V.E

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

(189)

PRINTED

Letter **No.** 91

DATED 8. 10. 98

58
66
50
116

Desp^d 22-10-98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Plague Regulations

Declining, with remarks, to relax the — in favour of the servants of the Telegraph department proceeding on urgent duty.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.
491	29-10-98		

Proceedings of the Plague Commissioner,

MADRAS—1898.

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

Letter, No. 91, 8th October 1898.

OCTOBER.

Plague Regulations.

Declining, with remarks, to relax the — in favour of the servants of the Telegraph department proceeding on urgent duty.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

Read—the following paper:—

From A. W. FOORD, Esq., Superintendent of Telegraph, Madras Division, to the Plague Commissioner, Madras, dated 30th September 1898, No. 4557.

I have the honour to bring to your notice the very serious inconvenience that may accrue through officials of this department being prevented from freely travelling over the telegraph lines on interruption or other emergent duty.

I understand that in the Bombay Presidency a notification was issued cautioning plague inspectors and others against detaining telegraph officials or menials travelling on urgent Government duty, unless found to be actually suffering from plague, and would request that similar instructions may be issued here.

As all members of the telegraph line staff wear badges, there can be no difficulty in identifying them, and if coolies are travelling with them, the names and numbers could be taken down before commencing the journey. A very early reply will oblige.

Letter—No. 91, dated 8th October 1898.

With reference to your letter, dated 30th September 1898, No. 4557, I have the honour to say that the case of Bombay is perfectly different from that of Madras. There plague exists almost everywhere, so it is a matter of comparatively small importance, where infected people go. Here, in Madras, we are making strenuous efforts to keep plague out, and obviously, if your officials and coolies are allowed to travel about to and from infected areas without being disinfected, we run a serious risk of introducing plague. All Collectors understand the importance of releasing your men as soon as possible and fresh instructions will now be issued that where telegraph parties pass frontier ports, they should be disinfected at once and allowed to go on with the least possible delay. I would suggest that you supply all your men with instructions that when setting out on any journey on which they know that they have to pass any frontier stations and if they are coming from any infected area, they should telegraph ahead to the infection station in order that the Medical Officer there may be ready at once to disinfect the party and let them go. If this is done the delay will be reduced to a very small limit. I cannot, in the face of the immense importance of preventing any person not disinfected from coming from an infected area to a non-infected area, relax the rules further than this.

Every Collector will, I am sure, give you all possible assistance in the matter, provided he secures the disinfection of the party at the frontier stations. It must be remembered it is *not* that we fear any of your party may have plague, what we fear is that they may have the plague infection either on their persons or clothes. Hence the necessity for disinfection.

2. I regret the delay in replying to your letter, but I had to collect some information before replying to it.

Plague Commissioner.

Copy to all Collectors for information and the
favour of seeing that these instructions are carried out.
„ the Sanitary Commissioner.
„ all Medical Officers in charge of Inspection Stations.

Exd Shaik Karim.

Letter 91 8 Octr

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As all members of the telegraph line staff wear badges, there can be no difficulty in identifying them, and if coolies are travelling with them, the names and numbers could be taken down before commencing the journey. A very early reply will oblige.

~~Order—No. 17 T., dated 1st October 1898.~~

Copy of the letter will be forwarded to all Collectors. It is requested that where any telegraph official certifies that his duty is emergent, he and his party be detained the shortest possible time. If the party has come from an infected area, the clothes of the party should be disinfected and the parties bathed. Unless the duty they are on is so emergent as to necessitate their getting immediately to their work, when, in very special cases, they may be allowed to pass without disinfection. In all cases the names and addresses of all the parties must be taken and great care observed that the whole party is actually on telegraph work.

(True Extract.)

M. HAMMICK,
Plague Commissioner.

~~To all Collectors.~~
~~„ the Sanitary Commissioner.~~
~~„ all Medical officers in charge of Inspecting Stations.~~

Exd. S. J. Pereira.

Proceedings of the {1898} Plague Commissioner.

Proof

Recd. } 1898. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

No. 17 T., 1st October 1898.

OCTOBER.

Detention of Servants of the Telegraph Department.

Ordering, with remarks, that the servants of the Telegraph Department proceeding on urgent duty should be detained the shortest time possible at inspection and that the rules regarding disinfection of clothing, &c., may be relaxed under very special circumstances.

Proof Substitute

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~~(True Extract.)~~

M. HAMMICK,
Plague Commissioner.

To all Collectors.
„ the Sanitary Commissioner.
„ all Medical officers in charge of Inspect~~ing~~ion Stations.

Substitute new draft. Very sorry for having given a unnecessary trouble

Ext. S. J. Pereira.

Proceedings of the (1898) Plague Commissioner, Madras?

Proof Submitted for approval
NHS
5/10/98

Recd. } 1898. Enclosures
Regd. } Spare copies

No. 17 T., 1st October 1898.

OCTOBER. 7

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Current No. 26/Tour ~~INDEX No.~~ of 189 -9 .

L 2c. (½ foolscap).

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

From
The SUPERINTENDENT,
Madras Division,
To The Plague Commissioner
Madras

No. 4557 Dated 30 September 1898
(Place) Madras.
Encs. Recd.

Abstract.

Precis.

10

Sir,

~~With reference to your letter No.~~ , ~~dated the~~ ~~of~~ ~~189~~ , I have the honour to bring to your notice the very serious inconvenience that may accrue through officials of this Department being prevented from freely travelling over the Telegraph lines on interruption or other emergent duty.

I understand that in the Bombay presidency a notification was issued cautioning plague Inspectors and others against detaining Telegraph officials or menials travelling on urgent Government duty; unless found to be actually suffering from plague, and would request that similar instructions may be issued here.

As all members of the Telegraph line staff wear badges, there can be no difficulty in identifying them, and if Coolies are travelling with them, the names and numbers could be taken down before commencing the Journey.

A very early reply will oblige.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
AWGood
Superintendent,
Madras Division.

28

Print

Order No. 17/Tour d/ 1-10-98

Copy of this letter will be forwarded to all Collectors. This requested that where any Telegraph official certifies that his duty is emergent, he & his party be detained the shortest possible time. If the party has come from an infected area, the clothes of the party sh. be disinfected & the parties bathed – unless the duty they are on is so emergent as to necessitate their getting immediately to their work when, in very special cases, they may be allowed to pass without disinfection. In ~~any~~ all cases the names & addresses of all the party must be taken & great care [illegible] that the whole party is actually on Telegraph work.

1 x. 98

To
All Collectors.
Sanitary Commr.
Medical officers in ch. of Insp [illegible]

Letter No 18/Tour d/ 1-10-98

To Supt. Telegraphs
Madras Divn.

Sir
With reference to your letter d 30th Sept 98 – 4587 I have the honour to send you a copy of an order I have issued re your letter. I beg to point out that if you can arrange to keep your parties working always, either inside or outside infected areas, it would simplify matters very much. Since an arrangement might not I know think be difficult – All parties working South of Guntakal for instance might be prevented from going into Guntakal or beyond it to the North. Some delay must result as your coolies cannot be allowed to go about free from an inspection. They are liable to carry plague or [illegible] people

1-10-98

No 91
8-10-98

28

To Supt. Telegraph Madras Division

Sir
With reference to your letter d. 30th Sept 98 No 4557. I have the honour to say that the case of Bombay is perfectly different from that of Madras – There plague exists almost every where, so it is a matter of comparatively small importance where infected people go. Here in Madras we are making strenuous efforts to keep plague out, & obviously if your officials and coolies are allowed to travel about to & from infected areas ~~[illegible]~~ without being disinfected we run a serious risk of introducing plague – All Collectors understand the importance of releasing your men as soon as possible & fresh instructions will now be issued that where telegraph parties pass frontier posts, they sh. be disinfected at once & ~~and~~ then allowed to go on with the least possible delay – I would suggest that you supply all your men with instructions that when they are on any journey on which they

know that they have to pass any
Frontier stations & if they are
coming from any infected area,
they sh^d telegraph ahead to the
Inspection stations in order that
the medical officer there may be
ready at once to disinfect
the party & let them go.
If this is done the delay will
be reduced to a very small
limit. I cannot in the face of
the immense importance of
~~disinf~~ preventing any person
not disinfected from coming
from an infected area to a
non-infected area relax the
rules further than this.
Every Collector will I am sure
give you all possible assistance
in the matter, provided he secures
the disinfection of the party at
the frontier stations. It must
be remembered it is not that
we fear any of your party may
have plague, what we fear is
that they may have the plague
infection either on their persons
or clothes. Hence they necessarily
be
infected
or begun
must issue

K H 6.x.98

be allowed to go ... inspection. They are liable to carry plague
... other people

H.x.98

2. I regret the delay in
replying to your letter but
I had to collect some
information before replying
to it.

Copy to all Coll^rs for
information & the favour of
seeing that these instructions
are carried out.

Copy to the San^y Comm^r
All medical officers
in charge of Inspection stations

J 6.x.98

All Collectors.
" Sanitary Comm^r
" Medical officers in ch. of Insp. stations

L 2a. (Foolscap).

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

		INDEX No. OF 189 -9 .
FROM	The Superintendent Madras Division	ABSTRACT.
TO	The Plague Commissioner, Madras	PRECIS.
No. 4557/1	Dated 6 October 1898	
	(Place) Madras	
Encs.	Recd.	

Urgent

SIR,

~~With reference to your letter No.~~ , ~~dated the~~ ~~of~~ ~~189~~ , I have the honour to invite your attention to my letter No. 4557 dated 30 Septr/98 and to request the favor of very early reply thereto.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A W Foord
Superintendent.
Madras Division.

~~What is this~~

J 6.x.98

(Don't print)

G G P—No. 844 T—6 3 97—10000

Inspector. They are ...
P. L. ...

... Medical Officer in ch of Insp St:

"Placem

Code Class. DT **INDIAN TELEGRAPHS.** Monthly Number. 10

To (Office)	MS. Fort	From (Office)	MS

Words.	Day.	Hour.	Minute.	Official Instructions.
22/8	8	14	32	Wfd.

To (Person)	4557/1 Plague Commissioner Madras.	From (Person)	Supt Telegraphs Madras. Dn

Please reply early my letter 4557 of 30th ult matter urgent

("Don't print")

Dated
Despat
Received

LN. Sent to LN.

by ... Hrs. by MADRAS FORT 8-10-98 Telegraph Master.

F.C.I.

Forwa...

of correspond...

taken place between ~~my~~ this office and the officers concerned in regard to the detention ~~of~~ at the Hospet inspection station for disinfection of the subordinates of the Govt Telegraph department and of the S. M. R. Company.

Put up the draft

W 3+ 8

[illegible] they are [illegible]
[illegible]

.. Medical officer in ch of Insp. St.

A

Copy of telegram dated 29-8-98 from the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Belgaum to the Collector of Bellary.

Please inform me why telegraph Sub Inspector Abdul and telegraph lineman are detained at Hospet and when they will be permitted to proceed.

Copy of telegram dated 30-8-98 from the Collector of Bellary to the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Belgaum.

Sub Inspector and lineman were detained 24 hours Hospet under orders of Medical officer in charge plague inspection station.

Copy of telegram dated 30-8-98 from the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Belgaum to the Collector of Bellary.

Your message of date kindly infor

me on what grounds the telegraph sub inspector and lineman were detained while travelling on duty.

—

Copy of letter Dis: No. $\frac{256\text{-}P}{2\text{-}9\text{-}98}$ from the Collector of Bellary to the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Belgaum.

—

In reply to your telegram of 30-8-98 I have the honour to inform you that the medical officer in charge of the Hospet inspection station reports that your men were detained under the rules for this Presidency (he no doubt refers to Additional plague regulation 5 b) and that under those rules Government subordinates travelling on duty are not exempt from detention for the purpose of being disinfected if the medical officer at the frontier directs their disinfection.

—

Copy of letter No. 3769 dated 10-9-98 from the Superintendent of Telegraphs Belgaum to the Collector of Bellary.

—

With

.. Medical Officer in ch of Insp. St.

With reference to your letter No. 256-P, dated the 2nd of September 1898, I have the honour to inform you that if the Government Telegraph staff is to be detained in such manner it will mean that when the important wires between Bombay and Madras which carry international traffic, are interrupted, restoration of communication will be very seriously delayed.

2. Under these circumstances I would ask if the rules cannot be relaxed in the favour of the Government Telegraph staff when pro-ceeding on duty connected with the restoration of communication on telegraph lines.

3. I request the favour of a very early reply.

—

Copy of letter Dis: No. 362-P dated

19-9-98 from the Collector of Bellary to the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Belgaum.

—

In reply to your letter 3769 dated 10-9-98 I have the honour to invite your attention to the telegram despatched to you by Government on 12-9-98 and to state that in special cases the medical officer in charge of the Hospet inspection station would probably be able to arrange for the disinfection of your men on the railway premises during the detention of the train instead of in the disinfection camp the following morning.

—

Copy of letter no 3827 dated 15-9-98 from the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Bellary division

—

I have the honour to request that you will kindly issue special plague passes to Mr D. D. Banerji, Assistant Superintendent of Telegraphs in charge of the Bellary Sub-division for himself and his two servants, one peon, 2 Sub-Inspectors and 15 linemen of his Sub-Division when travelling on urgent duty connected with the Maintenance and restoration of Telegraph Communication in his Sub-Division.

2. As international Telegraph wires pass through his Subdivision, it is of the utmost importance that they should not be delayed when travelling by Plague Regulations.

—

Copy of letter R.C. 1570 P dated 25-9-98 from the Collector of Bellary to the Superintendent of Telegraphs Bellary Sub-division

—

In reply to your letter $\frac{3827}{15\text{-}9\text{-}98}$ I have the honour to enclose a Copy of the additional Mufassal plague regulations for your information and to state that as this district is not an infected area Special passes cannot be issued (please see the form of Appendix IV).

I have no doubt that if you telegraph in advance

to

to the medical officer in charge of the Hospet inspection
station in cases of urgency he will make arrangements
to disinfect, while the train waits, such of your
men who travel third class and would ordinarily
be detained for disinfection till the next train as
stated in my letter dis 362 P / 19-9-98.

2. You will observe that under no 30 of the regulations
I can grant exemption from liability to take out passports (for the passport rules please see no 56 of the
regulations) to persons with regard to whom there are
no reasonable grounds for suspicion of infection, and I
enclose herewith a document granting exemption in
the case of Mr Banerji, Assistant Superintendent,
In the case of the other members of the staff, please
furnish me with their names and let me know
what steps are being taken to protect them against
possible infection, e.g. if they have been inoculated, the
fact may be stated with the dates of inoculation,
and I shall then consider whether they too should
be granted similar exemption.

Copy of letter no 343 dated 28-9-98 from the Medical
Officer in charge of the Hospet inspection station to the
Collector of Bellary.

With reference to your correspondence ending in no 1570 P / 28-9-98
I have the honour to point out that it will be
practically

practically impossible for various reasons to carry out
personal and baggage disinfection while the train waits
at the railway station. Amongst other things it would
have to be done in the dead of night under conditions
which besides entailing a prolonged delay of the train
would mean a considerable amount of inconvenience not to
say risk to health of those bathed and otherwise passed
through the usual disinfection process. There are
moreover as you are probably aware no efficient
arrangements here in regard to lighting etc to meet
the requirements of a night disinfection.

I would therefore suggest that in the cases of
urgency referred to which presumably are likely
to be of rare occurrence arrangements be made by
the Telegraph Authorities themselves to have different
parties of men for infected and non-infected sections
of the line or in case this is not practicable that
the men be sent through by the goods train so
as to arrive by day

(True Copy)

2/10/98
Ag Collector

KS
2-10-98

Hospet I
P.I. Plague 1898

Medical officers

Rec: 1
Cav: 17/3/98

[illegible] 1 [illegible] people M.I.M. Medical officer [illegible]

B

Copy of Collector's Notification No 297 dated 16-5-98.

With reference to G.O. $\frac{330\text{-}P}{14.4.98}$ communicating the views of the Government of India that the plague rules should not, under any circumstances, exempt from their operation any class of persons as such, or be limited to persons who travel by railway by a particular class, this office order $\frac{845}{19.3.98}$ exempting from the necessity of taking out passports or passes various employes of the Southern Mahratti railway as a class is hereby cancelled.

Copy of letter No $\frac{T.C.8/98}{21.9.98}$ from the Traffic Manager Southern Mahratta railway Company Dharwar, to the Collector of Bellary.

With reference to your notification No. $\frac{297\text{-}P}{16.5.98}$, I have the honour to bring to your notice that great inconvenience is experienced owing to the detention of the Company's Subordinate Staff at Hospet whenever they pass through or alight at that Station, for purposes of disinfection. For instance the movements of Station masters

Masters proceeding from one Station to another on Relieving Duty and of the Inspecting Signaller, Batterymen and Clock Winder are greatly hindered, and in the case of the Inspecting Signaller and his men serious consequences might result from any delay in restoring telegraphic communication and in the case of Station Masters and Asst. Station Masters serious consequences might arise through any delay in relieving them when they are unfit for duty.

The most recent orders of Government No. 977 P. dated 1st instant require only the inspection of Guards, Drivers, and Firemen and I would enquire whether your orders cannot be modified so as to allow a similar system to apply to Inspecting and Relieving Staff, instead of the present system of detention.

The orders of the Government of India published in the Madras Plague Regulations and Rules, page 79 para 11 permit some relaxation of this kind, and I trust that you may be able to assist the Company in the matter. I may add that the duties of the Subordinate Staff on the Bellary District, do not require them to travel west of Gadag Station.

2-10-98

True Copy /

Ag. Collector.

2/10/98

Fi: 2 / Cor: 173/98

Plague

BELLARY COLLECTOR'S OFFICE.

No. Dated 2 - 10 - 1898.

FROM E: A: Elwin Esquire
Ag COLLECTOR OF
BELLARY.

To
THE Plague Commissioner,
Madras.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward for your advice copies of correspondence th has taken place between my office an the officers concerned in regard to the de -tion at the Hospet inspection station for disinfection of the subordinates the Government Telegraph Departme and of the Southern Mahratta Railw Company.

A Government Telegraph depart

B. Southern Mahratta Railway Comp

2. I doubt whether, even if I felt d -posed to do so, I have under the re

any power to interfere with the discretion of the Commissioned medical Officer in charge of plague inspection station in the matter of the disinfection of passengers entering this Presidency from places declared to be infected with plague.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obdt servant

[illegible]

2.10.98

Acting Collector

-10-98

---

rst copy sent to Press.

turned for signature.

spatched in print.

No.
189

No.

No.

A = Print in full.
= Not to be printed.
= Print abstract only.
Q = Print heading only.

V. E.

Note for the Press

Order No. 17/T of d/ 1. 10. 98 has been cancelled. Please show proof No. 90 of 8-10-98 in which the letter of the Supdt of Telegraphs ~~dt~~ No 4557 of 30. 9. 98 (now in type) should be read.

W.A.S. 9/10/98

---

copies
Order complete.
Letter only.
Order complete with Letter.

Note for the Press

Order No. 17/T of
1. 10. 98 has
been cancelled.
Please therefore print
No. 9 of 8-10-98
in which the
letter of the Supdt.
of Telegraphs
No. 4557 of 30. 9. 98
(now in type) should
be read.

WH 9/10/98

with the dis-cretion
cal Officer in
n station in
tion of passengers
from places
ith plague.
honour to be
ir,
obt servant

collector

rst copy sent to Press.

turned for signature.

spatched in print.

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

A.—Print in full.
B.—Not to be printed.
C.—Print abstract only.
Q.—Print heading only.