Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

INDEXED
PRINTED

G.O., No. 295 M.

DATED 1-2-98.

DESPATCHED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Bubonic plague

Recording Govt. P.W.D. communicating to the agents of the Madras & S.I. Railways for necessary action letter from the Govt. of India regarding the adoption of measures for the prevention of the re-booking of passengers travelling by railway from an area infected with 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. } 1898. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 295 M., 1st February 1898.

FEBRUARY.

Bubonic Plague.

Recording Government Order, Public Works Department, communicating to the Agents of the Madras and South Indian Railways for necessary action letter from the Government of India regarding the adoption of measures for the prevention of the re-booking of passengers travelling by railway from an area infected with plague.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

G.O., No. 128 R., dated 24th January 1898.

Read—the following letter from Captain H. BONHAM-CARTER, R.E., Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department (Railway Traffic), to the Joint Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department (Railway Branch), dated Calcutta, 10th January 1898, No. 28 R.T.

I am directed to refer to the letter from the Government of India, in the Home Department, No. 47, dated the 5th January 1898, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local and Municipal Department, forwarding a copy of the proceedings of a Conference held at Calcutta on the 17th December 1897, to consider the question of the adoption of measures for the prevention of the re-booking of passengers travelling by railway from an area infected with plague.

2. With reference to the Committee's suggestion that the tickets of all passengers leaving an infected area should be punch-marked so that there should be no difficulty in recognising them even by a dim light, I am to state that the Government of Bombay have been requested to arrange for the marking, at stations on the boundary of the Bombay Presidency, of the tickets of all passengers from that Presidency to other parts of India in the first instance by cutting off a corner of the tickets, and subsequently (as soon the special ticket-nippers can be provided) by punching a hole $\frac{4}{10}$ths of an inch square in the long side of the tickets.

3. As regards the suggestions contained in paragraph 15, clauses (2) and (3), of the proceedings of the Conference, I am to observe that needful instructions have issued to the Local Governments and Administrations controlling the railway police, but that the Government of India desire that railway administrations may be asked to co-operate with the railway police with the object of attaining the end in view.

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3. All travellers from the Bombay Presidency must therefore be allowed to proceed direct to their destination, and the question for consideration is what measures can be adopted to prevent such travellers from concealing the fact that they have come from a place infected with plague.

4. The rules framed by the different Local Governments generally provide :

(1) that at places of inspection if the Medical officer sees reason to suspect that a passenger is infected with plague he may arrange for the detention and treatment of such passenger for so long as he considers necessary ;

(2) that travellers from the infected area shall, on arrival at other stations, be required to give their names and addresses so that their movements may be watched until, owing to the expiry of the period of incubation, the danger of infection has ceased. (Government of India, Public Works Department, letter, No. 224 R.T., dated 6th March 1897) ;

(3) that in the event of a traveller from an infected area alighting at an intermediate station with the object of obtaining a fresh ticket so as to conceal the fact that he comes from an infected area, the Railway Police shall take down his name and the number of the fresh ticket issued, and send information down the line so that he may on alighting be placed under observation. (Bengal Rule 14, Notification No. 9, dated 10th November 1897.)

5. These rules are believed by the Conference to indicate the best method of ensuring that, should a case of plague occur among travellers arriving or newly arrived from an infected area, it shall be at once detected and dealt with. The effective administration of these rules and of any supplementary orders issued by Provincial Governments must depend on the energy and vigilance of the executive staff employed. There are, however, certain general considerations regarding which we desire to offer the following suggestions.

6. The rules of the railway coaching tariffs permit a passenger, who has obtained a ticket for a distance exceeding 100 miles, to break journey, and to alight at any intermediate station. It has been proposed that this privilege should be withdrawn from all persons travelling from infected areas. The proposal does not commend itself to this Conference. If the existing privilege were denied, passengers would be compelled to resort to re-booking and the difficulty of ascertaining the persons who had come from the infected area would be largely increased. It is eminently desirable that travellers from the Bombay Presidency should take through tickets to their final destination.

7. We are of opinion that it is essential to the effective working of the rules we recommend for adoption, that these through tickets should have a distinctive mark. There are difficulties in the issue of tickets of a distinctive colour. But the names of all Bombay stations are not known to the Police and Station officials further east, and there should be some easy mode of recognizing the fact that a ticket was issued within the Bombay Presidency. We suggest therefore that the tickets of all passengers leaving the boundary of the infected area should be punched with an indelible mark such as a square hole. Tickets should be punched at places where a railway passes out of the Presidency. On the Great Indian Peninsula Railway the punching should be so done that passengers from the Central Provinces passing through Bhusawal should not be confounded with those from Bombay. The tickets taken at Bhusawal itself should be punched at the time of issue.

8. Persons coming from infected areas who alight do so with the object either of proceeding direct to their homes or of re-booking. In either case their names and residences will be recorded by the Railway Police or other officials appointed for that purpose, and the information conveyed to the District Police, who must arrange that the occurrence within ten days of sickness at the houses where such persons take up their residence is duly reported.

9. Should such persons re-book within 48 hours, the officials appointed for the purpose will telegraph down the line their names and the numbers of the fresh tickets issued, with a view to their remaining under observation, and will inform the District Police within whose jurisdiction the station of re-booking is situated so that the names of such travellers may be removed from the lists for which the District Police are responsible. It may be that a traveller will profess to break his journey, but instead of resting will proceed by road to another station and then take a fresh ticket for a distant place. There is no evidence that this is a common practice and the

Conference does not consider it necessary to make any specific recommendation on the subject. It is alleged that under arrangements made beforehand persons coming from infected areas are met by friends from non-infected areas with return tickets who exchange tickets with them. For the detection of such evasion of rules responsibility rests upon the Railway Police or other officials entrusted with the duty of enforcing the rules.

10. It is very desirable, if not essential, for the due working of the rules, that a small inspecting staff should be appointed to travel along the line and see that the regulations are carried out and that abuses do not occur. The Railway Administrations might provide free passes for this inspecting staff.

11. Places for inspection have been established for the detection of persons actually suffering from plague or exhibiting symptoms which, in the opinion of the Medical officer, require that the patient should be kept under observation. With reference to the nature of the medical examination in force at such places, the medical authorities might be consulted whether this examination could not be simplified, so that persons not exhibiting symptoms of fever should be exempted from further examination for glandular swellings or other indications of plague.

12. We do not recommend the general adoption of Bengal Rule XI which provides that a passenger will be allowed to proceed to his destination on producing a certificate that for ten days immediately preceding the date of commencing his journey he has been residing in a non-infected area. The infected areas at the present time are not so intermixed as to necessitate the adoption of this rule. We have proposed that the tickets of passengers from the infected areas should be marked, and all other travellers must be presumed to come from non-infected areas.

13. It was proposed that travellers from Bombay should be allowed to book only to the principal stations on each line, and that no passenger with a marked ticket should be permitted to alight at any wayside station to which he could not book from Bombay. We do not accept this proposal. We think it necessary that a Railway Police officer or other official should be posted at all stations and that the work of carrying out the rules under the Epidemic Diseases Act should not be imposed on Station Masters to the risk of their neglecting their duty in connection with the safety of the trains. If there are special officials to enforce the rules at all railway stations, the inconvenience of forbidding travellers to alight except at principal stations is, we consider, unnecessary.

14. The Conference lays great stress on the importance of cordial co-operation between the Railway Police of the different Provinces. The official appointed at each station to take names and addresses should, we think, be under the control of the officer in charge of the Railway Police, and we suggest that such officials should be enlisted under Act V of 1861, so that the necessary discipline and obedience may be enforced by law.

15. To sum up—

(1) The tickets of all passengers leaving the infected area should be punch-marked so that there would be no difficulty in recognizing them even by a dim light.

(2) When a passenger with a marked ticket alights, his name and address should be taken by the Railway Police, and arrangements should be made by the District Police that any case of sickness occurring within ten days in the house of the newly arrived traveller should be reported.

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(Signed) J. D. LaTOUCHE.
(") E. R. HENRY.
(") E. E. OLIVER.
(") H. BONHAM-CARTER.

Order—No. 128 R., dated 24th January 1898.

Communicated to the Agents, Madras and South Indian Railways, for necessary action with reference to paragraph 3 of the Government of India letter.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) F. D. FOWLER,
Under Secretary.

To the Agent and Manager, Madras Railway.
" Agent, South Indian Railway.
" Consulting Engineer for Railways.
" Inspector-General of Police.
" Local and Municipal Department.

Order—No. 295 M., dated 1st February 1898.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

H. TREMENHEERE,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

Copy to the Surgeon-General.
" " Sanitary Commissioner.
" " Medical officers in charge of Plague Inspection Stations.

Ex'd. C. M. Thumbuswamy.

Government {1898} of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Proof for approval.
7/2/98
Press
Strike off
7/2/98

Recd. } 1898. Enclosures
Regd. } Spare copies 1

G.O., No. 295 M., 1st February 1898.

FEBRUARY.

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Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

Plague

CURRENT No. 395 M

58

From Medical Dept Railway Branch

Order No 295 M 8 & 18 Feb 98

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
25 JAN. 18
LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

No. 128-Q

Recorded
P.R. 29/1/98
31.1.98

Dated 24th January 1898

Received 25-1-98

Registered 25-1-98

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SUBJECT.

Bubonic Plague

Letter from Govt. of India forwarding with remarks, Copy of the Proceedings of a Conference held at Calcutta on the 17/12/97 to Consider the Question of the adoption of Measures for the prevention of the — Communicated to the officers concerned for necessary action

Copy to the Surgeon General /6
" " Sanitary Commissioner /
" " Medical officers in Charge of Plague inspection Stations
D.W.P. 10/2/98

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

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J. D. LaTOUCHE.
E. R. HENRY.
E. E. OLIVER.
H. BONHAM-CARTER.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 1051 P. W. D.—10-1-98.—437—R. B.

P.W.D. Railway Branch.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Plague

Read the following:-

No. 28 R. T.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC.

To

(1) THE JOINT SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

(2) THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 10th January 1898.

SIR,

I am directed to refer to the letter from the Government of India, in the Home Department, (1) No. 47 (2) No. 48, dated the 5th January 1898, to the Secretary to the Government of (1) Madras, Local and Municipal Department (2) Bengal, Municipal (Medical) Department, forwarding a copy of the proceedings* of a Conference held at Calcutta on the 17th December 1897, to consider the question of the adoption of measures for the prevention of the re-booking of passengers travelling by railway from an area infected with plague.

* Copy enclosed.

2. With reference to the Committee's suggestion that the tickets of all passengers leaving an infected area should be punch-marked so that there should be no difficulty in recognising them even by a dim light, I am to state that the Government of Bombay have been requested to arrange for the marking, at stations on the boundary of the Bombay Presidency, of the tickets of all passengers from that Presidency to other parts of India in the first instance by cutting off a corner of the tickets, and subsequently (as soon the special ticket nippers can be provided) by punching a hole $\frac{4}{10}$ths of an inch square in the long side of the tickets.

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4. A further communication will be sent in the event of its being decided that effect should be given to the suggestion of the Committee that railway administrations should be asked to grant free passes to the travelling inspecting staff.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

H. BONHAM-CARTER, *Captain, R.E.,*

Offg. Under Secretary.

Documents accompanying.

Copy of the proceedings of the Conference referred to.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 1051 P. W. D.—10-1-98—437—R. B.

395 M

Order:- No. 128. R. dt 24th January 1898.

Communicated to the Agents, Madras, and South Indian Railways for necessary action with reference to para 3 of the Government of India letter.

(True Extract)

H Fowler

Under Secretary.

To

The Agent & Manager, Madras Ry.
" " South Indian Railway
" Consulting Engr for Rys.
" Inspector-General of Police
" Local & Municipal Dept.

File reports

First copy sent to Press. 2-2-98

Returned for signature. 9-2-98

Despatched in print. 10-2-98

Proof again G.O., No. DATED 189

CURRENT No. 295 M (R 128 R. dt 24-1-98)

CROSS REFERENCES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

ENCLOSURE WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED BUT SENT MERELY FOR REFERENCE IN ORIGINAL.

NUMBER OF COPIES REQUIRED. Order complete. 80. Letter only. Order complete with Letter.

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