

Marine (1897) Department.

Rubonic
G.O., No. 458 *Mar*

DATED 17. *Mar* 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Rubonic Plague: Pros: Lt. Col. Deft. Comdg: to the
Collectors of Zimwelly, Madras & Tanjore extract from
Dr. Dequand's Report on his visit to Bombay in Con-
nection with the - and requesting them to take the
most careful precautions at the ports in their districts
to prevent persons from infected areas passing
the plague and quarantine regulations under the
guise of Madras Coolies proceeding to Ceylon & to
the A.P. Officer for the guidance of Port Health
Officers.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

48-1,000-17-12-95.

no. 2088. 0720-3-97

no. 341 E. 0717-5-97

Marine Dept (Marine)
Public Works (1897) Department.

urgent

CURRENT No. *569*

From *The Local + Municipal
Departments.*

Order 458 *marine 0717-May 1897*
Communicated to
the Presidency Port officer for
the information and guidance
of Port Health officers.

No. 861 in

Dated *10-4-97*
Received *Madras 17/4/97*
Registered *20-4-97*
Enclosures
Spare copies

The SSO 12/5/97
L.S.

*Advise the order in the L.M. Dept
has since been issued in principle*

*Advise the order in the L.M. Dept
and connect the order in principle
Laid to the L.M. Dept.
17 May 97
22/4/97*

SUBJECT.
Bubonic plague

Conty. to the (Doctors of Tinnevely,
Madurai, + Tanjore extract from Dr
Fernando's report on his visit to
Bombay in connection with the
+ requesting them to take the most
careful precautions at the ports
in these districts to prevent persons
from infected areas evading the
plague + quarantine regulations
under the guise of Madras Coolies
proceeding to Ceylon.

FURTHER PAPERS

On the 16th March Ceylon telegraphed that "persons from infected localities travel from Tuticorin or Negapatnam to Ceylon as immigrant Coolies"

We informed the Collectors
of Tinnevely, Madurai and Tanjore
and warned them that the thing
must be stopped (G.O. dt 19-3-9)
No 629 M)

What probably led Ceylon to address us was the report of Dr Fernando which is in our No 1312. Dr Fernando is the officer whom that Government sent to Bombay to report on the plague. In para 32 after detailing the precautions taken at Tuticaurin with reference to passengers from infected areas he writes: —

" On the other hand, no such precautions exist in
" the case of estate labourers. These can obtain tickets
" without any reference to the Port Medical Officer,
" from the Agent of the B. I. S. & Co. Company for
" the passage to Colombo on the bare statement
" of a Kanfani that they are estate Coolies.
" King for franked that all estate labourers

"Come from the Madras Presidency and therefore
"outside the area of plague infection, the regulations
"now in force cannot prevent a plague refugee from
"joining a Kanparis gang of Coolies at Tuticorin &
"thus obtaining his passage to Colombo without the
"fifteen days' stay there. The passengers and crew
"of a ship are examined by the Medical Officer
"before leaving Tuticorin. The examination is a
"a hurried one as over 150 deck passengers have to
"be examined in about an hour. This is the only
"examination that the so called Cooly emigrants
"has to undergo."

This also probably explains their
desire to have one of their own
Medical officers at Tuticorin.
If so, it is a pity they did not state
definitely that it was this Cooly
traffic that caused them particular
anxiety. I do not see any reason
why they should not send a Medical
officer to deal with the estate Coolies.

In Cus No 1311 will be found a
letter of the 20th March from Ceylon
in which, in continuation of their
telegram of the 16th March about
the Cooly traffic, they inform us
that they are prepared to remunerate
the " " for the services
which

* G.O. No 756 of 31.3.97

*
ie we have always given
facilities to Ceylon Officers
to examine and pass intending
emigrant Coolies before they
leave this country for the estates
in the Colony.

I see no harm in this
(Ind) H. W. B.

H. W. B.

which he may render "in this
Connection" i.e., as I take it, in in-
vestigating whether the passengers
who travel as estate Coolies are
actually Coolies from an ^{un}infected
area. Of course no remuneration
could be accepted nor could the
Health Officer find time for
the work.

But if Ceylon is to send over
an officer with reference to our
telegram of the 31st March
(G.O. No 756) he might be use-
fully and unobjectionably
employed in testing the Cooly
rollo. He would appear in a
recognised position; and we
might confirm his authority by
a Regulation or rule declaring
that no person shall be shipped
as an estate Cooly for Colombo
who does not satisfy the Ceylon
(Med) Officer that he does not
come from an infected area, or
has not been within such area
for fifteen days prior to his
embarkation.

If this suggestion is accepted
we may inform Ceylon insten-
tly.

31st March.

The extract para 32 from Dr Fernando's report should be sent to the Collectors of Tinnevely, Madura and Tanjore with instructions that every precaution must be taken to prevent the evasion referred to.

(Ind) L. S. J.
2-4-97

A. W. B.
for Secretary to Govt.

Yes and thank Ceylon for the interesting report.

(Ind) H. W. B.
3-4-97

(Ind) A. E. H.
6-4-97

[25]
3,000 - 3-11-96.

Local and Municipal Department,

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following paper:—

Again G.O. No. 629 H.M.S., dated 19th March 1897.

Read the following papers:—

From the Colonial Secretary, Colombo, dated 30th March 1897.

I am directed to inform you that I despatched the following telegram to your address on the 16th March 1897.

"Plague commission report persons from infected localities travel from Tuticorin or Negapatam to Colombo as immigrant coolies (Insulisti) Health Officer should satisfy himself (Bioorden) that they are actually coolies."

2. I am to state that this Government will be prepared to remunerate the Health officer for the services which he may in this connection render.

From the Colonial Secretary, Colombo, dated 23rd March 1897

I am directed to forward for the information of the Government of Madras the enclosed copy of a report made by Dr. H. M. Fernando on ^{his} recent visit to Bombay in connection with the Bubonic plague.

Order No. 361 H.M.S. 10th April 1897.

Paragraph 32 of Dr. Fernando's report received with the second letter read above will be communicated to the Collectors of Tinnevely, Madura and Tanjore with the request that as indicated in G.O. No. 629 H dated 19th March 1897, they will continue to take the most careful precautions at the ports in these districts to prevent persons from infected areas evading the plague and quarantine regulations under the guise of Madras coolies proceeding to Ceylon.

3. The liberal offer of the Ceylon Government contained in the second letter regarding the remuneration of the Health

mas 5/9/97

Government of Madras.

Marine
~~PUBLIC WORKS~~ DEPARTMENT.

Botacamund, 13th May 1897.
Madras,

OFFICE NOTE.

From
The Secretary to Govt.
Marine Dept.

To
The Secretary to Govt.
L & M Dept.

G.O. 861 M. dated 10th April 1897
has been communicated to the Marine
Department with the remark that cer-
tain "notes and connected papers"
will follow. These have not yet been
received. Meanwhile, no action can be
taken in this Department on the G.O.
in question, as the nature of the
notes, &c., is not known.

Marine Department
Current No 716
Recd 7-5-97

Office
What was this
14/5/97
Office Note L & M.

No 12. d/ 15. 5. 97

The original notes &c are
now forwarded. The office
oversight in not doing
so before is much re-
gretted.

S. J. Roberts
15/8/97
J. H. C. Cunningham Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

Officer at Tuticorin can not of course be entertained. If however
that Government deputed a Medical Officer to Tuticorin as proposed in
in its telegram of the 19th March 1897 he may be usefully employed
in helping in the examination of the emigrant coolies for the
estates in the colony, no person being shipped as an estate cooly
for Colombo who is not able to satisfy the examining officer that
he comes from a non-infected area and has not been within an
infected area for 15 days previous to his embarkation.

3. The following letter will be despatched to the Colonial Secre-
tary, Colombo.

(True extract)

A. M. S. P.
For Secretary to Government.

To
The Collector of Tinnevely
" " Tanjore.
" " Madurai.
" Marine Department, with notes & connected papers ✓

11/8/97
+ These are now in circulation & will follow