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Public DEPARTMENT.

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

No 132. Read the following letter from the Sub-Collector of South Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Cuddalore, 4th January 1870, No. 1.

With reference to the telegram from Government, dated 31st December 1869, to Mr. Norfor, the British Consular Agent at Pondicherry, to arrange with the Collector of South Arcot about landing the emigrants from the *John Scott* 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. Montigny.

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 23rd or 24th December the patients from the ship were admitted. The disease which had suddenly broken out with great violence was suddenly stopped.

3. The Governor has also caused a pondal to be created 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 it 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 8th, or about that date, but a single case of cholera having occurred in the Depot, a week's delay ensued, during which no fresh attack having happened the coolies were embarked about the 13th. 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 shot himself up in his cabin, as the Captain alleged, and would not attend to the sick. Then the Captain steered for Pondicherry, and after stationing there for a day or two, the disease became very virulent.

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9. The Government 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 Government 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.

10. The Medical Officers in charge are in quarantine as well as the sick, but in fact on five days after the arrangement proposed by the Government 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.

11. 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 no more quarantines with the sick to remove.

12. He informed me that he had taken as much care for the comfort and spiritual assistance of the natives 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.

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

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

Statement of Deaths among the Emigrants

Years.	Deaths in the <i>John Scott</i>	Deaths in the <i>Lamette</i>
December 1868	1	
1869	1	
1870	1	
1871	1	
1872	1	
1873	1	
1874	1	
1875	1	
1876	1	
1877	1	
1878	1	
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1993	1	
1994	1	
1995	1	
1996	1	
1997	1	
1998	1	
1999	1	
2000	1	

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Recapitulation

On board the <i>John Scott</i> , by Cholera.	19
Deaths in the <i>Lamette</i>	16
One drowned	85
One emigrant	1
Emigrants	37

And one European died from Cholera.

(True Copy)

(Signed) P. L. ROBERTA,

Sub. Collec.

No. 132. Order in Council, 27th January 1870, No. 100.

The foregoing report on the Cholera outbreak on board the Emigrant *John Scott* shows that, out of 450 coolies, thirty-five deaths occurred between 16th and 20th 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 given 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 causation of cholera patients under the sanction of the Consular Agent at Karikal.

(Signed) J. L. MINCHIN,

Acting Chief Secretary.

No. 131. To His Excellency M. BONTENF, Governor of the French Settlements in India, dated Fort Saint George 27th January 1870, No. 110.

I do myself the pleasure of conveying to your Excellency the thanks of the 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) NAPIER.

Ed. J. Wright

Cont. of 1870

PUBLIC

THE PRESIDENT AND GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Amesbury

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D. O. 27th January 1959, No. 10.

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"The very details of the Government's handling of the Bureau of Publishing in 1941 and subsequent treatment of the staff are a disgrace, and are completely contrary to the basic principles of the Government."

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Public Department

No 110

His Excellency M. Boncompagni
Governor of the French Settlements
in India.

Sir

I am very much
pleased to convey
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, engaged
on board the ship "The
Scott," when that vessel
returned to the Pondicherry
Roadstead with cholera
on board.

Yr. Servant

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12/11/1817

Accept of the
thanks of the
Government

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