

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Rubli DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<i>1030</i>	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	<i>21-8-1967</i>	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
21st August 1867.*

No. 162. Read the following letter from the Colonial Secretary, Mauritius, to the Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Mauritius, 18th July 1867, No. 1353A.

His Excellency the Governor having observed that it is reported in some of the Indian Newspapers that yellow fever has been raging in Mauritius, has directed me to forward you copy of a report from Surgeon-Major Reid, Chief Medical Officer, showing what is the nature of the disease which has unfortunately committed such ravages in some of the districts of this Island.

2. I may add that very few of the Indian immigrants actually under engagement have fallen victims to this epidemic, as they have been well taken care of, when sick, by the masters with whom they have been employed.

3. The principal sufferers have been amongst the Creoles of African origin, great numbers of whom, from a natural indisposition to labor, live only from hand to mouth; and also among the time-expired Indian immigrants, who, in defiance of all sanitary regulations, crowd together into towns and villages, and keep their huts in so filthy a state as to form a focus of disease wherever they are congregated.

NOTE respecting the Epidemic Fever of 1866-67 which has prevailed in certain parts of Mauritius.

Of the epidemic fever which has prevailed in Port Louis and certain rural districts on the western and north-eastern portions of the Island, I have had extensive experience during the last nine months, in common with the Medical Officers attached to the Civil and Military Hospitals—an experience acquired as well exterior to, as within, these Establishments.

2. One of these Medical Officers (the Surgeon of Royal Artillery) has been familiar with malignant yellow fever during his service in the West Indies. All the Medical Officers, so far as I am aware, concur in the opinions which I hold in regard to the Mauritius epidemic fever of 1866-67—that it is malarious fever of the intermittent and remittent forms, the great majority of the cases, so far as they have as yet been recorded, having been of intermittent fever; that it is not malignant yellow fever, nor in any case even akin to that disease; and that it is not of a contagious nature.

3. While all ranks and classes, the different sexes and ages from the infant at the breast to the septuagenarian, and all sections of the population residing in Port Louis and in the districts in which it has existed, have been more or less the subjects of attacks of the epidemic fever, an immense majority of the severe cases and of the deaths has occurred in low lying localities which have been in a bad sanitary condition, and among the poorest classes of Creoles, Indians without engagement, squatters, and the like, who, besides having suffered privations from their improvident and often dissipated habits, are huddled together in crowded huts and filthy villages, not unfrequently herding with cows, goats, and other animals in their dwellings, and all utterly disregarding hygienic regulations.

4. While, on the other hand, among the classes who have been better circumstanced, though living in town or on the lowlands; among Indians who are well housed, well fed, and well cared for; as also among the troops, and among the residents of the elevated parts of those districts to which the epidemic has been confined, the disease has been generally less virulent (usually of the more manageable intermittent form); and the ratio of mortality has not been heavy in proportion to the large number of attacks.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
21st August 1867.*

5. Between those districts and portions of districts that have escaped and such as have been visited by the epidemic, there has been free and frequent communication. Notwithstanding, however, that many hundreds of the inhabitants of the latter laboring under the fever, or in whom it appeared soon after their removal, went to reside in the healthy districts, still, so far as I have been able to ascertain, not one of the ordinary residents thereof has become the subject of the epidemic fever, except in the instances of persons who had themselves visited the localities in which the epidemic was then prevailing. Of such facts, very exact information exists, especially in regard to soldiers and soldiers' families.

Port Louis,
18th July 1867.

(Signed) FRANCIS REID, M. D.,
Staff Surgeon-Major, Princ. Medl. Officer H. M.'s Troops,
and Chief Medl. Officer Civil Dept.

No. 163. ORDER THEREON, 21st August 1867, No. 1030.

From the correspondence recorded above, it appears that the epidemic fever which has prevailed at the Mauritius in 1866-67 is a malarious fever of the intermittent and remittent forms; that it is not, as was reported, malignant yellow fever; and that it is not of a contagious nature.

2. The precautions prescribed in G. O., dated 7th June last, No. 643, in respect of vessels arriving from the Mauritius, are no longer required, and will be discontinued.

(True Extract).

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Superintendent of Marine.
,, Inspector General, Medical Department.
,, Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

MAURITIUS,

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

18th July 1867

GENERAL BRANCH.—Registered No. M/353

[In any future correspondence on this subject, the above No. should be quoted.]

Sir,

His Excellency the Governor having observed that it is reported in some of the Indian Newspapers that Yellow fever has been raging in Mauritius, has directed me to

forward you copy of a report from Surgeon Major Reid, Chief Medical Officer, showing what is the nature of the disease which has unfortunately committed such

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To The Secretary
to the Government
Madras

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2. I may add that very few of the Indian Immigrants actually under engagement have fallen victims to this epidemic as they have been well taken care of when sick by the Master with whom they have been employed.

3. The principal sufferers have been amongst the people of African origin, great numbers of whom from a natural indisposition to labor, live only from hand to mouth; and also among the

the time expired Indian Immigrants, who in defiance of all Sanitary regulations crowd together into Towns and Villages, and keep their huts in so filthy a state as to form a focus of disease wherever they are congregated. —

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient Servant

Edw. M. P. S.
Colonial Secretary.

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of 1866-67, which has prevailed in
certain parts of Mauritius.

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2 One of these Medical Officers (the
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Public 1867 Sept

From P. M. C. C.

Colonial Secy, Mauritius
No. 24/1853.

21/10/67
P. M. C. C.

1/10/67

No 1303.

Forwarded a Special Re-
port of the Secretariat
of the Fever which lately
prevailed in the Island, with
reference to certain Reports
then received of it at the
Yellow Fever.

opinions which I hold in regard to the Mauritius Epidemic Fever of 1866-67. that it is malarious fever of the Intermittent and Remittent forms; the great majority of the cases, so far as they have as yet been recorded, having been of Intermittent fever; that it is not malignant Yellow fever, nor in any case even akin to that disease; and that it is not of a contagious nature.

3 While all ranks and classes, the different sexes and ages from the infant at the breast to the Septuagenarian - and all sections of the population residing in Port Louis and in the districts in which it has existed have been more or less the subjects of attacks of the Epidemic Fever, an immense majority of the severe cases

and

and of the deaths has occurred in low-lying localities which have been in a bad sanitary condition, and among the poorest classes of Creoles, Indians without engagement, squatters and the like, who besides having suffered privations from their improvident and often dissipated habits, are huddled together in crowded huts and filthy villages - not infrequently herding with cows, goats and other animals in their dwellings, and all utterly disregarding hygienic regulations.

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(St Francis Reid M.D.

Staff Surgeon Major

Port Louis Principal Med. Off. H.M.'s Troops

18th July 1867. & Chief Medical Officer Civil Dept.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the
Colonial Secretary, Mauritius.

Recd. letter 18th July 1867 No. $\frac{A}{1353}$.

Order thereon 21st August 1867 No. 2030.

From the correspondence
recorded above it appears that
the epidemic fever which
has prevailed at the Mauritius
in 1866/67, is a malarious
fever of the intermittent
and remittent forms, that
it is not, as was reported,
malignant yellow fever,
and that it is not of a
contagious nature.

2. The precautions pre-
scribed in L.C. dated 7th
June last, 1863, in respect of
vessels.

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Received 21 Aug 67
In Public No 1303/67.

vessels arriving from the
Mauritius are no longer
required and will be
discontinued.

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To the Sup't of Marine.
— ~~Board~~ Supr. Genl. Ind. Bt. } despatch
— Sanitary Commr. }
Editor's Table

Letter 1867: Department.

No. 1121.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated, 27th March 1867.