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Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 447 P. 1899

DATED 22/3/99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Caorg Notification

Recording letter from the Chief Commr
of Caorg. forwarding copy of notice issued
under the Epidemic Diseases Act 1897

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 586 P

From

The Secretary to the
Chief Commr.
Coorg.

Order No 447 Pms of 22.3.99

Recorded

1/2
22/3/99

W 399

No. 603

Dated 16.

Received 17.

Registered 17.

Enclosures 1

Spare copies 1 of each

March '99

Copy to the Chief Commr.
with a copy of the
pamphlet.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding copy of notification
issued by the Chief Commr. under
the Epidemic Diseases Act 1897
containing rules framed to
stamp out the plague & check
its importation.

BACK PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

586P

COORG CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

No. 603



FROM

THE SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF COORG.

TO

The Secretary to the
Government of Madras,
Local & Municipal Department.

Dated the 16th March 1899.

SIR,

I am directed by the Chief Commissioner to forward 2 copies

The Coorg Plague Rules.
(Notification No. 24 dated the
17th February 1899.

} of the publication noted on the margin.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

K. S. Guskine Captain
Secretary to the Chief Commissioner.

46



THE COORG PLAGUE RULES

1
enc. 586P 899

(Issued under Chief Commissioner's

Notification No. 24)

Dated Virajpett, 17th February 1899.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF COORG,

Camp Virajendrapett,

No. 24.

Dated 17th February 1899.

NOTIFICATION.

In exercise of the powers conferred on him by Notifications Nos. 302, and 4614, dated respectively the 4th February 1897 and the 28th November 1898, of the Governor General in Council, the Chief Commissioner is pleased to make the following regulations under section 2 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897.

Part I.

GENERAL ORGANIZATION.

1. The general supervision of the arrangements for dealing with plague in Coorg is vested in the Commissioner, under the control of, and subject to report in all important matters to, the Chief Commissioner. The Commissioner shall have authority to depute, either generally or specially, to the District Magistrate, any powers which may, under this Regulation, be exercised by him.

2. The Commissioner may in cases of emergency issue such orders relating to matters not specifically dealt with herein as may appear necessary, provided that they do not conflict with the general principles of these rules.

3. Subject to the general control of the Commissioner, the Civil Surgeon, as Chief Health Officer of the district, is directly responsible for the conduct of purely medical arrangements in connection with the plague.

4. The term "Medical Officer" in these rules means and includes:

- (a) The Civil Surgeon.
- (b) A Plague inspecting Medical Officer at a road frontier inspection station.
- (c) Any other person appointed by the Chief Commissioner to be a Medical Officer for the purposes of these rules.

5. Any orders issued or action taken of special importance or general application by any person exercising authority under these rules shall be immediately reported to the Commissioner.

6. A copy of any general orders issued by the Commissioner to the Civil Surgeon shall immediately be sent to the Chief Commissioner.

Part II.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE IMPORTATION OF PLAGUE.

7. Inspection stations shall be established as near as possible to the frontier at such places and on such roads as the Commissioner may determine. At each such inspection station there shall be a Medical Officer who shall examine all persons entering Coorg by such road. If any travellers appear to him to be suffering from plague, they shall be removed to such place as may be appointed for this purpose. If any travellers coming or suspected to be coming from an area infected with plague appear to be suspicious by reason of their appearance, or the dirty condition of their clothes and effects, or to belong to classes who cannot be readily traced or relied on to give information of the occurrence of plague among them, they may be required to proceed without delay to such place of observation as may be appointed for the purpose.

Provided that no person holding a certificate of inoculation by Professor Haffkine's method, dated within six months previous, and bearing the holder's thumb-mark, shall be detained as suspicious, unless he appears to be suffering from plague: but such person shall be liable to undergo the disinfection prescribed in rule 11.

8. For the accommodation of the travellers referred to in the preceding rule there shall be erected in the vicinity of each inspection station a sufficient number of sheds or tents for hospital and observation purposes and a Medical Officer shall be in charge. A supply of disinfectants and stores shall also be maintained at each inspection station.

9. Any traveller removed under rule 7 as believed to be suffering from plague shall be detained for so long as the Medical Officer may consider necessary. Any traveller removed under rule 7 as being "suspicious" shall not be detained for more than ten days in the observation camp, but should he during such detention be attacked with plague he shall be removed to the hospital. Travellers detained under Rule 7 may, if they are without funds, be supplied with food free of charge.

10. If any traveller suffering from plague, or any person attacked by plague while under detention, is accompanied by any companion or attendant, the Medical Officer shall permit one such companion or attendant, if willing to do so, to attend upon him in the hospital, and shall require his other companions or attendants to live in such hut or tent as is allotted for this purpose, until they receive permission to depart, which shall not be granted until ten days have elapsed from the date on which the member of their party last attacked by plague was removed to hospital.

11. The Medical Officer may cause to be disinfected, with their clothes and belongings, all persons

4
detained or removed under rule 7 before permitting them to leave the place of detention.

12. Upon the death in hospital of a person from plague the Medical Officer may for ten days detain under observation in segregation huts, tents or other suitable structures, all persons who have been in attendance on him.

13. A person dealt with under Rules 7, 9, 10, 11 or 12 shall comply with any directions that may be given to him by the Medical Officer with regard to his removal to, and his detention in, an observation shed, temporary hospital or place of segregation and with respect to the disinfecting or burning of his personal effects, or with respect to the disposal of any corpse, or any other similar matter, and he shall not depart from any such place of detention without the permission of the Medical Officer.

14. The luggage and clothing of persons detained as suspicious, having come from areas in which the plague prevails, shall be disinfected in accordance with the G. of I, Home Department, Circular No. 1871 dated the 27th April 1897 (annexure), or, instead of articles being boiled, they may be steeped in a solution of perchloride of mercury and sun-dried.

15. Medical Officers shall, subject to the general orders of the Commissioner, exercise the widest discretion as to the destruction or disinfection of personal effects and luggage of travellers from infected areas, so as to render it next to impossible that contaminated articles be passed without being destroyed or thoroughly disinfected, which procedure of disinfection shall, when necessary, involve the detention of the travellers to whom the effects belong.

16. In cases in which it is considered necessary to burn or destroy the clothes, bedding, or other property of a traveller, or of an attendant on a person suffering or dying from plague, or a person recovering from plague, the Medical Officer may, subject

5
to the general orders of the Commissioner, if the person be poor or for other sufficient reason, arrange for providing other articles in their place or for immediate payment of compensation out of funds allotted by the Commissioner. A list of all articles burnt or destroyed shall be kept showing the estimated value of each article.

17. The Medical Officer shall immediately report to the Civil Surgeon and the Commissioner the case of any person removed under his order to an observation shed, hospital or place of segregation, and the occurrence of any death from plague or suspicious illness.

18. In the case of a person who has died or is suspected to have died from plague, the Medical Officer shall see that the relatives or attendants of any such person dispose of the body in accordance with the conditions laid down in Rule 30, and shall himself arrange for the disposal of the body if the relatives or attendants are unable or unwilling to do so in accordance with these conditions.

19. The Medical Officer shall issue to any person coming or believed to be coming from an infected district, or who may have passed through an infected district, and whom it does not appear necessary to detain under rule 7, a passport showing the date of arrival of any such person, and binding him to present himself for daily inspection for the next ten days before the local authority of any place to which he may go; and he shall be bound to so present himself.

By a local authority is meant (a) the local Medical Officer, or Station House Officer,

(b) if there is no such officer in the place, the local headman,

(c) in the case of a coffee estate, the owner, superintendent, or agent.

Provided that a Medical Officer not lower in rank than a Hospital Assistant, or a Revenue Officer not

lower in rank than a Parpattigar, may by endorsement on the passport exempt any person holding a passport from personal attendance to report himself:

Provided also that no gosha female shall be required to present herself for inspection, but may be examined at her residence by a female deputed for the purpose by a local authority.

20. The Medical Officer shall immediately communicate the issue of a passport to the Subedar or Parpattigar within whose charge the person holding the passport is about to reside, or, in the case of a coffee estate, to the owner, superintendent or agent.

Provided that the Medical Officer shall not be required to issue a passport to persons driving carts or bringing produce to a market, and intending to return on the same or the following day, unless the Commissioner shall so direct.

21. Any person coming from an infected district into Coorg without passing through an inspection station, shall be bound to report himself within 12 hours of his arrival, to the local authority as above defined.

Part III.

RULES RELATING TO MUNICIPALITIES AND VILLAGES.

22. In every Municipality or village every householder and every medical practitioner practising therein or in the case of a coffee estate any owner, superintendent or agent, who becomes cognisant of any case of plague, or of fever with glandular swellings or of a succession of cases of fever of a virulent and fatal type, in his house, or in any other private dwelling within the limits of such municipality, village or estate, shall be bound to give information of the same with the least practicable delay;

(a) in the case of a Municipality to the President (or Vice President) of the Municipal Committee and the Medical Officer in charge of the Municipal dispensary,

(b) in the case of a village or estate to the nearest official of the Revenue, Police or Medical Departments. The officer receiving the information shall communicate it without delay to the Civil Surgeon and the Commissioner.

23. When in any building or place within a Municipality or village there is or there is good reason for believing that there may be, a person suffering or suspected to be suffering from plague, or to have so lately suffered as to be in an infectious state, or likely from recent contact with plague cases to be in an infectious state, the Commissioner or, subject to the Commissioner's control, the Civil Surgeon, or any plague officer appointed generally or specially by the Commissioner in this behalf, may inspect such person and building or place and either:—

(a) remove such person to one of the places of accommodation provided for persons suffering from plague, and there detain and treat him until he shall have been certified by the Medical Officer in charge to be free from infection, or

(b) take measures for segregating and detaining such person in his own house or in some other suitable place if, in the opinion of the Commissioner, the place is such that he can be segregated therein without great risk of spreading the infection,

(c) if he considers necessary, remove any person or persons living or found in the building or place either for detention in a place appointed for this purpose, or for such time as may be necessary for the disinfection of the premises,

(d) take such steps as may be necessary for cleansing, limewashing and disinfecting the building

or place, or for improving its ventilation and lighting.

(e) In the case of poor persons, pay immediate compensation for articles destroyed or damaged in the process of disinfection.

No person segregated or detained under this rule shall leave the place of segregation or detention except with the permission of the officer in charge.

Provided that

(1) no person shall be removed for detention or segregation, who holds a certificate of inoculation, by Professor Haffkine's method, dated within six months previously, and bearing the holder's thumb-mark, unless the building in which he is living is in the opinion of the officer empowered under this rule totally unfit for human habitation. The building in which the inoculated person is living may be immediately disinfected, with the exception of the room in which a sick person is lying, which shall be disinfected on the death or recovery of the patient.

(2) no person suffering from plague whose death appears to be imminent shall be removed from his house.

24. Patients suffering from plague who, or whose relations, object to the use of English medicine, shall be permitted to avail themselves of the services of native Practitioners.

25. Any building or place which is required for and is, in the opinion of the Civil Surgeon or the Medical Officer deputed by him in this behalf, suitable for the accommodation of persons suffering from plague or of those who have been in contact with them, may be entered upon and occupied by the Commissioner (if untenanted, without any notice whatsoever and, if tenanted, after 24 hours notice in writing conspicuously posted on such house or building) and may be used for the purposes of such

accommodation and the owner or lessee of such building or place shall not be entitled to anything beyond a reasonable rent for the period during which the ground or building may remain in the occupation of the Commissioner, provided that the Commissioner shall be bound, at the cost of Municipal Local or other funds, thoroughly to cleanse and disinfect the ground or building and, if the latter, additionally to whitewash it internally and externally before vacating it.

26. In any town, village, or area, to which the Commissioner shall extend this rule, each householder or head of a family shall be bound to give immediate intimation of any sickness occurring within his house or family to the local Medical Officer, or if there be no such officer, to the local headman, or in the case of a coffee estate to the owner, superintendent or agent.

27. In any town, village or area, to which the Commissioner shall extend this rule, each householder or head of a family shall report the death of any person in his house or family to the local medical authority before removing the corpse for burning or burial. If there be no local medical authority, each householder or head of a family shall report the death of any person in their household or family within twenty-four hours to the local headman, or in the case of a coffee estate to the owner, superintendent or agent.

28. The Commissioner may empower any officer in a town, village, or area, to take a census of the inhabitants, or to enquire from any householder or head of a family, regarding the health of the household, or regarding arrivals at and departures from the household, or to see any person, except a gosha female in the household, and such householder or head of a family shall be bound to answer truly the questions asked him by any such officer.

29. The Commissioner may prohibit any person in a village, town, or area from leaving any such

place without a permit, or from changing his residence in a village or town from one house to another without permission.

30. The bodies of persons who have died of plague which are to be disposed of by burial, shall be buried in graves six feet deep and four feet apart, in places well away from habitations and sources of water supply, and the Commissioner shall have power to appoint places for their burial, or to prohibit their burial in any particular spot. In cases in which bodies are burnt, this shall be completely done in an isolated locality. The expense in the case of persons who have died of plague whose relatives are unable to pay for their proper disposal, may be, by order of the Commissioner, paid out of Plague Funds.

31. The Commissioner is empowered to order evacuation of any house or block of houses or locality or village, if he considers it advisable, in order to check the spread of plague, and to prohibit the re-occupation of such houses or locality or village, without permission. The Commissioner shall give notice for such period as he may deem necessary, and shall, in the case of people unable to bear the cost of removal, provide temporary accommodation or materials for temporary sheds and huts. The Commissioner may require the evicted persons to reside in any place which he may appoint under such restrictions and for such periods as he may deem necessary and may forbid them to visit any other village or locality. The Commissioner may disinfect and lime-wash such house, or block of houses, or locality or village, or may permit the disinfection and lime-washing to be done by the householders, to the satisfaction of officers empowered by him in this behalf.

32. For the purpose of carrying into effect any of the measures contemplated in this Regulation the Chief Commissioner may order any Municipal or Local body to meet the expenses of such measures from the funds at their control.

33. For the purpose of securing a correct record of the total mortality in any Municipality or village, the Commissioner may post police officers or other officials at burial and burning grounds. Such officials may enquire of the mourners the place and cause of death, but shall not delay or interfere with the cremation or burial in any way. No corpse shall be uncovered or examined at, or on its way to, a burning or burial ground.

34. Any person disobeying or contravening or refusing to submit himself to any Regulation made under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, or obstructing any measure which has been taken by Government, or which any authority, or officer appointed under competent authority to carry out such Regulation, has been required or empowered to take under any such Regulation, shall be deemed to have committed an offence punishable under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code, and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months or fine which may extend to one thousand Rupees or both.

K. D. ERSKINE, CAPTAIN,

Secretary to the Chief Commissioner,

Coorg.