

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 67 P & M's ✓

DATED 9-1-99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Segregation of plague contacts.

Recording Copy of Plague Commissioner's letter to the Sanitary Commissioner, declining to recommend to Govt. the approval of the draft notification forwarded by the Sanitary Commissioner granting certain concessions to plague 'contacts' in regard to segregation.

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. 199

From The Plague Com-
missioner

Order No 677 Dtd 27-1-99

Recorded

12
6/1/99

11
9 199

No.

Dated 3-1-99

Received 4-1-99

Registered

Enclosures 1

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Submitting copy of his letter to the Sanitary Commr, refusing to recommend to Govt the notification of the adoption of the Sanitary Commr's suggestion in the matter of granting certain concessions to contacts on the ground that the proposed concessions would only tend to disseminate the plague.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

No 1027

Plague Commissioner's Office,

FORT ST. GEORGE,

Dated 27th December 1898.

From

L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., I.C.S.,

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER,



To

The Sanitary Commissioner for Madras

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your No 2931/5 dated 30th Nov. 1898.

2. If I understand you aright, your proposal comes to this. As Government, with a view to popularise 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

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.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant

W. C. C.
Plague Commissioner

Copy to the Secretary to Govt. L. & M. Dept.
2.1.99

Encl. to No. 1024 of 12.98

Copy of letter from the Sanitary
Commissioner for Madras, to the Plague
Commissioner, Madras, No. 2931/3 of 30th
November 1898.

Government having in its noti-
fication, embodied in G.O. No. 1423-A.P.
of 8th November 1898, sanctioned I certain
far reaching concessions to the "inoculated",
I have the honour to invite attention
to para 17 of my letter no. 1064 of 10th May
1898, which ran as follows:—

"My opinion, therefore, is that in-
oculation 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 alter-
native 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, with-
the special inducement of relaxing
imperative ~~sanitary~~ Sanitary
measures."

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.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant
W. C. C.
Plague Commissioner

Copy to the Secretary to Govt. L. 211. 2/1/99

Encl. to No. 1024 of 27.12.98

Copy of letter from the Sanitary
Commissioner for Madras, to the Plague
Commissioner, Madras, No. 2931/3 of 30th
November 1898.

Government having in its resolution, embodied in G.O. No. 1423 H. P., of 8th November 1898, sanctioned I certain far reaching concessions to the "inoculated", I have the honour to invite attention to para 17 of my letter No. 1064 of 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, with the special inducement of relaxing imperative ~~sanitary~~ Sanitary measures."

I would, consequently, not make insolation the alternative of sequestration; but, I would decide the necessity for sequestration by the opinion of the local authority, aided by the Vigilance Committee of the area as to whether an individual of the limit & class of persons to whom the rules would be applicable in this Presidency, can be trusted to prevent himself from examination, or allow himself to be inspected during the necessary 10 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

proposal, there is doubtless intailed 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 I 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 inoculation 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

of Government to abide by the Notification is final and, consequently, advise that to the original proposal (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 3rd subsection as follows:- "But, persons who have been in contact with plague cases & 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".

Enclosure
3/1

At
2-1-99

For Regency

Exd
H.S.
3-1-99

1
2 no 192 of 1899

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 DITO.

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

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