

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. *403*

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated

7-4- 18*70*

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
7th April 1870.*

No. 44. Read the following letter from the Officiating Collector of Malabar, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Badagara, 10th February 1870, No. 8-B.

I have the honour to forward, for the consideration of Government, the enclosed* papers regarding the proposed erection of a Small-pox Hospital at Cochin. The construction of such a building is very necessary, and the Municipal Commissioners are willing to pay half the cost which Dr. Whitton estimates at about Rupees 500.

* Letter from Vice-President of Cochin, dated 1st February 1870, No. 7, and enclosures.

2. They consider, however, that, before finally deciding to go to the expense, Government should be asked to bear a share of the cost of construction, and whether in the event of the building being completed they would frame a rule requiring Ship Captains and others to send persons landed from their ships and suffering from an epidemic disease to the hospital.

3. What the Commissioners appear to wish to guard against is the landing of persons infected with such diseases in their town, without any notice being given to the authorities. If notice were given these persons could, in most instances, be induced to go to the hospital. At all events the fact of there being infected persons in the town would be known. If Government should see fit to consider some provision of this sort necessary, I beg to suggest that a rule be passed under Act I. of 1870, requiring Commanders of vessels to obtain the permission of the Health Officer of the port before landing infected persons.

No. 45. ORDER THEREON, 7th April 1870, No. 403.

The foregoing letter, and its enclosures, will be referred to the Inspector-General of the Indian Medical Department, with a request that he will favour Government with his opinion whether the proposed hospital for cases of epidemic disease is necessary. It appears from recent reports that there is already a separate hospital for small-pox in connexion with the Civil Dispensary, and also a detached ward which might be used for other epidemic diseases.

2. As regards the landing of persons suffering from epidemic or infectious diseases, the Government are not aware that they have power to order that such persons shall be taken to the hospital established for the treatment of such diseases, or that notice before landing shall be given to the authorities.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector-General of the Indian Medical Department,
with original enclosure.

„ Officiating Collector of Malabar.

Exd. J. Wright.

Municipal Office
Cochin, February 1. 1870

To
A. M. C. Webster Esquire
President,
Cochin Municipality
Calicut

Sir, I have the honor to forward copy of a letter addressed to me by Dr. Whitham Civil Surgeon, dated 25th ultimo, to B. 2. The letter having been laid before the Commissioners, a resolution was passed thereon which is annexed.

2. In reply addressing you on the subject, I thought it expedient to communicate with the Dewan of Cochin with a view to secure the site recommended by Dr. Whitham, as the Island is leased to the Cochin Sircar, and the correspondence is likewise transmitted.

4. To obtain another unobjectionable locality for the object contemplated may or may not be very difficult, but the main question appears to be one of Government will, and it can be legislative action. I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant to the

Colt. of 1870 Madras.

PUBLIC.

To
THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF THE
INDIAN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.
Secy. Secy. Secy.

Dated April, 7th.
Recd.
G. O., 7th April 1870, No. 403.
Encl.

APRIL.
Nos. 44-45.

Requesting the opinion of the Inspector-General of the Indian Medical Department as to whether the construction of a Small-pox Hospital at Cochin is necessary.

The purpose of these measures is
this kind, in my opinion, it would
be necessary to give effect to any
scheme of the nature contemplated.
5. It is of course not intended that
a strict quarantine should be estab-
lished, so as to prevent all
all intercourse with the island
to serious public inconvenience.
This would be impracticable, as the
island is surrounded by water on all
sides, and offering means of access
on all sides through the narrow
ways both by sea and land.
The daily intercourse between the
and native territory cannot be
possibility be interfered with, and any
quarantine law established here, with
be rendered totally ineffectual by the
normal stream of passengers and the
traders to and from the coast.
6. All that is required is to
ascertain whether the
sanction could be obtained for
which persons actually infected might
be compelled to resort to a hospital
expressly set apart for them, instead
of coming into the town and
causing a chance of infection.

entirely free from disease. 3
7. As the proposal of the Com-
missioners affects the sanitation
of a populous town, I trust you
will have the goodness to refer
the question for the consideration
of Government. The cost of the
building and its up-keep has
not yet been definitely determined,
but the Commissioners are desirous
to know what assistance they may
expect from Government, as it would
be necessary to consider the sub-
ject in its entirety until the scheme
received support and approval.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant

John Sutor
Treasurer

the purpose of some measure of
this kind, in my opinion, would
be necessary to give effect to any
scheme of the nature contemplated.
It is of course not intended that
a strict quarantine should be estab-
lished so as absolutely to cut away
all intercourse with the island and lead
to serious public inconvenience.
This would be impossible in a place
surrounded by native territory, and
affording means of communication
on all sides through the various high-
ways both by sea, land and backwater.
The daily intercourse between British
and native territory cannot by any
possibility be interdicted, and any
quarantine now established here, will
be rendered totally ineffectual by the
normal stream of passengers and tra-
ffickers to and from Liverpool.
All that is required at present
is to ascertain whether any authority
sanction could be obtained by
which persons actually infected might
be permitted to resort to a hospital
specially designed for them, instead
of being crowded into a common and open
place, where the danger of infection
is so great, when it is not

entirely free from disease.
The proposal of the Com-
missioners affects the sanitation
of a populous island, and it is probable
will have the goodness to refer
the question to the consideration
of Government. The cost of the
sanitary and its up-keep is
not yet been definitely determined,
and the Commissioners are desirous
to know what assistance they may
expect from Government, as it would
be unnecessary to consider the sub-
ject in its entirety until the scheme
received support and approval.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant
John Sutor
Vice President

Resolution.

Jan^y 21. 1871.

"Resolved that with reference
to Dr. Whitton's letter the Govern-
ment be addressed through the Vice
President with a view to solicit some
assistance of the nature suggested
to Dr. Whitton, as well as to ascertain
whether the Government would see
fit to establish a law or rule to com-
pel infected persons to be sent to the
proposed hospital until cured, &c.
Such a measure is essential to en-
sure the objects for which the hospital
is designed and afford the necessary
protection to the inhabitants of the
town."

(True Extract).

John Cantor
Vice President

To Sir,

Cochin, 10th Nov 1871

4

G. E. Whitton, Esq. M. B.

Civil Surgeon

Cochin.

To The Vice President
Municipal Commission.

Cochin.

Sir, I shall be obliged by your bringing
the following circumstances to the notice
of the Municipal Commissioners, with
the view of obtaining an expression of their
opinion on the points raised. The circumstances
are as follows.

On Sunday last one of the steamer of
the Indian Steam Navigation Com-
pany bound from Bombay to Calcutta
touched at this port. The steward was ill
and sent to a hotel to stay at night, he
being supposed at the time that he was
suffering from smallpox. The hotel in
question is situated in a very filthy
locality of the town, at the request
of the Agent of the Company, a medical
man without delay, and finding that he
was not suffering from smallpox, but
from a disease of a totally
different nature, he was per-
mitted to proceed. The
steward was not
suffering from smallpox.

either from a coasting steamer, or a sailing ship, (and in either case, being given to the authorities) but also, may be spread of the disease by contagion.

3. — A difficult question suggests itself, whether the Commander of a ship should be bound to keep a case of small pox on board, and whether he should be permitted to land patients, or to be great danger of spreading the disease.

4. — So far as Kochin is concerned, the solution of this apparently difficult question is easy. Within the harbour of Kochin there is an island known by the name of "Huddle Island". This island has been proposed as a site for a hospital, the objections taken to it, namely, that it is low, damp and exposed. I would propose the erection of a building on this island for the reception of cases of epidemic disease, and to form patients anchoring at this port.

5. — The objections which were held to under it, and it is inevitable for Lascarins there, no weight in the present instance, as during the illness, ships do not touch at this port.

6. — A light structure with walls about 10 feet high, surmounted by a roof with battens, and a thatched roof, would be a suitable structure for the purpose.

7. — with a latrine, and a case of small pox on board, at a cost of about 1000 rupees. The Government will be pleased to build a hospital, and to give the direction of the Civil Surgeon, who will look after the hospital, and who will be paid for his services for the purpose.

8. — We have fortunately been spared from epidemic diseases, and have passed but it cannot be denied that at any time, we are liable to a fatal outbreak of disease from a single case of Cholera or small pox into one crowded house. I would mention that my predecessor, in discharging the epidemic of Cholera in Kochin, 1860 to the island of some Cholera patients from a ship, which had lately arrived from Amoy.

9. — I shall feel obliged if you will state the views of all the members of the committee, as to what steps ought to be taken. I have no doubt but that Government would provide half the building funds, on condition that the Government pay the other half. The building after completion being placed in charge of the Government.

10. — In order to ensure the proper working of the above, the Government will be pleased to order the necessary steps to be taken.

Municipal Office
No. 4. Cochin Jan 18th 1870

J. Shungooney Mervon Esquire

Plaza,

Cochin.

~~My~~ I have the honor to believe that the
Island adjoining Polghothy commonly
called Candle Island, is under lease to
the Cochin Lidhar. I have the honor to
solicit an expression of your opinion
on the following points.

2.— It is proposed that a small pox
hospital be built on some isolated
ground to treat persons unexpectedly
invaded from vessels infested with
the disease when this town itself is
entirely free from it; thus securing im-
munity from a possible epidemic as
far as it is possible.

3.— As Candle Island appears the
most appropriate spot available, being
segregated from the neighbouring shore
and surrounded entirely by water,
you will be pleased to inform me
any objection to a hospital of
the kind being established on the
Island.

4.— If there are

Butler Factor

John Galt
John Galt

Public Department

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the
Offg Magistrate of Coimbatore
(No. 10th February 1870-1871)

Order number 403 of 7 April 70

The foregoing letter
and its enclosures will be
referred to the Inspector
General Indian Medical
Department with a request
that he will forward to
with his opinion whether
the proposed hospital
for cases of epidemic
disease is necessary.
It appears from recent
reports that there is
already a separate
hospital for small pox
in connection with the
Civil Dispensary, and
also a detached ward
which

MA
S. P. S.

1914
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In a letter from the
Magistrate of
Coimbatore dated 10th
Feb 1870.

1870-1871

Letter from the
Magistrate of
Coimbatore
dated 10th Feb 1870.

apprehend will not be
sufficient to meet
the wishes of the promoters
of the proposed hospital

which might be used for
other epidemic diseases.
2 As regards the
landing of persons
suffering from epidemic
or infectious diseases,
the Government are not
aware that they have
power to order that
such persons shall be
taken to the hospital
established for the
treatment of such diseases,
or that notice before
landing shall be
given to the authorities.
Such a rule might,
(and probably will) be
introduced under
Act I of 1870, as far
as regards vessels which
had been formally placed
in a state of quarantine,
but this the Government
apprehend

I would think. In
his letter idea of re-
-moving patients to a
quarantine - I think
does not command
itself. One - to be shown
that in the premises are
- some stores of clothing
his presence there would be
of little benefit etc etc

To the Surge Genl. ^{with my compliments} ^{Dept} ^{of} ^{Malabar} } Despatch 12/4/70
Off Col. of Malabar.

