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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Ludic DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	109	Press Mis.
Dated	27-1-	1870

Not to be folded or roughly handled

**Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
27th January 1870.**

No. 122. Read the following letter from the Sub-Collector of South Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Cuddalore, 26th January 1870, No. 1.

With reference to the telegram from Government, dated 31st December 1869, to Mr. Norrie, the British Consular Agent at Pondicherry, to arrange with the Collector of South Arcot about landing the emigrants from the *John Bull* if they were not all landed by the French Government, I have the honour to state that having received information of the same on Sunday the 2nd instant, I proceeded to Pondicherry on the 3rd, and on the 4th instant I had an interview with His Excellency the Governor M. Bontemps.

2. From him I learned that every precaution had been taken for the benefit of the coolies, and that no person has died of cholera since the 31st. Out of about four hundred and fifty coolies on board some sixty have been landed and placed in the house for leprosy, the latter having been removed by the priests on the request of the French Government. The building was whitewashed, and on the 29th or 30th December the patients from the ship were admitted. The dysentery which had suddenly broken out with great violence was suddenly stopped.

3. The Governor has also caused a pondal to be erected a mile or perhaps less to the south of the town. About three hundred persons could be accommodated in it, but as there has been no cholera for the last four days it is not likely to be used. It will thus be seen that every effort is being made by the authorities there to alleviate the distress and remove all cause of complaint.

4. His Excellency informed me that he considered it safe to remove the quarantine on the 6th instant, which will be six days after the last disease, and even that is not known certainly to have been from cholera. As affairs have now taken a very favourable turn, and there are only one or two days more to wait, I beg to suggest that no active measures be taken immediately.

5. There has been a very great quarrel or misunderstanding between the French Doctor on board and the Captain, and it is under the consideration of the authorities to remove the Doctor and appoint another who is now attending on the sick, and is on good terms with the Captain. He has also promoted games of amusement among the coolies, and infused fresh courage into all.

6. As far as I can recollect, the history of the case is as follows:—

The emigrants were to have been embarked on December 26th, or about that date; but a single case of cholera having occurred in the *Dupré*, a week's delay ensued, during which no fresh attack having happened the coolies were embarked about the 11th. It took two or three days to reach Karikal where 100 or 200 emigrants more were put on board, though cholera had broken out in the town.

7. Soon after leaving Karikal cholera attacked some eight or ten of the emigrants, and the Doctor was determined to have the ship put about for Pondicherry. The Captain stood out to sea to get a good wind for the tack, and the Doctor thinking he did not intend to go back shut himself up in his cabin, as the Captain alleged, and would not attend to the sick. Then the Captain steered for Pondicherry, and after anchoring there for a day or two, the disease became very virulent.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department.
27th January 1870.

8. The Governor had at first referred the matter to the Sanitary Commission who refused to allow the sick to be landed, but when the sickness increased, the Governor determined to land the sick, and on the 25th or 26th they were brought on shore. As soon as any fell sick they were taken to the Hospital provided by the authorities, and a Doctor and Assistant, I believe, placed in their charge.

9. The Medical Officers in charge are in quarantine as well as the sick, but in four or five days after the arrangements proposed by the Governor had been carried into effect no fresh cases occurred. The purifying of the ship has also been going on, and European Medical Officers will be sent as soon as the quarantine is over, to complete the sanitary arrangements. The medical or chemical appliances for the sick are at hand, so that there will be no difficulty in effecting everything that is required.

10. It is possible that the Sanitary Commission will object to the quarantine restrictions being removed on the 6th instant; but His Excellency has shown a determination to assist the emigrants as far as he can, and he will no doubt overcome all minor objections, and if it can be done with any degree of safety there will be free communication with the ships to-morrow.

11. He informed me that he had taken as much care for the comfort and medical assistance of the sailors as if they had been French troops under the like difficulties, and I believe he will do all that can reasonably be expected of him.

12. One of the persons who were landed as sick has run away, and perhaps some others will sign sickness in the hope to escape from the hospital provided for them on shore. Having received their advances they will run away with it or as much of it as may be left, and then try their chance at a new enlistment.

13. I beg to send a statement received from the Governor regarding the number of deaths. It will be seen that thirty-five sailors and one sailor have died of cholera. This is a large number out of 450 sailors.

Statement of Deaths among the Emigrants

Date	Deaths in the John Scott	Deaths in the Larvaca
December 14th	1	
15th	1	
16th	1	
17th	1	
18th	1	
19th	1	
20th	1	
21st	1	
22nd	1	
23rd	1	
24th	1	
25th	1	
26th	1	
27th	1	
28th	1	
29th	1	
30th	1	
31st	1	
January 1st	1	
2nd	1	
3rd	1	

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department.
27th January 1870.

Recapitulation.

On board the John Scott, by Cholera.	19
Deaths in the Larvaca	16
	26
One drowned	1
One emigrant	1
	27

And one European died from Cholera.

(True Copy.)

(Signed)

P. L. ROBERTS,

Sub-Collector.

No. 112. Ocean runner, 27th January 1870, No. 100.

The foregoing report on the Cholera outbreak on board the Emigrant Ship John Scott shows that, out of 450 sailors, thirty-five deaths occurred between the 16th and 30th December last, when the mortality ceased. One death, in the case of a woman, occurred from drowning.

2. The Government consider the arrangements made by the Governor of Pondicherry to have been most humane and considerate towards the victims, and they resolve to tender their thanks to His Excellency for the prompt attention paid by him to the British subjects who were visited with this calamity.

3. The epidemic appears to have died out; and orders have, it is observed, already been given, through the Protector of Emigrants, for inquiry as to the embarkation of cholera patients under the sanction of the Consul Agent at Karikal.

(Signed)

J. L. MINCHIN,

Acting Chief Secretary.

No. 114. To His Excellency M. BONTEMPS, Governor of the French Settlements in India, dated Port Saint George, 27th January 1870, No. 110.

I do myself the pleasure of conveying to your Excellency the thanks of my Government for the attention and humanity evinced by your Excellency in the measures taken for the reception of the British subjects, emigrants on board the ship John Scott, when that vessel returned to the Pondicherry Roadstead with cholera on board.

Accept Sir, &c.,
(Signed) RAPIER.

Public Department

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the

Sub-Collector of South Arcot

(The Public Health Officer)

Order the following

The following report
on the cholera outbreak
on board the Empress
Ship to be sent to the
Hon. Secy. of the Govt.
that out of 450 coolies,
36 deaths occurred between
the 16th and 20th November
last, when the mortality
was 1 death in the
case of a woman, occurred
from drowning.

The Government have
made the arrangements made by
the Government

Governor of Pondicherry to
have been most humane
and considerate towards
the victims, and they
resolve to tender their
thanks to His Excellency
for the prompt attention
paid by him to the
British subjects who
were involved in this
calamity.

The epidemic ap-
pears to have died out,
and orders have, it is
observed, already been
given through the Ho-
mote of Surgeons for
beginning as to the hu-
man habit as to the
particular under the
sanction of the Council.
Agent at Pondicherry

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The report of last
week in the Indian
attack that before
out in the morning
ship John Scott, was
that 35 deaths were
at 35 deaths
between the 16th and
18th Jan. 1817, when
the most likely cause

the most likely cause
is probably the case
of the women who
themselves overboard

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Govt. of Madras.

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