

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 331/m

DATED 9-3-99

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Supervision of Epidemics on Canals.

Regarding G.O. P.W.D. considering that it would be useless to entrust the work of supervising epidemics on Canals to Municipalities and Unions, and drawing the attention of officers to certain existing regulations on the subject.

Ch. 591-m.

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IRRIGATION.

Government {1899} of Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

} 1899.

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G.O., No. 101 I., 24th January 1899.

JANUARY.

misc.

order No. 331
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Supervision of Epidemics on Canals

Considering that it would be useless to entrust the work of supervising epidemics on canals to Municipalities and Unions, and drawing the attention of officers to certain existing regulations on the subject.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Irrigation.

READ—the following papers:—

Memorandum No. 2 G., dated 4th March 1898.

From W. C. DEMORGAN, Esq., M.I.C.E., Executive Engineer, in charge I Circle, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Waltair, 25th April 1898, No. 185 G.D.

With reference to your No. 2 G., dated 4th March 1898, I have the honour to inform you that I have made enquiries regarding observance of G.O., No. 291 of 19th March 1892, with the following result.

2. The Executive Engineer, Gódvári Eastern division, reports that the head-works and delta sub-division officers frequently inspect boats, and that the lock superintendents do the same. He further states that the instructions contained in the Government Order under reference are only carried out when an epidemic breaks out in the district.

3. The Executive Engineer, Gódvári Western division, states that the records of his office show that disinfectants have from time to time been issued to different locks. There is only one instance of a cholera case detected on a Rahdhari boat, and the boat was disinfected according to the rules laid down in the Government Order.

4. The Executive Engineer, Gódvári Central division, reports that no suspected cases of cholera or small-pox have been reported on any of the boats plying in his division, and that sulphur and carbolic acid are kept at some of the locks; also that cholera medicines have been served to all the centres.

5. I doubt whether any real attention has been paid to the matter at all, and it is very doubtful whether lock superintendents could be depended on to exercise the powers conferred in section 16 (ii) of the Canals and Ferries Act, 1890. Lock superintendents know little and care less about sanitation, and a very small douceur would induce them to allow a boat to pass on, however serious the sickness on board might be.

6. If Rahdhari boats are to be inspected, it would, I submit, be better to place the duty of inspection in the hands of Inspectors of nuisances attached to municipalities and unions. The Rahdhari boats could be inspected at stations where they unload cargo completely, *e.g.*, Ellore, Palkole, Amalapur, Undi, Attile, &c. The inside of a Rahdhari boat is so utterly filthy, that nothing short of unloading, and turning it over would get rid of the accumulation of refuse between the ribs and outer skin of the boat. Moreover, in the absence of flush decks and drain holes, such accumulation is unavoidable. I doubt whether any reform will be effected in the condition of these boats until the public demand it; and judging from the apathy of the native traveller, that time is very remote.

7. With a view to preventing sickness, it would be a step in the right direction, were the conveyance of hides and salt-fish forbidden on passenger boats. The stench from some of these boats is absolutely poisonous.

From J. HANNAN, Esq., Superintending Engineer, II Circle, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Bezwada, 10th May 1898, No. 1414 K.

With reference to your memo. No. 2 G., dated 4th March 1898, I have the honour to forward copy of reports received from Division officers, Kistna Eastern and Kistna Western divisions.

2. I am afraid that the rules are practically inoperative. The initiative rests with the boat sarangs and they are not likely to declare any case of cholera or small-pox which would result in the detention of their boats, even if they know the rules on the subject.

3. I think it would be well if the rules were printed on the back of their licenses.

ENCLOSURES.

From J. S. WILSON, Esq., Executive Engineer, Kistna Eastern Division, to the Superintending Engineer, II Circle, dated 3rd May 1898, No. 89.

With reference to your No. 789 K.E., dated 18th March 1898, I have the honour to report that special attention was called to the rules in the month of February last year, when there was an epidemic of cholera in Bezwada when copies were circulated to all Sub-division officers, subordinates and lock superintendents, who were ordered to report the occurrence of any cases of contagious disease.

In Bezwada itself the inspection of boats was delegated to the municipality who appointed watchers. One or two boats, I believe, were dealt with under the rules and these were taken into the river for disinfection. (This portion of the canal till recently was under the Northern division).

The only case which has come to my personal notice in the Eastern division was one which occurred in a boat at Masulipatam; in this case, the matter was reported to the municipality and the boat was disinfected under the supervision of a Medical officer. I happened to be at Masulipatam just after the boat had been cleaned, and found to my surprise that the disinfection had been carried out in the canal near the Sultanagaram undertunnel. I ordered the boat to be taken below the tidal lock where it remained till the Medical officer considered it safe. A certain quantity of disinfectants, carbolic acid, sulphur, &c., and medicines, have been supplied to a number of places along the canals when they will be available for use when required. A case of cholera occurred on the Ellore canal some time ago, when a mile cooly was attacked and recovered, his shed and personal property were disinfected with care under my orders.

From W. C. LEWIS, Esq., Executive Engineer, Kistna Western Division, to the Superintending Engineer, II Circle, dated 16th April 1898, No. 26 S.

I have the honour to report that the lock superintendents have been supplied with disinfectants, but no reports have been submitted to this office of any cases of cholera having occurred in boats. I will make further inquiries into the subject.

From J. P. DAVIDSON, Esq., Executive Engineer, Chingleput division, to the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, dated 1st April 1898, No. 2.

With reference to your endorsement, No. 135 C.N., dated 11th March 1898, on Chief Engineer's memo., No. 2 G. of 4th idem, enquiring to what extent the orders of Government conveyed in G.O., No. 291 I., dated 19th March 1892, are being complied with, I have the honour to report that on receipt of the Government Order, the same was circulated to Sub-division officers, Overseers, wharf and toll superintendents on the Buckingham canal and their very careful attention drawn to the instructions contained therein as regards the inspection and disinfection of affected boats plying on the Buckingham canal. They were also directed to report all cases of cholera to the nearest Medical officer or subordinate, stop all infected boats, disinfect them and isolate passengers.

2. The Collectors of Nellore and Chingleput were requested to render every possible assistance to the canal staff in carrying out the above arrangements, and notices in English and in the vernaculars were published in the Fort St. George, Chingleput and Nellore District Gazettes to the effect that the public are warned that under section

No. 101 I., 24TH JANUARY 1899.

16 (ii) of the Canals and Ferries Act of 1890 and G.O., No. 291 I., dated 19th March 1892, all persons navigating vessels on the Buckingham canal are required to report the occurrence of cholera cases to the nearest canal officials, and canal officers are authorized to stop infected boats; and that any infringement of the above rules will entail the penalties authorized under the Navigation rules.

3. When cholera is prevalent on the canal a quarantine is established at Kottapatam, and the lock superintendent at Shadayancuppam directed not to allow affected boats coming into Madras to pass his lock without first segregating and disinfecting them.

4. Sulphur, carbolic acid, chlorodyne, country soap, &c., were indented for on the Medical Storekeeper, Madras, and supplied to the following stations to be kept in readiness.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) Kothapatam wharf. | (5) Shadayancuppam wharf |
| (2) Muthukur wharf. | (Ennore south lock). |
| (3) Madras basin. | (6) Adyar lock. |
| (4) Mypaud wharf. | (7) Papanchavady wharf. |

5. Please see G.O., No. 190 I., dated 24th February 1893, which is a typical case of what action was taken on the occasion referred to in the Government order under reference, as also G.O., No. 343 I., dated 14th April 1893.

No. 139 E.I.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation with reference to his No. 2 G., dated 4th March 1898.

7th April 1898.

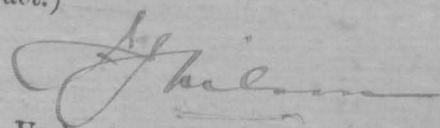
(Signed) C. C. RAWSON, Col., R.E.,
Supg. Engineer, V Circle.

ORDER—No. 101 I., dated 24th January 1899.

The Government considers that as Municipalities and Unions do not cover the whole course of the canals, it would be useless to entrust the work of supervising epidemics on canals to those bodies as suggested by the Superintending Engineer, I Circle. Unions particularly have no staff that can do the work. During times of ordinary sanitary conditions, therefore, the regulations contained in G.O., No. 291 I., dated 19th March 1892, should be worked by the officers of the Public Works Department to the best of their ability. As to supervision of plague on canals it is observed that sufficient provision* has been made in the Plague Regulations for the interrogation, inspection and detention of passengers by a canal boat in the same manner as passengers by railway.

* Vide Mufassal Regulation 26 and City Regulation 17 of December 1897.

(True Extract.)


Under Secretary to Government,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Superintending Engineer, I Circle.
" " " II "
" " " V "
" Local and Municipal Department.

Ed. T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.

L. & M.
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AIN G.O., No.
189 ,

DATED

ENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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