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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	915	Press Mis.
Dated	26-7-	1867

Not to be folded or roughly handled

RD
23-10-25

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
26th July 1867.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 270. From the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, and Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 11th June 1867, No. 176.

In accordance with the instructions of Government conveyed in their Order, dated 7th June 1867, No. 643, we have put ourselves in communication with the Superintendent of Marine, and beg to submit, for the consideration of Government, the measures which, in our opinion, are desirable and practicable for preventing the introduction into the ports of the Presidency of the fever at present prevailing at the Mauritius. This fever would seem, by the telegram of the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to be thought in England to be Yellow Fever.

2. The accounts of the fever, as contained in the Overland Commercial Gazette from Mauritius, dated 6th May last, do not indicate that the fever which is raging in the Mauritius is Yellow Fever; but in our proposals which follow, we have thought it right to provide for the possibility of the Mauritius Fever being identical with the Yellow Fever of America, as met with in the West India Islands and in the Cities of the Atlantic and Gulf shores.

3. Before stating the practical preventive measures to be adopted, we may be permitted to state that Medical opinion both in England and America is generally opposed to the idea of contagion in connection with Yellow Fever; or, in other words, that from the present state of knowledge on the subject they infer that there is no danger in allowing contact between persons ill of Yellow Fever and others in good health, the latter being in places where the disease does not exist epidemically.

4. The United States Sanitary Commission in 1864 pronounced, however—

1st.—That it is extremely probable that certain articles of merchandize, of dress, and of bedding convey a material (fomites) which, under peculiar circumstances, tends to develop the fever.

2nd.—That infected ships are especially to be dreaded.

3rd.—That to abandon quarantine restraints against Yellow Fever, is to put a price on human life, and barter it for trade.

5. Agreeing in the justice of these observations, we consider that it is advisable that a Proclamation should be issued by Government, directing that all ships arriving from the Mauritius at ports in this Presidency, shall be subject to quarantine. All vessels should, we think, on arriving in the Madras Roadstead, be prohibited from communication with the shore, and be directed to proceed to the port of Ennore, which we recommend as the place of quarantine for Madras, and as the site of a temporary Lazaret.

6. The situation of Ennore, distant about ten miles to the north of Madras, to the leeward of the prevailing winds, with a scanty population, and with a good roadstead for shipping, renders it very suitable as a place of quarantine. Ennore is principally used as a place of recreation by Europeans. A Lazaret will here cause no interruption to ordinary business, and will only inconvenience a very small number of persons.

7. The principle of quarantine admitted, the same precautionary system should be observed at all the ports of the Presidency in respect of ships arriving from the

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
26th July 1867.*

Mauritius. The ports principally frequented by ships from the Mauritius are Madras, Pondicherry, Karikal, Negapatam, Tranquebar, Nagore, and Tuticorin.

8. The suspension of emigration to the Mauritius, which has lately taken place, has diminished the number of ships touching at these ports; and the Superintendent of Marine has only information of one ship, the *Hindustan*, expected at present from the *Mauritius*.

9. The French authorities should be invited to adopt the same measures at the ports belonging to the French Government; the important principle being enforced that ships from the Mauritius should, during the period of quarantine, be isolated from the rest of the shipping and from the ordinary landing place. As regards our own ports much must be left to the discretion of the local authorities.

10. Should the Government approve of Ennore as a place of quarantine, it will be desirable to select the exact site for the temporary Lazaret, and to define the boundaries round which a strict 'Cordon Sanitaire' is to be enforced.

11. The temporary Lazaret may consist of a house to be hired as a hospital, with a provision of tents for use as required, or consist entirely of a standing camp.

12. The Head of the Medical Department should be instructed to organize all that is required in the shape of hospital appliances of all kinds. A Medical Officer and the necessary subordinate staff should be selected and warned for duty, so that upon the arrival of a ship from the Mauritius, and its being placed in quarantine, the whole of the organization of the Lazaret may be complete, and quarantine regulations be at once enforced.

13. The Commissariat and the Quarter Master General's Departments should also be instructed to have tents, camp equipage, and carriage ready at the shortest notice to proceed to Ennore.

To the Commissariat Department, notice should also be issued as regards the supply of provisions to the Lazaret.

14. The Medical Officer in charge of the Lazaret should be furnished with detailed instructions for the control of the administration of the Lazaret, and a sufficient force of Police should be ready to form the 'Cordon Sanitaire,' and to enforce the regulations prescribed.

15. We recommend the adoption of two kinds of quarantine, namely, the *quarantine of observation*, and *rigorous quarantine*.

To the former of these, the quarantine of observation, we would propose to subject ships arriving from the Mauritius, on board of which no case of fever has appeared during the voyage. The length of the voyage from the Mauritius may be regarded as having been, for practical purposes, itself a lengthened period of quarantine.

16. A period of observation of 72 hours will, we think, be sufficient to entitle a vessel, under these circumstances, to *free pratique*, or release from quarantine regulation.

17. During the three days of observation, all that is necessary is, that the Medical Officer appointed for this duty should frequently visit the vessel, and satisfy himself that the statement made by the Commander of the vessel is correct, as regards the incidents of the voyage, and that there are no symptoms of the disease, Yellow Fever, among the crew. It will not entail the discharge of the cargo,

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
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except there be in it decayed or corrupted substances, and will not necessitate landing passengers or crew.

18. The time may be usefully employed in thoroughly cleaning the ship, in washing clothes under proper supervision, and in putting the vessel into as good hygienic condition as possible. All that is practically essential is, that during the 'quarantine of observation,' the ship and crew should be carefully isolated.

19. *Rigorous quarantine* implies the sequestration and isolation, for a fixed time, both of ships and persons, with disinfection of all that is capable of harbouring the germs of disease.

To this quarantine we would subject all ships arriving from the Mauritius, which have had since leaving that port, cases of the disease, Yellow Fever, occurring on board. Such ships should be subject to a period of quarantine of not less than ten days from date of arrival at the place of quarantine, provided that no fresh case of the disease has occurred during this period of quarantine. Should a fresh case occur in quarantine, the further period of sequestration must be calculated in the same manner, from the date of the termination of the last case occurring in quarantine.

20. In the case of 'rigorous quarantine' the sick and all passengers must at once be landed and placed in the Lazaret, and as many of the crew as are not absolutely required for the safety of the ship lying in an open roadstead. The goods, clothing, &c., &c., must be landed for purification, and the best means available must be used for the thorough disinfection of the ship itself.

21. In this letter, we have merely generally indicated the system of precautions to be observed by the Proclamation of quarantine, and the establishment of a temporary Lazaret. The extent of accommodation required at the Lazaret, must of course depend upon the number of ships arriving from the Mauritius at Madras. If complete preparation is made for one ship, all that will be required, should more than a single vessel arrive, would be an increase to the number of tents, and an addition to the establishment.

22. Should the Government approve of the suggestions we have submitted to their consideration, we shall have the honor to submit details as to the requirements of the Lazaret, and to frame instructions for the guidance of the Officer in charge of the Quarantine establishment in all that concerns its Medical, Sanitary and Police administration.

23. It will be observed that little or no expense is involved in the preparation we have indicated. We feel reason to believe, that rigorous quarantine will not be required, but it is very desirable that should this be necessary, all should be in readiness for its enforcement.

No. 271. From the Superintendent of Marine, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 1st July 1867, No. 2375.

Referring to Proceedings of Government of the 7th ultimo, No. 643, I have the honor to solicit early instructions as to the general measures to be adopted in the case of vessels arriving from the Mauritius with or without return emigrants.

2. The *Shah Jehan* with emigrants may be expected in a few days, and the *Allumghur* also with emigrants was to leave the Mauritius a week or ten days later.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
26th July 1867.*

No. 272.

ORDER THEREON, 26th July 1867, No. 915.

To be recorded.
(True Extract).

R. S. ELLIS,
Acting Chief Secretary.

OFFICE OF SANITARY COMMISSIONER,
MADRAS, 11th June 1867.

No. 176.

FROM

THE HONORABLE R. S. ELLIS, C. B.,
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

W. MACKENZIE, Esq., M. D., C. B., C. S. I. & C.
Inspector General, Indian Medical Department.

TO

THE HONORABLE A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary to Government, Public Department.

SIR,

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2. The accounts of the Fever as contained in the Overland Commercial Gazette, from Mauritius dated 6th May last do not indicate that the Fever which is raging in the Mauritius is Yellow Fever; but in our proposals which follow, we have thought it right to provide for the possibility of the Mauritius Fever being identical with the Yellow Fever of America as met with in the West India Islands and in the Cities of the Atlantic and Gulf shores.

3. Before stating the practical preventive measures to be adopted, we may be permitted to state that Medical opinion both in England and America is generally opposed to the idea of contagion in connection with Yellow Fever; or, in other words, that from the present state of knowledge on the subject they infer, that there is no danger in allowing contact between persons ill of Yellow Fever and others in good health, the latter being in places where the disease does not exist epidemically.

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2nd. That infected ships are especially to be dreaded.

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9. The French Authorities should be invited to adopt the same measures at the ports belonging to the French Government; the important principle being enforced that ships from the Mauritius should, during the period of quarantine, be isolated from the rest of the shipping and from the ordinary landing place. As regards our own ports much must be left to the discretion of the local Authorities.

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made by the Commander of the Vessel is correct, as regards the incidents of the voyage, and that there are no symptoms of the disease, Yellow Fever, among the crew. It will not entail the discharge of the cargo, except there be in it decayed or corrupted substances, and will not necessitate landing passengers or crew.

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23. It will be observed that little or no expense is involved in the preparation we have indicated. We feel reason to believe, that rigorous quarantine will not be required, but it is very desirable that should this be necessary, all should be in readiness for its enforcement.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

H. MacKenzie

Inspector General,
Indian Medical Department.

