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Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

Plague.

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G.O., No. 1225

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Home segregated persons

Rejecting certain proposals for permitting — to pursue their ordinary business on some system of passes.

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 {1899} of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd. } 1899. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 1225 P., 10th August 1899.

AUGUST.

Home Segregated Persons.

Rejecting certain proposals for permitting — to pursue their ordinary business on some system of passes.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

Proceedings of the Plague Commissioner, Mis. No. 1027, dated 27th December 1898.

Read—the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Plague Commissioner, dated Camp, Kamalápuram, 30th November 1898, No. 2931—S.

Government having in its notification, embodied in G.O., No. 1423-A.P., dated 8th November 1898, sanctioned certain far-reaching concessions to the "inoculated," I have the honour to invite attention to paragraph 17 of my letter, No. 1044—S., dated 10th May 1898, which ran as follows :—

"My opinion, therefore, is that inoculation should have no more defined place assigned to it than has already been determined by Government, namely, that every facility should be offered to those willing to use it; that is, it should not be quoted as an alternative to any legal measure. I believe that the marked diminution of mortality which inoculation secures, will undoubtedly bring about the wide adoption of the operation by the population, without the special inducement of relaxing imperative sanitary measures. I would, consequently, not make inoculation the alternative of segregation; but, I would decide the necessity for segregation by the opinion of the local authority, aided by the vigilance committee of the area as to whether an individual of the limited class of persons to whom the rules would be applicable in this Presidency, can be trusted to present himself for examination, or allow himself to be inspected during the necessary ten days. This would simply imply the extension of the system of 'observation,' which has hitherto, thanks to the educated condition of the people of this Presidency, been found applicable. Removal of the sick from the infected house to a suitable locality is essential; but, if this be arranged so that relations be retained in attendance with the right to use their own medicines and food coupled with due care to caste rules and modesty of the female sex, I believe all reasonable sanitary requirements and all reasonable demands for personal liberty will be met."

2. It seems to me that if Government is prepared to accept the very decided risk attending the concessions made in regard to the inoculated, there can exist no reason why a very obvious cause for discontent with the existing plague regulations should not be swept away, in giving greater freedom to "contacts" by extending to them the system of "observation," where the local authorities are of opinion the persons concerned can be trusted to report themselves or allow themselves to be inspected, daily, coupled with the promise of not leaving the locality without giving information. The provision would vastly improve the position of the better and educated classes of the public with respect to the regulations, and is calculated to enlist their active sympathy, by securing their co-operation in respect to measures which, subsequent to its adoption, would be likely to affect solely the lower and uneducated classes, who could not be so readily trusted to fulfil promises. In this proposal, there is doubtless entailed the risk that trust afforded to "contacts" may at times be misplaced, and that such cases may prove *foci* for spread of the disease; but if the mass of risks represented by the notification be accepted by Government solely with the object of encouraging inoculation, it seems to me that these will not be materially added to by my suggestion, and may well be faced with the object of arresting discontent. It must be remembered, in this connection, that whereas in the case of the inoculated, subject to rulings under the notification, *all trace may be lost after entry to the Presidency, whilst yet undergoing incubation of the disease*, in the class of contacts considered trustworthy that may have broken parole, there is at least some probability of their being traced.

3. In making this proposal, I assume that the determination of Government to abide by the notification is final and, consequently, advise that to the Original Mufassal (Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897) Regulation No. 3 and Regulation under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, for the City of Madras No. 11, be added a third sub-section as follows :—"But persons who have been in contact with plague cases and present no symptoms of plague, or such as warrant suspicion of plague, shall not be segregated, unless the officer appointed in that behalf considers them untrustworthy; provided that after submitting to disinfection of their persons, clothing and property to the satisfaction of such officer they agree, in writing, not to leave any locality without written permission by the officer empowered in that behalf, to reside in a dwelling approved by him, and to present themselves daily for observation and examination as to their state of health before a local authority, named in a document given them for the purpose."

Letter—Mis. No. 1027, dated 27th December 1898.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your No. 2931—S., dated 30th November 1898.

2. If I understand you aright, your proposal comes to this. As Government, with a view to popularize inoculation, which is generally admitted to give a high percentage of protection, is prepared to accept certain risks, which are not great, by granting concessions to those who are inoculated, concessions, also involving risks, may be given to contacts, to remove causes of discontent. The segregation of contacts no doubt does cause considerable discontent, but I am inclined to think that general opposition to this measure is diminishing. Instances have come to my notice in which the neighbours have insisted upon it. The risks attending the grant of the concession you propose appear to me so enormously greater than the risks involved by the concessions granted to inoculated persons that I am unable to recommend to Government the notification of the adoption of such a policy. The existing concession is granted to encourage protection; the result of the proposed concession can only be to increase the chances of disseminating the disease.

(Signed) L. E. BUCKLEY,
Plague Commissioner.

To the Sanitary Commissioner.

Copy to the Secretary to Government,
Local and Municipal Department.

From Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated Madras, 17th July 1899, No. 1895-S.

With reference to letter No. 2426-P., dated 5th July 1899, from the Collector of North Arcot, I have the honour to state that I agree with him as to the difficulties attached to "home segregation." As to its inadvisability when adopted as a routine, *i.e.*, when not applied to exceptional and suitable cases where sanitary care could be correctly applied, I have frequently inveighed. The universal adoption of this inefficient plan in North Arcot followed the "incident" of Visharam. Until that occurrence, the people of North Arcot had willingly obeyed orders. Once permitted as an universal rule, "home segregation" was unfortunately made a successful rival of segregation in public sheds, by allowing large batta in the case of the former against bare rations in the latter. Granted that the district authorities thought it in better part to yield to the wishes of the people on this point than to effect it in spite of the opposition offered, in the solitary instance alluded to, I hold that the least that should have been done was to make a determined stand upon sanitary supervision of methods of "home segregation", on the principle that, in allowing the utmost freedom as to private rights, no man should be given the opportunity of spreading a dangerous disease amongst his neighbours in exercising these rights.

2. My recommendation was, therefore, not intended to meet the class of cases referred to by Mr. Campbell. Rather was its object to so meet the obvious objection to unnecessary interference with the healthy that, *whilst economy of administration was greatly facilitated*, the real cause of disinclination of the people to notify instances of plague infection, and to permit segregation of the sick, should be finally removed. It was my hope that should Government accept my views the unreasoning prejudice on the part of the people, which demands that those sick of plague shall be retained in houses sanitarily unfit for their retention, would disappear. I venture to predict that, as an effect of evolution of circumstances, the day must come when this "system of parole" will be accepted throughout India, and I should have been glad to have seen this Presidency the first to adopt it.

3. As put by Mr. Campbell, I agree with him in thinking the only logical outcome of the state of affairs he represents, is the adoption of the system advocated by him. But, I would invite attention to the fact that his proposal goes considerably beyond that advocated by me. What I had anticipated was, as the prime point, the segregation of the sick, and the subsequent complete removal of all restraints upon "contacts," after disinfection of persons and clothing, beyond requiring them to present themselves for examination as to state of health for ten days after last date of contact with the sick. Mr. Campbell, on the opposite, contemplates the retention of the cause of infection with the healthy, whilst clearly pointing to the evil influence of such a system of "home segregation," by stating that a house may remain infected for *months on end*—for the obvious reason that inmate after inmate may be attacked when healthy and sick are shut up together. He justifies his intention, by pointing to the extent to which medical officers and other plague officials move about, after being in the presence of plague cases. But, if there be one thing better proved than another in connection with plague epidemics, it is the simple fact that the risk of acquiring infection, and, presumably, therefore, of having clothing in such contact as to carry infection to others (in the case of persons other than disinfectors) will bear no comparison with the risks to which persons are subjected *who reside* in infected houses.

4. Having regard, therefore, to the unfortunate fact that "home segregation" has become the rule in North Arcot, and that it would be most difficult to change this policy, I would advise that the principle I have advocated be sanctioned, for the purpose of arming the Collector with means of overcoming existing prejudices rather than simply making more comfortable the position of those who have insisted upon "home segregation" to their own loss. To this end, I would advise that the following ruling be sanctioned :—

Provided they submit to disinfection of their persons, clothing and property and subsequently reside in dwellings not deemed infected, and report themselves daily for a period of ten days for examination as to their state of health at such time and place as they may be directed, "contacts" and other persons who have been subjected to imminent risk of infection of plague shall not be subject to restraint, if they be held to be trustworthy by an officer appointed for the purpose by the Collector.

5. This ruling, however, would not meet the difficulties as to batta or no batta stated by the Collector; it merely provides him with a new power to induce more sensible action on the part of the people *of a class who can be trusted* to present themselves for examination and to reside in appointed dwellings no longer in contact with the sick. To inaugurate a new policy as to obstructionists, it would be necessary for him to make it clear to the people that home segregation no longer involved the luxury of childish refusal to act in accordance with official advice—tempered with the receipt of exorbitant rates of batta.* Where contacts were of the untrustworthy class, they should be invited to proceed to the usual Government sheds, or other buildings, approved by the local authorities for segregation. Here such batta should be given as will amply satisfy their wants—if it be decided they have no other means of subsistence than what would conventionally be classed as "cooly work". If persons of the untrustworthy class refused to allow the sick persons to be segregated, or to allow themselves to be segregated, and insisted upon

* Batta at Vellore was decidedly heavy.

"home segregation" as at present interpreted in North Arcot, they should receive an allowance according to the Famine Code, not exceeding the D wage in value for contacts, and the A wage for the sick person and two attendants. Such batta should be given only where it is felt after careful enquiry to be distinctly essential to preserve from starvation, and should be allowed only as a matter of compassion—not of routine right. By thus offering, on the one hand, reasonable liberty to the respectable classes, and, on the other, curbing the feeling of certitude on the part of the obstructionists that not only will Government sanction the pursuit of dangerous and unauthorized forms of home segregation, but will actually encourage such unreasoning prejudice by allowing batta to those who, contrary to its advice, pursue it, I feel convinced the people will, at their own expense, make arrangements for segregation of the sick subject to approval by plague officials, and will gladly avail themselves of the liberty offered to the apparently healthy by subjecting themselves to simple surveillance.

ENCLOSURE.

From R. H. CAMPBELL, Esq., Acting Collector and District Magistrate, North Arcot, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department (through the Sanitary Commissioner, Madras), dated Chittoor, 5th July 1899, R. C. No. 2426-P.

With reference to paragraph 13 of G.O., No. 878 P., dated 12th June 1899, I have the honour to request that you will be so good as to furnish me with a copy of the Plague Commissioner's Proceedings, No. 1027, dated 27th December 1898, as it does not appear to have been received in my office. Now that the payment of batta to home segregated persons has been forbidden, it becomes a serious question how we are to deal with healthy contacts. A single house may remain infected for several weeks or even months (in the event of more than one case of plague occurring in it), and if all the healthy contacts are to be kept shut up in that house during the whole period of infection how are they to support life? I believe that a healthy contact does not carry infection with him, as for example a medical officer or other plague official who is in contact with a plague patient, and it seems to me that it would be sound policy to allow healthy contacts to pursue their ordinary business under some system of passes, as suggested by the Sanitary Commissioner, subject to the proviso that they disinfect themselves before going out. It would, I admit, be a somewhat difficult matter to ensure such disinfection in the event of a widespread epidemic, but the alternative of keeping a number of healthy people shut up in an infected house without means of subsistence is likely to lead to actual starvation. The violent prejudice against plague camps entertained by nearly all classes of the people is a well-known fact and I submit for the consideration of Government that it will be impracticable to enforce home segregation without some system of passes to enable healthy contacts to earn their livelihood.

ORDER—No. 1225 P., dated 10th August 1899.

The Government having in G.O., No. 822 P., dated 31st May 1899, decided that in no case in future should batta be paid to persons who are segregated in their own houses on account of plague, the Collector of North Arcot enquires how the healthy contacts are to support life if they are to be kept shut up in an infected house, during the period of infection, and suggests that the healthy contacts should be permitted to pursue their ordinary business subject to a system of passes, provided they disinfect themselves before going out. The Sanitary Commissioner while agreeing with the Collector in thinking that, in the circumstances stated by the latter, there should be some system of passes, is however in favour of a ruling to the effect that "contacts" and other persons who have been subjected to imminent risk of infection of plague should not be subject to restraint, if they be held to be trustworthy by an officer appointed by the Collector for the purpose, provided they submit to disinfection of their persons, clothing and property and subsequently reside in dwellings not deemed infected and report themselves daily for a period of ten days for examination as to their state of health at such time and place as may be appointed.

2. The Government does not approve either the suggestion made by the Collector or the ruling advocated by the Sanitary Commissioner. The former would be impracticable to work, and as regards the latter, the Government considers that if the healthy

contacts are to be moved into a building other than their own house, they might as well be moved to the segregation camp. In times of widespread epidemic, other buildings not deemed infected would rarely be available.

3. As regards the question of batta raised in paragraph 5 of the Sanitary Commissioner's letter, the Government considers that G.O., No. 822 P., dated 31st May 1899, should be maintained.

(True Extract.)

for *Ag. Secretary to Government.*

To all Collectors (A—L).
„ the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
„ the Sanitary Commissioner.
„ the Surgeon-General.
„ the Accountant-General.
„ the Deputy Adjutant-General, Madras Command.
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Exd. A. F. Eccleston

Government {1899} of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd. } 1899. *Enclosures*
Regd. } *Spare copies*

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2. My recommendation was, therefore, not intended to meet the class of cases referred to by Mr. Campbell. Rather was its object to so meet the obvious objection to unnecessary interference with the healthy that, *whilst economy of administration was greatly facilitated*, the real cause of disinclination of the people to notify instances of plague infection, and to permit segregation of the sick, should be finally removed. It was my hope that should Government accept my views the unreasoning prejudice on the part of the people, which demands that those sick of plague shall be retained in houses sanitarily unfit for their retention, would disappear. I venture to predict that, as an effect of evolution of circumstances, the day must come when this "system of parole" will be accepted throughout India, and I should have been glad to have seen this Presidency the first to adopt it.

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4. Having regard, therefore, to the unfortunate fact that "home segregation" has become the rule in North Arcot, and that it would be most difficult to change this policy, I would advise that the principle I have advocated be sanctioned, for the purpose of arming the Collector with means of overcoming existing prejudices rather than simply making more comfortable the position of those who have insisted upon "home segregation" to their own loss. To this end, I would advise that the following ruling be sanctioned :—

Provided they submit to disinfection of their persons, clothing and property and subsequently reside in dwellings not deemed infected, and report themselves daily for a period of ten days for examination as to their state of health at such time and place as they may be directed, "contacts" and other persons who have been subjected to imminent risk of infection of plague shall not be subject to restraint, if they be held to be trustworthy by an officer appointed for the purpose by the Collector.

5. This ruling, however, would not meet the difficulties as to batta or no batta stated by the Collector; it merely provides him with a new power to induce more sensible action on the part of the people *of a class who can be trusted* to present themselves for examination and to reside in appointed dwellings no longer in contact with the sick. To inaugurate a new policy as to obstructionists, it would be necessary for him to make it clear to the people that home segregation no longer involved the luxury of childish refusal to act in accordance with official advice—tempered with the receipt of exorbitant rates of batta.* Where contacts were of the untrustworthy class, they should be invited to proceed to the usual Government sheds, or other buildings, approved by the local authorities for segregation. Here such batta should be given as will amply satisfy their wants—if it be decided they have no other means of subsistence than what would conventionally be classed as "cooly work". If persons of the untrustworthy class refused to allow the sick persons to be segregated, or to allow themselves to be segregated, and insisted upon

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Please correct & strike off

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Read—the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Plague Commissioner, dated Camp, Kamalápuram, 30th November 1898, No. 2931—S.

Government having in its notification, embodied in G.O., No. 1423-A.P., dated 8th November 1898, sanctioned certain far-reaching concessions to the "inoculated," I have the honour to invite attention to paragraph 17 of my letter, No. 1044—S., dated 10th May 1898, which ran as follows:—

"My opinion, therefore, is that inoculation should have no more defined place assigned to it than has already been determined by Government, namely, that every facility should be offered to those willing to use it, that is, it should not be quoted as an alternative to any legal measure. I believe that the marked diminution of mortality which inoculation secures, will undoubtedly bring about the wide adoption of the operation by the population, without the special inducement of relaxing imperative sanitary measures. I would, consequently, not make inoculation the alternative of segregation; but, I would decide the necessity for segregation by the opinion of the local authority, aided by the vigilance committee of the area as to whether an individual of the limited class of persons to whom the rules would be applicable in this Presidency, can be trusted to present himself for examination, or allow himself to be inspected during the necessary ten days. This would simply imply the extension of the system of 'observation,' which has hitherto, thanks to the educated condition of the people of this Presidency, been found applicable. Removal of the sick from the infected house to a suitable locality is essential; but, if this be arranged so that relations be retained in attendance with the right to use their own medicines and food coupled with due care to caste rules and modesty of the female sex, I believe all reasonable sanitary requirements and all reasonable demands for personal liberty will be met."

2. It seems to me that if Government is prepared to accept the very decided risk attending the concessions made in regard to the inoculated, there can exist no reason why a very obvious cause for discontent with the existing plague regulations should not be swept away, in giving greater freedom to "contacts" by extending to them the system of "observation," where the local authorities are of opinion the persons concerned can be trusted to report themselves or allow themselves to be inspected, daily, coupled with the promise of not leaving the locality without giving information. The provision would vastly improve the position of the better and educated classes of the public with respect to the regulations, and is calculated to enlist their active sympathy, by securing their co-operation in respect to measures which, subsequent to its adoption, would be likely to affect solely the lower and uneducated classes, who could not be so readily trusted to fulfil promises. In this proposal, there is doubtless entailed the risk that trust afforded to "contacts" may at times be misplaced, and that such cases may prove *foci* for spread of the disease; but if the mass of risks represented by the notification be accepted by Government solely with the object of encouraging inoculation, it seems to me that these will not be materially added to by my suggestion, and may well be faced with the object of arresting discontent. It must be remembered, in this connection, that whereas in the case of the inoculated, subject to rulings under the notification, *all trace may be lost after entry to the Presidency, whilst yet undergoing incubation of the disease*, in the class of contacts considered trustworthy that may have broken parole, there is at least some probability of their being traced.

3. In making this proposal, I assume that the determination of Government to abide by the notification is final and, consequently, advise that to the Original Mufassal (Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897) Regulation No. 3 and Regulation under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, for the City of Madras No. 11, be added a third sub-section as follows:—"But persons who have been in contact with plague cases and present no symptoms of plague, or such as warrant suspicion of plague, shall not be segregated, unless the officer appointed in that behalf considers them untrustworthy; provided that after submitting to disinfection of their persons, clothing and property to the satisfaction of such officer they agree, in writing, not to leave any locality without written permission by the officer empowered in that behalf, to reside in a dwelling approved by him, and to present themselves daily for observation and examination as to their state of health before a local authority, named in a document given them for the purpose."

~~Proceedings~~ Letter—Mis. No. 1027, dated 27th December 1898.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your No. 2931—S., dated 30th November 1898.

2. If I understand you aright, your proposal comes to this. As Government, with a view to popularize inoculation, which is generally admitted to give a high percentage of protection, is prepared to accept certain risks, which are not great, by granting concession to those who are inoculated, concessions, also involving risks, may be given to contacts, to remove causes of discontent. The segregation of contacts no doubt does cause considerable discontent, but I am inclined to think that general opposition to this measure is diminishing. Instances have come to my notice in which the neighbours have insisted upon it. The risks attending the grant of the concession you propose appear to me so enormously greater than the risks involved by the concessions granted to inoculated persons that I am unable to recommend to Government the notification of the adoption of such a policy. The existing concession is granted to encourage protection; the result of the proposed concession can only be to increase the chances of disseminating the disease.

(Signed) L. E. BUCKLEY,
Plague Commissioner.

To the Sanitary Commissioner.
Copy to the Secretary to Government,
Local and Municipal Department.

From Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated Madras, 17th July 1899, No. 1895-S.

With reference to letter No. 2426-P., dated 5th July 1899, from the Collector of North Arcot, I have the honour to state that I agree with him as to the difficulties attached to "home segregation." As to its inadvisability when adopted as a routine, *i.e.*, when not applied to exceptional and suitable cases where sanitary care could be correctly applied, I have frequently inveighed. The universal adoption of this inefficient plan in North Arcot followed the "incident" of Visharam. Until that occurrence, the people of North Arcot had willingly obeyed orders. Once permitted as an universal rule, "home segregation" was unfortunately made a successful rival of segregation in public sheds, by allowing large batta in the case of the former against bare rations in the latter. Granted that the district authorities thought it in better part to yield to the wishes of the people on this point than to effect it in spite of the opposition offered, in the solitary instance alluded to, I hold that the least that should have been done was to make a determined stand upon sanitary supervision of methods of "home segregation", on the principle that, in allowing the utmost freedom as to private rights, no man should be given the opportunity of spreading a dangerous disease amongst his neighbours in exercising these rights.

2. My recommendation was, therefore, not intended to meet the class of cases referred to by Mr. Campbell. Rather was its object to so meet the obvious objection to unnecessary interference with the healthy that, *whilst economy of administration was greatly facilitated*, the real cause of disinclination of the people to notify instances of plague infection, and to permit segregation of the sick, should be finally removed. It was my hope that should Government accept my views the unreasoning prejudice on the part of the people, which demands that those sick of plague shall be retained in houses sanitarily unfit for their retention, would disappear. I venture to predict that, as an effect of evolution of circumstances, the day must come when this "system of parole" will be accepted throughout India, and I should have been glad to have seen this Presidency the first to adopt it.

3. As put by Mr. Campbell, I agree with him in thinking the only logical outcome of the state of affairs he represents, is the adoption of the system advocated by him. But, I would invite attention to the fact that his proposal goes considerably beyond that advocated by me. What I had anticipated was, as the prime point, the segregation of the sick, and the subsequent complete removal of all restraints upon "contacts," after disinfection of persons and clothing, beyond requiring them to present themselves for examination as to state of health for ten days after last date of contact with the sick. Mr. Campbell, on the opposite, contemplates the retention of the cause of infection with the healthy, whilst clearly pointing to the evil influence of such a system of "home segregation," by stating that a house may remain infected for *months on end*—for the obvious reason that inmate after inmate may be attacked when healthy and sick are shut up together. He justifies his intention, by pointing to the extent to which medical officers and other plague officials move about, after being in the presence of plague cases. But, if there be one thing better proved than another in connection with plague epidemics, it is the simple fact that the risk of acquiring infection, and, presumably, therefore, of having clothing in such contact as to carry infection to others (in the case of persons other than disinfectors) will bear no comparison with the risks to which persons are subjected *who reside* in infected houses.

4. Having regard, therefore, to the unfortunate fact that "home segregation" has become the rule in North Arcot, and that it would be most difficult to change this policy, I would advise that the principle I have advocated be sanctioned, for the purpose of arming the Collector with means of overcoming existing prejudices rather than simply making more comfortable the position of those who have insisted upon "home segregation" to their own loss. To this end, I would advise that the following ruling be sanctioned :—

Provided they submit to disinfection of their persons, clothing and property and subsequently reside in dwellings not deemed infected, and report themselves daily for a period of ten days for examination as to their state of health at such time and place as they may be directed, "contacts" and other persons who have been subjected to imminent risk of infection of plague shall not be subject to restraint, if they be held to be trustworthy by an officer appointed for the purpose by the Collector.

5. This ruling, however, would not meet the difficulties as to batta or no batta stated by the Collector; it merely provides him with a new power to induce more sensible action on the part of the people *of a class who can be trusted* to present themselves for examination and to reside in appointed dwellings no longer in contact with the sick. To inaugurate a new policy as to obstructionists, it would be necessary for him to make it clear to the people that home segregation no longer involved the luxury of childish refusal to act in accordance with official advice—tempered with the receipt of exorbitant rates of batta.* Where contacts were of the untrustworthy class, they should be invited to proceed to the usual Government sheds, or other buildings, approved by the local authorities for segregation. Here such batta should be given as will amply satisfy their wants—if it be decided they have no other means of subsistence than what would conventionally be classed as "cooly work". If persons of the untrustworthy class refused to allow the sick persons to be segregated, or to allow themselves to be segregated, and insisted upon

* Batta at Vellore was decidedly heavy.

"home segregation" as at present interpreted in North Arcot, they should receive an allowance according to the Famine Code, not exceeding the D wage in value for contacts, and the A wage for the sick person and two attendants. Such batta should be given only where it is felt after careful enquiry to be distinctly essential to preserve from starvation, and should be allowed only as a matter of compassion—not of routine right. By thus offering, on the one hand, reasonable liberty to the respectable classes, and, on the other, curbing the feeling of certitude on the part of the obstructionists that not only will Government sanction the pursuit of dangerous and unauthorized forms of home segregation, but will actually encourage such unreasoning prejudice by allowing batta to those who, contrary to its advice, pursue it, I feel convinced the people will, at their own expense, make arrangements for segregation of the sick subject to approval by plague officials, and will gladly avail themselves of the liberty offered to the apparently healthy by subjecting themselves to simple surveillance.

ENCLOSURE.

From R. H. CAMPBELL, Esq., Acting Collector and District Magistrate, North Arcot, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department (through the Sanitary Commissioner, Madras), dated Chittoor, 5th July 1899, R. C. No. 2426-P.

With reference to paragraph 13 of G.O., No. 878 P., dated 12th June 1899, I have the honour to request that you will be so good as to furnish me with a copy of the Plague Commissioner's Proceedings, No. 1027, dated 27th December 1898, as it does not appear to have been received in my office. Now that the payment of batta to home segregated persons has been forbidden, it becomes a serious question how we are to deal with healthy contacts. A single house may remain infected for several weeks or even months (in the event of more than one case of plague occurring in it), and if all the healthy contacts are to be kept shut up in that house during the whole period of infection how are they to support life? I believe that a healthy contact does not carry infection with him, as for example a medical officer or other plague official who is in contact with a plague patient, and it seems to me that it would be sound policy to allow healthy contacts to pursue their ordinary business under some system of passes, as suggested by the Sanitary Commissioner, subject to the proviso that they disinfect themselves before going out. It would, I admit, be a somewhat difficult matter to ensure such disinfection in the event of a widespread epidemic, but the alternative of keeping a number of healthy people shut up in an infected house without means of subsistence is likely to lead to actual starvation. The violent prejudice against plague camps entertained by nearly all classes of the people is a well-known fact and I submit for the consideration of Government that it will be impracticable to enforce home segregation without some system of passes to enable healthy contacts to earn their livelihood.

ORDER—No. 1225 P., dated 10th August 1899.

The Government having in G.O., No. 822 P., dated 31st May 1899, decided that in no case in future should batta be paid to persons who are segregated in their own houses on account of plague, the Collector of North Arcot enquires how the healthy contacts are to support life if they are to be kept shut up in an infected house, during the period of infection, and suggests that the healthy contacts should be permitted to pursue their ordinary business subject to a system of passes, provided they disinfect themselves before going out. The Sanitary Commissioner while agreeing with the Collector in thinking that, in the circumstances stated by the latter, there should be some system of passes, is however in favour of a ruling to the effect that "contacts" and other persons who have been subjected to imminent risk of infection of plague should not be subject to restraint, if they be held to be trustworthy by an officer appointed by the Collector for the purpose, provided they submit to disinfection of their persons, clothing and property and subsequently reside in dwellings not deemed infected and report themselves daily for a period of ten days for examination as to their state of health at such time and place as may be appointed.

2. The Government does not approve either the suggestion made by the Collector or the ruling advocated by the Sanitary Commissioner. The former would be impracticable to work, and as regards the latter, the Government considers that if the healthy

contacts are to be moved into a building other than their own house, they might as well be moved to the segregation camp. In times of widespread epidemic, other buildings not deemed infected would rarely be available.

3. As regards the question of batta raised in paragraph 5 of the Sanitary Commissioner's letter, the Government considers that G.O., No. 822 P., dated 31st May 1899, should be maintained.

(True Extract.)

for *Ag. Secretary to Government.*

To all Collectors (A-M).
" the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
" the Sanitary Commissioner.
" the Surgeon-General.
" the Accountant-General.
" the Deputy Adjutant-General, Madras Command.
" General Officers Commanding Districts.

Exd. A. F. Eccleston.

Government {1899} of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd. } 1899. *Enclosures*
Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 1225 P., 10th August 1899.

AUGUST.

Home Segregated Persons.

Rejecting certain proposals for permitting — to pursue their ordinary business on some system of passes.

P.C. Proc. No. 1027 27-12-98 (print full) (C 1837) + letter

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

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With reference to letter No. 2426-P., dated 5th July 1899, from the Collector of North Arcot, I have the honour to state that I agree with him as to the difficulties attached to "home segregation." As to its inadvisability when adopted as a routine, *i.e.*, when not applied to exceptional and suitable cases where sanitary care could be correctly applied, I have frequently inveighed. The universal adoption of this inefficient plan in North Arcot followed the "incident" of Visharam. Until that occurrence, the people of North Arcot had willingly obeyed orders. Once permitted as an universal rule, "home segregation" was unfortunately made a successful rival of segregation in public sheds, by allowing large batta in the case of the former against bare rations in the latter. Granted that the district authorities thought it in better part to yield to the wishes of the people on this point than to affect it in spite of the opposition offered, in the solitary instance alluded to, I hold that the least that should have been done was to make a determined stand upon sanitary supervision of methods of "home segregation" | on the principle that, in allowing the utmost freedom as to private rights, no man should be given the opportunity of spreading a dangerous disease amongst his neighbours in exercising these rights.

2. My recommendation was, therefore, not intended to meet the class of cases referred to by Mr. Campbell. Rather was its object to so meet the obvious objection to unnecessary interference with the healthy that, *whilst economy of administration was greatly facilitated*, the real cause of disinclination of the people to notify instances of plague infection, and to permit segregation of the sick, should be finally removed. It was my hope that should Government accept my views the unreasoning prejudice on the part of the people, which demands that those sick of plague shall be retained in houses sanitarily unfit for their retention, would disappear. I venture to predict that, as an effect of evolution of circumstances, the day must come when this "system of parole" will be accepted throughout India, and I should have been glad to have seen this Presidency the first to adopt it.

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that the risk of acquiring infection, and, presumably, therefore, of having clothing in such contact as to carry infection to others (in the case of persons other than disinfectors) will bear no comparison with the risks to which persons are subjected *who reside* in infected houses.

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5. This ruling, however, would not meet the difficulties as to batta or no batta stated by the Collector; it merely provides him with a new power to induce more sensible action on the part of the people *of a class who can be trusted* to present themselves for examination and to reside in appointed dwellings no longer in contact with the sick. To inaugurate a new policy as to obstructionists, it would be necessary for him to make it clear to the people that home segregation no longer involved the luxury of childish refusal to act in accordance with official advice—tempered with the receipt of exorbitant rates of batta.* Where contacts were of the untrustworthy class, they should be invited to proceed to the usual Government sheds, or other buildings, approved by the local authorities for segregation. Here such batta should be given as will amply satisfy their wants—if it be decided they have no other means of subsistence than what would conventionally be classed as "cooly work". If persons of the untrustworthy class refused to allow the sick persons to be segregated, or to allow themselves to be segregated, and insisted upon "home segregation" as at present interpreted in North Arcot, they should receive an allowance according to the Famine Code, not exceeding the D wage in value for contacts, and the A wage for the sick person and two attendants. Such batta should be given only where it is felt after careful enquiry to be distinctly essential to preserve from starvation, and should be allowed only as a matter of compassion—not of routine right. By thus offering, on the one hand, reasonable liberty to the respectable classes, and, on the other, curbing the feeling of certitude on the part of the obstructionists that not only will Government sanction the pursuit of dangerous and unauthorized forms of home segregation, but will actually encourage such unreasoning prejudice by allowing batta to those who, contrary to its advice, pursue it, I feel convinced the people will, at their own expense, make arrangements for segregation of the sick subject to approval by plague officials, and will gladly avail themselves of the liberty offered to the apparently healthy by subjecting themselves to simple surveillance.

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From R. H. CAMPBELL, Esq., Acting Collector and District Magistrate, North Arcot, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department (through the Sanitary Commissioner, Madras), dated Chittoor, 5th July 1899, R. C. No. 2426-P.

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not carry infection with him, as for example a medical officer or other plague official who is in contact with a plague patient, and it seems to me that it would be sound policy to allow healthy contacts to pursue their ordinary business under some system of passes, as suggested by the Sanitary Commissioner, subject to the proviso that they disinfect themselves before going out. It would, I admit, be a somewhat difficult matter to ensure such disinfection in the event of a widespread epidemic, but the alternation of keeping a number of healthy people shut up in an infected house without means of subsistence is likely to lead to actual starvation. The violent prejudice against plague camps entertained by nearly all classes of the people is a well-known fact and I submit for the consideration of Government that it will be impracticable to enforce home segregation without some system of passes to enable healthy contacts to earn their livelihood.

ORDER—No. 1225 P., dated 10th August 1899.

The Government having in G.O., ~~Mis.~~ No. 822 P., dated 31st May 1899, decided that in no case in future should batta be paid to persons who are segregated in their own houses on account of plague, the Collector of North Arcot enquires how the healthy contacts are to support life if they are to be kept shut up in an infected house, during the period of infection, and suggests that the healthy contact should be permitted to pursue their ordinary business subject to a system of passes, provided they disinfect themselves before going out. The Sanitary Commissioner while agreeing with the Collector in thinking that, in the circumstances stated by the latter, there should be some system of passes, is however in favour of a ruling to the effect that "contacts" and other persons who have been subjected to imminent risk of infection of plague should not be subject to restraint, if they be held to be trustworthy by an officer appointed by the Collector for the purpose, provided they submit to disinfection of their persons, clothing and property and subsequently reside in dwellings not deemed infected and report themselves daily for a period of ten days for examination as to their state of health at such time and place as may be appointed.

2. The Government does not approve either the suggestion made by the Collector or the ruling advocated by the Sanitary Commissioner. The former would be impracticable to work, and as regards the latter, the Government considers that if the healthy contacts are to be moved into a building other than their own house, they might as well be moved to the segregation camp. In times of widespread epidemic, other buildings not deemed infected would rarely be available.

3. As regards the question of batta raised in paragraph 5 of the Sanitary Commissioner's letter, the Government considers that G.O., No. 822 P., dated 31st May 1899, should be maintained.

(True Extract.)

for *Ag. Secretary to Government.*

To all Collectors (A-M).
" the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
" the Sanitary Commissioner.
" the Surgeon-General.
" the Accountant-General.
" the Deputy Adjutant-General, Madras Command.
" General Officers Commanding Districts.

Exd. A. F. Ecclestone.

[L. & M.]

500—4-3-99.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

Again G.O., No. , dated 189 .

Current No. 1993 P. of 1899, dated 17. 7. 99 from the S. C.

Current No. of 189 , dated from the

SUBJECT

Home Segregated people

~~FOR~~ ORDER. No 1225 P. 10 8 99

The Government having in G.O. No. 822 P. ~~Mis.~~ of 31-5-1899, decided that in no case in future should batta be paid to persons who are segregated in their own houses on account of plague, the Collector of North Arcot enquires how the healthy contacts are to support life if they are to be kept shut up in an infected house, during the period of infection, and suggests that the healthy contacts should be permitted to pursue their ordinary business subject to ~~some~~ a system of passes, provided they

they disinfect themselves before going out. The Sanitary Commissioner while agreeing with the Collector in thinking that, in the circumstances stated by the latter, there should be some system of passes, is however in favor of a ruling to the effect that "Contacts" and other persons who have been subjected to imminent risk of infection of plague should not be subject to restraint if they be held to be trustworthy by an officer appointed by the Collector for the purpose, provided they submit to disinfection of their persons, clothing and property and subsequently reside in dwellings not deemed infected and report themselves daily for a period of ten days for examination as to their state of health at such time and place as may be appointed.

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[L. & M. 200—8-11-98.]

~~NOTE FOR THE~~

2. The Government does not approve either the suggestion made by the Collector or the ruling advocated by the Sanitary Commissioner. The former will would be impracticable to work, and as regards the latter, the Government considers that if the healthy Contacts are to be moved into a building other than their own house, they might as well be moved to the segregation camp. In times of widespread epidemic, other buildings not deemed infected would rarely be available.

3. As regards the question of batta raised in para 5 of the Sanitary Commissioner's letter, the Govt. considers that G.O. No. 822 P. dated 31st. May 1899 should be

be maintained
(From orders).

[signature]
viii 97

To All Collrs (A & M)
The Presdt. M.C., Madras.
" S.C.
" S.G.
" A.G.
" D.A.G., M.C.
G.l Offrs Comg. Dts.

No G.O. No. 1225 P
6-8-97

Again G.O. No. , dated
Current No. of 189 , dated
Current No. 1553 P of 189 , dated

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

189 .

from the
from the

SUBJECT.

Batta to home segregated people

Please draft
[initials]
viii 97

Draft submitted -
[initials]
2.8.97

FOR ORDERS.

It is generally recognized that home segregation is unadvisable. As one mode of discouraging it, Govt has ordered that in no case in future batta should be paid to persons who are segregated in their own houses - G.O. No 822 P. of 31-5-97. With reference to this ruling, the Coll. of N. Arcot asks how the healthy contacts are to support life if they are to be kept shut up in an infected house during the whole period of infection which may last for several weeks or even months. He suggests that the healthy contacts should be permitted to pursue their ordinary business under a system of passes, provided they disinfect themselves

The idea was to compel them to go to the camps;
[initials]

themselves before going out. The Colls. is aware that it would be rather difficult to enforce such disinfection in the event of a wide spread epidemic, but he points out that when home segregation is allowed, there should be some system of passes to enable healthy contacts to earn their livelihood.

2. The Collector's letter has been forwarded through the Sanitary Comm. who has availed himself of the opportunity to repeat a recommendation which he made to the Plague Comm. in November last. He then recommended the issue of a ruling to the following effect — "Persons who have been in contact with plague cases and present no symptoms of plague or such as warrant suspicion of plague shall not be segregated unless the officer appointed in that behalf considers them untrustworthy, provided that after disinfection of their persons, clothing & property to the satisfaction of such officer, they agree in writing not to leave any locality without written permission ...; to reside in a dwelling approved by him; and to present themselves daily for observation & examination ... before a local authority".

The S.C. thought that a ruling like this would make plague measures less unpopular & enlist the active sympathy & cooperation of the better & educated classes of the public. But the Plague Comm. considered that the risks attendg the proposed concession were enormous & that the result would be only to increase the chances of dissemination of the disease. (G.C. Telegr. No 102) dy 27-2-98.

3. The S.C. again referred to this matter in his letter printed in G. of I. P dy 12-6-98. The following remarks appear in para 37 of this letter.

"I think the principle of dealing with, or (as it amounts to) the attempting to deal with, all contacts on the basis of segregation is wrong, and is one which is likely to wreck all preventive measures

---

Mr. Lovegrove seems to me entirely unprecedented. If the epidemic was widespread. How could all the infected houses be guarded?

G.S.W.

Of course. That is what makes home segregation a force.

H.A.

This would surely in ordinary cases be the segregation camps. People leaving their own houses wd not find it easy to get others.

H. Wont do G.S.W.

H.A.

"No contact should be segregated, whether inoculated or not, if the local authorities consider him trustworthy as to not absconding. A Contact of a trustworthy class should after disinfection, be treated under a modified passport system."

The Government merely referred the S.C to the Plague Commissr's orders quoted above. Inoculated people are specially protected & therefore are dealt with differently from the uninoculated.

4. In his present letter, the S.C. explains that the object of his proposal was not to meet cases of home segregation to which he is opposed, but to avoid unnecessary interference with the healthy & thus remove the real cause of the disinclination of the people to notify instances of plague infection and to permit ~~segr~~ segregation of the sick. Home-segregation as understood by the Asst. shuts up both the sick & the healthy together, but the S.C. would keep them separate by removing all restraints on the healthy contacts, & subject only to their residence in a healthy place & coming up for daily observation.

5. The S.C. accepts the Asst. Collector's suggestion as to

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passes to contacts segregated in their own houses. As regards people segregated in camps, G.O. No 9646 P dt 31-8-98 provides as follows:- "Officers in charge of health & suspect camps may at their discretion allow the inmates to leave the camp during day time to pursue their daily employments, taking security if necessary from them or their friends for their due return at sunset. Persons who are allowed this freedom shd be medically examined & their persons & clothing disinfected both before they leave the camp & after they return". This system cannot be adopted with regard to home segregated contacts except on a small scale.

6. On the question of batta, the S.C. makes the following suggestions—

(a) that contacts of the untrustworthy class should be invited to proceed to the segregation sheds and when there, allowed such batta as will amply satisfy their wants, if it be decided that they have no other means of subsistence than what would conventionally

Conventionally be classed as "Cooly work";

(b) that persons of the untrustworthy class who refuse to allow themselves or their sick to be segregated and who insist upon home segregation, should be paid an allowance not exceeding D wage under the Famine Code for contacts and the A wage in the case of the sick person and two attendants — this allowance to be paid only where it is felt after careful inquiry to be distinctly essential to preserve them from starvation.

Orders are solicited on these suggestions.

Lms
26/7/99

H. Mr.

As regards the question raised by the Collector N. Arcot.

G.O. No 822 P. d. 31.5.99 absolutely prohibited the grant of batta to persons segregated in their own houses, the object being to compel them to come to the Camps. It will always be open to such persons to go to the Camps, and they are hardly likely to elect to starve in their own houses.

The Collector's proposal to allow

H. Mr

+ Flag D

Quite impracticable.
The G.O. must be maintained
AA

This is the system which should be maintained.
AA

But after observation ~~they~~ is over they can return to the disinfected house.
The proposed arrangement wd. easily be broken through & wd. invite blackmailing!

AA 31.7.99.

healthy persons living in a plague infected house to go to their work daily after disinfection, seems most dangerous, & at the same time difficult, if not impossible, to work.

As regards the S.C.'s proposal at the place marked A. in the note above. It is submitted that if the healthy contacts are to be moved into a building other than their own houses, they might as well be moved to the Camps. — other buildings would rarely be available —.

The Sanitary Commissioner perhaps contemplated allowing such persons to return to their own houses after the plague patient had been removed & the house disinfected, & then keeping them under the system of observation

he describes, this at all events seems far less dangerous than the Collector's proposal. There is a good deal to recommend it, especially if the thoroughness of the disinfection could be relied upon.

As regards persons segregated in Camps, the G.O. of 31-8-98 + gives the officer in charge discretion to allow such persons to go out & pursue their daily ~~requisites~~ employments; in such cases no ration is required. Where they are not allowed to go out Reg. 2. (orig. Infected Regs) directs that they should be fed. It seems hardly necessary to lay down a scale of food.

+ Reg Q

C.P.W.
28.7.99

Plague - Urgent

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 1993 P

From

The Sanita-ry Commissioner
forMad-ras.

Order

No. 1895/S

WH

Dated 17 th July 1899.

Received 18 JUL 1899

Registered 18-7-99

Enclosures one.

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Submitting with remarks le-tter No.2426/P dated 5-7-99, from the Collector of North Arcot, suggesting for the con-sideration of Government that it will be impracticable to enforce "Home Se-gregation" without some system of passes to enable healthy contac-ts to earn their livelihood.

PA 18/7

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
..	878	P	12-6-98
..	822	P	31-5-98
Rc	1027	P	27-12-98
Do	964	P	31-8-98
..	67	P Mis	9-1-98
"	1423	P	8-11-98

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

SANITARY COMMISSIONER WITH THE GOVT. OF INDIA
Received 8 JUL 99
MADRAS.

2948.5.

Local & Municipal

Financial (189) Department.

CURRENT No.

Through
The Sanitary Commissioner
Madras

From

The Collector of
North Arcot

Order

Rc No. 2426 of 98.

Dated 5—7—99.

Received

Registered

Enclosures nil

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Requesting to be supplied with a copy of Plague Commissioner's proceedings No 1027 dated 27—12—98. & suggesting for the consideration of Government that it will be impracticable to enforce Home segregation without some system of passes to enable healthy contacts to earn their livelihood.

Orl

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

[500—5-11-98.]

C No 19987.

Office of Sanitary Commissioner,

No. 1895 / 5

Madras, 17 July 1899.

PLAGUE.

From

Lieut.-Colonel W. G. King, M.B., C.M., D.P.H.,

Sanitary Commissioner for Madras,

To

The Secretary to Government

Local & Municipal Dept.

Enclosure. /

Sir,

With reference to letter 7° 2426/D dated 5 July 1899 from the Collector of North Arcot I have the honor to state that I agree with him as to the difficulties attached to "home segregation". As to its inadvisability when adopted as a routine, i.e., when not applied to exceptional and justifiable cases where sanitary care could be correctly applied, I have frequently inveighed against the universal adoption of this inefficient plan in North Arcot followed the "incident" of Visharam. Until that occurrence, the people of North Arcot had willingly obeyed orders.

Over

once permitted as an universal rule, "home segregation" was unfortunately made a successful trial of segregation in public sheds, by allowing large batta in the former against bare rations in the latter. Granted that the District Authorities thought it in better part to yield to the wishes of the people on this point than to effect it in spite of the opposition offered, in the solitary instance alluded to, I hold that the least that should have been done was to make a determined stand upon sanitary supervision of methods of "home segregation;" on the principle that in allowing the utmost freedom as to private rights, no man should be given the opportunity of spreading a dangerous disease amongst his neighbours in exercising these rights."

2 My recommendation was, therefore, not intended to meet the class of cases referred to by

by Mr Campbell. Rather was its object to so meet the obvious objection to unnecessary interference with the healthy that, whilst economy of administration was greatly facilitated, the real cause of disinclination of the people to notify instances of plague infection, and to permit segregation of the sick, should be finally removed. It was my hope that should Government accept my views the unreasoning prejudice on the part of the people, which demands that those sick of plague shall be retained in houses sanitarily unfit for their retention, would disappear. I venture to predict that, as an effect of evolution of circumstances, the day must come when this "system of parole" will be accepted throughout India, and I should have been glad to have seen this Presidency the first to adopt it.

3. As put by Mr. Campbell, I agree with

with him in thinking the only logical outcome of the state of affairs he represents, is the adoption of the system advocated by him. But I would invite attention to the fact that his proposal goes considerably beyond that advocated by me. What I had anticipated was, as the primal point, the segregation of the sick, and the subsequent complete removal of all restraints upon "contacts," after disinfection of persons and clothing, beyond requiring them to present themselves for examination as to state of health for ten days after last date of contact with the sick. Mr Campbell, on the opposite, contemplates the retention of the cause of infection with the healthy, whilst clearly pointing to the evil influence of such a system of "home segregation," by stating that a house may remain infected for months on end - for the obvious reason that inmate after inmate may be attacked

when

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when healthy and sick are shut up together. He justifies his contention, by pointing to the extent to which medical officers and other plague officials move about, after being in the presence of plague cases. But, if there be one thing better proved than another in connection with plague epidemics it is the simple fact that the risk of acquiring infection, and, presumably, therefore, of having clothing in such contact as to carry infection to others (in the case of persons other than disinfectors) will bear no comparison with the risks to which persons are subjected who reside in infected houses.

4 Having regard, therefore, to the unfortunate fact that "home segregation" has become the rule in North Arcot and that it would be most difficult to change this policy, should a decree that the principle I have advocated be sanctioned, for the purpose of arming the Collector with means of overcoming existing prejudices rather than simply

making

making more comfortable the
position of those who have in-
sisted upon "house segregation"
to their own loss. To this end,
I would advise that the
following ruling be sanctioned:-

Provided they submit to disin-
fection of their persons, clothing
and property and subsequently
reside in dwellings not deemed
infected, and report themselves
daily for a period of ten days
for examination as to their state
of health at such time and
place as they may be directed,
"contacts" and other persons who
have been subjected to imminent
risk of infection of plague shall
not be subject to restraint,
if they be held to be trust-
worthy by an officer appointed
for the purpose by the Collector.

5 This ruling however would
not meet the difficulties as
to batta or no batta stated
by the Collector: it merely pro-
vides him with a new power
to induce more sensible
action on the part of the people
of a class who can be trusted

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to present themselves for examination and to reside in appointed dwellings no longer in contact with the sick. To inaugurate a new policy as to obstructionists, it would be necessary for him to make it clear to the people that house segregation no longer involved the luxury of childish refusal to act in accordance with official advice - tempered with the receipt of exorbitant rates of batta.* Where contacts were of the untrustworthy class, they should be invited to proceed to the usual Government sheds, or other buildings, approved by the local authorities for segregation. Here such batta should be given as will amply satisfy their wants - if it be decided they have no other means of subsistence than what would conventionally be classed as "coolie work". If persons of the untrustworthy class refused to allow the sick persons to be segregated

* Batta at Kilos was decidedly heavy.

segregated, or to allow themselves
to be segregated, and insisted
upon "home segregation" as
at present interpreted in
North Arcot, they should re-
ceive an allowance according
to the Famine Code, not exceed-
ing the D wage in value
for contacts, and the A wage
for the sick person and two
attendants. Such batta should
be given only where it is felt after careful enquiry
to be distinctly essential
to preserve from starvation,
and should be allowed only
as a matter of compassion -
not of routine right. By thus
offering, on the one hand, rea-
sonable liberty to the respect-
able classes, and, on the other,
curbing the feeling of certitude
on the part of the obstructionists
that not only will Govern-
ment sanction the pursuit
of dangerous and unauthorized
forms of home segregation,
but will actually encourage
such unreasoning prejudice
by allowing batta to those
who, contrary to its advice,
pursue

pursue it I feel convinced
the people will, at their own
expense make arrangements
for segregation of the sick
subject to approval by plague
officials, and will gladly
avail themselves of the
liberty offered to the ap-
parently healthy by subject-
ing themselves to simple
surveillance.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedt servt
W. E. King
Lieut Col: I.M.S.
Sanitary Commissioner,
for Madras

Plague

NORTH ARCOT, COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,

Chittoor. Dated 5th July 1899

Re No. 2426 OF 1899.

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FROM

R. A. Campbell Esqr

a/ COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE,

North Arcot,

To

THE Secretary to Government.
Local and Municipal Department, Fort Saint George.

~~SIR,~~ Through.
The Sanitary Commissioner,
Madras.

Sir,

With reference to para 13 of G.O. No. 878 S. dated 12th June 1899, I have the honor to request that you will be so good as to furnish me with a copy of the Plague Commissioner's proceedings No 1027, dated 27th December 1898, as it does not appear to have been received in my office. Now that the payment of batta to home segregated persons has been forbidden, it becomes a serious question how

how we are to deal with healthy contacts. A single house may remain infected for several weeks ~~and~~ or even months (in the event of more than one case of plague occurring in it) and if all the healthy contacts are to be kept shut up in that house during the whole period of ~~unsp~~ infection how are they to support life? I believe that a healthy contact does not carry infection with him, as for example a medical officer or other Plague official who is in contact with a plague patient and it seems to me that it would be sound policy to allow healthy contacts to pursue their ordinary business under some system of passes, as suggested by the Sanitary Commissioner,— subject to the proviso that they disinfect themselves before going out. It would, I admit be a somewhat difficult matter to ensure such disinfection in the event of a widespread epidemic, but the alternation of keeping a number of healthy people shut up in an infected house without means of subsistence is likely to lead to actual starvation. The violent prejudice against plague camps entertained by nearly all classes of the people is a well known fact and I submit for the consideration of Government that it will be impracticable to enforce Home segregation without some system of passes to enable healthy contacts to earn their livelihood.

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

[illegible]
for Collector.

-6 JUL. 1899