It will be very convenient for us to decide the matter, whether these regulations are good or not. I strongly recommend that the matter should be referred to a committee consisting of both officials and non-officials to arrive at a decision and the recommendations of that committee may be forwarded to the Ceylon Government. That is a suitable way of minimising the difficulty."

"Secondly, with reference to the remark made by the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman regarding importation of cases from Ceylon referred to by the Hon'ble the Raja of Ramnad, I would bring to the recollection of the Government that some years ago a case of plague occurred in Tanjore; a Muhammadan who came from Colombo died and he was burnt. I brought it to the notice of the Government and the Government passed an order that no Muhammadan should be burnt when he died of any disease. Another case happened at Dhanushkodi of a Bombay Sait who, immediately he landed from Ceylon in 1916, was found suffering from fever and he died, and the authorities declared that he died of plague. The Tahsildar and the District Medical Officer ordered the burning of that Muhammadan dead body. I got a telegram, and I brought it to the notice of the Government and the Collector that there is a distinct order that Muhammadan dead bodies should not be burnt. These are two important cases brought to the notice of the Government. So, what the Honourable Member says—that he does not remember any case of importation of plague from Ceylon—is not right. There are many cases imported from Colombo."

"With regard to the other remark as to the restrictions imposed by the Ceylon authorities on the permits issued by the chairman of the plague committee, he has to be under medical observation for fifteen days. According to the certificate issued by our medical officer he is put under observation for seven days after his arrival at Colombo. Therefore there is no hardship in getting permits from the chairman of the plague committee. All these points can easily be discussed in a committee so as to arrive at a certain conclusion and then decide the matter. So I would request the Government to accept the amended resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Ranga Achariyar whereby we can decide the whole thing if the Government really think that the difficulties that Your Excellency's Government's subjects are undergoing are to be remedied. That is the only way to remedy them. With these few remarks I strongly recommend that the amended resolution be accepted."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN:—"Your Excellency, the Honourable Mover has been addressing his concluding remarks on an amendment which has been ruled out of order. There is no question before the Council of appointing a committee to consider the general amelioration of the quarantine regulations. The question is not at all raised by the motion before the Council. There is no question of having certificates issued by any one except the Medical officer; even under the Government Order of November 1916 it was the District Medical and Sanitary Officer only who was authorized to issue the certificates. The question before the Council is to see if in any way the duties imposed on him can be relaxed, so that he has nothing to do except to issue certificates in regard to purely medical matters. I made a suggestion to the Honourable Member of the direction in which the Government are prepared to meet him if he is prepared to accept it. I will withdraw it, if he does not accept it. If he presses the resolution I do not know what attitude the Government will adopt."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:—"Will the Honourable Gentleman be good enough to say whether he will press the resolution?"

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur A. T. G. M. AHMAD TAMBI MARAKKAYAR:—"Rather than to have nothing, I will have something and accept the proposal made by the Honourable Member."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:—"I should just like to assure the Honourable Gentleman and the Council that we are just as anxious as any Member of this Council—the Government are anxious as any Member of the Council can be—to enable these regulations to work smoothly. Our desire is to maintain good understanding and to endeavour to get a smooth working of these regulations."

With the permission of His Excellency the President, the resolution was withdrawn.

R. A. GRAHAM,

Acting Secretary to Govt., L. & M. (Legislative) Dept.

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

The resolution was withdrawn after a good deal of discussion, on the assurance of Honourable Member that the Government were prepared to issue instructions that the District Medical and Sanitary Officer may accept certificates from local Revenue officers not lower than Deputy Tahsildars on the two questions of residence

and occupation, himself certifying as to freedom of the applicant from disease and of the place of residence from infection. In the course of the discussion Honourable Member also expressed that if the District Medical and Sanitary Officer is prepared to accept on his own responsibility a certificate from an additional member of Council or a respectable member of society he is welcome to do so. It is for consideration whether instructions on the above lines may now be issued. A draft order is submitted, which if approved, may go u.o. to Revenue for acceptance before issue. As the order will have to be communicated by Collectors to all subordinate Revenue officers not lower than Deputy Tahsildars a precis of the previous orders is

C.H.B.—5-7-18.

set out therein for their information. For orders whether the draft may be placed on Editor's table.

C.N.—23-6-18.

P.D.R.—4-7-18.

C. H. BROWN—5-7-18.

Please examine whether before the issue of the draft Government Order the Government of Ceylon has to be consulted.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—5-7-18.

The question raised by the Secretary is examined below.

2. The idea of the production of certificates of health by passengers in substitution for quarantine emanated from this Government. When the relaxation of quarantine restrictions formed the subject of controversy in 1915 between the Local and the Colonial Governments, the chief change which this Government advocated was the acceptance by the Ceylon Sanitary authorities of a health certificate granted by a responsible medical officer of this Presidency in substitution for quarantine (vide paragraph 3, page 2 of letter No. 1620, dated 15th November 1915). This suggestion was not accepted readily at first by the Ceylon Government, for while they conceded this change in favour of better classes of passengers travelling at a distance, they still required others to undergo quarantine detention (paragraph 14, page 5 of G.O. No. 980, dated 20th May 1916). This Government, however, passed for the further consideration of the Colonial Government that the provision for accepting certificates of health in substitution for quarantine should not be restricted to passengers of the "better classes" but that such certificates should be accepted on their merits from all passengers irrespective of their position in life (paragraph 7, page 3 of letter No. 981, dated 20th May 1916). It was also suggested that certificates from all responsible medical officers of this Government not below the rank of assistant Surgeons should be accepted. The Colonial Government while agreeing to the abolition of the distinction between passengers of different classes as regards the grounds upon which they should be exempted from detention pointed out that certificates might be issued by District Medical and Sanitary Officers only and that there was no reason to extend this authority to any but officers acting in such posts (paragraph 5, paper IV at pages 3-4 of G.O. No. 349, dated 22nd November 1916). Accordingly District Medical and Sanitary officers alone were authorized to issue certificates of health. The reasons which led to the issue of general instructions in G.O. No. 150, Home (Miscellaneous), dated the 16th February 1917, for the guidance of District Medical and Sanitary officers in the issue of these certificates have already been set out in paragraph 2 at page 1 ante. It will be seen that these instructions require District Medical and Sanitary Officers to be satisfied about three points:—

- (1) applicant's place of residence
- (2) his destination and
- (3) freedom of the place of residence from infection and of the man from disease.

It will be seen also that the Colonial Government took advantage of indiscretion on the part of one District Medical and Sanitary Officer and asked this Government to

issue general instructions to all District Medical and Sanitary officers which in effect are no doubt bound to restrict the issue of these certificates. At the time the instructions were issued the question was not considered whether District Medical and Sanitary officers should personally satisfy themselves as to the applicant's place of residence and his destination. Honourable Member however conceded soon after, in the course of the discussion of a resolution on the subject moved at the meeting of the 4th April 1917, that it was not necessary that a District Medical and Sanitary officer should have personal knowledge on these points but that he might rely on the statements of some one with whom he was acquainted (portion M at page 14 of G.O. No. 605, dated 19th June 1917). The present proposal is only to regulate the procedure for District Medical and Sanitary officers obtaining authoritative information on the applicant's residence, etc. No devolution of authority is thereby involved, as the District Medical and Sanitary officers will continue to issue certificates of health. In the circumstances it does not appear that any reference should be made to the Ceylon Government. In any case from the previous history of the question it does not appear desirable to consult them, nor does it seem necessary to communicate a copy of the proposed order to them as it is purely a question of internal arrangement.

For orders.
T.C.N.—8-7-18.
P.D.R.—11-7-18.

C. H. BROWN—12-7-18.
With reference to the Colonial Secretary's letter on page 5 of G.O. No. 150, dated 16th February 1917, I think that the Government of Ceylon has to be consulted. If the grounds of the present proposal be explained, that Government will readily agree.

If the Honourable Member thinks otherwise, the draft put up is for orders; Revenue has to be consulted before issue.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—13-7-18.
I think that we had better obtain the Ceylon Government's consent before issuing orders. Let me see the draft.

H. F. W. G[ILLMAN]—13-7-18.
A draft letter to the Ceylon Government is submitted for approval.
T.C.N.—16-7-18.
P.D.R.—18-7-18.

C.H.B.—18-7-18.
First to Revenue for acceptance of draft.
R.R.—18-7-18.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.
This department may, it is submitted, agree to revenue officers not lower than Deputy Tahsildars being empowered to furnish certificates as to the places of residence and destination of persons applying for certificates of health for proceeding to Ceylon. District Medical and Sanitary officers will issue certificates of good health and freedom from infection. The draft may, it is submitted, be accepted.

U.K.—20-7-18.
A.S.R.—22-7-18.

V. PONNIAH—22-7-18.
G. H. JACKSON—23-7-18.

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.
For orders as to circulation.

M.D.R.—24-7-18.

C.H.B.—24-7-18.

Draft for approval.

R.R.—25-7-18.
H. F. W. G[ILLMAN]—29-7-18.
P[ENTLAND]—30-7-18.

[Letter to the Colonial Secretary, Colombo, No. 2181-1, dated 1st August 1918]

From the Colonial Secretary, Colombo, dated 10th September 1918, No. 22474.
The Ceylon Government's reply on pages 4-5, etc., discloses that while that Government are not opposed to the modifications proposed by this Government in

16 NOTES TO G.O. No. 692, HOME (MISCELLANEOUS), 5TH OCTOBER 1918

regard to the procedure to be adopted in granting certificates of health by District Medical and Sanitary officers, they are at the same time anxious to see that the District Medical and Sanitary officers are made personally responsible for all the points on which the certificate is issued. But it will be noticed from this Government's letter to Ceylon Government that it was specifically put to that Government that District Medical and Sanitary officers can be expected to certify only on the points whether the applicant's place of residence is infected or not and whether or not the applicant himself is free from infection. It is submitted, therefore, that the District Medical and Sanitary Officer cannot be said to incur a personal responsibility if he issues a certificate on all the points required to be certified, relying on the preliminary certificates of the Revenue officer or a respectable non-official gentleman. It is for consideration whether in the orders now to issue special instructions should issue to District Medical and Sanitary officers on the lines of paragraph 4 of the Ceylon Government's letter. The adoption of such a course would appear to be fruitful of further agitation on this already heated question.

If no special instructions are called for, the draft put up may issue.

A.V.S.—18-9-18.

P.D.R.—18-9-18.

The suggestions in paragraph 4 of the Ceylon Government's letter seem to me rather impractical. They don't seem to realise that the District Medical and Sanitary officer's action must either be the result of personal inquiry and knowledge or a more or less routine acceptance of the certificate laid before him. They want the District Medical and Sanitary officer to steer a middle course which does not exist. I have added a few words at the close of paragraph 1 of the original draft. I think it would be better without them as they can only confuse and obscure instructions which are otherwise tolerably clear; but if the somewhat hazy position of the Ceylon Government is to receive expression they may be retained.

C. H. BROWN—19-9-18.

The objections of the Government of Ceylon substantiated as they are by results are certainly sound. But they have missed the only point at present at issue. The rules as they stand fix personal responsibility on the District Medical and Sanitary officer; and an ultra conscientious officer may decline to certify. So we propose to instruct the District Medical and Sanitary Officer that in certain matters it is competent for him to certify on the strength of subsidiary certificates the nature of which is now prescribed. I do not think Ceylon does really object to this.

I have corrected in red ink the draft to convey my meaning.

Draft first to Revenue for acceptance.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—20-9-18.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Please see this department notes at page 15 supra. The draft may, it is submitted, be accepted.

U.K.—24-9-18.

G. H. JACKSON—26-9-18.

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted for orders as to circulation.

A.V.S.—27-9-18.

P.D.R.—27-9-18.

C.H.B.—30-9-18.

R.R.—1-10-18.

H. F. W. G[ILLMAN]—3-10-18.

P[ENTLAND]—3-10-18.

[G.O. No. 692, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 5th October 1918.]

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