

Marine (1899) Department.

Plague

G.O., No. 386-Marine

DATED 3rd May 1899.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Plague

Provi, L & In Dept, recording copy of a Resolution of the Govt of Bengal prescribing certain measures to prevent the spread of — from Calcutta and ordering the publication in the Fort St George Gazette of the — Regulations issued by that Govt, recorded.

Marine
Local & Mund

Local & Mund. (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 548

From

Locals Hunt. Depth-

Recorded

No. 5920 mis.

Dated 25.4.99

Received

Registered

Enclosures

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SUBJECT.

Recording copy of a Resolution of the Govt of Bengal explaining the new measures which have been adopted to prevent the spread of plague from Calcutta & ordering the publication in the H. S. G. Gazette of ^{the Royal Gazette} a notice issued by the Govt of Bengal

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
805489256	338	17-1-98	187003

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

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 Bogoola 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, Bogoola 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

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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 Panduah, or at any station between Sealdah and Bogoola inclusive, for any station beyond Bogoola, 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

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and Bogoola, 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. of 189

No.

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, if any

Indelible marks

Temperature at $\frac{\text{A.M.}}{\text{P.M.}}$

Certified that the above individual was detained at the ()
place of inspection from $\frac{\text{A.M.}}{\text{P.M.}}$ of the , to

Whether desinfected or not

Remarks

$\frac{\text{A.M.}}{\text{P.M.}}$ of the

and has been thoroughly

Initials

examined, and that his temperature was $^{\circ}\text{F.}$ at $\frac{\text{A.M.}}{\text{P.M.}}$

Whether belongings desinfected or not

Medical Officer in charge.

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT—(MEDICAL).

Calcutta, the 28th March 1899.

RESOLUTION—No. 238 ^{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.

Local and Municipal Department.

Order No. 592-P Misc. dated 25th April 1899.

Recorded.

2. The Plague Regulation issued by the Government of Bengal and received with the second letter read above, will be published in the Fort St. George Gazette.

(True Extract.)

W. H. M.

Ag. Secretary to Government.

Jan 26/4

To the Plague Commissioner
Sanitary Commissioner
Surgeon-General
Marine Department.
Gazette.