

Marine (1897) Department.

✓ G.O., No. 719 Marine

DATED 18th August 1897

7197

[Despatch Abstract.]

Surveillance of Passengers coming by sea from infected places.

Approving the proposal of the Sanitary Commission that where persons are landed from a ship from an infected port with no medical man in charge, the Port Health Officers should subject the passengers to surveillance for full ten days after landing.

[1,000-24-10-99]

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Government {1899} of Madras.
MARINE.

Recd.

Regd.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 719, 1st August 1899.

AUGUST.

Surveillance of Passengers coming by Sea from Infected Places

Approving the proposal of the Sanitary Commissioner that where persons are landed from a ship from an infected port with no medical man in charge, the Port Health Officers should subject the passengers to surveillance for full ten days after landing.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper:—

G.O., No. 982 P., dated 23rd June 1899.

Read—the following papers:—

From R. B. CLEGG, Esq., Acting Collector and District Magistrate, Salem, to the Plague Commissioner of Madras, dated 1st May 1899, Ref. No. 939 P.C.

In the endorsement on the back of the accompanying passports which were granted at the Marine Dispensary, Madras, to certain passengers who arrived from Calcutta, it is noted that they were "at sea" for some days and the declarations have been altered binding them to appear for observation for such period as, together with the period at sea, would make up ten days.

2. This alteration appears, I presume, to have been made under Marine Regulation 15 (5). Under the Marine Regulations free pratique is given to every person subjected to "surveillance" which has a technical meaning, but he is to be kept under medical supervision. They do not provide for the issue of passports, and the medical supervision referred to therein, I think, means something more than daily inspection in Regulation 17 (1) of the Mufassal Regulations. If a passport is issued, it should be issued under Regulation 17 (1) of the Mufassal Regulations and the traveller should undergo observation for ten days. The passengers in question protest against such a liability, and I have the honour therefore to request instructions in the matter.

Ref. on C. No. 4780.

Forwarded to the Sanitary Commissioner for favour of opinion. City Regulation 22 and Mufassal Regulation 17 prescribe observation for a period of ten days from the date of the issue of passport, i.e., from the date of arrival; but under Regulation 15 (5) (page 50 of the Madras Plague Regulations and Rules), the period is reckoned in the case of a healthy vessel from the date of departure of the vessel from the infected port last visited. The Sanitary Commissioner is requested to state which of the Regulations should be amended to make them consistent with one another.

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
16th May 1899. Ag. Secretary to Government.

From Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated 22nd May 1899, No. 1528 S.

With reference to Ref. on C. No. 4780, dated 16th May 1899, I have the honour to state that, theoretically, the provision under Regulation 15 (5) fulfils all that is necessary as regards a "healthy ship." In practice, however, there are certain objections to its universal application. If the ship bear no doctor on board, as part of its complement, it may well happen that modified forms of plague may occur, without their being recognized by the officers responsible. The late case of the crew of the British Indian Steam Navigation Company S.S. *Lalpoora* shows it is possible for a man to suffer from pneumonic plague on board coasting vessels, which are unprovided with doctors, and yet the ship be regarded as "healthy" on arrival. This

contingency is dealt with under the Venice Convention, by the caution that where ships are declared "healthy" the treatment of the crew and passengers should depend upon whether there be disinfecting apparatus and a doctor on board, thus—

"It is to be understood 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.

"In deciding on the extent to which effect is to be given to the measures prescribed above, the authorities of the port should take into consideration the fact that there is a doctor or a disinfecting apparatus (stove) on board the ships coming under the three headings mentioned above."

2. Experience also shows that infected articles may be carried by ships from infected ports, and that the infection therefrom may not be transmitted to a human being till lapse of a period long beyond ten days.

3. Under these circumstances, Government will keep within the terms of the Convention, and, at the same time, secure the maximum safety, by allowing the regulations to stand as they are. It would suffice to draw the attention of port medical officers to the caution given in the Convention, which is above quoted. The result would be that where there was no medical man in charge of a ship—as is the case with all coasting vessels—whether it be declared "healthy" or not, the passengers would be liable to surveillance after landing for the full ten days. Having regard to the preceding paragraph this precaution would seem but reasonable.

Order—No. 982 P., dated 23rd June 1899.

The Sanitary Commissioner's letter read above will be communicated to the President, Municipal Commission, Madras, and the Collectors of Maritime districts. The necessary orders with reference to paragraph 3 of the letter will issue in the Marine Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. CLERK,
for Ag. Secretary to Government.

ORDER—No. 719, Marine, dated 1st August 1899.

Communicated to officers concerned.

2. The proposal of the Sanitary Commissioner in paragraph 3 of his letter is approved. In future, therefore, where persons are landed from a ship arriving from an infected port with no medical man in charge, Port Health Officers will arrange for such persons being placed under "surveillance" or "observation" for the full period of ten days after landing, even if the ship is declared to be "healthy".

(True Extract.)

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Presidency Port Officer.

- "the Public Department.
- "the Local and Municipal Department.
- "the Political Department.
- "Collectors, Maritime Districts.

Exd. T. K. Narayana Aiyar.

READ the following:—

G.O. 982 O. Local and Municipal, dated 23rd June 1899.

Surveillance of passengers
Coming by sea from infected ports.

Circulated to

H. E. the Governor or ORDER. N^o 719 Mar 91-8-99
H. E. the L. Dept

38

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To H. E. the Governor.

6th
11.7.99

To the Secy: Port Officer.
"Public Dept."
"Local & Municipal Dept."
"Political Department"
"Collectors, Maritime Dept."

Note

The words "or observation" have been added to the Sanitary Commissioner's

Commissioner's recommendation as
under Regulation 15(S), the Port
Health Officer can always sub-
stitute "observation" for "surveillance"
He considers stricter control ne-
cessary.

R.S.

* page 50 of the book.

After the
the better
the better
the better

that is the
the better
the better
the better

the better
the better
the better

Government {1899} of Madras. LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd. } 3-7- } 1899.
Regd. }

Enclosures
Spare copies

G.O., No. 982 P., 23rd June 1899.

6/11/99
+ copy of Plague Regulation
+ Rules

JUNE.

Observation of persons coming by sea from infected places.

Communicating, with remark, to the President, Madras Municipal Commission, and the
Collectors of Maritime districts, the Sanitary Commissioner's opinion regarding the period of —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

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(True Extract.)

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
"the Collectors of Maritime Districts (A—L).
"the Marine Department.
"all other Collectors (A).
"the Sanitary Commissioner.
"the Surgeon-General.

Cano

March 28/44

I suppose full 10

days mean 10

days after landing?

Y m h. the new rep

letting will be the

same as the old

What

6-21/44

At

That is the meaning - the
draft order says that the
persons are to be under
"surveillance" or "observation"
for ten days. These words
have a technical meaning,
and the process does not
actually commence ^{till after} ~~before~~
landing - the doctors being
on shore -

W.F.

6 July 44

Then I think we had
better say "to avoid
misunderstanding" for a
period of 10 days after
landing. I think

Added accordingly
6 July 44