27-3-09.

15/2.28

28/5/17

[Pl. / 41]
500—14-11-02.

1898.
Local & Munl. (~~100~~) Department.

Plague.

PRINTED.

G.O., No. 515. P.

DATED 26. 5. 98.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Bubonic Plague.

Issuing orders regarding the measures to prevent the importation of — into the Nilgiris.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

B

Government (1898) of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

515 P

Recd. } 1898. Enclosures

Regd. } Spare copies

G.O., No. 515 P., 26th May 1898.

MAY.

Bubonic Plague.

Issuing orders regarding the measures to prevent the importation of — into the Nilgiris.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following papers :—

From the Collector of the Nilgiris, Ref. on C. No. 643, dated 9th May 1898.

Abstract.—Forwarding letter from Surgeon-Major Thompson urging the necessity of certain measures to be taken to guard Ootacamund against an invasion of plague.

From the same officer, dated 13th May 1898, Ref. on C. No. 653.

Abstract.—Forwarding estimate of the probable expenditure required for working his scheme for the protection of Ootacamund against plague.

From the same officer, dated 23rd May 1898, Ref. on C. No. 653.

Abstract.—Requesting that early orders may be passed on his letter suggesting certain measures to be adopted for guarding Ootacamund against an invasion of plague.

Order—No. 515 P., dated 26th May 1898.

The papers read above show that neither the Collector nor the Municipal Chairman of Ootacamund is using the powers he already possesses under the existing Regulations. Mufassal Regulations 14 and 29 of the 18th December 1897 authorize the detention at inspection stations of all persons from plague-infected tracts who are suffering from, or are suspected to be suffering from, plague, or who are considered "suspicious", and under Regulation 17, those who are not thus detained are required to be observed daily for a period of ten days after arrival. If these regulations are properly worked, there is hardly any danger of the importation of plague into the Nilgiris. Should there be any cases of omission or neglect to carry them out, particulars thereof should be reported so that inquiries may be made as to where and how the failure to work the regulations occurred.

2. Mufassal Regulation 17 of the 18th December 1897 has now been revised and amplified, and the whole system of reporting arrivals from infected areas and of observing them has been put on a sound footing and should be an efficient protection. Persons so arriving will be required to take out passports and to present themselves daily for examination for ten days, and the Collector and the Chairmen of the Municipal Councils, Coonoor and Ootacamund, should see that the inspection is thorough. Under the new regulations the passport has to be obtained before leaving the railway station where the traveller leaves the train, but the Government thinks that, in the case of passengers proceeding to the Nilgiris, it will be more convenient to issue passports to them at Pódanúr than at Méttupálaiyam. There are at present at Pódanúr one Military Assistant Surgeon and one Apothecary on plague duty, and the Collector of Coimbatore should report whether they cannot be required to issue passports to the Nilgiri passengers in addition to their other work, or whether an additional officer is required for the duty, and, if so, of what grade.

3. The passport system will be recommended to the Mysore Government and the Darbar will be requested to take steps to send intimation to the British authorities of the issue of passports in Mysore to persons proceeding to British villages. When this is done the Sigur Ghât will be sufficiently protected. As an additional precaution, Regulation 29 of the 18th December 1897 will be applied to the Nilgiri plateau, so that an inspection station under the charge of an hospital assistant may be established without delay at the junction of the Connemara road with the Sigur Ghât road, if the Collector should consider it necessary with reference to the classes of persons found to be entering the district from that side. In that case, the District Board should provide at this point temporary hospital accommodation for one European and one native with the necessary medical equipment, and segregation accommodation for two Europeans and four natives; the Collector should apply to the Surgeon-General for an hospital assistant and the Superintendent of Police, Coimbatore, would supply the required police guard. The following notification will be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* :—

NOTIFICATION.

Whereas certain parts of India are visited by, and the District of Nilgiris is threatened with, an outbreak of a dangerous epidemic disease known as bubonic plague, and whereas the ordinary provisions of the law in force in the district are insufficient for the purpose of preventing the outbreak or spread of the disease :

His Excellency the Governor of Fort St. George in Council hereby directs that Regulation 29 of the Mufassal Regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 18th December 1897, Part I, pages 1583-1589, shall be applied to the Nilgiri plateau.

4. No special precautions seem to be needed in regard to the Gúdalúr Ghât so long as Malabar and the Wynaad are free from plague. The Deputy Tahsildar, the Police Inspector, and the medical officer should, however, watch all cases of fever among travellers.

5. As for the provision of plague hospitals, segregation huts, medical equipment, &c., in the town of Ootacamund, this is a detail which does not require the orders of Government. Under the existing plague regulations and rules the Collector has power to order what is necessary. It only remains to draw his attention to the last sentence but one of Mufassal Regulation 1 of the 18th December 1897 and to impress upon him the necessity for strictly enforcing the rules and not allowing them to remain a dead letter.

(True Extract.)

H. TREMENHEERE,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of the Nilgiris.
" " of Coimbatore.
" President, District Board, the Nilgiris.
" Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund.
" " " Coonoor.
" Surgeon-General.
" Inspector-General of Police.
" Sanitary Commissioner.
Gazette.

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

Plague

SA - VE

A 7

10 5 98

CURRENT No. 698

From

The Collector Nilgiris

Order

Refce. in Current No. 643 of 98.

Dated 9"
Received 10"
Registered 10"
Enclosures one
Spare copies ..
May 1898.

SUBJECT.

Plague.

Forwarding letter from Dr. Hempson urging the necessity of ~~the~~ certain measures to be taken to guard Ootacamund against an invasion of. ——

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Plague

Very urgent

1

No. 215

Civil Surgeon's Office
Ootacamund May 7th 1898

From

Surgeon-Major C. M. Thompson MB
Civil Surgeon

To

The Collector
The Nelgiris
Ootacamund

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that I consider the time has now come when more effecient measures should be adopted to protect Ootacamund from plague, than have hitherto been in operation

2 Plague is now said to be present in Hyderab and there is every likelihood of its extending to Mysor if it be not already there; numbers of people ar arriving from the Bombay Presidency and Hyderabad every day; a few days ago a gentleman arrived here from Bombay in a Sta

of high fever, having successfully passed through the various medical examinations on the way.

(3) Every day numbers of native beggars and wanderers come up the Segoor Ghaut from Mysore; all new arrivals are supposed to be kept under observation for ten days after arrival, but I have reason to believe that the Sanitary Inspector told off for the duty of observing the new arrivals performs his duty in a most perfunctory and careless manner.

(4) The present system of observation, even if efficiently carried out affords, in my opinion, no protection against an invasion of plague,

I therefore submit for your consideration the following proposals

(a) The erection of four small detention sheds, two for Europeans and two for Natives, at the top of the Segoor Ghaut, where the Connemera Road joins the Ghaut road; at the toll gate on the Pykara road; and at the toll gate on the Coonoor road. Each shed should provide accomodation for one patient.

(b) An hospital assistant to be posted at each of these three places, to examine all persons who are passing on their way into Ootacamund, and whose duty it would be to detain in the observation shed any person found to have a rise of temperature or who showed any signs of illness. The period of detention to be not less than ten days from the date on which the individual left a plague-infected locality, and two days if from a place where plague had not been declared to be present. The hospital assistant should register all particulars of each arrival, whether sick or not, and send it to the Chairman of the Municipality; those who show no signs of illness being allowed to proceed to their destination in Ooty, where they would be kept under observation for a period of ten days by the Sanitary Inspector told off for this duty.

(c) The shed lately used as a Vaccine Depot to be held in readiness for the treatment of the first plague case.

(d) The site for the erection of a plague hospital to be selected at once or any suitable existing building to be held in readiness for the reception of plague cases; the building at "Lochend" near Khandal, would with some trifling alterations answer the purpose. This building is at present unoccupied and belongs to the Municipality.

(e) Each observation post should be

provided with two stretchers for the conveyance of plague patients to the hospital; and four stretchers should be kept in readiness at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Coolies could easily and quickly be engaged as stretcher bearers.

(f) The hospital assistant at each observation post to be provided with a small stock of necessary medicines and medical comforts.

5. This morning I visited the toll gate on the Coonoor road with Mr. Hammett, there are two houses available, one for the accommodation of the Hospital Assistant close to the toll gate, and another which could be used as a detention shed. It would be necessary to erect sheds for the Hospital Assistants, at the top of the Sigur Ghaut and at the toll gate on the Pykara road.

A Police Constable should be posted at each of the three places to enforce the proper examination of travellers.

Passes might be issued to all bandy men who are constantly moving up & down the Ghaut, & as long as Mettupalayam remains free from plague these men need not be stopped for examination

6. I consider the above detailed measures absolutely necessary

necessary to guard against the importation of plague into Ootacamund and that the expenditure necessary to give effect to them will be well spent as an insurance premium against plague. If plague breaks out more money will have to be spent in one month than would cover the cost of the proposed measures for six months.

I consider the danger of the importation of plague, under the present system of simple inspection of new arrivals, most imminent.

I am convinced that the disease will extend to Mysore and that cases will occur there and be concealed long before the place will be officially declared to be plague infected, once started in the climate of this place it will make rapid & destructive progress.

I most strongly advise that the measures I have recommended be introduced with the least possible delay.

I have the honor to be
Yr obt Servant
C. M. [illegible]
Surgeon Major
Civil Surgeon

Refer Cur No 653 of 98

1/698 P of 1898

C No 698 P

Plague

Refer on No. 653 Current of 98

Nilgiri COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,

Dated, 9 May 1898.

FROM

D. W. G. Cowie Esquire

Ag COLLECTOR OF

the Nilgiris,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Local & Municipal DEPARTMENT.

~~Madras.~~ Stone House Hill

SIR,

I have the honor to forward a letter No. 215 dated 7th instant from the Civil Surgeon Ootacamund stating what measures he considers necessary to protect Ootacamund from plague. I went very carefully with Dr Thompson through his proposals and they seem to me to be well considered and to meet the necessities of the case. There is no doubt that precautions of this nature are urgently called for.

2. Every day travellers, European and Native arrive from plague infected areas without any intimation of their coming having been given to the local authorities although

they have travelled by rail and have passed such inspection stations.

3 The Sigoor Ghaut which communicates directly into Mysore is as Dr Thompson points out a source of danger and I agree with him, that even if it is not necessary to employ a special staff to watch the Coonoor and Gudalur Ghats, it is essential that the passengers by the Sigoor Ghaut should be thoroughly inspected.

4 Dr Thompson has not given any estimate of the probable cost of his proposals but I have asked him for one and will forward it as soon as I receive it.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant

DWG Cowie
10.5

[illegible] Collector

Copd of

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 729 P

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT
13 MAY 1898

Urgent

From

The Ag Collector of
the Nilgiris

Order

Refce on Current No. 653 of 1898.

Dated 13 May 1898
Received 13-5-1898
Registered 13-5-1898
Enclosures two.
Spare copies one.

SUBJECT.

Plague

~~Forwarding~~ estimate of the probable ~~cost of~~ expenditure for observation of persons from Plague infected areas

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Plague

Civil Surgeon's Office,

OOTACAMUND, May 12 1898.

No. 222

From

Surgeon Major C. M. Thompson

Civil Surgeon, Ootacamund.

To

The Collector
Nilgiris

SIR,

I have the honor to enclose a rough Estimate of the Cost of erecting detention sheds &c for observation of plague suspects, pay of Hospital Assistants, Cost of Stretchers &c. I have not included the staff which would be necessary in the Event of plague becoming Epidemic in the Station

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

Civil Surgeon.

Reference on Cur. No. 653 of 98

1/729 P of 1898

Rough Estimate for erection of plague detention Sheds, and all other initial expenses to propose for reception of plague cases-

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE
15 [illegible] 1898

Eight Sheds with Concrete floors, Corrugated iron walls & roofs, drains &c. Each Shed of following dimensions

ft. 12 × 12 × 10 = 1440 Cubic feet.
ft. 12 × 12 = 144 Superficial area.
One Shed 250 Rs = 250 × 8 = 2000

Six Stretchers. bamboo poles, Canvas, & bamboo frame. each 6 Rs –
6 × 6 = Rs 36/–

Medicines, Medical comforts, Mattresses, dhoby chatties for boiling & disinfecting Soiled Clothes.

100 Rs –

Total initial expenditure

Sheds.	2000/–
Stretchers	36/–
Medical Comforts	100/
	2136 Rs –

3. Hosp Assistants 3rd grade.

pay 25 Rs. } each Hosp asst
plague allowance 10 }
35 Rs.
35 × 3 = 105 Rs per month.

Surg Major

Encl. No 6
Reference on Cur. No. 653 of 98

2/729 P of 1898

C No 729 P

Plague

NILGIRI COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
OOTACAMUND, 13th May 1898.

REF. ON Cur No. 653/98

FROM

D. W. G. Cowie Esq. C.S.
Ag. COLLECTOR OF
The Nilgiris,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Local & Municipal DEPARTMENT,
~~Madras.~~ Stonehouse Hill

SIR,

ENCLOSURES, 1

With reference to para 4 of my letter Ref on Cur No 653 of 1898 dated 9th May 1898, I have the honor to forward herewith the letter $\frac{\text{No 222}}{\text{12-5-98}}$ from Surgeon Major C. M. Thompson. M.B., together with his estimate of the probable Cost of the measures to be adopted for the observation of persons Coming into Ootacamund from plague infected etc areas

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

for Ag. Collector.

Copied by
Compared by

From

The Collector of

Nilgiris,

To

The Secretary to Government,

Department,

Madras.

Dated }
Despatched } 189 .

Reference on No.

Enclosures.

Subject.

Local & Munl. (1898.) Department.

Plague

CURRENT No. 797 P

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
25. MAY. 1898
LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

From the Ag. Collector of the Nilgiris

Order

Ref on Current No. 653 of 98.

Dated 23rd. May 1898.
Received 25-5-1898
Registered 25-5-1898.
Enclosures nil.
Spare copies ..

SUBJECT.

Plague

Requesting that early orders may be passed on this office letter suggesting certain measures to be adopted for guarding Ootacamund against an invasion of —

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

C. No 797 P

Plague

NILGIRI COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
OOTACAMUND, 23rd May 1898.

REF. ON Current No. 653 of 98.

FROM

D. W. G. Cowie Esquire I.C.S.
Ag COLLECTOR OF
the Nilgiris,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Local & Municipal DEPARTMENT,
~~Madras.~~ Stone House Hill.

SIR,

ENCLOSURES.

I have the honour to request that Government will be pleased to pass early orders on my Reference on Current No. 653/98 dated 9th instant, forwarding letter from Dr. Thompson M.B., urging the necessity of certain measures to be taken to ~~guard~~ protect Ootacamund against an invasion of plague.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
[illegible] bedient Servant,

D. W. G. Cowie
23-5
Ag. Collector.

Copied by C
Compared by

FROM

THE COLLECTOR OF
Nilgiris,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
DEPARTMENT,
Madras.

Dated }
Despatched } 189 .

Reference on No.

ENCLOSURES.

SUBJECT.

May 19, 1898

My dear Tremenheere

Since I wrote on the protection of Ooty from plague, I have heard from Arthur that at the Mysore plague inspection station between Belgaum & Bangalore they turned all the 3rd cl: passengers out of the train & kept them for 10 days! x If this is so, further protection on the Sigur ghat side seems almost superfluous –

x Capt Erskine is not aware of this. The rules allow detention of only suspicious persons.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARIMENT.

No.
- 5-98 from the Coll: of Nilgiris
- 5-98 from the Do

SUBJECT.

Plague precautionary measures in Ootacamund

DERS.

The civil surgeon of Ootacamund (Surgeon-major C. M. Thompson) Considers that "the danger of the importation of plague, under the present system of simple inspection of new arrivals, is most imminent." He states he is "convinced that the disease will extend to Mysore and that cases will occur there and be concealed long before the place will be officially declared to be plague infected." "Every day numbers of native beggars and wanderers come up the Sigur ghaut from Mysore," and although all new arrivals are required to be kept under observation for ten days after arrival, Surgeon-major Thompson believes that "the Sanitary Inspector told off for the duty performs his duty in a most perfunctory and careless manner". He does not however say whether any endeavour has been made to get this duty properly done, but he is of opinion that "the present system of observation even if efficiently carried out affords no protection against an invasion of plague" and therefore makes the following proposals:—

(a) That 'observation posts' be established under the charge of Hospital Assistants (1) at the top of the Sigur ghat where the Connemara road joins the ghat road, (2) at the toll gate on the Pykara Road, ~~(2)~~ and (3) at the toll gate on the Coonoor Road

(b) that at each post be provided (1) two detention sheds, each accommodating one person, for Europeans, and two for natives, (2) two stretchers and a small stock of necessary medicines and medical comforts; & (3) one Police Constable to enforce proper examination of illness.

(c.

Chairman's attention drawn to this – vide D.O. correspondence – Flag K

(c) that the Hospital Assistant shall examine all persons proceeding to Ootacamund and shall register and send to the Chairman all particulars of each arrival, whether sick or not.

(d) that persons who have "a rise of temperature" or "show any signs of illness" shall be detained at the Observation post for 10 days if coming from an infected area and for two days if coming from a place not declared infected — all others to be allowed to proceed to Ootacamund for being observed by the Sanitary Inspector for ten days

(e) that the building at Lochend near Khandal which belongs to the Municipality and is now vacant be kept ready as a plague hospital, the shed lately used as a vaccine depot being meanwhile made available for the ~~first~~ treatment of the first plague case, and that four stretchers be kept ready at the St Bartholomew's Hospital

(f.

(f) that cartmen moving constantly up & down the ghaut be provided with passes & need not be detained for examination as long as Mettapalayam remains free from plague.

2. The above proposals virtually mean ~~that~~ the placing of Ootacamund "under observation" under the Additional Regulation sanctioned in G.O. No 93 P d/26-2-98. The scheme is however imperfect, for if observation & inspection are confined to 3 places, really sick people will attempt to evade them and one solitary Police Constable cannot work for 24 hours and enforce the working of the scheme. It is reported that suitable accommodation for the hospital Assistant and for detention purposes is available on the oonoor Road but it has to be uilt at the other two roads. he cost of the scheme is not iven but an estimate has een called for.

Since ~~submitted~~ received - vide Cho. 729 P.

. The Collector in forwarding the ~~f~~ above proposals writes

* Quoted by the date of publication in the Gazette as given in the ~~Gazette~~ pamphlet.

* I went very carefully with Dr Thompson through his proposals and they seem to me to be well considered and to meet the necessities of the case. "There is no doubt that precautions of this nature are urgently called for. Every day travellers, European and native, arriving from plague infected areas without any intimation of their coming having been given to the local authorities although they have travelled by rail and have passed such inspection stations". But the same Collector when asked whether the provisions of Regulation 17* of the 18-12-97 (~~G.O. 2830 d/17-12-97~~) were properly worked in his district wrote on the 16-3-98 — "Intimation of the departure of passengers from plague inspection stations to Ootacamund and Coonoor is sent to me and communicated at once to the Chairman concerned, the Police, the Senior Medical Officer, and the Revenue Subordinate in charge of the division. The heads of villages have so far had no need to take

"any action in the matter, as no intimation has been received of the departure of passengers for any other centres but Ootacamund and Coonoor. In the two Municipalities above specified, the passengers are kept under the observation of the Sanitary Inspectors for ten days, but no reports have hitherto been received from the Chairman stating that this course has actually been adopted. The Asst Supt of Police ~~have~~ has however in each case informed me the passenger's health during the prescribed period of 10 days' observation"

Similarly, the Municipal Chairman of Ootacamund wrote on the 27-1-98 that "reports continue to be received from officers on plague duty at Madras, Arkonam and Bangalore". As regards Coonoor, the Chairman having reported that the Council had dispensed with the services of the Sanitary Inspector deputed to watch arrivals in Coonoor by tonga &c, he was informed in G.O. No 152 P d/ 7-3-98 that "though Coonoor has not much traffic with the infected area, the municipal Council will do well to watch persons coming from the infected parts and their servants and examine them for ten days."

If as now reported, the provisions of Regulation 17 of the ~~17th~~ 18th Dec 1897 regarding communication of the names and addresses and those of Regulation 5 of the ~~26th Feb~~ 1st March 1898 regarding issue of passports at the railway station of destination are not complied with, the Collr should have taken steps to enforce them.

4. It has to be considered now whether Ootacamund should be placed under observation as proposed

proposed

proposed or whether the proposal may lie over till the new rules for the observation of travellers have been given a trial. They apply to the whole Presidency and to all arrivals whether by railway or road or sea. They will cover the case of the Segur Ghat regarding which the Collr writes—

"The Segur Ghat which communicates directly into Mysore is, as Dr Thompson points out, a source of danger, and I agree with him that even if it is not necessary to employ a special staff to watch the Coonoor and Gudalur Ghats, it is essential that the passengers by the Segur Ghat should be thoroughly inspected."

5. For the measures taken to protect Mahableshwar, please see pages 342-344 of Vol I & pages 175-180 of Vol III, The Plague in India. They were carried by a Supt of Police who was appointed the Chief Plague Authority of the place. He had a Police staff of 4 Jamadars, 3 naiks and 32 Constables. He established five

main posts on the principal roads of approach and several subsidiary posts. From the 18th March to 29th May 1897, 870 persons were retained in the Observation camps and 2,200 persons attended at the hospital for periods varying from one to eight days. During this period, there was only one fatal case of plague.

6. As regards plague statistics, no plague has been reported from any of the Dts of Hyderabad except Naldurg since the 4th April last. In the Naldurg Dt, there were 8 attacks & 7 deaths ~~between~~ from the 5th ~~and~~ to 11 April 1898
8 " 2 " " 12 to 18 April
1 " 2 " " 19 to 25 "
2 " — " 26 April to 2d May 1898

In Rajputana, there were 3 attacks & 4 deaths in the week ending 18th April and since then there has been only one death in Sirohi State in the week ending 2d May. In Punjab, the plague is increasing, the latest figures being 381 attacks & 146 deaths in the week ending 2d May 1898, but in the N. W Provinces, the figures are 10 attacks & 7 deaths from 28 March to 4 April
20 " 15 " 5th April to 11th April
12 " 9 " 12th April to 18 April
2 " 4 " 19th April to 25 April
1 " — 26th April to 2d May.

Coming

Coming to the Bombay Presidency it is found that Bijapur Dt has been free from plague since the 1st April. And so is apparently Ahmednagar since the 8th April as no reports have been received since. In the Belgaum Dt, there were 17 cases in the week ending 29 April & 22 in the week ending 6th Ma
In the much nearer District, Dharwar, plague has been sporadic for a long time in Hubli and there at that place were 1 ~~case~~ death on the 27th April
1 attack on the 29 "
1 death on the 1st May
1 attack on the 5 May.
1 death on the 7th May

Long
11/5/98

7. As regards plague arrangements in Mysore, please see Col Robertson's D.O. 7 May D

Taken out for H.M. Long 13/5/98

P. J. O. for Secy's note

8

16

S.A. Please check & bring up 20-3-98

These communications don't reflect much credit on the persons concerned. It is clear that neither the Collr. nor the Munl. Chmn are using the powers they have, & Dr. [illegible] should know that it is useless simply to tell us of a gentleman having arrived from Bombay in a state of high fever. Why doesn't he give particulars so that we can see whether Tungabadra reported his passing & if not why not.

The new Regns 17 which will issue in a day or two will put the whole system of reporting on a sound footing & should be an efficient protection. Still, perhaps we might add addl. precautions. After talking with Sir K. Sheshadri Ayar, I advised that our passports should be advised to Mysore as well as British villages of destination. But do the Mysore Examg establishments at Harrihar (?) and Bangalore (and elsewhere) send advice to our villages? For instance, if a man comes from Poona via Harrihar & Bangalore to Ooty, as may well be the case, would his passing the first two places be advised to Ooty (or other British district as the case may be)? I think not, for when my son came through from Belgaum the other day by this very route no one put him under inspection at all. The Mysore people should be moved to cooperate in this way.

This has been done

no.

This will be done

Mettu would be a bad place for the issue of passports. It would involve, as the Sec. says, stopping the train outside the station at a weighbridge

As the Gudalur ghaut may at present be neglected, it may be taken that there are two routes by which plague may be introduced into the Nilgiris, viz. from Metapolliem and by the Sigur ghaut.

2. (a) Persons from infected parts arriving at Metapolliem for the Hills would mostly be

Europeans & their servants;

rich Bombay Parsis & the like, with their servants;

hawkers, & servants bringing goods for the Curio shops, & the owners of such & similar shops who pass to & from Bombay.

(b) Persons arriving from infected parts via the Sigur ghaut wd mostly (according to my experience) be pilgrims, of whom a considerable number pass up & down.

3. Class (a) might leave the nearest infected district on the ~~[illegible]~~ G.I.P. — say Sholapur

time of day. Besides, it is an unhealthy place for a man to live at & we should want an extra man. Why not make the man at Podanur inspect & issue passports & send advices to Coonoor & Ooty? He wd. have plenty of time while the train was stopping there - If necessary to enable him to do so, a few words of alteration in new Regn. 17 cd. easily be made.

Draft prepared accordingly.

No alteration seems necessary. The Regulation ~~requires~~ does not say that the passport shall be issued only at the Station of destination but states that it shall be obtained before leaving the Ry Station of alighting. Hence the Reg does not prevent a passport being issued ~~at~~ earlier.

I think ~~Ooty [illegible]~~ the Nilgiris will in this way be well guarded from the Mettm. side -

The Gudalur ghat may, I think, be neglected so long as Malr. & the Wynaad are free from plague - But the Sub Magte. & the Medl. officer at Gudalur should of course keep a sharp look out for cases of fever among travellers -

As to the Sigur Ghaut, it hardly seems necessary, but it wd. be perhaps a wise measure

coming

---

at 8 a.m. on Sunday & be in Coonoor at 1.30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Class (b) might leave Hubli, the nearest infected Station on the S.M.R.; reach Nanjangod in 37 hours; & then have 60 miles to march, ~~if pilgrims, or to accomplish in a cart, if persons of some means~~ which wd. take them probably at least 5 days. Thus they could hardly take less than 7 days to get from Hubli to Ootacamund.

Quite 7 days - They are not likely to come through at full speed as if flying from an enemy
HS

4. Now the ordinary period of incubation does not exceed 5 days ("The Plague in India. vol. I. p. 19.). On these considerations it wd. seem that, with the plague no nearer than Hubli, there is but little chance of infection arriving via Sigur. Plague however might easily be brought via Metapolliem which is only
# a little over 49 hours from Sholapur.

5. A person arriving at Metapolliem from Sholapur must be supposed to arrive

of precaution to have an Examⁿ station there. This could be done, couldn't it, under orig. Regⁿ 29 or under amended Regⁿ 17, or w^d it be necessary to bring the Addl. Reg^ns into force? I think orig. Reg 29 will cover the case, so the Colr. has full powers to act. He sh^d. do so —

By the way, does the Munic^l. Chmn insist on Hotel managers, Club Secty & so on reporting arrivals from infected areas — V. last sentence but one of orig. Regⁿ 1?

~~Has~~ Has been asked

19/5/98

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without fear; under a lately issued Reg^ns he is required to take out, at Mettapolliem, a passport from the Station Master or other officer selected by the Collector; the passport binds him to appear for 10 days before a nominee of the Munic^l Chairman (supposing the traveller going to Ootac^d or Coonoor), unless the Chairman shall arrange to have him inspected at home.

6. This system would at once detect a case of plague supposing passports are always taken out, & supposing the inspection in the Munic^l is thorough. As to the latter point, the Coll^r & Chairmen may be told to make inspection thorough. As to the former, we have endeavoured to impose a check by requiring the Tungabadra officer to report the passage of the traveller to the D.M.S.O. of the district of destination. But I feel a doubt whether in the case of a district like the Nilgiris, from which

it is ~~specially~~ particularly desirable to keep plague away, there 8hd not be a specially trustworthy officer at Metapolliem who shall by special precautions (such as stopping the train outside the station) ensure that everybody ~~[illegible]~~ from infected parts takes out a passport; information of such passports being sent by the very mail tonga which meets the train, to the DMSO at Coonoor & the Civil Surgeon at Ootacd. This wd not delay the train or the mails long; there would seldom be a dozen passengers requiring passports.

7. If cases of plague are detected at once on arrival, I see no need for the detention sheds outside the town of Ootacd.

They might be useful at the head of the Sigur Ghat
HS

8. As for the provision of Plague hospitals, stretchers, etc etc, the Coll. has sufficient power already & 8hd be told to exercise it.

HS

H.T.
18 5 98

Papers to be read in Proceedings:—

Again G.O., No. dated 189 ,
Again G.O., No. dated 189 ,
Current No. 698 P of 1898, dated 9-5-98, from Coll. of the Nilgiris
" " 729 P " 1898, " 13-5-98 " do
" " 797 P " 1898, " 23-5-98 do.

Read also Reminder [illegible] yesterday

print abstract

H.M.
would like to see this before issue.
H.T.
25 5 98

25.5.98

print

ORDER. No. 575 P dt 26.5.98

The papers read above show that neither the Collector nor the Municipal Chairman of Ootacamund is using the powers he already ~~has~~ possesses under the existing Regulations. Mufassal Regulations 14 and 29 of the 18-12-97 authorize the detention at inspection stations of all persons from plague infected tracts who are suffering from or are suspected to be suffering from plague or who are considered "suspicious"; and under Regulation 17, those who are not thus detained are required to be observed daily for a period of ten days after arrival. If these

Regulations are properly worked there is hardly any danger of the importation of plague in to the Nilgiris; instead of simply stating that "a few days ago a gentleman "arrived in Ootacamund from "Bombay in a high state of fever", ~~the~~ Surgeon Major Thompson might well have ascertained whether the passenger was ill when passing through Tungabhadra or Arkonam, and if so, why he was not detained, and then reported the matter to Government if there was neglect on the part of any body to detain him or to report his passing.

2. Mufassal Regulation 17 of the 18th December 1897 has now been revised and amplified, and the whole system of reporting arrivals from infected areas and of observing them has been put on a sound footing and should be an efficient protection. Persons so arriving will be required to take out passports and to present themselves daily for examination for ten days, and the Coll. and the Chairmen of the Municipal Councils Coonoor and Ootacamund should see

Should there be any cases of omission or neglect to carry them out, particulars thereof should be reported so that enquiries may be made as to where and how the failure to work the Regulations occurred.

S.A.

It is true H.E. remarked this, but I think it need not go into the order. Dr. Thompson is now very keen; it wd. be a pity to discourage him at the outset.

You might civilly point out that it is essential that particulars shd. be given in such cases to enable enquiries to be made as to where & how failures have occurred in the working of the Regns.

H.S

see that the inspection is thorough. Under the new Regulations, the passport has to be ~~taken~~ obtained before leaving the Railway Station ~~of alighting, and~~ where the traveller leaves the train, but the Govt thinks that ~~it will~~ in the case of passengers proceeding to the Nilgiris it ~~is~~ will be more convenient to issue passports to them at Podanur than at Mettapalayam. There are at present ~~one~~ at Podanur one Military Asst Surgeon and one apothecary on plague duty, and the Coll: of ~~the Nilgiris should in consultation with the Colls of~~ Coimbatore shd report whether they cannot be required to issue passports to the Nilgiris passengers, in addition to their other work, or whether an additional officer is required for the duty, and if so, of what grade.

3. The passport system will be recommended to the Mysore Government, and the Darbar will be requested to take steps to send intimation to the British authorities of

the issue of passports in Mysore to persons proceeding to British villages. When this is done, the Segur Ghat will be sufficiently protected. As an additional precaution, Regulation 29 of the 18-12-97 will be applied to the Nilgiri plateau, so that ~~and~~ an inspection Station under the charge of an Hospital Assistant may be established without delay at the junction of the Connemara Road with the Segur Ghat Road, if the Collr should consider it necessary ~~the~~ the Dt Board should ~~be required~~ ~~to~~ provide at this ~~station~~ point temporary hospital accommodation for one European and one native with the necessary medical equipment, and segregation accommodation for 2 Europeans and 4 natives; the Coll: should apply to the Surgeon General for an Hospital Assistant, and the Supt of Police Coimbatore ~~will~~ would supply the required Police guard. The following notification will be published in the Fort St George Gazette:–

"H.E. the Governor of Fort St.
"George in Council hereby directs
"that ~~Mufassal Regulation 29~~
"~~of the 18th Dec 1897~~ shall be
applied

Regulation 29 of the Mufassal Regulations under the E. D. Act published in the Fort St George Gazette of 18-12-97, Part I, pages 1583-1589

~~with ref. to the~~

Perhaps H.M. may like to consider again the portion from here to the end of the para, as he wrote "this hardly seems necessary, but etc"

with refce to the classes of persons found to be ~~[illegible]~~ entering the district from that side. In that case, the

5

So [illegible] that, [illegible]

This is very badly drafted – What Mufassal Regns? How is anyone who sees this in the Gazette to know what is meant? All these notifns must have proper preamble.

The following may be added at the end of para ~~3~~ 1.

"Should there be any cases
"of omission or neglect to
"carry them out, particulars
"thereof should be reported so that
"inquiries may be made as to
"where and how the failure to work
"the Regulations occurred."

The notification in para 3 may be revised as follows:–

"Whereas certain parts of
"India are visited by, and the
"District of Nilgiris is threatened
"with, an outbreak of a dangerous
"epidemic disease known as
"bubonic plague, and whereas
"the ordinary provisions of the law in
"force in the district are insufficient
"for the purpose of preventing the
"outbreak or spread of the disease,

"H.E. the Governor of Fort St
"George in Council hereby directs
"that Regulation 29 of the
"Mufassal Regulations under the
"Epidemic Diseases Act 1897, published
"in the Fort St George Gazette of 18-12-97
"Part I, pages 1583-1589, shall be
"applied to the Nilgiris plateau."

Note
Under Reg 29, only "officers
"specially appointed by the Collr for
"this purpose" can act.

The period of detention has been already prescribed in Mufassal Reg 16 and Addl Reg 5, and it is submitted that the expression "detained "in a place of observation for a period "prescribed by the Govt" ~~cannot~~ merely conveys a reference to the period prescribed in those Regulations, & does not imply that the period should be prescribed on each occasion that Reg 29 is applied to a local area.

Lim
25/5/98

6

But why this? The Regn provides this, when introduced – What Govt. has (~~to~~ do is to prescribe a period) ~~of detention~~.

× omit

1 KS

Under the Reg, only "officers specially "appointed by the Dt Collr for this "purpose" can act

"applied to the Nilgiri plateau "and authorizes the medical officer "in charge of the inspection station "at the top of the Sigur ghat to "prevent the passage of suspicious "persons under that Regulation"

4 No special precautions ~~are~~ seem to be needed in regard to the Gudalur Ghat so long as Malabar and the Wynaad are free from plague. The Dy Tahr, the Police Inspector and the medical officer should, however, watch all cases of fever among travellers.

5. As for the provision of plague hospitals, segregation huts, medical equipment &c, in the town of Ootacamund, this is a detail which does not require the orders of Government. Under the Existing plague Regulations and rules, the Collr has power to order what is necessary ~~and he should exercise it~~. It only remains to draw his attention to the last sentence but one of the Mofussil Regulation I of the 18-12-97 and to impress upon him the necessity

for strictly enforcing the rules and not allowing them to remain a dead letter.

(From order)

25-5-98

To the Collr. of the Nilgiris, Coimbatore
" President Dt. Board, Nilgiris
" Chairman, M.C. Ootacamund
" " Coonoor
" Surgeon General
" I.G. of Police.
" Sanitary Commr.

M.S. today & send copy to Press with printed sheet
26/5/98

Despd
27-5-1898

Lev
27/5/98

First copy sent to Press.

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

Number of copies required. Order complete. Letter only. Order complete with Letter.

Read again G.O., No. , dated 190 .

Current No.

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