

Local & Munl. (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No.

739/n

DATED

29-3-97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Bubonic Plague

Addressing the Govt. of India, by telegram, requesting
to be informed whether or it intended in its letter no. 971,
of 16.3-97, that Bombay should provide for the
disinfection of the luggage of passengers at railway
stations near the Bombay frontier on lines leading out
of that Presidency or other Govts of Provinces into which
lines lead should provide for it.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

[L & M.
600-81-10-98.]

FROM CIRCULATION
WITH REMARKS.

*As per Telgram
sent to say
deferred
H
29/31*

*5-22
27/3/17*

utakal - the W.D. could no doubt

Local & Munl. (1897.) Department.

2. H. H. Thompson

CURRENT No.

No. 1269 M

Order Recorded

For Orders

1. Sample No. 23/3/7

add to whether, similar arrangements. From

should be made in this Presidency. This does not appear to be necessary at present.

Secretary to the Govt.
of India.

FR (HM)
22/3/97 94

No. 979

22/3/97 It is not intended that the disinfection should take place in this P^{cs} but in the Bombay P^{cs} - The letter is add^d by the Gov^t of India to the Bombay Gov^t. it is only a copy of the letter is forwarded to us.

Dated 16-3-97.

Received 22^d —

Registered —————

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Regarding the disinfection of the luggage of passengers travelling by railway from areas in which plague prevails.

I doubt if the Sec. is right as to the day & place of disinfection - The B. & M. people place it at Kalyan, but that won't protect us from against plague ~~in~~ infected clothes brought in from Poona where the plague is raging now, & between which & ~~the~~ the Madras Prescy there is no inspection station but Wadi, where disinfection of the clothes of passengers passing through to the Madras Prescy will hardly be undertaken. I think we must arrange for disinfection at ~~the~~ atakal - The B. & M. could no doubt

find us a steam boiler & a tank suited to the purpose - The May mail have passed untroubled straight - But that we can't help. At Arcamun & other minor inst. stations the system of disinfection described at A must be adopted. I don't see that passengers need necessarily be detained because their soiled linen is being disinfected, provided they are content to having them sent after them - The Mag^{ts} at each place could see to that, after the med^l officer had seen the articles properly disinfected.

24/3/97

kill H.O. please see the passage marked X in the letter: these the Govt of India directs the Bombay Govt to establish disinfection places at a railway station near the frontier of every province bordering Bombay thus which a railway line runs. For Bombay that is charged with this duty. It is, I think, clear meant not Disinfection only necessarily, but the station close to the frontier at which the train stops in daylight. It will be proved that the letter is one communicated to us merely for information. It is not a circular letter nor is it for info. guidance. I wish to know I might tell to India as to intention.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department	Date

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department	Date

order No. 739 Minis. 29/3/97
the following telegram will be despatched to the Govt of India:

I don't see that the passage marked X contains any direction whatever that the May Govt should establish disinfection stations. In fact, there is nothing to this effect. However, I have no objection to a telegram being sent as under: -
"You letter No. 971. It is intended that Bombay should provide for disinfection at railway stations near Bombay frontier on lines leading out of that Presidency or should ~~the Govt of India~~ provide for disinfection in the lines leading out of that Province into which lines lead provide for it."

27/3/97

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT.
No. 1269 M
SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

No. 970.

FROM
J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.I.E.,
Secretary to the Government of India,
To
THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY,
GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

Home Department.
Sanitary.

Calcutta, the 16th March 1897.

SIR,
I AM directed to state, for the information of the Governor in Council, that the Government of India have been considering the subject of the disinfection of the luggage of passengers travelling by railway from areas in which plague prevails. Infection may be spread as easily by the contaminated clothes and personal effects of passengers as by the passengers themselves, and the disinfection of suspicious articles is therefore a necessary adjunct to the medical inspection of passengers which is made at the principal railway stations along the lines of communication from infected districts. I am to convey the following remarks regarding the nature and extent of the disinfection which is required in order to be effective, and the manner in which it should be carried out.
2. By the Dresden Convention of 1893, the principles of which are being supported by the delegates of Her Majesty's Government and the Government of India at the Conference at Venice, disinfection is obligatory for dirty linen, rags, clothes, and other goods forming part of luggage being conveyed from a contaminated district, provided that the local sanitary authority considers such articles to be contaminated. The most effectual method of disinfection is to boil the articles to be disinfected in water or to subject them to the action of steam. At Khana on the East Indian Railway, where special arrangements have been made for the disinfection of baggage, the Government of India are informed that the steam is generated by a large engine on wheels. The steam is passed through a pipe into a 400 gallon water tank, inside of which are twelve iron rods on which the articles to be disinfected are suspended. Access to the interior of the tank is obtained through a man hole at the top. The tank is provided with a safety valve and a tap for the purpose of letting off the water which accumulates. A cooking range is about to be added to the apparatus and the Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal hopes to have a disinfector on the latest approved principles constructed within three weeks. Until arrangements can be made for disinfecting by boiling water or steam, articles of luggage can be disinfected by placing them in a solution of two parts of hydrochloric acid and one of corrosive sublimate to 1,000 parts of water for an hour and then drying them in the sun or by artificial heat, preferably the former method. It is not necessary to disinfect in this manner the clothes and personal effects of persons who are not themselves suffering from infection or show suspicious symptoms unless such clothes and personal effects are dirty or in such a condition as to raise a suspicion that they may be contaminated. In all such cases, however, disinfection should, the Governor General in Council considers, be carried out at a railway station near the frontier of the Bombay Presidency and Sind on each of the railway lines leading from those Provinces to other parts of India, and the medical officers at places where disinfection takes place should be instructed to exercise the widest discretion so as to render it quite impossible that articles which may be contaminated shall be passed without being disinfected. It is very desirable

A
X

that the disinfection should take place at some station at which the train arrives during the day, amongst other reasons because sunlight itself acts as a strong disinfectant.

3. In cases in which the disinfection necessary under these orders cannot otherwise be completed it will be necessary to detain a portion of the passengers until the departure of the next train.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

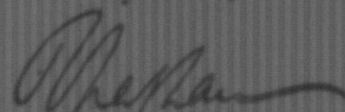
J. P. HEWETT,

Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 971

COPY forwarded to the *Secy. of India.*

By order,



Offg. Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

When filed for copying _____
 When copied _____
 When examined _____
 When signed _____

189

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURE TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
 IN ORIGINAL

N.B.—

- A = Copy in full.
- B = Not to be copied.
- P = Copy abstract only.
- Q = Copy heading only

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22/3/77