Marine (1897) Department.

G.O. No 714-715 Mar

DATED 11 August 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Plague; Orders that the attention of the Bombay Govt be drawn to the delay that occurred in Communicating to the port authorities at Durban the fact of the removal of a suspected case of — from the S.S. "Albion" prior to her departure from Bombay for Durban.

Re Govt of Bombay addressed.

D.E. 14/8

W. S.
[2,000—25-10-06.]

14/8/97

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
11th Aug 97 144/08		= G.O. 730 marg 17.8.97 & G.O. 787 mar 25.9.97					

[8. 23.] 14-6-97.

DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in proceedings :—

Again G.O., No. dated 189 .

Again G.O., No. dated 189 .

Current No. of 189 , dated , from

" " " 189 , " , "

" " 1094 " 189 7, "9th August 1897, " Presy. Port Officer.

ORDER. No. 714 Mar. dt. 11th Aug: 1897

To

The P.P.O.

D. 11/8/97

The attention of the Bombay Government will be drawn to the delay which occurred in communicating to the port authorities at Tuticorin the fact of the removal of the suspected case of plague.

H.E. No. 715 Marine dated 11th August 1897

To

The Secretary to the
Government of Bombay,
Marine Department.

Sir,

I am directed to request that the following circumstances may be laid before His Excellency the Governor in Council of Bombay. On the 27th July, the S.S. "Alboin" left Bombay for Tuticorin. Prior to her departure, one of the crew of the vessel was removed on suspicion of infection with plague; but no intimation of this suspected case among the

the crew was communicated to the authorities at Tuticorin until after the arrival of the vessel at that port on the 31st. The captain, who did not disclose the fact of the removal, had meanwhile been granted pratique.

2. In answer to a telegram sent by the District Medical and Sanitary Officer, Tuticorin, the following reply was received from Bombay on the 3rd August. "Suspected case from steamer "Alboin" still officially considered to be plague although serum from gland does not contain plague bacilli".

3. There was thus the danger of communication with the shore of persons not free from the suspicion of plague.

4. I am to suggest, as an additional means of safety, that in future all removals, from vessels at ports in the Bombay Presidency, of persons suspected of plague be immediately communicated by wire to the authorities of the first port of call in this Presidency at which such vessels touch.

I have &c.

11/8/97

M.

Sept 11/97 8/97

G 25
500—17-5-97.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

C. No. 1094 of 1897.

~~H. E. THE GOVERNOR.~~
~~THE HON'BLE MR.~~ Sir Henry BLISS, K.C.I.E.
~~THE HON'BLE MR. GROSE, C.I.E.~~

SUBJECT

Case of plague - Suspected -

FOR ORDERS.

It would appear that before leaving Bombay for Tuticorin on the 27th July the S.S. "Alboin" had one of the crew removed on suspicion of plague. On arrival at Tuticorin on the 31st Idem, the vessel was boarded by the Port Health Officer and obtained pratique; the master not having disclosed the fact of the removal of the suspected case.

2. This fact subsequently came to the notice of the Port Health Officer by means of a telegram from Bombay, and the vessel was thereupon put into quarantine in accordance with G.O. 601 Marine dated 6th July 1897.

3. The Presidency Port Officer considers that the circumstances of the case require "explanation", but does not say from whom the explanation is to be demanded.

4. It is provided in the Venice Convention

* Vide page 23 of G.O. 601 Marine dated 6th July 1897.

Sec. 9.8.97 R 10.8.97

Convention that "the appointed authority of the port of arrival may always demand a declaration on oath from the doctor of the ship, or failing him, from the captain, that there has been no case of plague on the ship since her departure". This declaration could have been made in the present case, and it would not have helped the port authorities. It thus remains to consider whether in the rules now under revision power should not be taken to include the disclosure of suspected cases removed before the departure of the vessel.

5. It is presumed that pending the publication of the revised rules, those contained in G.O.363 Marine dated 22nd April 1897 are still in force. These rules also make no provision for the compulsory disclosure by the master of a vessel of a case such as that now brought to notice. It is only when a vessel is "infected" with plague that these quarantine regulations come into force; and a vessel is only infected when "there is, or has been, during the voyage then in progress or presently concluded, or during the stay of such vessel in a port in the course of such

Still in the L & M Department.
9th August 1897.

Yes - we had better provide for this

HH
Forbes
9/8/97

for. Forbes
informed
11 Aug 97

Yes - There is nothing to be done, so far as I can see, beyond that the local authorities have done, except that the attention of the Wray Govt. should be drawn to the delay which took place in communicating the removal of the man from the ship at Wray. The vessel left Wray on July 27 & reached Tatsonia July 31, but it was not until after her arrival that the health officer rec'd the telegram - if it had been sent sooner it could have been rec'd 3 days before

page 4 of G.O.363 Marine dated
22nd April 1897.

vessel arrived -

HH
10/8/97

Better ask for report as to whether any more suspicious cases have occurred -

Wired
PPC
11 Aug 97

such a voyage, any case of plague".

6. The master could, in present instance, plead that so far as he was aware there was no case of plague.

9/8/97

M.

urgent

Marine (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 1094

From,

The Presidency Port officer
Madras

Order

No. 949/298 G

Dated 6 August 1897

Received

Registered 9-8-97

Enclosures One

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Forwarding with remarks copy of a letter from the Port officer, Tuticorin, respecting a case of plague in the S.S. "Albion"

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.
No 601	Marined 6.7.97
" 362 -	" 22.4.97

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.
X 1112 of 97	
Mea. 730	17.8.97
787	8.9.97

Port Office, Tuticorin
4th August 1897

No 587

From

J. H. Baker, Capt.
Port Officer

To

The Presidency Port Officer
Madras

Sir,

With reference to my letter No 583 I have the honor to report as follows:-

2. The S.S. "Albani" left Bombay on the 27th ultimo for Tuticorin direct to load a full and complete cargo of salt for Rangoon, she arrived here on the 31st at 8 a.m and was boarded by the Health officer who granted pratique, subsequently this officer received a telegram from Bombay saying that just prior to vessels departure a suspected plague case was removed from her to the shore, he again went off to the steamer and disinfected her.

3. Nothing was reported to me regarding the vessel, but it appears the Police Inspector got hold of the facts also a copy of the Bombay telegram and

Left on or after the 31st July -

see 8.97 & 10.8.97

and reported same next day to
Mr: Rice the Sub Collector who informed
me; in consultation with him I at once
stopped all communication with the
steamer and sent the following urgent
telegram to the District Sanitary
and Medical officer.

"Steamer arrived from Bombay
"have suspicion regarding plague
"please come next train"

Surgeon Major Sampana ar-
rived on the 2nd Instant and at once
telegraphed to Bombay enquiring
whether the suspected case had
turned out plague, no answer
was received till the 3rd and it read
as follows:

'Suspected case from steamer
"Albion" still officially considered
to be plague although serum from
gland does not contain plague
bacille"

As the closing of the ports against
plague by the Ceylon authorities
would

would be a most serious matter
the District Medical and Sanitary
officer considered it would be safer
to place the steamer in quarantine
and accordingly she was so placed
for 10 days from date of last case
as per G. O. No. 601 Marine dated
6 July 1897.

I have &c.
(Sd) E. H. Baker
Port officer.

(True Copy)

H. A. Steel
Commander, R. I. M.
Pres: Port Officer

Heading.

No. 949 G
298 G

PRESIDENCY PORT OFFICE,
Madras, 6th August 1879.

From

Commander A. A. Street, R.I.M.,
PRESIDENCY PORT OFFICER,
Madras,

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
MARINE DEPARTMENT,
Chepak.

SIR,

I have the honor to acquaint you, for the information of Government, that the Port Officer, Intecorin, reports that the S.S. "Alboini" which left Bombay on the 27th July last and arrived at Intecorin on the 31st has been placed in quarantine owing to one of the crew having been removed from the vessel prior to her departure from Bombay on suspicion of suffering from plague. This fact does not appear to have been communicated by the Commander of the vessel to the Health Officer, nor was any information received

received from Bombay regarding the matter till after the arrival of the vessel at Interorim, and I think that an explanation on these points appears necessary. I enclose a copy of the Interorim Port Officer's letter to me on the subject.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obdt. Servant,
Hatteet
Commander R. I. M.
Presy. Port Officer

Marine Department

Telegram

No 575 Dy 11th August 1897

To The Presidency Post Office
Madras

Your letter sixth. Report
of any more suspicious
cases have occurred
on board Albion
now in quarantine
Interorim

11/8/97

Desp. 11-8-97

R.S. (with fair)

8-97 to 10-8-97

No. 574 E

Government of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Madras, 11 August 189 .

OFFICE NOTE.

From

The Secretary to Government, Marine Dept.

To

The Secretary to Government, Local & Municipal Department.

The Honourable Member considers that in the quarantine rules now under revision by you, power should be taken to compel the master or doctor of a ship to disclose to the Port authority of the port of arrival - (Port Health Officer or Port Officer) the fact that persons suspected of plague have been removed prior to, or during, the voyage.

2. It is provided in the Venice Convention that "the appointed authority of the port of arrival may always demand a declaration on oath from the doctor of the ship, or failing him from the captain, that there has been no case of plague on the ship since her departure" - but a recent

* Vide page 23 of G.O. 601 Marine dated 6th July 1897.

recent instance of the removal of a "suspected" case from a ship at Bombay prior to her departure for Tuticorin, which the captain did not disclose, has shown the necessity for a rule in the sense indicated in para 1 above.

3. Will you kindly add a rule accordingly.

11/8/97

M.

DDV 11/8/97