

L & M
Revenue (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 5937

DATED 25/4/99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Plague precautionary measures

Recording, with reference to G.O. No. 5921 dated 25th April 1899, letter from the Government of India forwarding (copy of a letter with enclosures) ~~thereof~~ from the Government of Bengal ~~concerning~~ regarding the arrangements ~~which have been~~ made to prevent the spread of plague from 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.

Note for the Secretary

Submitted for perusal
of Mr. Buckley's note
above. As regards the
portion marked A orders
have already issued.

10/5/29.

15/11/29

addressed to it by Bengal Govt.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTH

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
-3 MAY-1899
LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

OFFICE NOTE No. 821 P

The B. of Calcutta & P. Reg.
15. is that I have seen.
A mented for adoption in
this Presidency. I think
Mr. Borden is very in
criticising every

the detection of (1) contents of
Dustful cases, (2) persons
of temperature above normal.

From The Govt of India.

Order No. 5938910 of 25-4-99

Recorded with reference
to G.O. No. 5927110 of 25-4-99

No. 1373

Dated 11-
Received 18-
Registered 22-
April 99

Enclosures 4

Spare copies 7 of Cur.

* No spare copies of this Bengal
Govt. letter to India have been received.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding copy of a letter with
enclosures thereof from the Govt.
of Bengal describing the arrangements
which have been made to prevent
the spread of plague from Calcutta.

Note with this current the Govt of India
forward copies of the resolution
& a regulation, issued by the Govt
of Bengal regarding the measures
adopted to prevent the spread of
plague from Calcutta, and of which
copies have been sent to the Govt direct by Bengal.
The Govt of India has forwarded also a copy of the letter
addressed to it by Bengal Govt.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL.

No. 289 Medl.
Plague

CALCUTTA, THE 28TH MARCH 1899.

FROM E. N. BAKER, Esq.,

Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

HOME DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Nathan's letter No. 916, dated 10th instant, and subsequent reminder, enquiring what arrangements have been made to prevent the spread of plague from Calcutta.

2. In reply, I am directed to forward herewith a copy of a Resolution No. 228 Medl. of this date and of Plague Regulation No. 15, dated the 28th March 1899, which contains the information asked for.

3. Until a few weeks ago, the Lieutenant-Governor had not thought it necessary to prescribe any special measures to prevent the spread of plague from Calcutta. The outbreak which occurred in April 1898 was on a very insignificant scale. The ascertained cases were few and intermittent, and eventually ceased altogether in October of that year. During the past year the practical danger to be guarded against lay in the possible importation of infection from Bombay or other Provinces in the West and South; and to guard against this, the large camps at Chausa, Mairwa, Chakradharpur and Khurda Road were established. To what extent these have been efficacious to that end is considered below. It is, however, evident that when Calcutta itself became a centre of infection, the position was materially changed. The danger to Bengal districts of infection imported from Calcutta is manifestly greater than the danger from remote Provinces like Bombay or the Punjab: and the occurrence of local outbreaks in Backergunge, Faridpur, Dacca, Saran, and Darbhanga, in all of which the infection was clearly imported from Calcutta, proved the necessity for a change of system. In the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion it is now necessary to draw in the protecting stations from the frontiers of the Province, where the danger is remote, and concentrate them so as to surround Calcutta, where the danger is near at hand, and the intercourse is greater.

4. Sir John Woodburn has therefore decided to establish observation posts or "places of inspection" on the lines of rail and steamer routes round Calcutta at such a distance as will not affect the suburban traffic which it is not practicable to deal with. The stations now proposed will be at Panduah on the East Indian Railway, Naihati junction on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, Bongong on the Bengal Central Railway, and Khola Ghat, the newly opened terminus of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, which is connected with Calcutta by a short steamer service. The whole area within these points will for the present purpose be regarded as infected. The two objects to be aimed at are (1) to prevent any person who is suffering from or infected with plague from travelling from Calcutta by public modes of conveyance, such as rail or steamer: and (2) to give timely notice to the District authorities when any person from an infected area leaves it for the mufassal. These objects it is sought to secure in the following way. Every train leaving Howrah or Sealdah for a station outside the infected area will be inspected before starting. It is not proposed to make this inspection very minute. The Medical Officer will go round to each carriage and look at the inmates, in order to detect any person who is manifestly ill. If any such person is found, he will be examined, and if found to be suffering from plague will be removed, and the carriage cut off and disinfected. If any person is found

on this examination to be in bad health, but suspicion of plague is not established, he will be allowed to proceed, but the District authorities will be informed by wire.

5. The next stage is reached at the inspection stations, which will be at Panduah, Naihati, and Bongong. There an inspection and examination of all passengers will be held, on the same general lines as those prescribed in Bombay since the 19th October 1898, except that the thermometer test will only be applied in the case of persons who on other grounds are suspected of suffering from plague. Small camps will be established at these places, but the most stringent orders will be issued to avoid anything resembling land quarantine, and it is not expected that anything like so large a number of people will be detained as at the present camps.

6. Thirdly, arrangements will be made, generally on the lines of those laid down in Mr. Hewett's letter No. 48, dated 7th January 1898, to punch the tickets of all passengers who leave the infected area (*i.e.*, Calcutta, and stations between Calcutta and Panduah, Naihati, and Bongong) in a distinctive manner, to communicate the arrival of such persons promptly through the Railway Police to the District authorities, and as far as possible to prevent re-booking.

7. Fourthly, arrangements similar to the above will be made to deal with persons who proceed to their destinations by steamer direct from Calcutta, or partly by steamer and partly by rail. The nature of these will be sufficiently clear from the Plague Regulation forwarded herewith.

8. The introduction of these measures will impose a severe strain on the medical staff of the Province, which, as the Government of India are aware, is far short of even its normal strength. To carry out the arrangements now being organized will require a material increase to the staff. Native officers of a suitable class can be procured locally, but for supervision a strong stiffening of European officers is absolutely necessary, and the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that a resolute effort will be made by the Government of India to provide these.

9. A few of the officers required will be drawn from the present camps which it has been decided not to continue. The Lieutenant-Governor lately caused the principal camp at Chausa to be inspected by Mr. Bourdillon, Commissioner of Patna, a copy of whose note is appended. The result of this inspection has been to confirm the Lieutenant-Governor in the view that the Chausa camp is of no use at all, commensurate with its cost, as a protection to this Province against infection from Bombay or Northern India; while by reason of its situation it is manifestly of no use as a protection to Bengal districts against infection from Calcutta. This last is now the chief danger to be guarded against, and it is necessary for this Government to concentrate all its efforts on that object. The camp at Chausa may possibly have afforded some small degree of protection to the North-Western Provinces against infection from the East as supplementing the camp at Mogulserai; but it is clearly out of the question for District Boards and Municipalities in Bengal to bear the cost of protecting the North-Western Provinces, while they receive no protection themselves. Similar considerations apply to the camps at Mairwa, Chakradharpur, and Khurda Road. The Lieutenant-Governor has therefore intimated to the Governments of Madras, the North-Western Provinces, and the Central Provinces that it is his intention to close these camps as being useless for the purposes of this Province, unless they desire to take them over and maintain them at their own expense. Their place in the chain of protective measures will be taken by the new camps to be established at Panduah and Khola Ghat, and by the system of giving prompt information to the District authorities through the Railway Police of the arrival of persons from infected areas. I am to suggest that the Governments of other Provinces may be invited to co-operate with this Government in appointing police for this purpose at the principal stations on through lines of rail in their territories.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

E. N. BAKER,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT—(MEDICAL).

Calcutta, the 28th March 1899.

RESOLUTION—No. 288 ^{Medl.} _{Plague.}

THE reappearance of plague in Calcutta, and the occurrence of local outbreaks—all happily of small dimensions though of virulent character—in Backergunge, Faridpur, Dacca, Saran and Darbhanga, in all of which it has been proved that the infection was carried by fugitives from Calcutta, have led the Lieutenant-Governor to the conclusion that steps must be taken to afford some protection to districts in the interior against the importation of infection from the town. Since December 1897, the only observation and detention camps have been those at Chausa, Mairwa, Chakradharpur and Khurda Road. These are all situated at or near the frontiers of the Province. Their object was to protect Bengal against the importation of the disease from other provinces to the west and south. From their situation they cannot and were not designed to act as a protection to Bengal districts against infection from Calcutta, and though for some time past up trains have been subject to inspection as well as down trains, this measure was designed merely to prevent the carrying of infection outside Bengal.

2. Now, however, Calcutta has itself become a centre of infection, and is by reason of its more constant intercourse with the mufassal a more serious source of immediate danger than any infected area more remote. Steps must therefore be taken to guard the interior of the Province not only against infection from other provinces, but also from Calcutta. The measures which the Lieutenant-Governor thinks it necessary to adopt are set forth in Plague Regulation No. 15 of this date, which is published herewith. Nothing in the nature of land quarantine is proposed, or would be permissible. Nothing can or should, in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion, be done to prevent persons not actually suffering from or infected with plague from leaving the town as freely as they please. Nothing is practicable which would seek to interfere with the enormous suburban traffic between Calcutta and its neighbourhood, or with the traffic that passes in and out of the town by road or country boat. There seem, however, to be two measures which can properly be adopted, and which will afford to mufassal districts the protection they need, without hampering the legitimate movements of the people of Calcutta. The first of these is to ensure that no person who is actually suffering from or infected with plague shall be allowed when leaving Calcutta to travel by public modes of conveyance, such as rail or steamer. This is already prohibited by the ordinary law of the country; but the cases which have been mentioned above have shown that the prohibition needs to be enforced. The other is to arrange that when any person not suffering from plague leaves an infected area and proceeds to his home in the mufassal, timely intimation shall be furnished of his arrival to the local authorities in the district of destination. All such persons will be allowed to move about freely and without hindrance, but it is reasonable that the local authorities should have prompt notice of their arrival, in order that they may be forewarned and on their guard.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor is satisfied that the measures now prescribed will not interfere in an unreasonable way with the free movements of the residents of Calcutta or with the necessary operations of trade or business. No one will be detained at the places of inspection unless there is distinct evidence that he is infected with plague. Reliance is chiefly placed on the ability of the local officers to deal efficaciously with imported cases, and experience shows that this can be done successfully, with as a rule the hearty consent and co-operation of the people, if prompt information is given of them. Plague is not now increasing in Calcutta, and the Lieutenant-Governor is hopeful that with the advent of the hot weather it will fail to hold its ground either in the town or in the Province.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

E. N. BAKER,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

PLAGUE REGULATION No. 15.

The 28th March 1899.

IN exercise of the powers conferred by section 2 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, and by the Notification of the Government of India, Home Department, No. 302, dated the 4th February 1897, the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to prescribe the following Regulations for preventing the spread of plague from Calcutta to the interior:—

1. The powers conferred by this Regulation are in addition to and not in derogation of any powers conferred by any Plague Regulation now in force.

PART I.—MEDICAL INSPECTION OF TRAINS AT STARTING.

2. The Local Government may by written order appoint one or more Inspecting Medical Officers to inspect passengers leaving Calcutta or any station in the vicinity by rail.

3. When any train is about to leave Howrah or Sealdah, or any station in the vicinity, for any station beyond Panduah on the East Indian Railway, or Naihati on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, or Bongong on the Bengal Central Railway, as the case may be, the Inspecting Medical Officer shall have authority to inspect all passengers proceeding by such train. He shall not ordinarily make any special examination of any passenger who appears to him to be in good health; but he shall examine in any way that he may think proper any passenger who appears to be in bad health, or regarding whom he considers that there are grounds of suspicion: and he may for the purpose of such examination cause any person to alight from the train.

In the case of the Punjab and Bombay mail trains, which are exempted from inspection at Panduah, the examination at Howrah will be of a more thorough and searching character, the Inspecting Medical Officer being authorized to examine every passenger in the manner prescribed by Plague Regulation No. 2 of 30th November 1897.

4. If on such examination the Inspecting Medical Officer is of opinion that any person is suffering from plague, or that there are reasonable grounds for believing that any person is likely to convey the infection of plague, he shall cause such person, and his clothing, bedding and other effects to be removed from the train; and no such person shall proceed on his journey until, in the opinion of the Inspecting Medical Officer, the risk of infection has ceased. The name and address of any person so detained shall be communicated to the Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta, or the Magistrate of Howrah, as the case may be; and also to the Railway Police.

5. In any such case the Inspecting Medical Officer may also, if he thinks fit, cause the railway carriage in which such person was to be cut off from the train and disinfected before it is again used.

6. If on such examination the Inspecting Medical Officer is of opinion that the person examined is not suffering from plague, and that there are no reasonable grounds for believing that he is likely to convey the infection of plague, the Inspecting Medical Officer shall allow him to proceed on his journey; and may if he thinks fit communicate by wire the name and address of such person, and the town or village to which he is proceeding, to the Magistrate of the district in which such town or village is situated, and also to the Railway Police of the station at which he intends to alight. This procedure should be followed in all cases in which the suspicion regarding the passenger falls short of that required to justify his detention under Rule 4.

PART II.—MEDICAL INSPECTION OF TRAINS EN ROUTE.

7. Places of inspection under Plague Regulation No. 2 of 30th November 1897 shall be established at Panduah, Naihati and Bongong.

8. On the arrival of any up train at a place of inspection established under Rule 7, the Medical Officer in charge shall inspect and examine all passengers by such train in such manner and to such extent as he thinks necessary, in order to ascertain whether there is reason to believe or suspect

that such person is or may be infected with plague; and all the provisions of Plague Regulation No. 2 of 30th November 1897 shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to such inspection and examination, including especially those provisions which empower the Medical Officer to detain persons suspected of being infected with plague.

N. B.—The mere fact that a passenger has come from an infected area shall not of itself, and apart from other reasons for suspicion, be deemed to be a reason for detaining such passenger.

The provisions of this rule will not be applied to the Punjab and Bombay mail trains, which are exempted from medical inspection at Panduah. But all persons who desire to enter these trains at Hooghly will be subject to medical inspection at that station.

9. When any person has been detained at a place of inspection under Rule 8 and Plague Regulation No. 2 of 30th November 1897, and the Medical Officer is subsequently of opinion that he may safely be allowed to continue his journey, he shall give him a certificate to that effect in the form hereto appended; and shall cause his ticket to be endorsed with the word "detained" and shall allow him to proceed. On arrival at his station of destination, the passenger shall at the time of giving up his ticket also give up the certificate, which shall be forthwith communicated by the Railway Police to the District Magistrate.

PART III.—INTIMATION TO DISTRICT AUTHORITIES.

10. All tickets issued at any station between Howrah and Panduah inclusive, for any station beyond Pandua, or at any station between Sealdah and Naihati inclusive, for any station beyond Naihati, or at any station between Sealdah and Bongong inclusive, for any station beyond Bongong, shall at the time of issue be conspicuously punched with a square hole.

11. An officer or officers of the Railway Police shall be posted at such stations as the Inspector-General of Police may direct on the East Indian Railway, Eastern Bengal State Railway, the Bengal Central Railway, the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, the East Coast Railway, and the Assam-Bihar Railway.

12. On arrival of any passenger holding a ticket punched as aforesaid at any such station, the Railway Police officer shall record his name and address, and the name of the town or village to which he is proceeding; and shall forthwith communicate this information to the Magistrate of the district in which such town or village is situated. The Magistrate of the district shall determine the channel through which such information shall be communicated to him; and may for this purpose appoint one or more special chaukidars or officers to attend the arrival of up trains at any station in his district.

PART IV.—SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR KHOLA GHAT.

13. A place of inspection shall be established at Khola Ghat on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, and all persons taking the train there shall be subject to inspection and examination in the manner prescribed in Rules 7, 8 and 9 of this Regulation and in Plague Regulation No. 2 of 30th November 1897, *mutatis mutandis*.

14. All tickets issued at Khola Ghat shall be punched with the square hole, and the provisions of Rules 10, 11 and 12 of this Regulation shall apply thereto.

PART V.—SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR GOALUNDO AND KHULNA.

15. Places of inspection shall be established at Goalundo and Khulna, and all the provisions of Rules 7, 8 and 9 of this Regulation and of Plague Regulation No. 2 of 30th November 1897, *mutatis mutandis*, shall apply thereto.

16. All persons who take the steamer at Goalundo or Khulna with the object of proceeding to any place in Bengal or Assam by steamer or by steamer and rail shall be regarded as if they were proceeding direct by rail. If such persons have arrived at Goalundo or Khulna from any station between Sealdah

and Naihati, or Sealdah and Bongong, as the case may be, their steamer tickets, if not already punched, shall be punched as provided in Rule 10. At every point at which the steamer touches for the purpose of landing or embarking passengers, a special officer shall, if the Inspector-General of Police deem it necessary, be posted, and shall on the arrival of any passenger holding a punched ticket proceed as provided in Rule 12.

PART VI.—SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR STEAMER SERVICES RUNNING DIRECT FROM CALCUTTA.

17. To every steamer service running direct from Calcutta to Chandbali or Balasore, or to Barisal and the eastern districts through the Sundarbans, one or more travelling medical inspectors shall be posted. It shall be the duty of the travelling medical inspectors to make the inspection and examination of every person travelling from Calcutta by such steamers in the manner prescribed by Rules 8 and 9 of this Regulation and by Plague Regulation No. 2 of 30th November 1897, *mutatis mutandis*.

18. Places of inspection shall be established at Chandbali, Balasore and Morrelgunge.

19. If on or before arrival of the steamer at Chandbali, Balasore or Morrelgunge, as the case may be, the travelling inspector shall have reason to suspect that any person travelling on such steamer is or may be infected with plague, he shall cause such person to disembark at the place of inspection, and shall cause him to be detained for observation in the manner prescribed in Rules 8 and 9 of this Regulation and Plague Regulation No. 2 of 30th November 1897.

20. At every point at which any such steamer touches for the purpose of landing or embarking passengers, a special officer shall, if the District Magistrate thinks necessary, be posted, and shall on the landing of any passenger proceed as provided in Rule 12.

PART VII.—GENERAL.

21. All persons travelling by rail or steamer shall be bound to obey all orders lawfully given them in pursuance of this Regulation, and to answer truly any questions put to them in pursuance thereof by any officer empowered hereunder.

22. The cost of all measures taken under this Regulation shall be borne by the District Boards and Municipalities of the areas protected in such proportion as the Lieutenant-Governor may determine.

E. N. BAKER,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

FORM OF CERTIFICATE UNDER RULE 9.

COUNTERFOIL.

CERTIFICATE

issued under Plague Regulation No. , dated

Rule 9.

No.

No.

of

189 .

Date

Station

Station

Name

Name

Sex

Sex

Father's or husband's name

Father's or husband's name

Caste

Caste

Address

Address {

Destination

Destination {

Indelible marks

Indelible marks, if any

Temperature at

A.M.
P.M.

Certified that the above individual was detained at the ()
place of inspection from A.M. of the , to
P.M.

Whether disinfected or not

Remarks

A.M. of the
P.M.

and has been thoroughly

Initials

examined, and that his temperature was °F. at A.M.
P.M.

Whether belongings disinfected or not

Medical Officer in charge.

Note on the necessity of retaining the Chausa Inspection Camp.

I VISITED this camp yesterday in company with the Hon'ble E. N. Baker, Officiating Secretary to Government; Mr. Greer, Officiating Inspector-General of Police; Mr. Geake, Officiating Magistrate of Shahabad, and Mr. Swain, Assistant Superintendent of Railway Police. We were received by Captain Gwyther, I.M.S., and made a thorough inspection of the whole camp, lasting from 10 A.M. to 12 noon: we witnessed the medical inspection of the passengers by two trains, one up and one down; we examined the official registers; we conversed with many of the occupants of the camp (over 700 in number), and we exhaustively discussed the whole situation with Captain Gwyther.

2 The effect on my mind of what I saw and heard was to confirm what has been my belief for some time, viz., that the maintenance of Chausa Camp entails for Bengal the wholly useless and unnecessary expenditure of a large sum of money, and that it should be closed forthwith.

3. To deal, first, with existing facts: we found that in spite of distinct orders to the contrary a system of land quarantine, pure and simple, was being enforced chiefly against Calcutta: it is true that this policy is not avowed, but that is the true description of what is being done. All passengers from stations near Calcutta, and from places in or near other infected areas are regarded with profound suspicion: those who have re-booked are properly removed from the train and placed under surveillance; but we found many cases in which passengers had been detained merely because the inspecting officers doubted the truth of their statements, many because their clothes and luggage were dirty, some few who had been in contact with doubtful cases, and still fewer who had, when examined, a temperature above normal. I do not for a moment doubt the *bona fides* of Captain Gwyther and his subordinates, and it was apparent at every moment that he was keenly interested in his work, and anxious to discharge his duties most thoroughly: the fact remains that he has gone far beyond what I believe to be a proper discretion.

4. In recording these remarks my object is not to bring blame on Captain Gwyther, but to draw attention to the fact that had he not been so over-zealous and had he adhered more closely to his instructions, his operations would have been infinitesimal. A few figures will show this.

5. Let us remind ourselves at the outset of the self-evident proposition that the object of these inspecting stations and detention camps is to detect and isolate persons suffering, or likely to be suffering, from plague, together with those who have lately been in contact with them. The best proof of the necessity of such a station is the number of occasions on which such cases, real or suspected, have been detected by its agency.

6. Taking the down traffic first, I found that since the Chausa inspecting station was opened at the end of December 1897, its working statistics are as follow:—

Passengers examined	...	575,567
" detained (3.51 per cent.)	...	20,209
" died of plague	...	1

and even that one death was recorded as a doubtful case. Let it be remembered also that the great majority of the *detenus* (at least 75 per cent.) would not have been detained had the instructions of the Local Government been properly carried out: the result is that the figures for the down traffic ought to have been as follow:—

Examined	...	575,567
Detained	...	5,052
Died	...	1

7 Next, as regards the up traffic, I have no exact dates, but I believe that passengers by up-trains were examined from April to October 1898, and again from the 28th February 1899 to the present time. The figures are as follow:—

Passengers examined	...	220,483
" detained (5.34 per cent.)	...	11,784
" died of plague	...	9

Here, again, if we reduce the number of *detenus* to their proper proportions, we should have had less than 3,000 detained.

8. Setting aside the cost of building and equipping the Chausa camp and inspecting station, the cost of maintenance has been, I believe, about 1½ lakhs of rupees. To the Lower Provinces the net advantage of this great expenditure has been their protection *from one doubtful case of plague*. Can it be doubted for a moment that while plague is still so far off, and while the intervening checks to the westward are obviously so effective, the only proper and reasonable course is to abandon the examination of down-passenger traffic at Chausa?

9. I would also abandon the examination of up-passenger traffic, but for somewhat different reasons. In the first place such an examination is perfectly useless to the people of Bengal. Chausa is on the utmost confines of the Province and every person examined there will, unless he is detained, be carried in a few minutes out of the Province, and cease to be a source of danger here. The institution is, therefore, maintained entirely for the benefit of other provinces, and it seems to me utterly indefensible to ask the Local Funds of the Lower Provinces to contribute for such a purpose. Secondly, even for the protection of the North-Western Provinces and other provinces to the west, the maintenance of this inspecting station seems absolutely superfluous. The figures in paragraph 6 above show how efficient are the checks in those provinces, and the Government of the North-Western Provinces have the first of these checks at Moghalsarai, only 50 miles west of Chausa. The only part of their territory which would be exposed to any danger whatever by the abolition of the Chausa camp, is that which lies between the Karamnasa and the Ganges at Moghalsarai, and if their Government considers that this should be protected, it may be invited either to take over the Chausa camp, or to pay the Bengal Government the cost of maintaining it for them.

10. If the statistics of the Mairwa and Chakradharpur camps lead to the same conclusion, I would abolish them also: the establishment, materials and money saved in this way could be used to combat plague elsewhere in Bengal. Should plague in Calcutta assume more serious proportions, examining stations might be re-established nearer the metropolis for the protection of the mufassal, or if that plan is considered impossible, then some protection could be afforded by introducing the latest Bombay system, punching tickets, and informing local officers of suspicious cases.

11. To recapitulate, my opinions are these:—

- (a) The examination of down traffic at Chausa has been proved to be wholly superfluous; it may be abandoned forthwith and not resumed so long as plague remains far off, and the intervening examining stations are maintained as at present.
- (b) The examination of up traffic does nothing whatever for Bengal, though it is paid for by these Provinces: it should be closed at once unless the Government of the North-Western Provinces desire either to maintain it themselves or to pay us for doing so.
- (c) If the figures for Mairwa and Chakradharpur lead to the same conclusion, they also should be closed.
- (d) Part of the money thus set free might be used for establishing examining stations nearer Calcutta, or if that cannot be done, then by introducing the Bombay system of punched tickets, &c.

J. A. BOURDILLON,

Commissioner.

PATNA COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,

BANKIPORE;

The 24th March 1899.

T. H. G.—Reg. No. 7853C—50—29-3-99.

No. 1373.

FROM

A. H. L. FRASER, ESQ., C.S.I.,

Offg. Secretary to the Government of India,

TO

*The Secretary to the Govt. of Madras,
Local and Municipal Department*

Home Department.
Sanitary—Plague.

Simla, the 11th April 1899.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward, for the information of the *Governess in Council*, a copy of a letter from the Government of Bengal, No. 289-^(Medical Plague), dated the 28th March 1899, and enclosures, describing the arrangements which have been made to prevent the spread of plague from Calcutta.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

A. H. L. Fraser

Offg. Secretary to the Government of India.