

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

(1898)

MISCELLANEOUS.

No. 74

DATED 4-10-98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Plague on Canals.

According Encl. No 165 P. d, 26.9.98
forwarding Office Note re. the possible need
of supervision of _____

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

Mague Court
Local & Munl. (1898) *Office* Department.

CURRENT No. 90.

note

no action seems necessary at present

Order

Recorded

Long 29/8/98

10/4/98

From

The Local & Munl. Dept.

Encl. No. 165 P

Dated 25. 9. 98

Received 28. 9. 98

Registered 27. 9. 98

Enclosures 2

Spare copies. -

SUBJECT.

*Forwarding to the Mague
Commissioner Office note
re the possible need for
laying down a system as
to the supervision of Mague
on Canals.*

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Plague Control Office

C. N. 90

L. & M.

Cus 832 P

Office note

The question is whether in view of the fact that plague threatens this Presidency, any special arrangements for the inspection of boats are necessary. It is submitted that the matter has been already considered in this Dept when drawing up the Plague Regulation and has been sufficiently provided for. Under Regulation 26 and City Regulation 17 of December 1897, a Canal boat is subject to the same regulations as buildings, and passengers by a canal boat are subject to inspection, inspection and detention in the same manner as passengers by railway. These Regulations further confer authority "to require such boat to alter its mooring or to stop during its passage and move in such position as may be indicated, or direct that it desist from plying until such time as may be stated in a notice". Under Regulation 17 as revised by G.O. 20466 P. dt 13-8-98 requires

Page 14 of pamphlet

requires passengers arriving by boat from plague infected ports to take anti-plague before disembarkation and to present themselves daily for inspection for a period of ten days in the same manner as travellers by road, railway or sea.

2. The extent to which the above regulations will be enforced depends upon the proximity of plague. The latest returns show that it is confined to the Bombay Presidency, Panaji and Calcutta, Hyderabad being free since the 13th May 1898. But the Panaji & Calcutta are too far to affect the Madras Canals, and as regards the Bombay Presidency, the nearest point which is infected with plague is Hubli, where it still exists in a sporadic form, and where the total attacks up to the 28 May 1898 have been 72, but there is no navigable canal in sufficient proximity.

Det. M. S. M.
3/6/98.

H. W.

I think the Canal Boat Rules under the Plague Act are sufficient
for

Calcutta is not too far - persons coming down to coast frequently use the canals. (Det.) G. S. Z.

They must have travelled for a good many days before reaching any of our canals. (Det.) H. W. B.

(Det.) H. W. B.

Hardly necessary, at present.
I should say H. W. B.
7/6/98

for the present. (They might be reprinted as an appendix to the Canal Rules under the Plague Act.)

(Det.) G. S. Z.

6/6/98.

Det. D. S. W. W.

When plague appears in any of the districts traversed by the Canals, I presume the special plague regulations would be introduced and worked by special officers. The question I referred her nothing special to do with plague. It refers to infectious diseases generally, and orders were asked whether the regulations contained in the 29th of 1892 were to be worked by the D. S. W. officers to the best of their ability or leave the working of them transferred to their authority.

(Det.) W. H.

13/6/98

It being to put, I suppose

"In the first place, municipalities and unions do not cover the whole course of the canals; it

Seems useless therefore to entrust
the work of supervising epidemics
on canals to these bodies.

In the next place, Unions
particularly have no staff that
can do the work. During times
therefore, the duty cannot be
placed on these bodies.

As to supervision of
Plague in canals, the attention of
the S.C. may be drawn to the possible
need of laying down a system.

(dtd) H. T. A.
21-9-18.

End No 165-8-426-9-1898

Forwarded to the Plague Commissioners for such action
as may be considered necessary

Long
26/9/18.

To the Plague Commr.

with Copy of No. 291 d. of 18-3-92

(dtd) A. T. A.
H. W. B.

Yes. But I don't know see what
more he can do than the existing
Regulations provide, viz (Ref 26, page 21
of pamphlet) that passengers by canals
shall be subject to inspection as in the
same way as passengers by railway - i.e.
we should establish inspection stations &
stop & inspect all boats.

(dtd) H. W. B.
23/9/18.

Yes. The S.C. will have to work it
out.
(dtd) A. T. A.
23-9-18.

H. T. A. Secretary to Government

19TH MARCH 1892, No. 291 I., PUBLIC WORKS.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Irrigation.

READ—the following papers:—

From W. A. HAPPELL, Esq., District Magistrate, Godavari, to the Chief
Secretary to Government, dated Cocanada, 24th December 1891, No. 65.

During epidemics Radhari passenger boats navigating the Godavari canals are
infected with contagious diseases and no rules exist for the inspection and disinfection
of such boats. The revised navigation rules for the Godavari, Kistna and Buck-
ingham canals do not contain any provision to meet such cases [see enclosure (to be
returned)]. I think it necessary that suspected boats should be placed in quarantine.
I have, therefore, the honour to suggest that a clause be added to the revised navi-
gation rules providing for the disinfection of affected boats and requiring syrang
to report all cases of cholera on board to the nearest Magistrate or Police station-
house officer under penalty.

2. There have been two outbreaks of cholera in Ellore, one in Rajahmundry and
one in Cocanada this year under circumstances which leave little room for doubt that
the infection was conveyed by passengers in canal boats or by boats in which persons
attacked with cholera had travelled. In the case of Cocanada it is known for certain
that the infection was brought by a telegraph signaller who was attacked with cholera
on his way from Rajahmundry in a boat. Had the case been reported before he left
the boat, precautions to prevent the spread of the disease would have been taken and
the epidemic might not have occurred.

3. Whenever there is cholera anywhere it is sure to break out in a severe form
on the road from Bezvada to Hyderabad and likely to be brought in boats to Ellore
and thence to Rajahmundry and Cocanada.

4. I may add that the arrangements made by the Engineer for the enforcement
of cleanliness in the boats are very ineffective and require improvement.

Memo. No. 30.

Transferred to the Public Works Department.

(Signed) A BUTTERWORTH,
Ag. Under-Secretary.

7th January 1892.

Letter to the Sanitary Commissioner, dated 17th January 1892, No. 36 M.
" from " " 3rd February " " 349 S.

ORDER—dated 19th March 1892, No. 291 I., Public Works.

Under section 16 (ii) of the Canals and Ferries Act, 1890, the Governor in
Council is pleased to make the following rule in respect of the navigable canals of the
Godavari and Kistna districts and of the Buckingham canal:—

"It shall be the duty of the syrang or person navigating any canal vessel to report the
occurrence on such vessel of any case of cholera or small-pox at the first lock, declared wharf, or
toll station, at which the vessel arrives after such occurrence; the report to be made to the lock

or wharf superintendents or other officers of the Public Works Department in charge at such places.

"2. Those officers are, under section 7 of the Canals and Public Ferries Act of 1890, empowered and required to at once stop such vessel from proceeding further, to remove all passengers or other persons from the vessel, and to isolate it as far as possible until it has been disinfected."

2. This rule will be duly notified in the *Fort St. George Gazette* and in the District Gazettes of the Godavari, Kistna, Nellore and Chingleput districts and will be added to the navigation rules which are already in force under the Act.

3. The following instructions for disinfection of canal vessels, drawn up in general accordance with the suggestions of the Sanitary Commissioner, will be furnished to all officers and subordinates of the Public Works Department of the districts concerned; the necessary supplies of sulphur and carbolic acid will be made to all locks, toll stations and public wharves of the Godavari, Kistna and Buckingham canals and there kept in readiness by the superintendents or other officers in charge:—

Instructions for the disinfection of canal vessels.

(1) When any case or suspected case of cholera or small-pox has occurred in a boat, the boat should as soon as possible be cleansed and disinfected under the supervision of a competent person and the following instructions should be carried out:—

(a) If the case has occurred in one of the cabins or in any part of the boat which can be shut up or closed, fumigation with the fumes of sulphurous acid should be adopted. To do this: shut up the place to be fumigated and burn sulphur (1 lb. for every 1,000 cubic feet of space) in it. After six hours of action the place should be thrown wide open to allow of a free current of air passing through the cabin, &c., for at least 24 hours; whenever a medical officer is at the station the disinfection should be carried out under his superintendence.

(b) The whole boat should then be well scraped, washed with soap and hot water, to which carbolic acid has been added in the proportion of 1 part of carbolic acid to 20 of water or chloride of lime might be used (instead of carbolic acid) with water and thoroughly mixed with it in the proportion of 1 lb. to the gallon. Care must be taken that the scrapings and washings are not thrown into the canal and arrangements should be made for their disposal by having them buried in suitable spots.

(2) In the case of large towns, such as Cocanada, Rajahmundry, Ellore, Bezvada, &c., the local authorities should provide, during cholera prevalence, temporary places for the reception of any person or persons suffering or suspected to be suffering from cholera. These temporary places should be situated out of the town, but within a convenient distance of the spot where the boats are usually moored. The medical officer in charge of these temporary hospitals should visit as much as possible the passenger boats before their departure and also all boats on their arrival.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. T. WALCH,
Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

" Superintending Engineer, I Circle.

" " " " II "

" Public Department.

" Judicial "

" Revenue "

" Sanitary Commissioner.

" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

- Local & municipal Dept-

Exd. A. D. Xavier.

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IRRIGATION.

Govt. of {1892} Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated March, 19th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 19th Mar. 1892, No. 291 L.

MARCH.

Boats

Issuing rules, with instructions, for the inspection and disinfection of — on the Godavari and Kistna canals and the Buckingham canal, so as to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

When given for copying _____
When copied _____ 189
When examined _____
When signed _____