

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

(1899)

MISCELLANEOUS.

No. 1206
Dated 3/5/99
Despatched 4.5.99

Indured &

[Despatch Abstract.]

Bunching of tickets

Inwarding to the Comr. of Salem letter
from the Mr. Thaburn, St. Judge, Karnool,
as regards the wrong — of his servant
at Jalarpet & requesting the Comr. to impress
on the officers at Jalarpet the necessity
for exercising greater care in the work

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

(1899)

CURRENT No. 4669

Chas. 4631 & 4619. 2/5/88

From

Dep. No. 12067 3/5/88

W. M. Thorburn Esq.
S. Judge Kurnool
Dota Command

For Orders

Long
2/5/88

No.

Dated 28th April 99.

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

1. 5. 99.

nil.

SUBJECT.

The papers are
forwarded to
the
with the request
that the
in the
Office at Jalore
by means of
Serving from
the
tickets

Furnishing further
particulars called for
as regards the wrong
punching of the ticket
of one of his servants
at Jalarpet, while proceeding
from Bekhary to Dotacammund

2 Cols. of Selam -
C.P. to W. M. Thorburn

Desd 4/5/88

M

4631 - A. D. (only)
4619 - (only)
4631 - P.
4619 - P.

Chas 4619

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

21.9

C.B. 4131

Yatton Lodge.
Dorchester.
5th April 1899.

To the Plague Commissioner, Madras Presidency

Sir,

I have the honour to invite your attention to the illegal and oppressive conduct of the plague-officers at Jalaspet and Podanur. The former is in the habit of making plague-marks on the tickets of passengers from Bellary and other places, which have not been declared infected. The latter makes these marks his excuse for forcing passports on the unfortunate passengers, most of whom are ignorant of their rights and wrongs, and consequently afraid to resist this oppression. Sometimes he takes it on himself to issue such passports, though the tickets have not been punched at Jalaspet.

2. On the night of March 31st (or rather early on the morning of April 1st), an apothecary or something of the sort came into my carriage at Jalaspet and questioned me in the usual manner. I showed my ticket to him, but would not let him take it, guessing what might happen if I did. He said that Bellary was an infected area. I told him that, to my certain knowledge (of the Gazette) it was not, and challenged him to produce any notification. He went away saying that he would enquire; and of course he did not return.

3. On arriving at Podanur, the plague-officer gave a passport to one of my servants, whose ticket had been wrongfully punched at Jalaspet, though taken at Bellary and endorsed via Arkonam at the booking-office. This passport, I maintain, is illegal and void, it being the clear duty of the man at Podanur to notice the words on the ticket, and act accordingly, in spite of the marks illegally made.

Yours faithfully,
C.B. 4131

at Jalarpet. The first illegality cannot ^{cause} ~~cause~~ the second, though it may be taken as an extenuation in a departmental enquiry.

4. But the Podanur man seems quite capable of originating illegal and oppressive action without any help from Jalarpet: when he finds ladies travelling unprotected. My wife and another lady from Bellary, travelling from Arkonam to Mettupalayam on the night of February 19th were screened from intrusion by a friendly guard at Jalarpet, and their tickets were consequently free from mis-marking, when they reached Podanur next morning. Nevertheless passports were then forced upon them. At Ottacamund, in consequence of representations by my wife's medical attendant, the Municipal Chairman wrote that, if she went on a certain day to the Hospital between 9 & 11, she would be examined by the Civil Surgeon and troubled no further. She went at 9 and sat in her carriage till 11, but the Civil Surgeon never appeared. She was then quite faint with the long waiting, being in a delicate and critical condition at the time. Some apothecary or Assistant Surgeon came out, and demanded that she should go into the out-patient's room, to be examined by him in a crowd of dirty and diseased Natives of the lowest class. Fortunately she was accompanied by a lady of sense and spirit, who indignantly refused to tolerate such an outrage, and promptly ordered the coachman to drive home. She was not troubled further, but I do not feel called upon to express any gratitude for the discontinuance of oppressive proceedings, which were, ^{originally} illegal from the beginning. She was also illegally deprived of the services of her ayah, cook, and other servants, who came likewise from Bellary via Arkonam, for two or three hours daily during the first ten days of his stay at Bellary.

5. I trust that the misdoers at ~~the~~ all these places will be deprived of their powers of mischievousness, and otherwise

substantially punished. The conduct of those at Jalarpet and Podanur, if not malicious, is the result of the most gross and scandalous negligence. It is obviously one of their primary duties to know exactly the places which have been notified as infected, and to keep their memories right, if necessary, by keeping memoranda in their pockets. 6. Meanwhile I shall be much obliged by your issuing an immediate order to discontinue the examination of the beaver, my servant Anthony, who came with me from Bellary via Arkonam: neither of which places has been notified as infected.

I have the honour to be
Sir

Your most obedient servant
W. M. Thorburn
(District Judge of Karnool).

Def. no 4131
9/10/09

to Hon. Mr. Justice
District Judge of Kanon.
Jettam Lodge.
03.

Deputy
11/4

Sir,

I.L.T. to acknowledge receipt of

your complaint of 5th inst.

2. Nothing improper appears to have
been actually done in your case.

3. The purchasing of the ticket of your
servant having been improper. I shall be

obliged if you will let me know for certain
where it was purchased, at what time.

At Patna, Atman or Jalapet, & the

date & train of which the servant
travelled. The ticket having been once

handed, the police officer at Poddum
was quite right in insisting that a

passport should be taken out, even though the

Station of departure noted on the ticket showed it was purchased in an
uninspected area. It is found that

As to the Ch. of the Virgin after the request that
arrangements may be made ~~for~~ the collection
at St. George's may in whole or in part be in connection
as from the —

When
When
When
When

Ref. Cno 4131

Yeatton Lodge
Ostacumma
28th April 1899.



To the Plague Commission. Madras.

Sir

Sir
 In reply to your letter of the 9th
 received here on the 15th I have the ho-
 -nour to state as follows.

Para 2. The plague-officer at Jalarpet did no harm to me, simply because I would not let him. He attempted to get hold of my ticket for the purpose of wrongfully punching it, and this fact taken in connection with others brought to your notice shows a habit of wrong doing.

Para 3. A. Referring to my first letter I find stated nearly all the details for which you now ask. My servant Antony took a ticket at Bellary ^{about 3 P.M.} on March 30th. It was endorsed via Arkonam, which he

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reached next morning, after changing trains at ~~Antakal~~ between 6 & 7 P.M. On the car-ride of the 3rd he left Arkonam. His ticket was purchased at Jalaspet between midnight and 1st ^{A.M.} on April 1st.

Para 3. B. In the 3rd sentence the word "purchased" is I presume an error for "purchased". I must protect against the dangerous dogma, that the obviously illegal action of a man at Jalaspet or elsewhere would justify the second illegality of issuing a passport at Bodanur. Both men are bound by the notifications in the Gazette, and individually responsible for observing them. The Jalaspet plague-officer has no power of declaring a place infected, and if he should act as if he had, the Bodanur plague-officer's plain duty is to disregard his action, except by reporting it to you. He is not subordinate to the former; nor is he a mere copying machine.

Para 3. C. I do not see the relevance of the fourth sentence. How is it possible for the Jalaspet man to know that a passenger who holds a ticket from (let us say) Bellary, had previously taken a ticket by the same train from some infected place, such as Habli? If you

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3
permit any one to punch tickets on wire
or vision, you open a wide door to oppression
and extortion; and the practice deserves the
serious attention of Government.

Para 3. D. I thank you for putting a stop
to the examination of my servant up here.

Para 4. It is hardly possible that the fe-
male examiner at Bodmer can remem-
ber the state of any particular ticket over
two months before; even if she can be
trusted in the face of strong temptations
to mislead you.

I have the honour to be
Sir

Your obed^t Serv^t

W. W. Thorburn



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When signed

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