[L. & M. / 2,000—19-4-98.]

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 989

DATED 2-9-98

✓

[Despatch Abstract.]

Plague in Kodaikanal

Passing orders on the letter of Mr J. Humphrey complaining against the harsh treatment his family & servants received from the plague Officers when one of his servants was attacked with plague, & requesting him, with remarks, to address the Collector of Madura on the subject of payment of compensation for the articles of clothing destroyed.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

[L]
200—16-3-98.

Papers to be read in Proceedings :—

Again G.O., No. dated 189 ,

Again G.O., No. dated 189 ,

Current No. 1482 P of 1898, dated 25-8-98, from Mr. Humphrey

" " " 189 , " "

" " " 189 , " "

ORDER. No. 989 P. mis. dy 2-9-98

That a strict enforcement of the Plague Regulations causes personal inconvenience to individuals is acknowledged, but these Regulations are framed for the safety of the general public, and the Govt. is unable to find anything in the action of the inspecting officer at Tungabhadra or of the local authorities of Kodaikanal to find fault with. The rules do not recognize any distinction of class and rank, and it would have been improper to make any relaxation in the case of Mr. Humphrey on the ground that he was a European.

2. Disinfection of person and clothing

Clothing is a matter left by the Govt of India to the discretion of the ~~insp~~ officers in charge of the plague inspection stations, and a pass issued by an officer under another Local Govt is not binding on the officers of this Govt. ~~It is~~

The orders of ~~that~~ the Government of India require that all passengers coming from an area declared infected should be removed from the railway carriages for the purpose of examination.

3. It is no doubt true that Mr Humphrey's servant developed plague 11 days after he had left Bombay ~~and~~ in apparent good health, and that in the Venice Sanitary Convention of March 1897, a ten-days' period is taken as the practical basis for preventive measures. But the infection of plague may be carried in the clothing and other effects as well as in the person, and the ten days period relates to incubation in the person. Two cases are cited in page 27 of Volume I of Nathan's Plague in India — one in which a girl caught the infection from a piece of clothing removed from a box which had remained unopened for 2 months, and the other in which a passenger who left Bombay on the 20 August 1897 in a healthy ship and arrived in England on the 11th September

September fell ill with plague in about 15 days afterwards by using clothing which had remained unopened until the end of the voyage. How Mr Humphrey's servant caught the infection is not known, but the allegation that he caught it by reason of his detention at the Tungabhadra Camp cannot be accepted, since ~~cannot is not true for the very simple reason that~~ though 2,394 persons have been detained in that Camp since the date of its opening (22-4-98), ~~so~~ there has not been a single case of plague there up to date.

4. Mr Humphrey is requested to address the Collr of Madura on the subject of payment of compensation for the articles of clothing destroyed and of remuneration to the person who attended on the patient. At the same time, he is informed that the rules do not provide for payment of compensation except ~~to poor~~ persons who are too poor to replace the articles destroyed, and that Govt ~~cannot undertake to pay attendants on plague patients~~ undertakes the care of sick people at ~~the~~ its cost only when they have no friends or relations to attend on them or are unable to engage paid attendants.

W 1.9.98

To Mr J. Humphrey with 2 enclos

PLO

Copy to the Collr of Madura

LLD

Ling 31/8/98

JJA Desd 6-9-98

Vide Collr's letter C. No. 1509 P.

All the points have not been answered

Now answered [illegible] 1/9/98

1.9.98

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 1482

Put up Venice Convention G.O. & return with Collr's & [illegible] reports after receipt of Bellary Collr's reply [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] camp
Lacy 30/8/98

From Mr. J. Humphrey
Kodaikanal

Order

No.

Dated 25-8-1898
Received 29-8-1898
Registered 29-8-1898
Enclosures 2
Spare copies.

SUBJECT

Complaining about the harsh treatment his family and servants received from the plague officers when one of his servants was attacked with plague.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

C No 1482

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
29 AUG 1898
LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

Rosemount
Kodaikanal

25th August 1898

The Secretary
To the Madras Government
Local & Municipal Dept.
Ootacamund

Sir,

I have the honor to state that on the 24th July last I despatched three of my servants consisting of my Butler, Cook & Cooks boy, from Bombay to Kodaikanal, and that prior to their departure they were inspected by the duly constituted medical authorities in that City, and were furnished with "an" urgent business pass" which is enclosed herewith in original, (Form A) from which you will observe they were medically examined, and were free from plague, also that their residence was uninfected, and in this connection I may state that my family have resided in Bombay during the whole of this epidemic, and that none of my family or my servants have been attacked by plague.

The pass also states in red ink that the

(2)

not to be detained or disinfected en route, subject to their passing the medical examination. They arrived at Thungabudra at 3 pm. on the 25th July, and they all assert, that they were not examined in the train; and my Butler who had the pass in his poss-ession, further states that before getting out of the Carriage, he particularly requested the Medical Officer, in Hindustani, to examine the pass, and also sta-ted to him that his employer was following in a day or two, and that he was anxious to reach Kodai in order that he might prepare this Bungalow for us, but he was informed, in Hindustani, that "as they came from Bombay they must turn out" and the Officer refused, to acknowledge the pass.

Did not bind this Govt.

Subsequent to the departure of the train, they were examined, & disinfected and were put into Huts, & detained until 1 am on the 26th, when they were sent on to Kodaikanal by mixed train, and reached here at 4. pm on the 29th or two days later than they were due. I find they were also examined at Guntakul, Arkonam & Chengelput, but were not detained at any of these stations.

On the morning of the 30th they were all examined by the Medical authority at this station, and daily there-after until the 4th August. On the 5th inst the lad Pereira, (no 2 on the Pass) was ill, and did not attend for examination, and about 9. am on the 6th the Cook Nicholas Francis called my attention to the lad, and I at once examined him, and as his symptoms were suspiciously like those of plague, I went personally, to the resident Apothecary, who came to the Bungalow and examined him, and as he was of opinion also that the lad was attacked by plague, he, at once, arranged for his removal to an isolated building, and the rooms in which the lad and Cook had slept were thoroughly disinfected by turning up the floor and by Fire.

On the 27 July I left Bombay with my family, and accompanied by 2 other servants who were also provided with a pass, (Form B) and which you will observe states that they were examined by the plague authorities in Bombay, & subject to their travelling with their master, & their passing the medical examination, they were to be exempted from all detention en route. On arrival at Thungabadra I was notified by the Plague authorities they must be detained, and it was only after my remonstrating with the Officer, and pointing out to him the conditions of the pass, and stating that my premises, as well as my servants, had remained absolutely unaffected, that they were allowed to proceed.

I mention this personal experience, as it confirms in a striking way, the correctness of my servants statements.

The result of this outbreak of plague in my household, has been of the utmost inconvenience and annoyance too, as all the native dealers ceased to supply us, and on more than one occasion we were absolutely without meat or Vegetables, and I was compelled to request the Tehsildar to arrange for supplies to be sent to us and with which he at once complied. Supplies however, were subsequently so irregularly brought, that in order to ensure our wants being met, I was forced to make arrangements with the Manager of Messrs Spencer & [illegible] branch here, to supply us, and which, although foreign to their business, he at once most considerately consented to do, & has since carried out.

In addition to this, the whole of my family were put into quarantine, and we were desired to avoid entering any other Compound, and, under orders, for 24 hours we did not leave this Compound. This latter restriction however was removed, on a strong remonstrance being sent to the resident Apothecary.

During the whole time the plague has existed in Bombay, I have never heard of a single instance in which inter-communication has been prevented between Europeans, even when the servants or the Family themselves have been affected; nor do I know of any restriction having been placed

(5)

There is no distinction of ~~the~~ race or class

on the movements of Europeans inhabiting infected premises.

Query.

As the Venice Convention has fixed the maximum time for incubation as ten days, and as this is supported by authoritative statements I have received, and is convincingly ~~supported~~ confirmed by its being the period fixed generally throughout this Country for detention in Segregation and plague Camps, it will be seen from the information that I have given above, that the lad Pereira must have contracted the disease after he had passed out of Bombay territory, and I am emphatically of opinion that he contracted it during the time he was detained at Tungabudra; as it appears to me that there is no practicable means of effectually disinfecting building of the nature of those at that station, & it is therefore presumably impossible to prevent contagion to persons segregated in Huts where Infectants have stayed, and using conveniences previously used by them; and I feel sure that if the provisions of the pass had been observed in the present case, my servant would have escaped infection, the annoyance we have suffered would have been spared, and the residents

S.A. No case of Plague has been suspected at Tungabadra; has it?.

at this station would have been saved the intense anxiety and terror that not unnaturally seized them.

I wish also to mention, that as this station appeared to be without the means of adequately nursing the lad, my Cook volunteered to attend him, & his services were appropriated by the Medical authorities to our serious discomfort, as under the circumstances we naturally could not fill his place, and as I conclude there will be some compensation given to both the patient & the Cook for the loss of clothing, bedding &c which they will suffer, I venture to submit for your consideration that a further return be given to the Cook for so nobly undertaking the hazardous duty of nursing his assistant.

I have thus fully laid this matter before you, not on account of what we have suffered, but in the hope that your Government may see their way to support the very judicious & careful steps adopted by the Plague authorities of Bombay, as evidenced in the passes enclosed, and also that a like annoyance may be prevented to other European residents in

Bombay, who may in future visit the Madras Presidency.

Before concluding this letter I desire to place on record my appreciation of the kindness and consideration that we have experienced at the hands of all the Officials in the discharge of their unpleasant duties.

As I am staying here for 2 months the favor of an acknowledgement to the above address will oblige.

I have the honor to be
Your most obedient Servant
J Humphrey.

C.B. 1858 P

Plague

80.886

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 1858

UNDER SECY TO GOVT
SEP 98

File with G.O. above [illegible]

Order

File this with G.O. No. $\frac{989}{2-9-98}$

& also Memo $\frac{126}{30-8-98}$. This should have been done last [illegible]

20/9/98.

From

The Collector of Bellary.

D. Dis. No. 295-P

Dated 4-9-98.

Received 7-9-1898

Registered 7-9-1898

Enclosures ..

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Stating that there has not been any case of suspected plague in the Tungabhadra Camp since the date of its establishment in April last.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

C.C.B. 1835 P

Plague

D Dis No. 295-P

BELLARY COLLECTOR'S OFFICE.
Dated 4-9- 1898.

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

To
THE Secretary to Government,
Local and Municipal department,
Ootacamund.

SIR,

In reply to Government memorandum No. 126-P / 30-8-98 I have the honour to state that there has not been any case of suspected plague in the Tungabhadra camp since the date of its establishment in April la

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

Acting Collector

R.B.
4-9-98

Memorandum.

Dated the 29th August 1898.

No. 1268

The Collr. of Bellary is requested to report urgently whether there has been any case of Suspected plague in the Tungabhadra Camp since the date of its establishment, and if so, to furnish details.

[illegible] 29/8/98.

29 8 98

To the Collr. of Bellary ✓

Desd 30-8-98

n given for copying

do

en examined

en signed

189

AGAIN G.O., No.

189 . , DATED

ENT No.

OSURES TO C. No.

D OF GOVERNMENT

NMENT.

WITH DITTO.

FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
ORIGINAL.

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to be copied.
Copy abstract only.
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