

ORDINARY, MS.

Public DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED 20-8-90
No. 594.

When given for copying

[Despatch Abstract.]

*Stating that for reasons
assigned this hpt. are unable
to offer an opinion re Thiers
system of Ventilation and
in certain purifying vessels.*

Public Paper, No. 3128

5167/91

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Hell.

N^o 594 of 20 Aug^r 1890.

To the Secy. of the
Govt. of India.

H. & A. Dept.

Sir,

In reply to your
letter No. 8162 of
25-6-90, I am
directed to state that
the Emigrant ships
plying between Madras
and Natal & Mauritius
are not fitted with
Thiers' ventilator,
or this Govt. & its
officers are therefore
unable to offer an
opinion on the
conduct of the
subject proposal
that it should be
prohibited from
use.

12/9

The case of the "Elbe" is
certainly a proof of the
ineffectiveness of the ventilator,
but it is not a general
rule.

101000

Public (1890) Department.

(EMIGRATION.)

From
THE PROTECTOR OF EMIGRANTS,
Madras,
To
THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT,
Fort St. George.

No. 573

Dated 5
Despatched
Received

August 1890

CHIEF SECRETARY
18 AUG 90
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

ENCLOSURES. CN^o 2092
& sub^o 100.

No.

Subject.

Re Thiers' System of
ventilation.

are returned.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Ernestine

Protectress of Emigrants

NO. 573

OFFICE OF THE PROTECTOR OF EMIGRANTS,
Madras, 5th August 1890.

From

G. McWatters Esq

PROTECTOR OF EMIGRANTS,
Madras,

To

The Honble J. F. Price

CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT,
Fort St. George.

SIR,

In reply to endorsement dated 22nd July 1890, on Public C. N^o 2092, I have the honor to state that the Deputy Conservator of the Port and the Emigration Marine Surveyor whose opinions I called for say that they have no experience of Thiers' ventilator as the emigrant ships plying between Madras and Natal and Mauritius are not fitted with it. I have not had an opportunity of seeing Thiers' System of ventilation myself.

C. N^o 2092 and its enclosures

are

Public Department

From

The Govt of India

R & A.

N^o 816 E.
25-6

Dates 9th & 16th July 1890.

Encs. - 5.

Forwarding certain
correspondence relating to the
mortality among the emigrants
on the British ship "Elbe" during
her voyage from Calcutta to
Swinham last year -

8/7/89 No 59/ Pres.
3/5/89 No 398 No

22nd July 1890

Referred to the
Protection of Emigrants,
Madras, for remarks.
J. F. Price
Chief Secretary

At 6
20/7

matter, the Government of India may
be favoured with the opinion of
His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief
whether the Thiers' ventilator ought
to be prohibited from use on vessels
carrying emigrants to the Colonies.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. Bennett

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of India
W.B.

of in No. 3 of the Rules relating to
artificial ventilation, and considering
its unsuitability to a class of weather
which must often be encountered,
the Government of India is inclined
to the opinion that it should be
excluded from those which may
be accepted by the Surveyor.

3. His Excellency the Governor-in-
Council will, however, observe that
Thiers' ventilators though apparently
not capable of being worked by hand
and not therefore fulfilling the require-
ments of No. 1 of the Rules above referred
to, are admissible under Rule 2.
Rule 4 also though possibly only
intended to apply to the systems
specifically named in Rule 3 would
probably be constructed as extending
to any permitted by Rule 2 also.
Upon this hypothesis Thiers' system
can only be proscribed after a 3
years' notice.

4. I am therefore, to request,
that before proceeding further in the
matter

10 816
25-6



From

The Honorable W. C. Bennett, C. J.,
Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of India,
To

The Secretary to the Govt. of Madras.

Revenue and
Agricul. Deptt.
(Emigration.)

Simla, the 9th July 1890.

Sir,

I am directed to forward for
information the accompanying corres-

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Despatch from Secy of State, 10 Pub. dated 30 th January 1890 and enclosure | - pondee relating to the mortality which occurred among the emigrants on the British ship <u>Elho</u> during her voyage from Calcutta to Surinam in August - November 1889. |
| 2. Letter to Bengal Govt. 10 3420, dated 12 th March 1890. | |
| 3. - do - from - do - 10 10 L. G. dated 28 th May 1890, and enclosure. | |

2. It will be seen from the papers that it appears doubtful whether the ventilation provided under the Thiers' system was adequate for the circumstances of the voyage. Thiers' ventilator is moreover not one of those approved

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No 279.
Office of the Calcutta Port
Commissioner

From
R. Bushby, Esquire,
Marine Surveyor.

To
The Protector of Emigrants, Calcutta.
Dated 2^d April, 1890.

Sir,

Your No 1752 of 28th Ultimo, I
have the honor to report as follows.

The "Elbe" is one of fine of the
best ships in the trade and the
ventilation is the same all fine.

Dr Gibson who sailed in
her on a previous voyage states that
she is very well ventilated.

If it is considered that she
was not provided with adequate
ventilation there is nothing else to
be done but provide artificial
ventilation as none of the coolie
ships are provided with better ventilation
than the "Elbe" and I am strongly
opposed to cutting and making more
openings

is more or less as the other ships are

openings in the deck.

I have &c.
(Sd/) R. Bushby,
Marine Surveyor.

Extract from Surgeon Superintendent's
report on ship "Elbe" on her voyage to
Surinam.

"I remember that during
the 2^d, 3^d and 4th weeks of the voyage
of long continued rough tempestuous
weather with no appearance of the
sun for 14 days, experienced in the
Bay of Bengal, sickness prevailed
to a great extent on board; the daily
routine life of the emigrants was
severely tested which induced a certain
amount of cachexia preceded with
nostalgia. Parents had much to do
to look after themselves though
a sufficient supply of proper food
was given the children get through
their ignorance and neglect many
of the children died.

Regarding

Regarding Thiers' artificial +
ventilator, I think it answered well
during fair weather. To the best of my
belief the "Elbe's" between decks was
well ventilated with the exception
in rough and stormy weather when
hatchways had to be lowered and
closed on account of the shipping
of seas.

The mortality on board the
"Elbe" was due to the reasons given
above whilst those on the "Bruce" +
in 1888 was attributable in many instances
to anaemia cachexia of long duration
prior to embarkation, very many
succumbing when brought to endure
the cold of the southern latitudes.

(True Copies)

attested

Registrar

Revenue and Agricultural Department.
W.A.

is certainly against its utility as a uniformly efficient ventilator. It is only reasonable therefore to believe that on this occasion also the extent of its action fell short of requirements, and that the ventilation under Thier's system was inadequate for the exigencies of the case.

The original paper is returned herewith.

I have &c.
(Sd) D. W. D. Comins.
Protector of Emigrants.

No.

No. 2400.
From
The Protector of Emigrants.
At Calcutta.

To
The Secretary to the Govt of Bengal
General Department.

Dated, Calcutta the 16th May, 1890.

Sir,

With reference to Mr. Carnduff's
endorsement No. 127, dated the 10th March
last, forwarding correspondence relating
to the voyage of the ship "Elbe" with
emigrants from Calcutta to Surinam,
and desiring a report for the information
of the Government of India as to whether
the ventilation was adequate for the
exigencies of the case during the
monsoon part of the voyage when the
chief mortality occurred. I have the
honor to submit the following remarks,

No. 279 dated
2. March 1890.

together with copy of a report received
from the Marine Surveyor in regard
to the ship's ventilation, and an
extract from the report of the Surgeon
Superintendent

Superintendent in regard to the cause of mortality on board.

2. That the natural ventilation of the between decks is all that is desirable is borne ~~out~~^{out} by the opinion of the Marine Surveyor, who asserts the "Elbe" to be as well ventilated as any of the vessels of her class, and by the conclusion of Dr Gibson, who sailed in her as Surgeon Superintendent on a previous voyage, that she is very well ventilated.

3. From the report of Dr Sinclair it will be observed that it was during the tempestuous weather, which was experienced in the Bay of Bengal in the 2^d, 3^d and 4th weeks of the voyage, sickness prevailed to a great extent on board, resulting in the heavy mortality chiefly among infants and children. Parents no doubt could not, with much sea sickness prevailing, give sufficient attention to the wants of their infants, and to this neglect the Surgeon Superintendent attributes the loss of

many of the children.

4. As to the conditions under which so much sickness prevailed, the Surgeon Superintendent states that as long as the weather continued stormy the hatchways had to be lowered and closed. This caused a considerable reduction in the means of natural ventilation, and the only remedy lay in the efficient working of the artificial ventilator (Thiers' System) on board.

5. But Thiers' automatic ventilator does not appear to have fulfilled the expectations at the time entertained as to its utility. From the unfavourable reports and opinions of emigration surgeons and others who have had experience of its working, there is sufficient evidence to warrant the conclusion that, as it operates only when the vessel rolls, its action is uncertain, that its capability of removing foul air is limited, and that the weight of evidence, though not sufficient to condemn it absolutely,

is

not work, it is stated, unless the
ship rolls. This deficiency can have
been but little felt on a voyage
characterised by weather exceptionally
tempestuous.

I have &c.

(Sd) P. Nolan
Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

20th Dec 1874

General Department.
Colonial Emigration.
No 10 T.G.

From

P. Nolan, Esquire, C.S.
Secretary to the Government of Bengal

To
The Secretary to the Government of India,
Revenue and Agricultural Department.

Darjeeling the 28th May 1890.

Sir,

With reference to Mr Muir Mackenzie's letter No 342C, dated the 12th March, 1890, I am directed to submit for the information of the Government of India, the enclosed copy of a letter from the Protector of Emigrants, Calcutta, No 2400 dated the 16th instant, and of its enclosures on the subject of the ventilation and mortality on board the ship "Elbe" during her recent voyage from Calcutta to Surinam with emigrants. The only defect which can be indicated in the ventilation is that incidental to the use of Thiers's Ventilator, which does not

Emigrants on the sufficiency of the ventilating apparatus on board this vessel.

I have, &c.

Sd/- J. W. P. Muir Mackenzie,
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

N^o 342 C.

From

J. W. P. Muir-Mackenzie, Esq., C.S.,
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

To

The Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

Revenue and
Agric. Dept.
(Emigration.)

Calcutta, the 12th March 1890

Sir,

In forwarding for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, the accompanying copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State relating to the arrival of the British ship "Elbe" in Surinam, with emigrants from Calcutta, I am directed to say that, it would appear doubtful whether the ventilation was adequate for the exigencies of the case during the monsoon part of the voyage, when the chief mortality occurred. I am therefore to request that the Government of India may be furnished with a report by the Protector of Emigrants

2

consequence of continued cloudy, rainy, and unsettled weather day and night, with no appearance of the sun for 14 days; a boisterous south-west monsoon; a distressing rolling head swell, causing hatchways to be closed on account of the shipping of seas; constant exposure to the rain in frequenting the closets and detention below in the between decks (temperature 94 to 97° Fahrenheit); that 17 deaths are recorded up to the crossing of the Equator, 10 deaths to the crossing of the Tropic, and from Tropic east to arrival at the port of Surinam 9 deaths.

"The health and condition of the emigrants improved rapidly under more favourable weather experienced when the ship entered the southern track of the voyage.

"Of the 13 births that occurred, I have to record that one was a still-born delivery, 5 were premature deliveries on the 7th month of pregnancy."

The mortality was as follows: 7 male and 3 female adults, 3 boys and 7 girls from 2 to 10 years, and 22 infants, including 6 who were born during the voyage, making a total number of 42.

No epidemical disease occurred during the voyage.

A. SALOMONS,
Medical Inspector.

J. DELMONTE LYON,
In charge of Immigrants, ex "Elbe."

No. 10 Public (Emigration), dated India Office, London, the 30th January 1890.

From—The RIGHT HON'BLE VISCOUNT CROSS, G.C.B., *Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India,*

To—The Government of India.

I TRANSMIT, for the information of Your Excellency in Council, copy of a Despatch, with enclosure, from Her Majesty's Consul for Surinam, reporting the arrival of the British Ship *Elbe* with emigrants from Calcutta, and enclosing a report of a Medical Commission appointed to enquire into the great mortality which occurred during the voyage.

No. 37, dated Paramaribo, the 11th December 1889.

From—W. WYNDHAM, Esq., *Her Majesty's Consul, Cayenne and Surinam,*

To—The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival, on the 23rd ultimo, of the British Ship *Elbe*, with emigrants from Calcutta, who were landed on the 24th ultimo; there were shipped at Calcutta 677 souls as follows: 379 men, 152 women, 62 boys, 40 girls, 25 infant boys, and 19 infant girls, total 677. During the voyage 14 births took place, viz., 9 boys and 5 girls, making a total of 691; this was again reduced to 649 by 42 deaths, viz., 7 men, 3 women, 3 boys, 7 girls, 12 infant boys, and 10 infant girls.

As the nominal roll and attested copy of the ship's log were not delivered to the Consulate, as I am informed the master of the *Elbe* was instructed to deliver them, and these documents only reached me yesterday through the Agent General for Emigration in this colony, I am unable to give any opinion on the great mortality on board, but I enclose a translated copy of the report of a medical commission assembled on board to enquire into the matter.

[Translation.]

Dated Paramaribo, the 21st November 1889.

Report of a Medical Commission appointed to enquire into the mortality on board the "Elbe."

WE HAVE the honour to report to your Honour the result of our inspection on board of the coolies hip *Elbe*, which left Calcutta on the 3rd August 1889, and which was riding at anchor about 5 miles from the light-ship.

A perusal of the admission and discharge book, the case book, the weekly abstract of admission to the sick list and deaths during the voyage, the medical journal and observations of temperature, proved that these were perfectly kept, and that the treatment of the passengers by the Surgeon-Superintendent during the voyage was according to the requirements of science, whilst the coolies who were on board have declared that they had a good treatment.

The enquiry about the provisions, which were in sufficient quantity, proved that they were of good quality; the drinking-water, of which on arrival a large quantity was still in store, was also of good quality, of good taste and colour; the medicine and medical utensils were also according to the prescribed requirements.

Nothing was to be remarked on the cleanliness of the upper and the between decks; the closets were clean and without any smell; the vessel was also well ventilated in the between deck [system Thiers'], and the space was in general according to the prescriptions.

The lists of daily issues proved also that the immigrants received their food in sufficient quantity.

From the above-mentioned facts connected with those inserted in the doctor's journal must be concluded that the number of 42 deaths, adults and children, during the voyage, and the case of the sick on arrival, only one suffering from fever, cannot be ascribed to want of attendance.

That the cause of the several cases of sickness which caused the mortality must be ascribed to the unfavourable weather during the voyage, as is related by the Surgeon-Superintendent, viz., "very rough and tempestuous weather at the commencement of the second week of the voyage; sickness prevailed to a great extent; the emigrant's daily routine life was severely tested; a certain amount of cachaxid combined with nostalgia was induced; in