

Local & Munl. (189) Department.

PRINTED.

G.O., No. 1486P

DATED 1.12.98.

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Plague Commission

Recording extract from the Proceedings
of the Government of India, Home Dept. appointing a Com-
mission to enquire into certain questions regarding the Plague.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Government {1898} of Madras. LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

} 1898.

Spare copies

G.O., No. 1486 P., 1st December 1898.

DECEMBER.

Plague Commission.

Recording extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, Home Department appointing a Commission to inquire into certain questions regarding the plague.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

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Read—

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- (2) Telegrams from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, dated the 28th September and 2nd November 1898.

Resolution.—Plague broke out in the city of Bombay during the rainy season of 1896 and has since visited all parts of the Bombay Presidency, the city of Calcutta, the district of Saharanpur in the North-Western Provinces, the districts of Jullunder and Hoshiarpur in the Punjab, several districts of the Madras Presidency, the Hyderabad and Mysore States, the Sirohi State in the Rajputana Agency, and the Gwalior State in the Central India Agency. No efforts have been spared in devising and prosecuting measures to stay the epidemic, and the Government of India think that, although the plague has been widespread, these efforts have been attended in many respects with marked success.

2. The Governor-General in Council is of opinion that the time has now come when it is possible as well as most desirable to obtain reliable scientific opinion as to the manner in which the disease is communicated, the causes of the outbreaks in different parts of India, and the circumstances influencing their growth and decline. The facts connected with the outbreaks of the disease are still very obscure, and no such opportunity has arisen—and it may be hoped that none will arise in the future—as now presents itself for their investigation. A number of interesting facts have already been collected and embodied in different reports regarding the outbreak of the disease which has prevailed in India for the past two years; but there must be many valuable items of information to be ascertained from officers who have been employed on plague operations that have not been recorded in official reports; and there are also many circumstances connected with the outbreaks at different places which require to be locally examined by persons who can collate the facts and form conclusions which will be accepted by public as well as scientific opinion in respect of them.

The Government of India also regard it as very desirable that an authoritative scientific opinion should be obtained as to the value of prophylactic and therapeutic serum in dealing with plague.

3. The Governor-General in Council has accordingly decided, with the approval of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to appoint a Commission to inquire into the following questions :—

- (1) the origin of the different outbreaks of plague;
- (2) the manner in which the disease is communicated;
- (3) the effects of curative serum; and
- (4) the effects of preventive inoculation.

The object with which the Commission is appointed is to conduct an investigation of a scientific character, the results of which will be of the greatest interest and importance not only to the Government of India, but beyond the limits of the Indian Empire.

4. The President of the Commission will be Professor T. R. Fraser, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., Professor of Materia Medica in the University of Edinburgh. The Members of the Commission will be Mr. J. P. Hewett, C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department; Professor A. E. Wright, M.D., Professor of Pathology in the Army Medical School, Netley; Mr. A. Cumine, I.C.S., a Senior Collector in the Bombay Presidency; and Dr. M. A. Ruffer of the Egyptian Sanitary Department. Mr. C. J. Hallifax, I.C.S., will be Secretary to the Commission.

5. The Commission will be formally constituted on the arrival of the members from England. They will first visit the city of Bombay and will probably then desire to make inquiries in the other parts of India in which plague is or has been prevalent. The Governor-General in Council desires to leave the matter of method and procedure entirely to their discretion. The general conduct of the inquiry and the regulation of the course of business before the Commission will be entrusted to the President in communication with the members. The Commission, through their Secretary acting under the instructions of the President, will correspond direct with Local Governments and Administrations (including Political Officers in direct relation with the Government of India) and Departments of the Government of India and with any local authorities with whom direct communications may be authorized by Local Governments and Administrations as a matter of convenience and in order to save time. It is requested that all communications or requisitions for information emanating from the Commission may be treated as urgent and complied with promptly, and that, in the event of the Commission visiting a Province, they may be afforded every facility for their inquiries.

Order—Ordered, that copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Local Governments and Administrations for information and guidance and to the Departments of the Government of India noted in the margin for information.*

Ordered also, that it be published in the Supplement to the *Gazette of India* for general information.

Madras.
Bombay.
Bengal.
North-Western Provinces
and Oudh.
Punjab.
Burma.
Central Provinces.
Assam.

Coorg.
Hyderabad.
Foreign
Public Works } Department.
Finance
Military
* To Foreign Department.
and communication
to Political Officers.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. H. L. FRASER,
Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of India.

To the Government of Madras.

ORDER—No. 1486 P., dated 1st December 1898.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

H. TREMENHEERE,
Secretary to Government.

To the Plague Commissioner.
" the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
" the Surgeon-General.
" the Sanitary Commissioner.
" all Collectors (A—L).

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Pr
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Government {1898} of Madras.
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Proof for approval

Strike off
as revised. 10/12

Recd.

Regd.

}

1898.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 1486 P., 1st December 1898.

DECEMBER.

Plague Commission.

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LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

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2. The Governor-General in Council is of opinion that the time has now come when it is possible as well as most desirable to obtain reliable scientific opinion as to the manner in which the disease is communicated, the causes of the outbreaks in different parts of India, and the circumstances influencing their growth and decline. The facts connected with the outbreaks of the disease are still very obscure, and no such opportunity has arisen—and it may be hoped that none will arise in the future—as now presents itself for their investigation. A number of interesting facts have already been collected and embodied in different reports regarding the outbreak of the disease which has prevailed in India for the past two years; but there must be many valuable items of information to be ascertained from officers who have been employed on plague operations that have not been recorded in official reports; and there are also many circumstances connected with the outbreaks at different places which require to be locally examined by persons who can collate the facts and form conclusions which will be accepted by public as well as scientific opinion in respect of them.

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North-Western Provinces
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Coorg.
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Public Works
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*To Foreign Department.
and communication to
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(True Extract.)

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To the Government of Madras.

ORDER—No. 1486 P., dated 1st December 1898.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

To the Plague Commissioner.
„ the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
„ the Surgeon-General.
„ the Sanitary Commissioner.
„ all Collectors. (A-L)

for Secretary to Government.

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 25067

From The Govt of India.

p.s. Order No. 1486 P 871-12-98

Recorded

12/12/98

12/12/98

No. 4360-74

- To The Plague Commissioner
- To all Collectors (A-L)
- " " ~~Chairman of Municipal Councils~~
- " the President, Municipal Com^{tee}, Madras
- " ~~as above~~ Dept.
- " the Surgeon-General
- " " Sanitary Commissioner

Dated 11 -
Received 16 - } Nov 98
Registered 16 - }

Enclosures

Spare copies. not received

Note

The Resolution of the Govt. of India has already been published in the Fort Saint George Gazette

SUBJECT.

Forwarding for information extract from the Govt of India Proceedings on the subject of devising & prosecuting the measures to stay the plague.

12/12/98

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G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

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c No 25067



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[True Extract.]

T. R. Fraser

Offg. Secretary to the Government of India.

To
The Government of Madras.

S. C. Miller followed

Resolution

Published in 7th of June

19-11-50 p. 329 1st A

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

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Surgeon-General
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All Collectors.

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Assam.			

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[True Extract.]

A. H. L. FRASER,

Offg. Secretary to the Government of India.

First copy sent to Press.

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

READ AGAIN G.O. No. 152

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DETTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BRING MEANT FOR DISPATCH IN ORIGINAL.

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P = Print abstract only.
Q = Print heading only.

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