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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 3372 Press
~~B.P. No.~~ ~~Mis.~~

Dated 12-12-____195 1876

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 12th December 1876. *No.* 3,372.

No. 266. Read again Proceedings of Government, Public Works Department, dated 12th June 1876, No. 1,449.

Read also the following papers :—

Endorsement of the Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 14th June 1876, No. 293.

From R. B. ELWIN, Esq., Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, R.E., Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 13th June 1876, No. 607.

In continuation of my letter of the 23rd ultimo, No. 543, I have the honor to forward herewith, for the consideration of His Grace the Governor in Council, a copy of the Traffic Manager's letter of the 12th instant C-601/1,707, with the depositions referred to therein.

From H. E. CHURCH, Esq., Traffic Manager, to R. B. ELWIN, Esq., Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company, dated Madras, 12th June 1876, No. C-$\frac{601 \text{ A \& M}}{1,707.}$

Cholera among Troops in Train.

Consulting Engineer's letter No. 537, dated 20th ultimo, covering Order of Government No. 1,159, dated 9th idem.

I have now to enclose copies of depositions taken from Ready, the Guard in charge of the train between Salem and Pothanore, Venkatasawmy Naidoo, the Station Master of Sunkerrydroog, and Mr. Edwards, the Station Master of Mettapolliem.

It will be seen from the Guard's deposition that the train was only stopped once, viz., at Sunkerrydroog, consequent on a complaint of sickness on the part of the soldiers, and that the stoppage at Somanoor was, as a matter of fact, for the purposes of nature, and not because the two soldiers who complained at Sunkerrydroog were still suffering at Somanoor.

The deposition of the Sation Master at Mettapolliem, can, I presume, be easily verified by an examination of the rest-house Serjeant of Mettapolliem and of the Apothecary who accompanied the troops, and if, as I believe it will be, found to be strictly correct, I would venture to hope that His Grace the Governor in Council will be pleased not to withhold his reconsideration of an order seriously reflecting on the conduct of subordinates of this department, who are not conscious that they have been guilty of any neglect of duty or of any want of forethought for the public health.

Deposition of Chief Guard Dennis Ready.

I was chief guard of the 6 P.M. mail train between Salem and Beypore on the 1st April last, there were three second-class carriages containing European troops on my train.

On arrival at Sunkerrydroog station a Serjeant belonging to the troops informed me that two men were suffering with cramp in the stomach, and required the aid of the Apothecary. I went and found the Apothecary in one of the three second-class carriages and told him what the Serjeant had said to me. At this moment the Officer in charge of the troops came out of the first-class carriage and asked me what was "up." I told him. The Officer, Serjeant, and Apothecary then went to the carriage in which the two sick soldiers were travelling.

The Apothecary asked the men what was the matter with them, and they said they had cramp in the stomach. The Officer then asked the Apothecary if it was cholera, the Apothecary replied "no." "It is fever and weakness." The Officer then asked the Apothecary if he had any medicine with him, the latter replied that he had some brandy in the medicine chest and a glass of that would do the men good, and he at once gave each of them some in presence of the

Officer. I then advised the Apothecary to take the two men into his own compartment in order that they might receive better attention than they would otherwise do if riding apart, which he did, and I started my train.

On arrival at Erode I asked the Apothecary how the men were getting on, and he told me that they were all right.

At Somanoor most of the soldiers got out of the train and went to the urinals. I saw one of the two sick men going there with the Apothecary, and as they were the last two to get back again into the train I booked the six minutes' detention against them.

At Pothanore nothing further transpired, I went on with my train to Beypore and the soldiers joined the branch train for Mettapolliem.

I had no knowledge whatever that the men were suffering from cholera. The Apothecary told both the Officer in charge of troops and myself that it was not cholera, and therefore, even if I had formed a contrary opinion in the matter, which I had not, I should not have been justified in placing it against the decisive opinion of the qualified Apothecary placed in charge of the troops by Government.

SALEM,
9th June 1876.

(Signed) D. READY,
Chief Guard.

Deposition of C. Vencatasawmy Naidoo, Station Master of Sunkerrydroog.

I am Station Master of Sunkerrydroog and remember the 6 P.M. mail train arriving at my station on the morning of the 1st April last.

A soldier travelling by it was unwell, and the chief guard of the train and the Apothecary attended to him. The chief guard told me that all was right, and I gave the bell.

I did not know that the man was suffering from cholera or any infectious disease or would have carried out the rules of the Company.

SALEM,
9th June 1876.

(Signed) VENCATASAWMY NAIDOO,
Station Master.

Deposition of Mr. Edwards, Station Master at Mettapolliem.

I am Station Master at Mettapolliem, and remember the 8-25 A.M. train, which runs from Pothanore in connection with the 6 P.M. from Madras, arriving at my station on the 1st April last.

There were two or three carriages with European troops on the train. I was on the platform at Mettapolliem when the troops left their carriages, two of the men were carried out of them by their comrades and taken direct to the rest-house. I thought the two men were drunk, but on inquiry afterwards from the rest-house Serjeant heard that they were ill.

The two sick men remained at the rest-house, Mettapolliem, until about 5 P.M. that day, and then left with their comrades for Wellington.

Neither the Apothecary, the rest-house Serjeant nor myself had the slightest idea that the men were suffering from cholera or any other infectious disease. I thought personally they were suffering from fever. No traces of any discharges having taken place from the men were to be found in the carriage they occupied.

The carriage would have been disinfected if I had had the slightest idea that the men were suffering from cholera.

When the Apothecary did not know that the men were so suffering it is hardly to be expected that I should, who have no professional knowledge in such matters.

SALEM,
9th June 1876.

(Signed) W. H. EDWARDS,
Station Master.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th December 1876. *No.* 3,372.

SUBMITTED for the consideration of Government, in continuation of this office endorsement No. 258, dated 29th May 1876.

(Signed) W. H. COAKER, Captain, R.E.,
for *Consulting Engineer for Railways.*

No. 267. Endorsement of the Officiating Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 2nd September 1876, No. 440.

From R. B. ELWIN, Esq., Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company, to Major C. J. SMITH, R.E., Officiating Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 1st September 1876, No. 902.

ADVERTING to correspondence noted in the margin, I have the honor to forward herewith, for submission to the Government, a copy of paragraph 11 of a letter from the Secretary, dated London the 28th of July 1876, No. 580, in which the views of the Board of Directors are expressed with regard to the Order of Government imputing neglect on the part of the Company's servants in connection with the outbreak of cholera among troops who were travelling by railway to Mettapolliem on the 1st of April last.

From Cong. Engr. No. 537, 20th May 1876.
To " " " 543, 23rd May "
To " " " 607, 13th June "

Extract from a letter from the Secretary, Madras Railway Company, No. 580, *dated London, the* 28*th July* 1876.

Cholera amongst Troops in Train. Company's Servants blamed.

PARAGRAPH 11.—The Board regretted to read the observations of the Madras Government, in their Order of the 9th May 1876, No. 1,159 referred to in paragraph 27 of 1,210, imputing neglect, on the part of the Company's servants, to take such precautionary measures as were necessary to prevent the spread of cholera among troops proceeding by train to Mettapolliem in April last. The Board approve of the explanation given in your letter to the Consulting Engineer, acknowledging the Proceedings above referred to; and, after a perusal of the correspondence embodied therein, (from which they observe that the chief guard of the train, as a wise precaution, shifted the men suffering from cramp into the same compartment as the Apothecary in charge of the troops, from whom none of the Company's officials appear to have received intimation that cholera had broken out in the detachment,) they are unable to see what part of their duty the Company's servants neglected, and hope therefore that they are not deserving of the blame attributed to them.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. B. ELWIN,
Agent and Manager.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government in continuation of this office endorsement No. 293, dated 14th June 1876.

(Signed) W. H. COAKER, Captain, R.E.,
for *Offg. Consulting Engineer for Railways.*

No. 267-A. Endorsement of the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Fort St. George, 29th November 1876, No. 6,146.

From Brigadier-General H. O'CONNELL, Quartermaster-General, to Colonel J. MICHAEL, C.S.I., Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Fort St. George, 27th November 1876, No. 8,192.

In returning O.G., No. 4,409, dated the 31st August 1876, (transferred by the Adjutant-General to this Department,) I have the honor, by order, to annex, for the information of Government, copy of a letter from Assistant Apothecary Henderson to the Officer in Medical charge of the Depôt at Wellington.

2. Assistant Apothecary Henderson was in Medical charge of the drafts of the 33rd Regiment between Arconum and Mettapolliem.

3. Major Barnes, Royal Artillery, who was in command, appears to have made no report upon the outbreak of cholera under reference.

From Assistant Apothecary H. HENDERSON, doing duty Cholera Camp near Wellington, to the Officer in Medical charge, Depôt Wellington, dated 24th April 1876.

In compliance with letter No. 885, from Secretary to Surgeon-General, British Medical Service, I have the honor to submit the following statement:—

1. I was detailed to proceed with a party of five men, two women, and six children, from Secunderabad to Wellington on the morning of the 29th March 1876. We arrived at Shahabad at 3 P.M., and proceeded to the rest camp where I found the accommodation ample, and the drinking water good, and obtained from filters. There was none of the party sick.

2. Left Shahabad the next day and did not stop at Raichore longer than was necessary for the party to obtain their dinner. The next station at which a halt was made was Arconum. Here I was informed that cholera was about the place, and consequently I recommended to the Serjeant in charge of my party that they should be prohibited entering the bazaars. As far as I am aware there was little, if any, communication between the party and the natives. I visited the rest-house (which is some distance from the camp), and was told that the Rest-house Superintendent was suffering from pain in his abdomen. I told him about there being no water in the filters, and condition of the camp, which was dirty.

3. I respectfully beg to state that I did not examine the party of the 33rd Regiment on arrival at Arconum, as I received no instructions about them, and was not aware of being the *only* medical man with the party, until the Officer Commanding reported the two cases of illness. It was when the train halted at a station called Morapoor about 2 A.M. that private Cavanagh was reported ill. He was removed into my compartment at once and treated. At about 2-45 A.M. private Harris was reported ill, and also removed into my compartment of the train.

4. The only halt that was made between Arconum and Wellington was at Mettapolliem, where I found all arrangements good, and the water filtered.

5. I am not aware of the men having partaken of any other liquid than water and the Commissariat allowance of liquors. As far as I was able I prevented the introduction of any thing else into camp. I saw and tasted the milk, it was good.

6. My reason for having brought the two men up the ghauts was, that I did not consider that they were suffering from cholera, as they had fœculent stools, and passed urine freely. Symptoms of cholera did not show themselves until after we had left Mettapolliem.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th December 1876. *No.* 3,372.

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department, with reference to Major-General Walker's memorandum No. 1,299, dated 30th August 1876.

(Signed) J. MICHAEL, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

No. 268. ORDER THEREON, 12th December 1876, No. 3,372.

RAILWAY, No. 28-A.

HIS GRACE the Governor in Council has attentively perused this correspondence and has been struck with the discrepant statements which it contains.

2. The Apothecary says that at Morapoor Private Cavanagh was reported ill, and was removed into his (the Apothecary's) compartment at about 2 A.M. Subsequently at about 2-45 A.M. Private Harris was reported ill, and was also removed into the same compartment.

3. The Guard's statement is to the effect that *both* men were reported ill at Sunkerrydroog, where the removal into the Apothecary's compartment took place. The reason for the removal of the men was, in the Guard's own words, "for fear the complaint (cramp in the stomach) would turn into cholera." The detention of the train at Somanoor is stated to have been caused by the men who had gone to the latrines, and more especially by the two suspected of having cholera, who were the last to rejoin the train.

4. It appears from these statements that, of the Railway servants, the Chief Guard at least had good grounds for taking every possible precaution. How far he may have communicated the circumstances to other officers of the Company does not appear from the papers; but the fact remains that with the knowledge that soldiers had been taken ill with a complaint which it was feared would turn into cholera, and which fear was subsequently realized, the carriages occupied by them for many hours subsequently were allowed to remain without being disinfected, and were probably used in this state by other passengers on the return journey.

5. On consideration of these circumstances, His Grace the Governor in Council cannot find ground to change the opinion already expressed that the disinfection of the carriages should have been attended to by the Company's officers.

(True Extract.)

Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

Cholera Camp. near
Wellington
24th April 1876.

From,
Asstt. Apothecary Henderson
doing duty Cholera Camp
near Wellington

To,
The Officer in Medical charge
Depot Wellington

Sir,

In compliance with letter No. 885
from Secretary to Surgeon General B.M.D.
I have the honor to submit the following
statement.—

1. I was detailed to proceed with a party
of 5 men, 2 women and 6 children from Secun-
derabad to Wellington in the morning of
the 29 March 1876. We arrived at Shahabad
at 3 p.m. and proceeded to the Rest
Camp where I found the accommodation
ample, and the drinking water good, and
obtained from filters. There was none of
the party sick.

2. Left Shahabad the next day and
did not stop at Raichore longer than was
necessary for the party to obtain their
dinner. The next station at which a
halt was made was Arconum. Here
I was informed that Cholera was about
the place, and consequently I recommended
to the Serjeant in charge of my party
that they should be prohibited entering
the

the bazaars. As far as I am aware, there was little, if any, communication between the party and the natives. I visited the Rest House (which is some distance from the Camp) and was told that the Rest House Superintendent was suffering from pain in his abdomen. I told him about there being no water in the filters, and condition of the Camp, which was dirty.

3. I respectfully beg to state that I did not examine the party of the 53rd Regiment on arrival at Arcanum, as I received no instructions about them, and was not aware of being the only medical man with the party, until the Officer Commanding reported the two Cases of illness. It was when the train halted at a station called Moradpoor about 2 a.m. that Private Cavanagh was reported ill. He was removed into my Compartment at once and treated. At about 2.45 a.m. Private Harris was reported ill, and also removed into my Compartment of the train.

4. The only halt that was made between Arcanum and Wellington was at Mettapollium, where I found all arrangements good and the water filtered.

5. I am not aware of the men having

having partaken of any other liquid than water, and the Commissariat allowance of liquors. As far as I was able I prevented the introduction of anything else into Camp. I saw and tasted the milk, it was good.

6. My reason for having brought the two men up the Ghauts was that I did not consider that they were suffering from cholera, as they had faculent Stools, and passed urine freely. Symptoms of cholera did not shew themselves until after we had left Mettapollium.

I beg to remain &c

(Signed) H. Henderson, Asstt. Surgn. doing duty Cholera Camp Wellington.

(True copy)
H. O'Connell Dpty. General
Quarter Master General.

H.

Quarter Master General

P.W.D.
1 DEC 76
No. 8693

Quarter Master General's Office
Fort Saint George 27th November 1876.

No: 8192

From

Brigadier General A. O'Connell
Quarter Master General

To

Colonel J. Michael C. S. I.
Secretary to Government
Military Department

Sir,

In returning G. O. No: 4409 dated the 31st August 1876. (transferred by the Adjutant General to this Department) I have the honor, by order, to annex for the information of Government, copy of a letter from Asstt: Apothecary Henderson to the Officer in Medical charge of the Depôt at Wellington. —

2. Apstt: Apothecary Henderson was in Medical charge of the Drafts of the 33rd Regiment between Arcanum and Mettapol. Steam. —

3. Major Barnes, Royal Artillery, who was in Command, appears to have made no report upon the outbreak of cholera under reference. — I have the honor to be

Sir
Your obedient Servant
A. O'Connell Dpty. Genl.
Quarter Master General

Extract from a letter from the Secretary Madras Railway Company, No. 580, dated London the 28th July 1876.

Para: 11. The Board regretted to read the observations of the Madras government in their Order of the 9th May, 1876, No. 1159, referred to in para: 27, of 1210, imputing neglect, on the part of the company's servants, to take such precautionary measures as were necessary to prevent the spread of cholera among troops proceeding by train to Mettapollium in April last. The Board approve of the explanation given in your letter to the consulting Engineer, acknowledging the proceedings above referred to; and, after a perusal of the correspondence embodied therein, from which they observe that the chief Guard of the train, as a wise precaution shifted the men suffering from cramp into the same compartment as the apothecary in charge of the troops, from whom none of the company's officials appear to have received intimation that cholera had broken out in the detachment, they are unable to see what part of their duty the company's servants neglected, and hope, therefore, that they are not deserving of the blame attributed to them.

(True Extract)

Agent and Manager

amongst Train servants

P.W.D. 1876 DEC 7 693

Military Department

Madras, 18th October 1876.

From

The Secretary to Govt. P.W.D.

To

The Secretary to Govt. Public Works Dept. with reference to Train General, Railway Rems. No. 1299 dated 30th Sept. 1876.

Sir,

I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to move the Chief Engineer for the information of the Govt. Public Works Dept. that the Madras Railway Co. have addressed the Secretary of State in the matter of Cholera in the Train conveying troops to Mettapollium.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
[illegible]
Lieut. Colonel
Secretary to Govt.

Public Works Dept.
Fort St. George,
the 23rd Nov. 1876.

To
The Public Works Secretary.

Sir,

I am directed by the Government to request that you will move the Chief Engineer for information of Govt. with reference to the letter from the Madras Railway Co. dated 28th July 1876 on the subject of Cholera in the Train conveying troops to Mettapollium.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
[illegible]
Secretary.

Enclosure.

E.D.Q-5-76 1159.

Recd 2-12-76
Cir: 2-12-76

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the

READ the following:—

From the Consulting Engr for Railways } No. 258 of 29th May 1876.
Do. — do — 293 of 15 June 1876

His Grace the Governor in Council is satisfied by the detailed information now submitted to him that there is no reason to suppose that the Railway Officials had any knowledge of Cholera having broken out amongst the troops in the train; and absolves them from the charge of neglect in not disinfecting the carriages. But he must remark that the telegram from the Commandant at Wellington together with

such information regarding
it as was at first supplied
by the Railway Officials,
amply justified the notice
taken of the matter in
Gen. 1159 of 9th May.

Consul Genl Rep.
Mdg Dept
Public Dept

X. Attch.

15

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Read the following:-

From

The Consulting Engineer for Railways No 640
dated 2nd September 1876
The Secretary Department No 6146 of 29 Nov 1876.

FOR ORDERS.

Submitted to His Grace the Governor together with draft order formerly circulated.

Commanded Hospitals
Secretary to Government.

For the first time we now have the statement of the Apothecary in charge — Strangely enough it closes without any with that of Chief Steward as to when stoppages occurred or as to what occurred —

Apothecary says
at Moorepoor Private Cavanagh was separated ill was removed into 1st compartment — about 2 a.m.
At about 2.45 a.m. Private Harris was separated ill —

Chief Steward says
Detention of train at Sunkery droog & Somanoor was owing to a few soldiers suffering &c ---
The men were kept into the same compartment with the Apothecary for fear the complaints would turn into Cholera —

I cannot find ground to charge the Apothecary with neglect of duty in not having separated the cases ill to have been dissipated —

Let the contractor be informed that the Government cannot undertake to supply Grain. The Military authorities have got Carts in hand that have to be kept in the Military Dept of the Secretariat

Ask Medl. Dept. for the Report of Asst. Surgeon in charge of the detachment

25-8-76.

B & Offs

The Chief Secretary to Govt reports that a few Sailors were suffering with Cramp in the Stomach - Direct they were shifted into same compartment with Apothecary for an complaint ~~they~~ would have with Medicine

Mr Thompson had that knowledge which called for any precaution — send communication for he may have omitted to communicate what had occurred to Dr Cox Officers - does not appear from the papers but the fact remains that with the knowledge that sickness had been better ill with complaint which it was feared would turn into Cholera and which it did do. Men were many Lascars in the carriages subsequently — the carriages were not disinfected

Bd 4/12

No 3372 Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 12 Dec 76 12

~~Read the following:—~~

Read again

Proceedings of Government P. W. Dept } (H.R. No 1469 dy 12 June 87)

Read also the following:—

From

The Controlling Engineer for Railways } (H.R. No 293 dy 15 June 1876)

Do Do — (— — 440 — 2d Dept. —)

Endorsement of the Secy Dept (— — 6146 — 29 Nov — —)

His Grace the Governor in Council has attentively perused this correspondence and has been struck with the discrepant statements which it contains.

2. The Apothecary says that

that at Moraspore Private
Scanaugh was reported
ill and was removed
into his (the Apothecary's)
Compartment at about
2 A.M. Subsequently at
about 2.45 A.M. Private
Harris was reported ill,
and was also removed
into the same compart-
ment.

3. The Guards state-
ment is to the effect
that both men were
reported ill at Sunkery-
Doorg where the removal
into the Apothecary's
Compartment took place.
The reason for the removal
of the men was in the
Guards

Guards own words "for fear
"the Complaint (Cramp in
"the stomach) would turn
into Cholera". The detention
of the train at Somanoor
is stated to have been
caused by the men who
had gone to the latrines
and more especially by
the two suspected of
having Cholera, who were
the last to rejoin the train.

4. It appears from these
statements that the
Chief Guard had good
grounds for taking every
possible precaution.
How far he may have
communicated the cir-
cumstances to other Officers
of

of the Company does not appear from the papers; but the fact remains that with the knowledge that Soldiers had been taken ill with a complaint which it was feared would turn into Cholera, and which fear was subsequently realized, the Carriages occupied by them for many hours subsequently were allowed to remain without being disinfected - and were probably used in this state by other passengers on the return Journey.

5. On consideration of these circumstances

His

His Grace the Governor in Council cannot find ground to change the opinion already expressed that the disinfection of the Carriages should have been attended to by the Company's Officers

Gov.

C. Sec. Rgs / Desp. 29/12/76

S. Attys

614/1876 612/1876 893/1876

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS

To Rev. Cons Eng. for Wks

Dated

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G. O. 12 Nov 1876, No. 3372

Nos. 266/68

Cholera, Madras Rly.

Passing orders on the subject of the Casualties during the Year —

Lt. Col. Rly.