

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 491 P mis

DATED 29/3/99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Plague in Calcutta

Recording letter from the Govt. of Bengal forwarding copy of a resolution relating to the reappearance of plague in Calcutta, & ordering the re-publication in the Fort St. George Gazette of a notification of that Govt. & prescribing regulation for the inspection of vessels leaving the port of Calcutta.

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 & Muni. (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 5249

nos 524P, 556P, 5579P.

From The Govt of Bengal

Order No. 491 Pms of 29-3-99

Recorded

No. 1240 Medical.

2. The notification received from the Government of Bengal with the second letter read Dated 1.

alone will be republished in Received 9- } March '99
The Fort Saint George Gazette. Registered 9-

1/2
22/3/99

W 1 3 99

Shree Khunda road on met. W 1 3 99

Enclosures 1

Spare copies 5 of incl + 5 of Cur.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding copy of Resolution issued by the Govt of Bengal relating to the reappearance of plague in Calcutta and framing rules as regards the inspection

To The Plague Commr.

Machine Dept.

P.W. Dept (Reg. branch) with 800 persons leaving Calcutta both by

Sanitary Commr

Surgeon General

President, M.C. Madras (for perusal & return)

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	1370	Plague	25/10/88

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

1 d.c. sent to P.C.
9/3

15/3

enc 524P

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL.

No. 1240Med.

CALCUTTA, THE 1st MARCH 1899.

FROM E. N. BAKER, Esq.,

Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, a copy of a Resolution issued by this Government No. 1145Med., dated the 24th February 1899, relating to the reappearance of plague in Calcutta. Passengers travelling by rail from Calcutta will henceforward be medically inspected at Chausa on the East Indian Railway, Mairwa on the Bengal and North-Western Railway, Chakradharpur on the Bengal Nagpur Railway, and Khurda Road on the East Coast Railway until further orders. Persons travelling by steamer from the direction of Calcutta will be examined at Chausa ghat.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

B. J. Lee
for Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

52c each

W. S.—Reg. No. 7189C—98—2-3-99.

15/3

Local & Munl. (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 5569

From

The Govt of Bengal

No. 1318 msl

Dated 2.

Received 13. } March '99

Registered 13.

Enclosures 1

Spare copies 5 of incl. & 10 of cur.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding copy of the Plague Regu-
-lation No 14 dated 18th March 1899
which has been issued by the Govt of
Bengal in pursuance of the Regula-
-tion of the 16th Oct '98 for the inspection
of vessels leaving the port of Calcutta.

BACK PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

556P

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL.

No. 1318Med.

CALCUTTA, THE 2ND MARCH 1899.

FROM E. N. BAKER, Esq.,

Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

SIR,

UNDER instructions contained in the letter from the Government of India in the Home Department No. ^{6-Sany.}₆₀₄, dated the 20th February 1897, I am directed to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, a copy of Plague Regulation No. 14 of the 1st March 1899, which has been issued by this Government, in supersession of the Regulation of the 10th October 1898 for the inspection of vessels leaving the Port of Calcutta.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

Flag U

B. J. L.
for *Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.*

Local & Munl. (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 5797

From The Govt of India.

Order

No. 950

Dated

Received } 16.3.89

Registered

Enclosures 2

Spare copies 7 of Cur.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding copy of letter to the Govt of Bengal, stating that orders are about to issue with reference to the suggestion of the Govt of Bengal that tickets issued at Calcutta to Ry stations beyond Channai, Mairwa, Chakraspurs, and Khurda Road shall be punched with a distinctive mark.

BACK PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

1362

originals available

No. 1174 (Medical), dated Calcutta, the 25th February 1899.

From—E. N. BAKER, Esq., I.C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Municipal (Medical) Department,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department.

I AM directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, copies of this Government Resolution No. 1145 (Medical), dated the 24th February 1899, re-imposing plague precautions in Calcutta. The Sanitary Commissioner has been requested to issue the necessary instructions for the medical examination at Chausa, Mairwa, Chakradharpur and Khurda Road of persons travelling by rail from Calcutta, and I am to suggest that the different Railway companies concerned may be asked to issue orders that tickets issued at Calcutta to stations beyond Chausa, Mairwa, Chakradharpur and Khurda Road shall be punched.

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT,—(MEDICAL):

Calcutta, the 24th February 1899.

RESOLUTION—No. 1145Med.

By a Notification No. 6026 issued by the Municipal (Medical) Department of this Government on the 10th October 1898, it was announced that Calcutta was free from plague, no fresh case of, or death from, the disease having occurred since the 28th September. In a Resolution published on the same date, the Lieutenant-Governor drew attention to the danger of a possible re-appearance of plague, and expressed his desire that the ward family and caste hospitals which had been opened under private management should be maintained in working order, and that the precautions which had been taken to stave off an outbreak, and to deal with it if it should arise, should not be relaxed.

2. Since these announcements were made, dropping cases of a suspicious character have been reported from time to time, some of which were of such a character as to leave little room for doubt as to their having been genuine plague. Until recently, these have been so few in number, so isolated, and for the most part so far open to doubt that it has not been found necessary to re-impose the restrictions which were withdrawn in October; and the Lieutenant-Governor, while fully cognizant of their significance, has thought it sufficient to report their occurrence from time to time to the Government of India, and to the various Foreign Governments, as required by the terms of the Venice Convention, still entertaining the hope that with the passing of the cold season they would disappear.

3. This hope has unhappily not been realised. During January 15 cases with 13 deaths were reported. During the present month, up to the 23rd instant, there have been 27 cases with 24 deaths, and the numbers reported during the latter part of the month are greater than in the beginning. In some wards of the town also, and notably in Ward No. V, the total registered mortality from all causes has lately risen in a marked manner above the normal rate, and though there is no direct evidence that this is due to plague, the absence of any other known cause is at least a ground for suspicion. Reports have also reached Government which point to the possibility that attempts may be made to conceal the occurrence of cases, the sufferers being turned out of their houses by the landlords or the other inmates, through fear of infection or for other reasons, and forced to seek shelter elsewhere. Intimation has been received that the authorities in Egypt have decided to apply the plague rules against arrivals from Calcutta: and orders have been issued by the Government of India that the regulations of the Venice Convention shall be enforced against Calcutta at the ports of Aden, Madras, and Rangoon.

4. In these circumstances the Lieutenant-Governor is compelled, with much regret, to re-impose the restrictions which were withdrawn in October 1898. A Resolution is under issue prescribing that the inspection of the passengers and crews of vessels leaving Calcutta for ports out of India shall again be conducted by day on shore at the time of embarkation, and the fact that this has been done will be endorsed on the bill of health to be granted before any such vessel leaves the port. Correspondence has recently passed regarding a proposal that the clothing of the crews and deck passengers of vessels proceeding on long voyages shall be disinfected before departure. The Lieutenant-Governor was at first in hopes that this measure might not be necessary, but in view of the altered condition of things this is no longer possible. In communication with the Liners' Conference and the late President of the Chamber of Commerce, he has drawn up a scheme to give effect to the proposal, and arrangements will be made to bring it into force as soon as the apparatus can be procured. Orders are also under issue to provide for the inspection of passengers by train in the same manner as was done prior to October 1898.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor has also had under consideration the question of revising the regulations for dealing with plague in Calcutta itself. Those now in force are contained in Plague Regulation No. 9, dated 10th November 1897, and were drawn up with reference to the experience which

had been gained in Bombay and elsewhere, before any case of plague had occurred, in Calcutta. In substance, the Lieutenant-Governor sees no reason to doubt their propriety and efficacy. In some points of detail, however, later experience has suggested improvements. In order that effective measures may be taken to prevent the spread of infection, it is of the first importance that every case which occurs shall be promptly brought to the notice of the authorities. Foreign Governments would have just cause for complaint if the measures adopted locally were such as to lead to the concealment of cases; nor can the Local Government hope to cope successfully with an outbreak if the regulations in force are so repugnant to the sense of the people affected as to drive them to withhold information and hide away their sick instead of bringing them forward for treatment. Experience has shown that success has attended the system prescribed in Rule 46 of Plague Regulation No. 9, by which persons found to be suffering from plague are, at their discretion, permitted to resort to ward, caste, or family hospitals, maintained by private contributions, instead of being removed for segregation to the special plague hospitals at Maniktala, Marcus Square, and the Budge-Budge Road. Still more satisfactory has been the arrangement frequently resorted to by which persons are permitted to set apart portions of their dwelling or garden houses, under due restrictions, for use as private hospitals for themselves and their families. In the case of the poorer classes, however, the arrangements have not worked so well. It is amongst the poor that the majority of the patients has usually been found: and any system is defective which leads these ignorant and superstitious people to resort to any shift rather than expose themselves to the chances of compulsory removal to a plague hospital or segregation camp.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor is therefore of opinion that measures must be taken to apply in the case of the poorer classes also the system which has so far worked well in respect of classes higher in the social scale. In future no person shall be removed to a public hospital under Rule 46 of Plague Regulation No. 9, without his consent, provided that suitable arrangements are made for the treatment of the case at home. If there is any ward, caste, or family hospital for admission to which he is eligible, and to which he is willing to go, he may be moved thither. If there is no such hospital available, an endeavour should be made to explain to the patient or his friends the advantages which he would obtain in a public hospital in respect of treatment, attendance, and surroundings. But if, notwithstanding this, he still prefers to be treated at his own home, arrangements shall be made to adapt the latter for the purposes of a private isolation hospital. The other inmates, except such as are in attendance on the patient, should be induced to remove elsewhere. Medicines and medical attendance should be provided free of cost, and on the recovery of the patient (or after his death, if the case should terminate fatally) the premises should be either thoroughly disinfected, or, if necessary, demolished, compensation being paid to the owner. All clothing or bedding which is likely to have become contaminated should also be at once disinfected in the Equifex disinfectant or destroyed on payment of compensation. If any structural or internal alterations in the house or hut appear necessary in order to render it suitable for its purpose, these shall be carried out by the Chairman and the Health Officer at the public expense.

7. By these measures, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes to secure the active co-operation of the public in the reporting of cases promptly as they occur. There is at present no serious ground for alarm. Such cases as have occurred are undoubtedly sporadic. The season of greatest danger is nearly passed. Much has been done during the past two years to improve the conservancy of the town, and to introduce a higher standard of cleanliness. The municipal establishments have been strengthened, and a strong staff of competent medical and sanitary officers is at hand. The course which the disease has so far taken in Calcutta is such as to warrant the hope that the town may yet escape a serious outbreak. And the Lieutenant-Governor is confident that all classes of the community will unite with the authorities in their efforts to ward it off.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

E. N. BAKER,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 949 .

FROM

R. NATHAN, Esq.,

Under Secretary to the Government of India,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL,
MUNICIPAL (MEDICAL) DEPARTMENT.

Home Department.
Sanitary (Plague).

Calcutta, the 10th March 1899.

SIR,

IN reply to your letter No. 1174 (Medical), dated the 25th February 1899, regarding the re-imposition of plague precautions in Calcutta, I am directed to state, for the information of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, that orders are about to issue with reference to the suggestion of the Government of Bengal that tickets issued at Calcutta to railway stations beyond Chausa, Mairwa, Chakradharpur and Khurda Road shall be punched with a distinctive mark.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

R. NATHAN,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 950 .

COPY, with copy of the letter (and enclosure) replied to, forwarded to

Government of Madras
the North-Western Provinces and Oudh
the Punjab
the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces
Resident at Hyderabad
Resident in Mysore
Agent to the Governor General, Rajputana

for information.

By order,

R. Nathan

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

To the Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

When given for copying _____
 When copied _____
 When examined _____
 When signed _____

189 .

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
 189 ,

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILLED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
 IN ORIGINAL.

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- A = Copy in full.
- B = Not to be copied.
- P = Copy abstract only.
- Q = Copy heading only.