Local & Munl. (189) Department.

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DATED 8. Feb 98

DESPATCHED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Bubonic Plague

Ordering the issue of a Notification making an addition to No 170 of the Mufassal regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act, in view to prevent passengers from the Bombay Presidency escaping detection by rebooking at intermediate stations and stating that the Inspector General of Police will be requested in the judicial D to submit proposals for carrying out the S suggestions made by the Govt of India

matter.

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Government {1898} of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd. *Regd.* } 1898. *Enclosures* *Spare copies*

G.O., &c., Nos. 10, 10-A P., 8th February 1898.

FEBRUARY.

Bubonic Plague.

Ordering the issue of a notification making an addition to No. 17 of the mufassal regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act, in view to prevent passengers from the Bombay Presidency escaping detection by re-booking at intermediate stations and stating that the Inspector-General of Police will be requested in the Judicial Department to submit proposals for carrying out the subsidiary suggestions made by the Government of India in the matter.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

From J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Sanitary), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local and Municipal Department, dated Calcutta, the 5th January 1898, No. 47.

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of Madras, a copy of a report submitted by a committee appointed to consider the subject of preventing passengers from the Bombay Presidency escaping detection by re-booking at intermediate stations. It has been reported to the Government of India that the practice of re-booking to evade detection had become so common as to interfere greatly with the efficient working of the rules for the inspection of passengers at railway stations and their surveillance on arriving at their destination, and the Government of India consider it necessary that means should be devised to check the practice.

2. The following are the main suggestions made by the committee:—

(1) The tickets of all passengers leaving the infected area should be punch-marked so that there may be no difficulty in recognizing them even by a dim light.

(2) When a passenger with a marked ticket alights, his name and address should be taken by the Railway Police, and arrangements should be made by the District Police that any case of sickness occurring within ten days in the house of the newly arrived traveller should be reported.

(3) The officials who take the name and address of passengers should endeavour to identify passengers who re-book within 48 hours. The number of the fresh ticket obtained by such passengers should be telegraphed down the line, and on alighting he should be treated as a traveller coming from an infected area.

3. With regard to the first suggestion, the committee represent that the names of all stations in the Bombay Presidency are not known to the police and station officials further east, and they consider that there should be some easy mode of recognizing the fact that a ticket was issued within the Presidency. The Government of India have accepted this view and orders are being issued for the punching of tickets on the borders of the Bombay Presidency in the manner suggested by the committee.

4. In most provinces rules have been issued prescribing a procedure similar to that recommended in the second and third of the committee's suggestions, and the Government of India consider that it is desirable that they should be adopted on all routes along which travellers from the Bombay Presidency are in the habit of passing. The committee also make practical suggestions for rendering the procedure more efficient, which the Government of India consider should be adopted. They recommend that the arrangements should be carried out through the agency of the Railway Police, and that an official should be posted at every station to take down names and addresses and to detect and report re-booking. This official would either be a member of the Railway Police or a person specially appointed for the purpose, and enlisted, the committee suggest, under Act XXIV of 1859, so that the necessary discipline and

obedience may be enforced by law. At important stations where the amount of traffic and the neighbourhood of a populous place make evasion easier a larger staff under the superintendence of a responsible and intelligent officer may be necessary.

5. The committee lay great stress on the importance of cordial co-operation between the Railway Police of the different provinces. The Government of India agree that such co-operation is essential to make the working of the protective arrangements successful, and I am to suggest that you should enter into communication with the Government of Bengal and the other Local Governments and Administrations concerned as to the manner in which the police should co-operate when a case of re-booking is detected. A similar suggestion has been made to the Government of Bengal and other Local Governments and Administrations.

6. In paragraph 10 of their report the committee state that it is very desirable, if not essential, for the due working of the rules that a small inspecting staff should be appointed to travel along the line and see that the regulations are carried out and that abuses do not occur. It appears to the Government of India to be desirable that effect should be given to this proposal.

7. With reference to the remarks in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the committee's report, I am to explain that the Government of India do not propose any change in the existing orders under which persons deemed suspicious are detained under observation at inspection stations or at the end of their journey.

8. With reference to the remarks of the conference regarding the examination for plague symptoms, I am directed to say that the Government of India are advised that in the absence of any symptoms showing a passenger to be suffering from fever it is unnecessary to examine his person for the purpose of finding out whether buboes are present, and to request that this practice, if it is at present enforced anywhere, may be discontinued.

ENCLOSURE.

PROCEEDINGS of a Conference held at Calcutta on Friday, 17th December 1897, on the subject of the re-booking of passengers travelling by railway from an area infected with plague.

The Government of India have decided that the whole of the Bombay Presidency must be considered to be an infected area. There is not at present any other infected area in India which need be considered.

2. It is understood that no system of land quarantine will be sanctioned, and that it is not possible to establish isolation camps on the border of the Bombay Presidency, in which all travellers from the infected area could be detained for a prescribed period, after which they would be allowed to travel without let or hindrance.

3. All travellers from the Bombay Presidency must therefore be allowed to proceed direct to their destination, and the question for consideration is what measures can be adopted to prevent such travellers from concealing the fact that they have come from a place infected with plague.

4. The rules framed by the different Local Governments generally provide—

(1) that at places of inspection if the medical officer sees reason to suspect that a passenger is infected with plague, he may arrange for the detention and treatment of such passenger for so long as he considers necessary.

(2) that travellers from the infected area shall, on arrival at other stations, be required to give their names and addresses so that their movements may be watched until, owing to the expiry of the period of incubation, the danger of infection has ceased. (Government of India, Public Works Department, letter No. 224 R. T., dated 6th March 1897);

(3) that in the event of a traveller from an infected area alighting at an intermediate station with the object of obtaining a fresh ticket so as to conceal the fact that he comes from an infected area, the Railway Police shall take down his name and the number of the fresh ticket issued, and send information down the line so that he may on alighting be placed under observation. (Bengal Rule 14, Notification No. I, dated 10th November 1897.)

5. These rules are believed by the conference to indicate the best method of ensuring that, should a case of plague occur among travellers arriving or newly arrived from an infected area, it shall be at once detected and dealt with. The effective administration of these rules and of any supplementary orders issued by Provincial Governments must depend on the energy and vigilance of the executive staff employed. There are, however, certain general considerations regarding which we desire to offer the following suggestions.

6. The rules of the Railway coaching tariffs permit a passenger, who has obtained a ticket for a distance exceeding 100 miles, to break journey, and to alight at any intermediate station. It has been proposed that this privilege should be withdrawn from all persons travelling from infected areas. The proposal does not commend itself to this conference. If the existing privilege were denied, passengers would be compelled to resort to re-booking and the difficulty of ascertaining the persons who had come from the infected area would be largely increased. It is eminently desirable that travellers from the Bombay Presidency should take through tickets to their final destination.

7. We are of opinion that it is essential to the effective working of the rules we recommend for adoption, that these through tickets should have a distinctive mark. There are difficulties in the issue of tickets of a distinctive colour. But the names of all Bombay stations are not known to the Police and station officials further east, and there should be some easy mode of recognizing the fact that a ticket was issued within the Bombay Presidency. We suggest therefore that the tickets of all passengers leaving the boundary of the infected area should be punched with an indelible mark such as a square hole. Tickets should be punched at places where a railway passes out of the Presidency. On the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, the punching should be so done that passengers from the Central Provinces passing through Bhusawal should not be confounded with those from Bombay. The tickets taken at Bhusawal itself should be punched at the time of issue.

8. Persons coming from infected areas who alight do so with the object either of proceeding direct to their homes or of re-booking. In either case their names and residences will be recorded by the Railway Police or other officials appointed for that purpose, and the information conveyed to the District Police, who must arrange that the occurrence within ten days of sickness at the houses where such persons take up their residence is duly reported.

9. Should such persons re-book within 48 hours, the officials appointed for the purpose will telegraph down the line their names and the numbers of the fresh tickets issued, with a view to their remaining under observation, and will inform the District Police within whose jurisdiction the station of re-booking is situated, so that the names of such travellers may be removed from the lists for which the District Police are responsible. It may be that a traveller will profess to break his journey, but instead of resting will proceed by road to another station and then take a fresh ticket for a distant place. There is no evidence that this is a common practice and the Conference does not consider it necessary to make any specific recommendation on the subject. It is alleged that, under arrangements made beforehand, persons coming from infected areas are met by friends from non-infected areas with return tickets who exchange tickets with them. For the detection of such evasion of rules responsibility rests upon the Railway Police or other officials entrusted with the duty of enforcing the rules.

10. It is very desirable, if not essential, for the due working of the rules, that a small inspecting staff should be appointed to travel along the line and see that the regulations are carried out and that abuses do not occur. The Railway Administrations might provide free passes for this inspecting staff.

11. Places for inspection have been established for the detection of persons actually suffering from plague or exhibiting symptoms which, in the opinion of the Medical officer, require that the patient should be kept under observation. With reference to the nature of the medical examination in force at such places, the medical authorities might be consulted whether this examination could not be simplified, so that persons not exhibiting symptoms of fever should be exempted from further examination for glandular swellings or other indications of plague.

12. We do not recommend the general adoption of Bengal rule XI which provides that a passenger will be allowed to proceed to his destination on producing a certificate that for ten days immediately preceding the date of commencing his journey he has been residing in a non-infected area. The infected areas at the present time are not so intermixed as to necessitate the adoption of this rule. We have proposed that the tickets of passengers from the infected areas should be marked, and all other travellers must be presumed to come from non-infected areas.

13. It was proposed that travellers from Bombay should be allowed to book only to the principal stations on each line, and that no passenger with a marked ticket should be permitted to alight at any wayside station to which he could not book from Bombay. We do not accept this proposal. We think it necessary that a Railway Police officer or other official should be posted at all stations and that the work of carrying out the rules under the Epidemic Diseases Act should not be imposed on station masters to the risk of their neglecting their duty in connection with the safety of the trains. If there are special officials to enforce the rules at all railway stations, the inconvenience of forbidding travellers to alight except at principal stations is, we consider, unnecessary.

14. The Conference lays great stress on the importance of cordial co-operation between the Railway Police of the different provinces. The official appointed at each station to take names and addresses should, we think, be under the control of the officer in charge of the Railway Police, and we suggest that such officials should be enlisted under Act V of 1861, so that the necessary discipline and obedience may be enforced by law.

15. To sum up—

(1) The tickets of all passengers leaving the infected area should be punch-marked, so that there would be no difficulty in recognizing them even by a dim light.

(2) When a passenger with a marked ticket alights, his name and address should be taken by the Railway Police, and arrangements should be made by the District Police that any case of sickness occurring within ten days in the house of the newly arrived traveller should be reported.

(3) The officials who take the name and address of passengers should endeavour to identify passengers who re-book within 48 hours. The number of the fresh ticket obtained by such passengers should be telegraphed down the line, and, on alighting, he should be treated as a traveller coming from an infected area.

From R. NATHAN, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Sanitary), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local and Municipal Department, dated Calcutta, 25th January 1898, No. 161.

I am directed to refer to paragraph 6 of my letter No. 47, dated the 5th instant, forwarding the report of a committee appointed to consider the subject of preventing passengers from the Bombay Presidency escaping detention by re-booking at intermediate stations. The Government of India there stated that they considered it

desirable that effect should be given to the proposal of the committee, contained in paragraph 10 of their report, that a small inspecting staff should be appointed for the purpose of travelling along the railway lines and seeing that the regulations are carried out and that abuses do not occur. The committee suggested in this connection that free passes should be provided by the Railway Administrations for the inspecting staff.

In order that this proposal may be referred for the consideration of Railway Administrations, the Government of India will be glad to receive information showing to what extent passes would be required for the itinerant inspecting staff in Madras.

ORDER—No. 10 P., dated 8th February 1898.

With reference to the second and third of the main suggestions made by the committee and approved by the Government of India, the Government considers that it will be sufficient to make an addition to No. 17 of the Mufassal Regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act. The following notification will accordingly be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*:—

NOTIFICATION.

Under the provisions of the Epidemic Diseases Act III of 1897, His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to make the following addition to the second paragraph of No. 17 of the regulations under the said Act for district municipalities and towns and villages published under G.O., No. 2830 M., dated 17th December 1897:—

"Any case of sickness occurring within ten days in the house of the newly arrived traveller shall be forthwith reported by the municipal Chairman or the headman of the village, as the case may be, to the Collector of the district. In case such passengers re-book within 48 hours of their alighting, the police officer, station master or ticket collector, as the case may be, shall telegraph to the station master of the station to which such re-booking is made, the number of the fresh ticket obtained by such passenger and, on alighting, he shall be treated as a traveller coming from an infected area."

It will be observed that information regarding the re-booking of passengers is to be telegraphed to the station master in every case, because as matters stand at present, no police officer is present on the platform of the minor stations and, in the opinion of Government, it is right that the responsibility in the matter should be thrown on the railway staff, as station masters are persons of much more education and authority than platform orderlies.

2. The Translators to Government will furnish the necessary translation of the notification to the Superintendent, Government Press, who will print the required number of copies in English and in the vernaculars and forward them to the Collectors concerned for publication in the District Gazettes.

3. The Inspector-General of Police will be requested in the Judicial Department to submit proposals for carrying out the subsidiary suggestions made by the Government of India in paragraphs 4 and 6 of its first letter read above, namely (1) that an official belonging to the Railway Police or one specially appointed for the purpose and enlisted under the Madras Police Act XXIV of 1859, should be posted at every railway station to take down names and addresses and to detect and report re-booking and that at important stations where the amount of traffic makes evasion easier, a larger staff under the superintendence of a responsible and intelligent officer should be provided; and (2) that a small inspection staff should be appointed to travel along the railway line and see that the regulations are carried out and that abuses do not occur. The Inspector-General is also requested to state how far the incomplete state of the Railway Police in this Presidency will prevent these plans being carried out in an effective way, and to report, with reference to the second letter from the Government of India read above, the extent to which free passes will be required for the itinerating inspecting staff which may be entertained in this Presidency.

4. Paragraph 8 of the first letter from the Government of India will be communicated to all Medical officers in charge of plague inspection stations for information and guidance.

5. With reference to the suggestion made by the Government of India in paragraph 5 of its first letter, the following letter will be addressed to the Government of Bengal and the other Local Governments and Administrations concerned:—

[Here enter letter No. 11 P., dated 8th February 1898.]

(True Extract.)

H. TREMENHEERE,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To all Collectors
" all Presidents of District Boards.
" all Chairmen of Municipal Councils.
" the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
" the Public Department.
" the Public Works Department (Railway Branch).
" the Marine Department.
" the Judicial Department.
" the Inspector-General of Police.
" the Surgeon-General.
" the Sanitary Commissioner.
" the Superintendent, Government Press.
" Translators to Government.
Gazette.

ENDORSEMENT—No. 10-A P., dated 8th February 1898.

Copy to the Government of India, Home Department.

H. TREMENHEERE,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

Ed. P. Seetharam.

Government {1898} of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd. } 1898. *Enclosures*

Regd. } 1898. *Spare copies*

Letter, No. 11 P., 8th February 1898.

FEBRUARY.

Bubonic Plague.

Requesting to be informed of the arrangements proposed to be made in the other Provinces as to the manner in which the Police should co-operate with the police in this Presidency when a case of re-booking at intermediate stations is detected.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Letter—from

H. TREMENHEERE, Esq., I.C.S.,
Ag. Secretary to the Government of
Fort St. George.

To

Sir,

With reference to the accompanying extract paragraph 5 from the letter from the Government of India, Home Department, No. 47, dated 5th January 1898, on the subject of preventing passengers from the Bombay Presidency escaping detection by re-booking at intermediate stations, I am directed to forward a copy of the proceedings of this Government, No. 10 P., dated 8th February 1898, and to request that with the permission of this Government may be informed of the arrangements which proposes to make as to the manner in which the Police in your Province should co-operate with the Police in this Presidency when a case of re-booking is detected. I am to request that, as many railway stations in this Presidency are not provided with platform orderlies at present, information regarding the re-booking of passengers may be telegraphed to the stationmaster in charge of the station of destination, except in the case of plague inspection stations where this information should be telegraphed to the medical officer in charge.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Fort St. George,
8*th February* 1898.

H. TREMENHEERE,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

Exd. P. Seetharam.

Government {1898} of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Proof for Approval
N/a
17/2/98

Proof

Recd. / Regd. } 1898. Enclosures / Spare copies

G.O., &c., Nos. 10, M.P., 8th February 1898.

10-A/

FEBRUARY.

Bubonic Plague.

Ordering the issue of a notification making an addition to No. 17 of the mufassal regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act, in view to prevent passengers from the Bombay Presidency escaping detection by re-booking at intermediate stations and stating that the Inspector-General of Police will be requested in the Judicial Department to submit proposals for carrying out the subsidiary suggestions made by the Government of India in the matter.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

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In order that this proposal may be referred for the consideration of Railway Administrations, the Government of India will be glad to receive information showing to what extent passes would be required for the itinerant inspecting staff in Madras.

From J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Sanitary), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local and Municipal Department, dated Calcutta, the 5th January 1898, No. 47.

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2. The following are the main suggestions made by the committee:—

(1) The tickets of all passengers leaving the infected area should be punch-marked so that there may be no difficulty in recognizing them even by a dim light.

(2) When a passenger with a marked ticket alights, his name and address should be taken by the Railway Police, and arrangements should be made by the District Police that any case of sickness occurring within ten days in the house of the newly arrived traveller should be reported.

(3) The officials who take the name and address of passengers should endeavour to identify passengers who re-book within 48 hours. The number of the fresh ticket obtained by such passengers should be telegraphed down the line, and on alighting he should be treated as a traveller coming from an infected area.

3. With regard to the first suggestion, the committee represent that the names of all stations in the Bombay Presidency are not known to the police and station officials further east, and they consider that there should be some easy mode of recognizing the fact that a ticket was issued within the Presidency. The Government of India have accepted this view and orders are being issued for the punching of tickets on the borders of the Bombay Presidency in the manner suggested by the committee.

4. In most provinces rules have been issued prescribing a procedure similar to that recommended in the second and third of the committee's suggestions, and the Government of India consider that it is desirable that they should be adopted on all routes along which travellers from the Bombay Presidency are in the habit of passing. The committee also make practical suggestions for rendering the procedure more efficient, which the Government of India consider should be adopted. They recommend that the arrangements should be carried out through the agency of the Railway Police, and that an official should be posted at every station to take down names and addresses and to detect and report re-booking. This official would either be a member of the Railway Police or a person specially appointed for the purpose, and enlisted, the committee suggest, under Act XXIV of 1859, so that the necessary discipline and obedience may be enforced by law. At important stations where the amount of traffic and the neighbourhood of a populous place make evasion easier a larger staff under the superintendence of a responsible and intelligent officer may be necessary.

5. The committee lay great stress on the importance of cordial co-operation between the Railway Police of the different provinces. The Government of India agree that such co-operation is essential to make the working of the protective arrangements successful, and I am to suggest that you should enter into communication with the Government of Bengal and the other Local Governments and Administrations concerned as to the manner in which the police should co-operate when a case of re-booking is detected. A similar suggestion has been made to the Government of Bengal and other Local Governments and Administrations.

6. In paragraph 10 of their report the committee state that it is very desirable, if not essential, for the due working of the rules that a small inspecting staff should be appointed to travel along the line and see that the regulations are carried out and that abuses do not occur. It appears to the Government of India to be desirable that effect should be given to this proposal.

7. With reference to the remarks in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the committee's report, I am to explain that the Government of India do not propose any change in the existing orders under which persons deemed suspicious are detained under observation at inspection stations or at the end of their journey.

8. With reference to the remarks of the conference regarding the examination for plague symptoms, I am directed to say that the Government of India are advised that in the absence of any symptoms showing a passenger to be suffering from fever it is unnecessary to examine his person for the purpose of finding out whether buboes are present, and to request that this practice, if it is at present enforced anywhere, may be discontinued.

ENCLOSURE.

PROCEEDINGS of a Conference held at Calcutta on Friday, 17th December 1897, on the subject of the re-booking of passengers travelling by railway from an area infected with plague.

The Government of India have decided that the whole of the Bombay Presidency must be considered to be an infected area. There is not at present any other infected area in India which need be considered.

2. It is understood that no system of land quarantine will be sanctioned, and that it is not possible to establish isolation camps on the border of the Bombay Presidency, in which all travellers from the infected area could be detained for a prescribed period, after which they would be allowed to travel without let or hindrance.

3. All travellers from the Bombay Presidency must therefore be allowed to proceed direct to their destination, and the question for consideration is what measures can be adopted to prevent such travellers from concealing the fact that they have come from a place infected with plague.

4. The rules framed by the different Local Governments generally provide—

(1) that at places of inspection if the medical officer sees reason to suspect that a passenger is infected with plague, he may arrange for the detention and treatment of such passenger for so long as he considers necessary.

(2) that travellers from the infected area shall, on arrival at other stations, be required to give their names and addresses so that their movements may be watched until, owing to the expiry of the period of incubation, the danger of infection has ceased. (Government of India, Public Works Department, letter No. 224 R. T., dated 6th March 1897);

(3) that in the event of a traveller from an infected area alighting at an intermediate station with the object of obtaining a fresh ticket so as to conceal the fact that he comes from an infected area, the Railway Police shall take down his name and the number of the fresh ticket issued, and send information down the line so that he may on alighting be placed under observation. (Bengal Rule 14, Notification No. I, dated 10th November 1897.)

5. These rules are believed by the conference to indicate the best method of ensuring that, should a case of plague occur among travellers arriving or newly arrived from an infected area, it shall be at once detected and dealt with. The effective administration of these rules and of any supplementary orders issued by Provincial Governments must depend on the energy and vigilance of the executive staff employed. There are, however, certain general considerations regarding which we desire to offer the following suggestions.

6. The rules of the Railway coaching tariffs permit a passenger, who has obtained a ticket for a distance exceeding 100 miles, to break journey, and to alight at any intermediate station. It has been proposed that this privilege should be withdrawn from all persons travelling from infected areas. The proposal does not commend itself to this conference. If the existing privilege were denied, passengers would be compelled to resort to re-booking and the difficulty of ascertaining the persons who had come from the infected area would be largely increased. It is eminently desirable that travellers from the Bombay Presidency should take through tickets to their final destination.

7. We are of opinion that it is essential to the effective working of the rules we recommend for adoption, that these through tickets should have a distinctive mark. There are difficulties in the issue of tickets of a distinctive colour. But the names of all Bombay stations are not known to the Police and station officials further east, and there should be some easy mode of recognizing the fact that a ticket was issued within the Bombay Presidency. We suggest therefore that the tickets of all passengers leaving the boundary of the infected area should be punched with an indelible mark such as a square hole. Tickets should be punched at places where a railway passes out of the Presidency. On the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, the punching should be so done that passengers from the Central Provinces passing through Bhusawal should not be confounded with those from Bombay. The tickets taken at Bhusawal itself should be punched at the time of issue.

8. Persons coming from infected areas who alight do so with the object either of proceeding direct to their homes or of re-booking. In either case their names and residences will be recorded by the Railway Police or other officials appointed for that purpose, and the information conveyed to the District Police, who must arrange that the occurrence within ten days of sickness at the houses where such persons take up their residence is duly reported.

9. Should such persons re-book within 48 hours, the officials appointed for the purpose will telegraph down the line their names and the numbers of the fresh tickets issued, with a view to their remaining under observation, and will inform the District Police within whose jurisdiction the station of re-booking is situated, so that the names of such travellers may be removed from the lists for which the District Police are responsible. It may be that a traveller will profess to break his journey, but instead of resting will proceed by road to another station and then take a fresh ticket for a distant place. There is no evidence that this is a common practice and the Conference does not consider it necessary to make any specific recommendation on the subject. It is alleged that, under arrangements made beforehand, persons coming from infected areas are met by friends from non-infected areas with return tickets who exchange tickets with them. For the detection of such evasion of rules responsibility rests upon the Railway Police or other officials entrusted with the duty of enforcing the rules.

10. It is very desirable, if not essential, for the due working of the rules, that a small inspecting staff should be appointed to travel along the line and see that the regulations are carried out and that abuses do not occur. The Railway Administrations might provide free passes for this inspecting staff.

11. Places for inspection have been established for the detection of persons actually suffering from plague or exhibiting symptoms which, in the opinion of the Medical officer, require that the patient should be kept under observation. With reference to the nature of the medical examination in force at such places, the medical authorities might be consulted whether this examination could not be simplified, so that persons not exhibiting symptoms of fever should be exempted from further examination for glandular swellings or other indications of plague.

12. We do not recommend the general adoption of Bengal rule XI which provides that a passenger will be allowed to proceed to his destination on producing a certificate that for ten days immediately preceding the date of commencing his journey he has been residing in a non-infected area. The infected areas at the present time are not so intermixed as to necessitate the adoption of this rule. We have proposed that the tickets of passengers from the infected areas should be marked, and all other travellers must be presumed to come from non-infected areas.

13. It was proposed that travellers from Bombay should be allowed to book only to the principal stations on each line, and that no passenger with a marked ticket should be permitted to alight at any wayside station to which he could not book from Bombay. We do not accept this proposal. We think it necessary that a Railway Police officer or other official should be posted at all stations and that the work of carrying out the rules under the Epidemic Diseases Act should not be imposed on station masters to the risk of their neglecting their duty in connection with the safety of the trains. If there are special officials to enforce the rules at all railway stations, the inconvenience of forbidding travellers to alight except at principal stations is, we consider, unnecessary.

14. The Conference lays great stress on the importance of cordial co-operation between the Railway Police of the different provinces. The official appointed at each station to take names and addresses should, we think, be under the control of the officer in charge of the Railway Police, and we suggest that such officials should be enlisted under Act V of 1861, so that the necessary discipline and obedience may be enforced by law.

15. To sum up—

(1) The tickets of all passengers leaving the infected area should be punch-marked, so that there would be no difficulty in recognizing them even by a dim light.

(2) When a passenger with a marked ticket alights, his name and address should be taken by the Railway Police, and arrangements should be made by the District Police that any case of sickness occurring within ten days in the house of the newly arrived travellers should be reported.

(3) The officials who take the name and address of passengers should endeavour to identify passengers who re-book within 48 hours. The number of the fresh ticket obtained by such passengers should be telegraphed down the line, and, on alighting, he should be treated as a traveller coming from an infected area.

Order—No. 10 P., dated 8th February 1898.

With reference to the second and third of the main suggestions made by the committee and approved by the Government of India, the Government considers that it will be sufficient to make an addition to No. 17 of the Mufassal Regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act. The following notification will accordingly be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*:—

NOTIFICATION.

Under the provisions of the Epidemic Diseases Act III of 1897, His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to make the following addition to the second paragraph of No. 17 of the regulations under the said Act for district municipalities and towns and villages published under G.O., No. 2830 M., dated 17th December 1897:—

"Any case of sickness occurring within ten days in the house of the newly arrived traveller shall be forthwith reported by the municipal Chairman or the headman of the village, as the case may be, to the Collector of the district. In case such passengers rebook within 48 hours of their alighting, the police officer, station master or ticket collector, as the case may be, shall telegraph to the station master of the station to which such rebooking is made, the number of the fresh ticket obtained by such passenger and, on alighting, he shall be treated as a traveller coming from an infected area."

It will be observed that information regarding the rebooking of passengers is to be telegraphed to the station master in every case, because as matters stand at present, no police officer is present on the platform of the minor stations and, in the opinion of Government, it is right that the responsibility in the matter should be thrown on the railway staff, as station masters are persons of much more education and authority than platform orderlies.

2. The Translators to Government will furnish the necessary translation of the notification to the Superintendent, Government Press, who will print the required number of copies in English and in the vernaculars and forward them to the Collectors concerned for publication in the District Gazettes.

3. The Inspector-General of Police will be requested in the Judicial Department to submit proposals for carrying out the subsidiary suggestions made by the Government of India in paragraphs 4 and 6 of its first letter read above, namely (1) that an official belonging to the Railway Police or one specially appointed for the purpose and enlisted under the Madras Police Act XXIV of 1859, should be posted at every railway station to take down names and addresses and to detect and report re-booking and that at important stations where the amount of traffic makes evasion easier, a larger staff under the superintendence of a responsible and intelligent officer should be provided; and (2) that a small inspection staff should be appointed to travel along the railway line and see that the regulations are carried out and that abuses do not occur. The Inspector-General is also requested to state how far the incomplete state of the Railway Police in this Presidency will prevent these plans being carried out in an effective way, and to report, with reference to the second letter from the Government of India read above, the extent to which free passes will be required for the itinerating inspecting staff which may be entertained in this Presidency.

4. Paragraph 8 of the first letter from the Government of India will be communicated to all Medical officers in charge of plague inspection stations for information and guidance.

5. With reference to the suggestion made by the Government of India in paragraph 5 of its first letter, the following letter will be addressed to the Government of Bengal and the other Local Governments and Administrations concerned:—

[Here enter letter No. 11 P, dated 8th February 1898.]

(True Extract.)

Ag. Secretary to Government.

To all Collectors
" all Presidents of District Boards.
" all Chairmen of Municipal Councils.
" the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
" the Public Department.
" the Public Works Department (Railway Branch).
" the Marine Department.
" the Judicial Department.
" the Inspector-General of Police.
" the Surgeon-General.
" the Sanitary Commissioner.
" the Superintendent, Government Press.
" Translators to Government.
Gazette.

Endorsement—No. 11 P., dated 8th February 1898.

Copy to the Government of India, Home Department.

H. TREMENHEERE,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

Exd. P. Seetharam.

Government {1898} of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Proof for approval

26
10/2/98

Recd. } 1898. Enclosures

Regd. Spare copies

G.O., No. // P., 8th February 1898.

FEBRUARY.

Bubonic Plague

Requesting to be informed of the arrangements proposed to be made in the other Provinces as to the manner in which the Police should co-operate with the Police in the Presidency when a case of re-booking at intermediate stations is detected.

No. 11 P., 8th February 1898.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Letter—from

H. TREMENHEERE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Local and Municipal Department,

To

The Secretary to the Government of Bengal;
The Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Central Provinces;
The Secretary to the Government of Bombay;
The Resident in Mysore.

Sir,

With reference to the accompanying extract, paragraph 5, from the letter from the Government of India, Home Department, No. 47, dated 5th January 1898, on the subject of preventing passengers from the Bombay Presidency escaping detection by re-booking at intermediate stations, I am directed to forward a copy of the proceedings of this Government, No. 10 P., dated 8th February 1898, and to request that with the permission of this Government may be informed of the arrangements which proposes to make as to the manner in which the Police in your Province should co-operate with the Police in this Presidency when a case of re-booking is detected. I am to request that, as many railway stations in this Presidency are not provided with platform orderlies at present, information regarding the re-booking of passengers may be telegraphed to the stationmaster in charge of the station of destination, except in the case of plague inspection stations where this information should be telegraphed to the medical officer in charge.

Press — Please leave the rest of the line blank.

Press Please leave the rest of the line blank.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Fort St. George,
8th *February* 1898.

Ag. Secretary to Government.

Srd. P. Seetharam.

[L. & M.]
300—2-12-97.

Local and Municipal Department.

Papers to be read in Proceedings:—

Again G.O., No. , dated 189 .
Again G.O., No. , dated 189 .
Current No. 106 M of 1898, dated 5th January 1898, from the Government of India.
" " 510 M " 1898, " 25th " " " " " " " "
" " " 189 , " , " "

P.P. ORDER. No. 10 P dated 8/2/98

With reference to the second and third of the main suggestions made by the Committee and approved by the Government of India, the Government considers that it will be sufficient to make an addition to No. 17 of the Mufassal Regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act. The following notification will accordingly be published in the Fort Saint George gazette:—

Notification.

Under the provisions of the Epidemic Diseases Act III of 1897, His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to make the following addition to the second para. of No. 17 of the Regulations under the said Act for District Municipalities and towns and villages published under G.O. No. 2530 M. dated 17th December 1897:—

"Any case of sickness occurring

within 10 days in the house of the newly arrived traveller shall be forthwith reported by the Municipal Chairman or the headman of the village as the case may be, to the Collector of the district. In case such passengers rebook within 48 hours of their alighting, the Police Officer, Station master or ticket collector as the case may be, shall telegraph to the Station Master of the Station to which such rebooking is made, the number of the fresh ticket obtained by such passenger and on alighting, he shall be treated as a traveller coming from an infected area."

It will be observed that information regarding the rebooking of passengers is to be telegraphed to the Station Master in every case, because as matters stand at present, no Police Officer is present on the platform of the minor stations and, in the opinion of Government, it is right that the responsibility in the matter should be thrown on the Railway Staff, as Station Masters are persons of much more education and authority than platform orderlies.

The Inspector General of Police will be requested in the Judicial Department to submit proposals for carrying out the subsidiary suggestions made by the Government of India in paras 4 and 6 of its first letter read above, namely (1) that an official

2. The Translators to Government will furnish the necessary translation of the notification to the Superintendent Government Press, who will print the required number of copies in English and in the vernaculars and forward them to the Collectors concerned for publication in the district gazettes

since received

official belonging to the Railway Police or one specially appointed for the purpose and enlisted under the Madras Police Act XXIV of 1859 should be posted at every Railway Station to take down names and addresses and to detect and report rebooking and that at important stations where the amount of traffic makes evasion easier, a larger staff under the Superintendence of a responsible and intelligent Officer should be provided and (2) that a small inspection staff should be appointed to travel along the Railway line and see that the Regulations are carried out and that abuses do not occur. The Inspector General is also requested to state how far the incomplete state of the Railway Police in this Presidency will prevent these plans being carried out in an effective way, and to report with reference to the second letter from the Government of India read above the extent to which free passes will be required for the generating inspecting staff which may be entertained in this Presidency.

4. Para. 8 of the first letter from the Government of India will be communicated to all Medical Officers in Charge

charge of plague inspection stations for information and guidance.

5 With reference to the suggestion made by the Government of India in para. 5 of its first letter, the following letter will be addressed to the Government of Bengal and the other local Governments and Administrations concerned:—

Letter to No. 11 Dy. 8. 2. 98

The Secretary to the Govt: of Bengal.
The Secy. to the Chief Commr: of Central Provinces
The Secretary to the Govt: of Bombay
The Resident in Mysore.

Sir,

With reference to the accompanying extract, paragraph 5, from the letter from the Government of India Home Department No. 47 dated 5th January 1898 on the subject of preventing passengers from the Bombay Presidency escaping detection by booking at intermediate stations, I am directed to forward a copy of the Proceedings of this Government No. 10 P dated 8th February 1898, and to request that with the permission of this Government I may be informed of the arrangements which proposes to make as to the manner in which the Police in your Province should cooperate with the Police in this Presidency when a case of re-booking is detected. I am to request that, as many Railway stations in this Presidency are not provided with a platform orderly at present, information regarding the rebooking of passengers may be telegraphed to the Station master in charge of the Station of destination, except in the case of plague inspection stations where this information should be telegraphed to the Medical Officer in charge.

I have &c.

(From Orders.)

H. T.
8-2-98

S.R.
9/17/98

Endorsement No. 10 A dy 8-2-98
Copy to the Government of India. Home Department. 31st
Cir W. 15/2/98

Note.
The Resident at Hyderabad has already addressed this Government (vide C. No. 512 dated 16/2/98) regarding the arrangements in force in his Assigned Territory for giving information regarding the rebooking of passengers at intermediate stations.

+ 1. Hospet
2. Cuttack
3. Vizagapatam
4. Arkonam
5. Podanur

Copy to all Collectors
" Presidents of District Boards.
" Chairmen of Munt: Councils.
The Pdc: Munt: Commr., Madras.
" Public Department
" Public Works Depart: (Rly. Branch)
" Marine Department
" Judicial Department
" Inspector General of Police.
" Surgeon-General
" Sanitary Commissioner
" Superintendent, Govt: Press.
" Translators to Government
Gazette

Local and Municipal Department.

Cal. 166 M.

Subject: Segregation of passengers from the Bombay Presidency.

No. 10 P. 2-98

H. M.

For Orders.

The main suggestions made by the Committee and approved by the Government of India, with a view to prevent passengers from the Bombay Presidency escaping detection by rebooking at intermediate stations are:-

(1) That the tickets of all passengers leaving the infected area should be punch-marked so that there may be no difficulty in recognising them.

(2) That when a passenger with a punch-marked ticket alights at a station his name and address should be taken by the Railway Police, and arrangements should be made by the District Police that any case of sickness occurring within ten days in the house of the newly arrived traveller should be reported.

(3) That the officials who thus take the name and address of passengers should endeavour to identify those who rebook within 48 hours and should telegraph down the line the number of the fresh ticket obtained by such passengers and that on alighting, the passenger should be treated as a traveller coming from an infected area.

2.

The office keeps this for 10 days. Then Plague Commrs should as far as possible be treated as urgent.

I don't see what more can be done than is suggested in this note. The Railways on which precautions are most essential are the Madras, S. Maharatta & E.C. — also the branch of the S.I.R. from Guntakal Southwards as far as Kellor

BS
1/2/98

Note

Plague papers are as a rule kept for [illegible] was sent back pending the issue of G.O. No 111 Pu dt 17-1-98 extract of which is posted in this note for orders.

M

2. As regards the first suggestion, the Government of India states that orders are being issued to carry it out.

3. Adverting to the second and third suggestions the Government of India observes that in most Provinces rules have been issued prescribing a similar procedure, and considers that it is desirable that such rules should be adopted on all routes along which travellers from the Bombay Presidency are in the habit of passing. The Government of India also recommends the adoption of the following Subsidiary suggestions made by the Committee in this connection:-

(a) That an official belonging to the Railway Police or one specially appointed for the purpose and enlisted under the Madras Police Act XXIV of 1859, should be posted at every Railway station to take down names and addresses and to detect and report rebooking and that at important stations, where the amount of traffic makes evasion easer a larger staff under the superintendence of a responsible and intelligent officer should be provided.

(b) That in view of the importance of cordial co-operation between the Railway Police ~~and~~ of the different Provinces this Government should enter into communication with the Government of Bengal and the other local Governments and administrations concerned, as to the manner in which the Police should co-operate when a case of rebooking is detected.

(c) That a small inspection staff should be appointed to travel along the Railway line

A G.O. No 2830 M. dated 17th December 1897.

line and see that the regulations are carried out and that abuses do not occur.

4. Under No. 17 of the Mufassal regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act issued by this Government, the name, address &c. of passengers arriving from an infected area have to be taken down by a Police officer, station master or ticket collector as the case may be and communicated to the Divisional Magistrate, the District Medical and Sanitary Officer and the officer in charge of the Police station within whose jurisdiction the place of the destination of a passenger is situated, and the last mentioned officer has in his ~~town~~ turn to communicate the information to the municipal Chairman or the headman of the village as the case may be, in view to the passengers being kept under observation. It appears therefore to be sufficient to add the following words at the end of the second para. of this regulation:-

" Any case of sickness occurring ~~wi~~ within ten days in the house of the newly arrived traveller shall be forthwith reported by the municipal Chairman or the headman of the village as the case may be, to the Collector of the District. In case such passengers rebook within 48 ~~he~~ hours of their alighting, the Police officer, Station master or ticket collector as the case may be, shall telegraph to the Station master of the station to which such rebooking is made, the number of the fresh ticket obtained by such

passenger

passenger and on alighting, he shall be treated as a traveller coming from an infected area." It is proposed to telegraph the information to the station master, because as matters stand at present no Police Officer is present on the platform of the minor stations and as observed in para. 1 of G.O. No. 111 M/d/17-1-98 it is not right that the responsibility in the matter should be thrown on the Railway staff as Station masters are persons of much more education and authority than platform orderlies".

B

5. As regards the subsidiary suggestions (a) and (c) made by the Government of India, it is submitted that the Inspector General of Police may be requested in the Judicial Department to submit proposals for carrying them out and with reference to the suggestion (b) the other Governments and administrations may be addressed.

He might also be asked how far the incomplete state of our Railway Police will prevent an carrying out these plans in an effective way. I don't know where Mr. Hammick is at present, but I suppose he will return to Madras before he proceeds on leave. If so, the Secy had perhaps better ascertain from him what he thinks of the efficiency of these arrangements. For my part, I think too much is expected of platform constables

BS
1/2/98

6. In para. 8 of its letter, the Government of India considers that in the absence of any symptoms showing a passenger to be suffering from fever, it is unnecessary to examine his person for the purpose of finding out whether buboes are present and requests that the practice, if it is at present enforced anywhere, may be discontinued. This may be communicated to all the Medical officers in charge of plague inspection stations for information and guidance.

H.T.
30.1.98.
(I have kept this 3 days for consd with 'reserved rules')

V.R
27/1/98

Please send me

Government {1897} of Madras.
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

The effect of recording this is that L. & M. approves the proposal that no station in Mysore should be telegraphed — why not to stations in Madras? We have no rule to meet the case, I think.

BS
15/1/98

Please see the note for orders on Cir. No. 108 M. Rec. received.

Recd. Enclosures to 1897.
Regd.
Spare copies

G.O., No. 2838 M., 18th December 1897.

DECEMBER.

Bubonic Plague.

Recording Government Order, Public Works Department, communicating to the Inspector-General of Police, for information and guidance, letter from the Resident in Mysore requesting to telegraph to Yesvantpur or Bangalore the name and other particulars of any person who, having come from the Bombay Presidency, alights at any station in the Madras Presidency and re-books thereat to any station in the Mysore State.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper :—

G.O., No. 1138 R., dated 15th December 1897.

Read—the following papers :—

Letter from the Resident in Mysore, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, Camp No. 1, dated Shimoga, the 10th December 1897.

I have the honour to forward copy of a letter, No. 2484, dated the 13th ultimo, from the Government of India in the Home Department being a reply to a telegram in which I suggested that railways issuing tickets from plague-infected localities should mark all such tickets with a large red P.

2. The District Superintendent of Police, Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, who is in charge of the police on the Mysore State Railway from Yesvantpur to Dodkurugod and from Bangalore to Harihar, and on such portion of the Bangalore branch of the Madras Railway as lies within the Mysore State, has been instructed to issue orders to his men to consider all travellers from the Bombay Presidency as having come from an infected area, and should any passenger from that Presidency, in order to evade detection at his destination, alight at an immediate station within Mysore territory for the purpose of re-booking, his name and other particulars are to be telegraphed in the case of the Mysore State Railway to the Assistant Surgeon on plague duty at Yesvantpur, and in the case of the Madras Railway to the Residency Surgeon, Bangalore.

3. I shall be much obliged if the Madras Government will co-operate, by issuing orders to the effect that the police should telegraph the name and other particulars regarding any person who, having come from the Bombay Presidency, alights at any station in the Madras Presidency, and re-books thereat to any station in the Mysore State. In the case of a person re-booking to a station on the Mysore State Railway, the telegram should be sent to the Assistant Surgeon on plague duty, Yesvantpur; in the case of a person re-booking to a station within Mysore territory on the Madras Railway the telegram should be sent to the Residency Surgeon, Bangalore.

Enclosure.

Letter from J. P. HEWETT, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Sanitary), to the Resident in Mysore, dated Simla, the 13th November 1897, No. 2484.

I am directed to reply to your telegram, No. 4660, dated the 6th November 1897, in which you suggest that railways issuing tickets from plague-infected localities should mark all such tickets with a large red P.

2. The Government of India considered a proposal made by the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh for the issue of tickets of a distinctive colour at stations within the infected area in February last and decided that it was undesirable [illegible] would tend to encourage re-booking with a view to

to the Government of India that they would be still further encouraged to do so if they were given tickets of a distinctive colour. The Government of India moreover fear that the issue of distinctive tickets would not be of much use under existing conditions. The area in which plague at present exists in the Bombay Presidency extends from Palanpur in the north to Belgaum in the south, and as far inland as Sholapur; and it is prevalent in the States of Cutch, Baroda, and Palanpur and the districts of Kolaba, Nasik, Sholapur, Poona, Satara, Surat and Thana as well as the Presidency Town. This being the case the Government of India do not think it possible to distinguish travellers from infected localities within the Presidency from those who come from uninfected localities, and the Government of India consider that the only safe course is to regard all travellers from the Presidency as coming from the infected area. If the practice is followed it would add no additional security to require that persons travelling from particular places should be given coloured tickets.

3. The Government of Bengal have informed the Government of India that the East Indian Railway represent that booking from Bombay and the neighbourhood to stations beyond Khana has declined more than 50 per cent. owing to passengers from infected areas booking to stations on the Great Indian Peninsula and Bengal-Nagpur Railways and re-booking thence. A careful watch should be maintained at railway stations to prevent passengers from the Bombay Presidency evading detection at their destination by alighting at an intermediate station for the purpose of re-booking. If a passenger alights for this purpose his name and other necessary particulars should be telegraphed to the station to which he has re-booked in order that he may be detected on arrival. To prevent such passengers from evading detection by alighting at a station short of the station to which they have re-booked travellers should not be allowed to alight at stations other than those to which they have booked unless they can give a satisfactory reason for so doing.

4. I am also to forward for your information a copy of the following rule which has been framed by the Government of Bengal for preventing evasion of observation by re-booking :—

"In the event of a traveller from infected areas alighting at an intermediate station with the object of obtaining a fresh ticket so as to conceal the fact that he is a traveller from an infected area, the railway police will take down his name and the number of the fresh ticket issued, and will send information down the line so that he may, on alighting, be brought under observation."

Endorsement from the Local and Municipal Department, No. 1303, dated 13th December 1897.

Transferred to the Public Works Department, Railway Branch.

(Signed) H. TREMENHEERE,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

Order—No. 1138 R., dated 15th December 1897.

Communicated to the Inspector-General of Police and Railway Administrations concerned for information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. T. R. SCOVELL,
Offg. Under Secretary.

To the Inspector-General of Police.
" Agent and Manager, Madras Railway.
" " South Indian Railway.
" " and Chief Engineer, Nilgiri Railway.
" Consulting Engineer for Railways.

No. 2838 M., 18TH DECEMBER 1897.

ORDER—No. 2838 M., dated 18th December 1897.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

H. TREMENHEERE,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

Copy to the Surgeon-General.
" " Sanitary Commissioner.
" " Medical officers in charge of plague inspection stations.

Exd. A. F. Eccleston.

Final copy sent to Press. 8-2-98

2

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 106 H

From The Secretary to the Govt. of India Home Department

Order

No. 47

Dated 5-1-1898

Received 11-1-1898

Registered 11-1-1898

Enclosures/

Spare copies. 7 of letter

SUBJECT.

Forwarding for information copy of a report submitted by a Committee appointed to consider the subject of preventing passengers from the Bombay Presidency escaping detection by reboarding at intermediate stations.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
"	2830	M.	17-12-97

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

First copy sent to Press. 8-2-98 Order complete.

No. 47.

FROM

J. P. HEWETT, ESQ., C.I.E.,
Secretary to the Government of India,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

SECRETARIAT TO GOVERNMENT MADRAS LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT 13 JAN 1898

Home Department.
Sanitary.

Calcutta, the 5th January 1898.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward, for the information of the Government of Madras, a copy of a report submitted by a Committee appointed to consider the subject of preventing passengers from the Bombay Presidency escaping detection by re-booking at intermediate stations. It has been reported to the Government of India that the practice of re-booking to evade detection had become so common as to interfere greatly with the efficient working of the rules for the inspection of passengers at railway stations and their surveillance on arriving at their destination, and the Government of India consider it necessary that means should be devised to check the practice.

2. The following are the main suggestions made by the Committee:—

(1) The tickets of all passengers leaving the infected area should be punch-marked so that there may be no difficulty in recognizing them even by a dim light.

(2) When a passenger with a marked ticket alights, his name and address should be taken by the Railway Police, and arrangements should be made by the District Police that any case of sickness occurring within ten days in the house of the newly arrived traveller should be reported.

(3) The officials who take the name and address of passengers should endeavour to identify passengers who re-book within 48 hours. The number of the fresh ticket obtained by such passengers should be telegraphed down the line, and on alighting he should be treated as a traveller coming from an infected area.

3. With regard to the first suggestion, the Committee represent that the names of all stations in the Bombay Presidency are not known to the Police and station officials further east, and they consider that there should be some easy mode of recognizing the fact that a ticket was issued within the Presidency. The Government of India have accepted this view and orders are being issued for the punching of tickets on the borders of the Bombay Presidency in the manner suggested by the Committee.

4. In most provinces rules have been issued prescribing a procedure similar to that recommended in the second and third of the Committee's suggestions, and the Government of India consider that it is desirable that they should be adopted on all routes along which travellers from the Bombay Presidency are in the habit of passing. The Committee also make practical suggestions for

rendering the procedure more efficient which the Government of India consider should be adopted. They recommend that the arrangements should be carried out through the agency of the Railway Police, and that an official should be posted at every station to take down names and addresses and to detect and report re-booking. This official would either be a member of the Railway Police or a person specially appointed for the purpose, and enlisted, the Committee suggest, under Act XXIV of 1859, so that the necessary discipline and obedience may be enforced by law. At important stations where the amount of traffic and the neighbourhood of a populous place make evasion easier a larger staff under the superintendence of a responsible and intelligent officer may be necessary.

5. The Committee lay great stress on the importance of cordial co-operation between the Railway Police of the different provinces. The Government of India agree that such co-operation is essential to make the working of the protective arrangements successful, and I am to suggest that you should enter into communication with the Government of Bengal and the other Local Governments and Administrations concerned as to the manner in which the police should co-operate when a case of re-booking is detected. A similar suggestion has been made to the Government of Bengal and other Local Governments and Administrations.

6. In paragraph 10 of their report the Committee state that it is very desirable, if not essential, for the due working of the rules that a small inspecting staff should be appointed to travel along the line and see that the regulations are carried out and that abuses do not occur. It appears to the Government of India to be desirable that effect should be given to this proposal.

7. With reference to the remarks in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Committee's report, I am to explain that the Government of India do not propose any change in the existing orders under which persons deemed suspicious are detained under observation at inspection stations or at the end of their journey.

8. With reference to the remarks of the Conference regarding the examination for plague symptoms, I am directed to say that the Government of India are advised that in the absence of any symptoms showing a passenger to be suffering from fever it is unnecessary to examine his person for the purpose of finding out whether buboes are present, and to request that this practice, if it is at present enforced anywhere, may be discontinued.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. P. Hewett.

Secretary to the Government of India.

Proceedings of a Conference held at Calcutta on Friday, 17th December 1897, on the subject of the re-booking of passengers travelling by railway from an area infected with plague.

The Government of India have decided that the whole of the Bombay Presidency must be considered to be an infected area. There is not at present any other infected area in India which need be considered.

2. It is understood that no system of land quarantine will be sanctioned, and that it is not possible to establish isolation camps on the border of the Bombay Presidency, in which all travellers from the infected area could be detained for a prescribed period, after which they would be allowed to travel without let or hindrance.

3. All travellers from the Bombay Presidency must therefore be allowed to proceed direct to their destination, and the question for consideration is what measures can be adopted to prevent such travellers from concealing the fact that they have come from a place infected with plague.

4. The rules framed by the different Local Governments generally provide:

(1) that at places of inspection if the Medical officer sees reason to suspect that a passenger is infected with plague he may arrange for the detention and treatment of such passenger for so long as he considers necessary;

(2) that travellers from the infected area shall, on arrival at other stations, be required to give their names and addresses so that their movements may be watched until, owing to the expiry of the period of incubation, the danger of infection has ceased. (Government of India, Public Works Department, letter No. 224 R. T., dated 6th March 1897);

(3) that in the event of a traveller from an infected area alighting at an intermediate station with the object of obtaining a fresh ticket so as to conceal the fact that he comes from an infected area the Railway Police shall take down his name and the number of the fresh ticket issued, and send information down the line so that he may on alighting be placed under observation. (Bengal Rule 14, Notification No. I, dated 10th November 1897.)

5. These rules are believed by the Conference to indicate the best method of ensuring that, should a case of plague occur among travellers arriving or newly arrived from an infected area, it shall be at once detected and dealt with. The effective administration of these rules and of any supplementary orders issued by Provincial Governments must depend on the energy and vigilance of the executive staff employed. There are, however, certain general considerations regarding which we desire to offer the following suggestions.

6. The rules of the Railway coaching tariffs permit a passenger, who has obtained a ticket for a distance exceeding 100 miles, to break journey, and to alight at any intermediate station. It has been proposed that this privilege should be withdrawn from all persons travelling from infected areas. The proposal does not commend itself to this Conference. If the existing privilege were denied, passengers would be compelled to resort to re-booking and the

difficulty of ascertaining the persons who had come from the infected area would be largely increased. It is eminently desirable that travellers from the Bombay Presidency should take through tickets to their final destination.

7. We are of opinion that it is essential to the effective working of the rules we recommend for adoption, that these through tickets should have a distinctive mark. There are difficulties in the issue of tickets of a distinctive colour. But the names of all Bombay stations are not known to the Police and Station officials further east, and there should be some easy mode of recognizing the fact that a ticket was issued within the Bombay Presidency. We suggest therefore that the tickets of all passengers leaving the boundary of the infected area should be punched with an indelible mark such as a square hole. Tickets should be punched at places where a railway passes out of the Presidency. On the Great Indian Peninsula Railway the punching should be so done that passengers from the Central Provinces passing through Bhusawal should not be confounded with those from Bombay. The tickets taken at Bhusawal itself should be punched at the time of issue.

8. Persons coming from infected areas who alight do so with the object either of proceeding direct to their homes or of re-booking. In either case their names and residences will be recorded by the Railway Police or other officials appointed for that purpose, and the information conveyed to the District Police, who must arrange that the occurrence within ten days of sickness at the houses where such persons take up their residence is duly reported.

9. Should such persons re-book within 48 hours, the officials appointed for the purpose will telegraph down the line their names and the numbers of the fresh tickets issued, with a view to their remaining under observation, and will inform the District Police within whose jurisdiction the stations of re-booking are situated so that the names of such travellers may be removed from the lists for which the District Police are responsible. It may be that a traveller will profess to break his journey, but instead of resting will proceed by road to another station and then take a fresh ticket for a distant place. There is no evidence that this is a common practice and the Conference does not consider it necessary to make any specific recommendation on the subject. It is alleged that under arrangements made beforehand persons coming from infected areas, are met by friends from non-infected areas with return tickets who exchange tickets with them. For the detection of such evasion of rules responsibility rests upon the Railway Police or other officials entrusted with the duty of enforcing the rules.

10. It is very desirable, if not essential, for the due working of the rules, that a small inspecting staff should be appointed to travel along the line and see that the regulations are carried out and that abuses do not occur. The Railway Administrations might provide free passes for this inspecting staff.

11. Places for inspection have been established for the detection of persons actually suffering from plague or exhibiting symptoms which, in the opinion of the Medical officer, require that the patient should be kept under observation. With reference to the nature of the medical examination in force at such places the medical authorities might be consulted whether this examination could not be simplified, so that persons not exhibiting symptoms of fever should be exempted from further examination for glandular swellings or other indications of plague.

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12. We do not recommend the general adoption of Bengal rule XI which provides that a passenger will be allowed to proceed to his destination on producing a certificate that for ten days immediately preceding the date of commencing his journey he has been residing in a non-infected area. The infected areas at the present time are not so intermixed as to necessitate the adoption of this rule. We have proposed that the tickets of passengers from the infected areas should be marked, and all other travellers must be presumed to come from non-infected areas.

13. It was proposed that travellers from Bombay should be allowed to book only to the principal stations on each line, and that no passenger with a marked ticket should be permitted to alight at any wayside station to which he could not book from Bombay. We do not accept this proposal. We think it necessary that a Railway Police officer or other official should be posted at all stations and that the work of carrying out the rules under the Epidemic Diseases Act should not be imposed on Station Masters to the risk of their neglecting their duty in connection with the safety of the trains. If there are special officials to enforce the rules at all railway stations, the inconvenience of forbidding travellers to alight except at principal stations is, we consider, unnecessary.

14. The Conference lays great stress on the importance of cordial co-operation between the Railway Police of the different Provinces. The official appointed at each station to take names and addresses should, we think, be under the control of the officer in charge of the Railway Police, and we suggest that such officials should be enlisted under Act V of 1861, so that the necessary discipline and obedience may be enforced by law.

15. To sum up—

(1) The tickets of all passengers leaving the infected area should be punch-marked so that there would be no difficulty in recognizing them even by a dim light.

(2) When a passenger with a marked ticket alights, his name and address should be taken by the Railway Police, and arrangements should be made by the District Police that any case of sickness occurring within ten days in the house of the newly arrived traveller should be reported.

(3) The officials who take the name and address of passengers should endeavour to identify passengers who re-book within 48 hours. The number of the fresh ticket obtained by such passengers should be telegraphed down the line, and on alighting he should be treated as a traveller coming from an infected area.

J. D. LATOUCHE.
E. R. HENRY.
E. E. OLIVER.
H Bruce Carter

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 1063 H. D.—20-12-97.—25—J. N. D.

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SUBJECT.

Regs. to be furnished with information showing to what extent passes would be required for the itinerant inspecting staff in Madras for the purpose of travelling along the railway lines & Secy that the regulations are carried out

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SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
31 JAN. 1898
LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

No. 161 .

FROM

R. NATHAN, ESQ.,
Under Secretary to the Government of India,

TO

The Secy to the Govt. of Madras,
Local and Municipal Department.

Home Department.
Sanitary.

Calcutta, the 25 January 1898.

SIR,

I AM directed to refer to paragraph 6 of my letter No. 47, dated the 5th instant, forwarding the report of a Committee appointed to consider the subject of preventing passengers from the Bombay Presidency escaping detention by re-booking at intermediate stations. The Government of India there stated that they considered it desirable that effect should be given to the proposal of the Committee, contained in paragraph 10 of their report, that a small inspecting staff should be appointed for the purpose of travelling along the railway lines and seeing that the regulations are carried out and that abuses do not occur. The Committee suggested in this connection that free passes should be provided by the Railway Administrations for the inspecting staff.

In order that this proposal may be referred for the consideration of Railway Administrations, the Government of India will be glad to receive information showing to what extent passes would be required for the itinerant inspecting staff in Madras.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

R. Nathan

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

Returned for signature. 14-2-98

atched in print. 15-2-98
16-2-98

AGAIS G.O., No. DATED.
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