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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<i>M66</i>	Press Mis.
<i>(B.M.O. 55-58)</i>		
Dated	<i>9-9-</i>	<i>1948/9.</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department.

9th September 1869.

No. 55. Read the following despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor General of India in Council ; dated India Office, London, 15th July 1869, No. 29, (Sanitary).

I forward, herewith, for the information of your Excellency in Council, copy of a report,* addressed by Dr. Dickson to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relative to the recent pilgrimage

* Dated 30th April 1869.

to Mecca, from which your Lordship in Council will observe that great success has attended the sanitary measures which have been enforced.

From Dr. E. DICKSON, to the Right Honourable H. ELLIOT, &c., &c., &c. ; dated Constantinople, 30th April 1869.

I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency that the Board of Health has received information, from its agents in the Hedjaz, that the pilgrimage to Mecca has been accomplished without any untoward event. The *Coorban Bairam* fell this year on Tuesday, the 23rd of March, and the number of pilgrims, assembled at Mecca on that occasion, is estimated at 110,000 ; while those present at last year's feast only amounted to 85,000. The supply of water at Hiva was abundant, and thirteen slaughter-houses were prepared for the sacrifices, each furnished with from three to five pits to receive the remnants and offal of the victims.

2. The victims were gathered together close to the slaughter-houses, and as they were sacrificed their remnants were thrown into the pits, and when these became half full, quick-lime was thrown in, and the pits filled up with earth. The latrines were regularly disinfected with a solution of sulphate of iron, and the streets were swept and watered twice a day.

3. Notwithstanding the great heat of the weather (Réaumur's Thermometer ranging from 25° to 28°,) the public health at Mecca was remarkably good ; a few cases of dysentery, fever, and small-pox were observed, but the total mortality while the ceremonies lasted amounted to forty-four.

4. On the fourth day of *Bairam*, the pilgrims began to disperse, except the Persians who wait a day longer at the valley of Hiva.

5. On the 31st March, the departure of pilgrims by way of Suez commenced, and many of them have already reached Constantinople. They were all put into quarantine at Moses' Well, near Suez, by order of the Egyptian Government, and were then compelled to take the route along the Suez Canal, as far as Port Saïd, whence they embarked for their destinations.

6. The pilgrims who visited Medina returned as usual by the way of Yombo, and as usual were plundered on the road by Bedouin robbers.

7. The Indians and Javanese will have to wait for the favourable monsoon (which generally commences in June) before they can quit the country.

8. Dr. Malezian, Quarantine Physician at Jedda, has given the number of pilgrims that arrived at that port for this year's pilgrimage as follows :—

6,150	from India.
4,222	„ Java and the Malay countries.
11,801	„ Suez.
4,820	„ other localities.

Total... 26,893

9. With respect to the mortality at sea of passengers coming from India, he remarked that the deaths happened chiefly on vessels which carried a *clean bill* of health, while none occurred upon those which came from Bombay with a *foul bill* ; and he attributes this circumstance to the distance and length of the voyage of the former as compared with the latter. He moreover observes that, unless the pilgrims are present at Hiva on the day of the *Coorban Bairam*, their pilgrimage is worthless,

9th September 1869.

and they have to wait in the Hedjaz until next year to fulfil this rite. Hence (he adds) a quarantine could not be imposed at Jedda upon pilgrim ships which arrive there just in time for the *Bairam*, say two or three days before that festival, for it would be impossible to prevent the landing of these fanatics, anxious to rush on shore for fear of marring their sacred duties.

10. Dr. Malezian further reports that the Military have appropriated to themselves the five hospitals lately built at Jedda by Nooree Patha for the use of the pilgrims, leaving these without shelter for their sick; that the Governor of the Hedjaz has formed a Company for the conveyance of passengers between Jedda and Mecca; and that a trial is being made, twelve carriages drawn by camels.

11. To prevent crowding on board vessels laden with pilgrims returning from Egypt to Turkey, the Constantinople Board of Health has informed the various Steam Companies which traffic between those places, that not more than *one pilgrim for every two tons* of the vessel's burden can be allowed without rendering it liable to quarantine.

No. 381.

Copy forwarded to the Government of Madras for information.

(By order of the Governor General in Council),

HOME DEPARTMENT, SANITARY,

SIMLA, 25th August 1869.

(Signed) J. GEOGHEGAN,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 56.

ORDER THEREON, 9th September 1869, No. 1266.

Communicated to the Sanitary Commissioner.

(True Extract).

R. S. ELLIS,

Chief Secretary.

To the Sanitary Commissioner.

Sanitary.
No. 29.

INDIA OFFICE;
London, the 15th July 1869.

To His Excellency the Right Hon'ble the Governor General of India in Council.

My LORD,—I forward herewith, for the information of your Excellency in Council, copy of a report* addressed by Dr. Dickson to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relative to the recent pilgrimage to Mecca, from which your Lordship in Council will observe that great success has attended the sanitary measures which have been enforced.

I have the honor to be,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble Servant,
ARGYLL.

Dated Constantinople, the 30th April 1869.

From—Dr. E. DICKSON,

To—The Right Hon'ble H. ELLIOT, &c., &c., &c.

I HAVE the honor to acquaint your Excellency that the Board of Health has received information from its agents in the Hedjaz that the pilgrimage to Mecca has been accomplished without any untoward event. The *Coorban Bairam* fell this year on Tuesday, the 23rd of March, and the number of pilgrims assembled at Mecca on that occasion is estimated at 110,000; while those present at last year's feast only amounted to 85,000. The supply of water at Hiva was abundant, and 13 slaughter-houses were prepared for the sacrifices, each furnished with from three to five pits to receive the remnants and outal of the victims.

The victims were gathered together close to the slaughter-houses, and as they were sacrificed their remnants were thrown into the pits, and when these became half full, quick-lime was thrown in, and the pits filled up with earth. The latrines were regularly disinfected with a solution of sulphate of iron, and the streets were swept and watered twice a day.

Notwithstanding the great heat of the weather (Réaumur's Thermometer ranging from 25° to 28°), the public health at Mecca was remarkably good; a few cases of dysentery, fever, and small-pox were observed, but the total mortality while the ceremonies lasted amounted to 44.

On the 4th day of *Bairam*, the pilgrims began to disperse, except the Persians who wait a day longer at the Valley of Hiva.

On the 31st March, the departure of pilgrims by way of Suez commenced, and many of them have already reached Constantinople. They were all put into quarantine at Moses' Well, near Suez, by order of the Egyptian Government, and were then compelled to take the route along the Suez Canal, as far as Port Saïd, whence they embarked for their destinations.

The pilgrims who visited Medina returned as usual by the way of Yombo, and as usual were plundered on the road by Bedouin robbers.

The Indians and Javanese will have to wait for the favorable monsoon (which generally commences in June) before they can quit the country.

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6,150	from India.
4,222	„ Java and the Malay Countries.
11,801	„ Suez.
4,820	„ other localities.
26,993	Total.

With respect to the mortality at sea of passengers coming from India, he remarked that the deaths happened chiefly on vessels which carried a *clean bill* of health, while none occurred

PUBLIC.

THE SANITARY COMMISSIONER.

Dated September, 9th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 9th September 1869, No. 1266.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 55-56.

Communicating papers in connexion with the recent pilgrimage to Mecca.

upon those which came from Bombay with a *foul bill*; and he attributes this circumstance to the distance and length of the voyage of the former as compared with the latter. He moreover observes that, unless the pilgrims are present at Hiva on the day of the *Coorban Bairam*, their pilgrimage is worthless, and they have to wait in the Hedjaz until next year to fulfil this rite. Hence (he adds) a quarantine could not be imposed at Jedda upon pilgrimships which arrive there just in time for the *Bairam*, say two or three days before that festival, for it would be impossible to prevent the landing of these fanatics, anxious to rush on shore for fear of marring their sacred duties.

Dr. Malezian further reports that the Military have appropriated to themselves the five hospitals lately built at Jedda by Nooree Patha for the use of the pilgrims, leaving these without shelter for their sick. That the Governor of the Hedjaz has formed a company for the conveyance of passengers between Jedda and Mecca, and that a trial is being made, twelve carriages drawn by camels.

To prevent crowding on board vessels laden with pilgrims returning from Egypt to Turkey, the Constantinople Board of Health has informed the various Steam Companies which traffic between those places, that not more than *one pilgrim for every two tons* of the vessel's burden can be allowed without rendering it liable to quarantine.

No. 381

COPY forwarded to the Government of *Madras* for information.

By Order of the Governor General in Council,

HOME DEPARTMENT,
SANITARY;
SIMLA, the 25th August 1869.

[Signature]
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

The Secy. Genl. to Govt. of India

Sanitary Commissioner

Communicated to the

1266 - 9 Sep 1869

14. 11. 1869

Public Works Dept

Home

Secretary Genl. to Govt. of India

Secy. to Govt. of India

25 Aug 69

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*Forwarding copy of a report
by Dr. Macleod to the San
itary Commissioner
regarding the success that
has attended the
measures enforced at the
recent pilgrimages at
Mecca*

Oct. of 1869 Madras.

Public

To

The Sanitary Commissioner

Dated Sept. 9.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O.

9 Sept.

1869 No 1266.

Nos. 55: 56.

Conning: ~~letter from the Govt.~~
~~of India~~ in connection with
the recent pilgrimage to
Mecca.

Sept 10 1869
The Sanitary Commissioner
Madras
To the
The
The
The

Sept 10 1869
The Sanitary Commissioner
Madras

Sept 10 1869