

Public

14-3-91

203.

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Quarantine

Recording despatch
from the Secretary of
State for recording ^{correspondence} of letters from the Ceylon Govt
explaining the different
practice, as regards
— in Ceylon in the
case of vessels arriving
at Colombo from the
North & of those reach-
ing the island by other
routes —

medical officer as aforesaid shall inspect the crew and passengers of such vessel and make careful inquiry as to the nature of the diseases then existing on board thereof, and make a report thereon to the Master Attendant or other officer in charge of the said port.

4. Whenever cholera, yellow fever, Asiatic plague, small-pox, or other disease dangerous to the general health shall be actually prevailing amongst any of the crew or passengers of any vessel as aforesaid, it shall be the duty of the principal civil medical officer of the port to report the state of the facts to the Master Attendant or other officer in charge of the port. Thereupon the Master Attendant or other officer in charge of the port shall, if so required by the said medical officer, place the vessel in quarantine, and shall require the master or other person in charge of such vessel as aforesaid to take the said vessel out to sea for a period of ten days, or to anchor at any place to be appointed for that purpose for a period of ten days, or until the said medical officer of the port reports that she may be released.

5. Every sailing vessel carrying coolies from any port of Southern India, and entering or about to enter any port of this Island, shall, if cholera, yellow fever, Asiatic plague, or small-pox be prevalent at the time in Southern India, and no such disease shall have appeared on board, be subjected to a quarantine for such time not exceeding five days, as the principal civil medical officer of the port shall deem advisable.

6. It shall be lawful for the principal civil medical officer of the port, into which any vessel subject to quarantine shall enter, to allow the passengers to land before the expiration of the quarantine, and to require such passengers to perform their quarantine on shore in such place as such officer shall determine.

7. All persons on board any vessel in quarantine are hereby prohibited from communicating with the shore beyond the limits of any place, which may be set apart for performing quarantine on shore, or with any vessel in the roadstead or port or vicinity thereof, except with the permission of the principal civil medical officer of the port; and all persons are hereby prohibited from going on board any vessel in quarantine, except with such permission as aforesaid. And all persons required to perform quarantine in any place on shore are hereby prohibited during such quarantine from leaving such place or communicating with any person beyond or outside such place without such permission aforesaid. And all persons, not in quarantine, are hereby prohibited from communicating with any persons in quarantine on shore, except with such permission as aforesaid.

8. It shall be lawful for every officer, duly authorised by the Government in that behalf, to appoint a sufficient number of subordinates for the purpose of enforcing any of these rules, in respect of any vessel liable to quarantine, at the expense of the owners of such vessel; and the master or other person in charge of such vessel shall pay the subordinates so appointed and defray all expenses incurred in pursuance of this rule. It shall be the duty of the officer in charge of the Custom-house to refuse port clearance to such vessel, until all such demands be discharged.

9. It shall be lawful for every officer duly appointed as aforesaid, with the sanction of Government, to appoint as many places for performing quarantine on shore as may be required, and to provide accommodation at such places for passengers on board any vessel liable to quarantine at certain fixed fees to be determined from time to time by the Government, which fees shall be payable by the master or other person in charge of such vessel. No person shall be permitted to leave the places so appointed within ten days from the date of the last case of the disease for which quarantine was enforced, unless with the previous sanction of the said officer, duly authorised as aforesaid.

10. Any of the duties and powers vested by these regulations in the principal civil medical officer of the port may be performed and exercised by any person duly authorised by the Governor in that behalf.

11. Disobedience to any of the above regulations will subject offender, and all the persons aiding and abetting him, to a prosecution under section 11 of Ordinance No. 8 of 1866.

ORDER—dated 14th March 1891, No. 203, Public.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Tinnevely.

" of Tanjore,

" Presidency Port Officer,

Exd. A. Raitt.

} with copy of G.O., No. 591, dated 19th August 1890.

[EXTRACT from the *Ceylon Government Gazette*, No. 4963, of November 15, 1889].

Whereas under and by virtue of the provisions in that behalf in the 10th section of the Ordinance No. 8 of 1866, intituled "An Ordinance to provide against the spread of Contagious Diseases in this Island," contained, certain regulations and orders, called quarantine regulations, were on the 2nd day of February, 1888, made by His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, and the same were duly published in the *Government Gazette*, dated the 3rd day of February 1888, for general information:

And whereas by a notification, dated the 27th day of June 1889, the said regulations and orders were in manner therein appearing amended:

And whereas it is necessary to further amend Regulation No. 5 of the said quarantine regulations:

It is notified that, from and after the date hereof, Regulation No. 5 of the 27th day of June 1889 is hereby cancelled, and the following regulation made by His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, shall be substituted therefor:—

"5. Every vessel entering or about to enter any port of this Island shall, if cholera, yellow fever, Asiatic plague, or small-pox shall be at the time of her leaving the last port from which she shall have put out, or shall have been during the ten days next preceding her departure therefrom, prevalent in or about such last mentioned port, whether such port shall be within or without this island, and no such disease shall have appeared on board, be subjected to a quarantine for such period not exceeding ten days as the Principal Civil Medical Officer of the port of arrival shall deem advisable. The master or other person in charge of such vessel shall notify the fact of his having last sailed from an infected port by hoisting signals as in Regulation 2 of the Regulations of February 2, 1888, provided with reference to vessels on board of which disease has appeared; and the rules in the same regulation contained as to anchoring or holding communication with the shore shall apply to the case of vessels coming under this regulation."

By His Excellency's command,

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
COLOMBO, November 14, 1889.

(Signed) E. NOEL WALKER,
Colonial Secretary.

[EXTRACT from the *Ceylon Government Gazette*, No. 4842, of February 3, 1888.]

In consequence of the prevalence of cholera and other infectious or contagious diseases in several of the districts and ports of Southern India, and of the danger of the same being brought into and spreading in this Island, His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to make the following regulations and orders under and by virtue of the provisions in that behalf contained in the 10th section of the Ordinance No. 8 of 1866, intituled "An Ordinance to provide against the spread of Contagious Diseases in this Island."

By His Excellency's command,

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
COLOMBO, February 2, 1888.

(Signed) G. T. M. O'BRIEN,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

QUARANTINE REGULATIONS.

1. The regulations made under the said Ordinance No. 8 of 1866, and published under dates respectively May 6, 1873, August 3, 1876, September 9, 1876, January 26, 1877, and February 10, 1877, are hereby severally repealed, except so far as the same or any of them repeal any previous regulations.

2. The master or other person in charge of any vessel entering or about to enter any part of this Island, in which vessel any case of cholera, yellow fever, Asiatic plague, small-pox, or other disease dangerous to the general health may have occurred within a period of ten days previous to the date of the arrival of such vessel, shall notify this fact by hoisting a signal, which signal shall be in the day time a yellow flag at the fore, and in the night time two lighted lanterns, one over the other, at the same mast-head; and such master or other person, as aforesaid, shall not take up anchoring ground within the said port without having obtained the previous sanction of the Master Attendant or other officer in charge of the port, nor without such leave shall he hold any communication with the shore or with any shipping within the said port.

3. It shall be the duty of the health officer, or other officer nominated by the principal civil medical officer of the port, to proceed without delay on board any vessel entering or about to enter any of the ports aforesaid, in which vessel any case of cholera, yellow fever, Asiatic plague, small-pox, or other disease dangerous to the general health shall have occurred within ten days previous to the date of the arrival of such vessel as aforesaid, and such health officer or other

6. The procedure adopted in this Colony is, as far as practicable, the same as in Great Britain, viz., personal inspection of passengers and crew, removal of the sick to hospital, the detention of all suffering from diarrhoea on board under observation, and pratique to all the healthy, and the disinfection of the vessel and infected clothing after clearing the vessel. Vessels with foul bills of health are subjected to a short period of observation.

7. I can well understand that at Indian ports where cholera is endemic, the introduction of additional cases is considered a matter of little consequence, but take the Indian possession Aden, and what are the facts. The appearance of cholera at Calcutta, although none at Colombo, the last port touched, if noted on the bill of health is sufficient reason to cause a first-class steamer to be placed in quarantine for 24 or more hours. This after a voyage of 16 days, with all on board healthy.

8. The third point is that the procedure differs at the different ports of Ceylon, and that while coolies are allowed to pour into the island at some ports of this island without restrictions quarantine is enforced at Colombo. A consideration of the facts will at once remove the impression that there is the slightest desire on the part of this Colony to injure the trade of any Indian port, or that the action taken at the northern ports is less protective than the medical inspection and observation of vessels at Colombo. No quarantine is imposed on immigrants arriving in Ceylon by the Pamban-Manar route. The sick are removed to hospital, and the healthy are allowed to perform their journey to the estates, a distance of 200 miles. Along this route there are some 16 halting stations, with hospitals, medical men, and attendants; at each the coolies are inspected, the healthy being always allowed to pass on and the sick detained. The roads between the stations are provided with patrols who carry medicines, so that a sick immigrant, if he falls out between the stations, is treated without delay, and conveyed on a stretcher to the nearest medical man. There can be no more perfect system of medical inspection in the interests of the immigrants, the employers of labor, and the country.

9. This differs from the system in force in Colombo, where there is a period of observation on board ship during the prevalence of cholera in Southern India, but, with the absence of islands off the coast, and the necessity of landing the immigrants on the mainland to perform quarantine, this cannot be avoided.

10. I am of opinion the request made in the concluding paragraph of the letter from the India Office to the Colonial Office should be answered in the negative, as it would be unsafe even to modify the very lenient system of quarantine for immigrant laborers which comes into existence when cholera is prevailing within a few hours' steam of Colombo with its population of 120,000 persons.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) W. R. KYNSEY,
Principal Civil Medical Officer
and Inspector-General of Hospitals.

[EXTRACT from the Ceylon Government Gazette, No. 1932, of June 28, 1889].

Whereas under and by virtue of the provisions in that behalf in the 10th section of the Ordinance No. 8 of 1836, intitled "An Ordinance to provide against the spread of Contagious Diseases in this Island," contained, certain regulations and orders, called Quarantine Regulations, were on the 2nd day of February 1888 made by His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, and the same were duly published in the Government Gazette, dated the 3rd day of February 1888, for general information: And whereas it is necessary to amend the said Regulations and orders in manner hereinafter appearing: It is notified that, from and after the date hereof, Regulation No. 5 of the said Quarantine Regulations of the said 2nd day of February 1888 is hereby cancelled, and the following regulation made by His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the said Executive Council, shall be substituted therefor:—

"5. Every vessel entering or about to enter any port of this Island shall, if cholera, yellow fever, Asiatic plague, or small-pox shall be at the time of her leaving the last port from which she shall have put out, or shall have been during the ten days next preceding her departure therefrom, prevalent in or about such last mentioned port, whether such port shall be within or without this Island, and no such disease shall have appeared on board, be subjected to a quarantine for such period not exceeding ten days as the Principal Civil Medical Officer of the port of arrival shall deem advisable. The master or other person in charge of such vessel shall notify the fact of his having last sailed from an infected port by hoisting signals as in Regulation 1 of the Regulations of February 2, 1888, provided with reference to vessels on board of which disease has appeared; and the rules in the same Regulation contained as to anchoring or holding communication with the shore shall apply to the case of vessels coming under this Regulation."

By His Excellency's command,
(Signed) E. NOEL WALKER,
Colonial Secretary

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
COLOMBO, June 27, 1889.

up to that port for embarkation from infected districts in the neighbourhood. Your Lordship will observe that, for these reasons, some restriction is absolutely necessary in dealing with vessels arriving from the Indian coast during the prevalence of an epidemic there.

5. In certain instances quarantine for longer periods than 24 hours has been enforced against vessels arriving from Indian ports with bills of health showing that cholera in a "sporadic" form was prevailing in those ports, but this has been done on occasions in which, from the number of cases stated, the Health Officer of this port considered the character of the disease to be really epidemic.

6. It is true, as the Government of Madras complains, that quarantine of observation of 24 hours has been enforced against steamers arriving from Tuticorin without passengers, but this has been done only in cases in which the steamers could not produce clean bills of health.

7. With regard to the objection urged by the Government of Madras that, while quarantine restrictions are enforced in regard to arrivals from Tuticorin, large numbers of coolies are permitted to land at other ports in the island from infected stations on the Madras coast, I have the honor to state that, as coolies taking the usual immigrant route and arriving at Manar, on the north-west coast of Ceylon, on their way to the tea-growing districts, have to travel on foot along 150 miles of an unfrequented road, on which hospitals and rest-houses at frequent intervals are specially provided for them, they practically perform a very effective quarantine. I am not aware of immigrant coolies being admitted into the island by any other avenues. Passengers who are mostly natives of Jaffna returning from India are, however, often landed in the ports of the northern province, but the number of such passengers is small, and in cases when they land from vessels carrying foul bills of health they are subjected to quarantine.

8. I submit a copy of a letter from Dr. Kynsey, Principal Medical Officer, describing the system of quarantine observed in Ceylon, and commenting on the objections raised by the Government of Madras. It seems to me that Dr. Kynsey shows successfully that the system here, which is, as far as possible, the same as that adopted in Great Britain, is only such as the public safety necessitates, and that the statement of the Madras Government that the quarantine system of Ceylon is capricious and uneven in its application, has been made in ignorance of the circumstances of the case.

I have, &c.,
The Right Honorable Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G., &c. (Signed) A. E. HAVELOCK.

PRINCIPAL CIVIL MEDICAL OFFICE,
COLOMBO, 3rd December 1890.

SIR,

I have the honor to return the correspondence on the subject of quarantine forwarded to me for report, and to submit, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor, the following remarks.

2. The letter of Doctor Garvin, Port Surgeon of Colombo, which is printed in the Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department, dated 26th May 1890, No. 381, gives so fully the reasons for the action of the Civil Medical Department of this Colony with regard to quarantine, that it is only necessary for me to report on the three points raised in the despatch from the India Office, to the Colonial Office (R. and S. 1392, of the 9th October 1890).

3. The first point is that Colombo imposes quarantine restrictions against Tuticorin although the vessels carry clean bills of health. This was so up to June of the present year, only in the case of vessels carrying immigrant coolies. A bill of health issued at Tuticorin no doubt correctly states whether cholera is prevailing there, but it is well known that the disease is often epidemic in the districts which supply Ceylon with laborers (who merely embark at Tuticorin), when there is not perhaps a single case at that port. We impose a period not exceeding 24 hours' observation in order to have the immigrants inspected a second time by the Port Surgeon before allowing them to land.

4. This action is, I regret to find, an inconvenience to the owners of such vessels, but this is, from a public health point of view, a small matter when it is borne in mind that cholera is not endemic in Ceylon, and that every outbreak of that disease is connected with the arrival of Indian immigrants, and that it never finds its way to Ceylon by other means. Outbreaks occur in frequency in direct ratio with the frequency and shortness of communication with the opposite continent, and the propagation of the disease at all events at first is mainly by human intercourse.

5. The second point is that the procedure in Ceylon as regards quarantine is contrary to that of Great Britain and India. This is not so with regard to Great Britain, with the single exception of the treatment of vessels carrying immigrants, and I have not the slightest doubt that far more restrictive measures would be adopted at English ports if they were within a few hours of a country where cholera is always endemic.

14TH MARCH 1891, No. 203, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From the Right Honorable Lord CROSS, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort St. George, dated India Office, London, 29th January 1891, No. 1 (Statistics).

In reply to your letter, dated 30th August 1890, No. 9 (Public), I forward, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a letter from the Colonial office, and enclosures, explaining the different practice as regards quarantine in Ceylon in the case of vessels arriving at Colombo from Tuticorin and of those reaching the island by other routes.

ENCLOSURES.

DOWNING STREET,
1st January 1891.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of the 9th October last, respecting the imposition of quarantine restrictions at Colombo on vessels arriving from the port of Tuticorin, I am directed by Lord Knutsford to transmit to you, for the information of Viscount Cross, a copy of a despatch, with its enclosures, from the Governor of Ceylon on the subject.

I am to state that, as at present advised, the Secretary of State for the Colonies does not consider that the matter is one in which Her Majesty's Government can overrule the discretionary action of the Government of Ceylon.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

The Under Secretary of State for India.

QUEEN'S HOUSE, COLOMBO, CEYLON,
7th December 1890.

MY LORD,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch, No. 290, of the 21st October, forwarding, for my consideration and report, copies of a letter from the India Office and of its enclosures on the subject of the quarantine restrictions imposed at Colombo against arrivals from the port of Tuticorin.

2. I enclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of the quarantine regulations in force in this Colony. I have the honor to state that these regulations are enforced against arrivals from Southern India as long as cholera is understood to be prevalent there.

3. It is a well-known fact that all epidemic outbreaks of cholera in Ceylon have originated in arrivals from India, and it behoves the Government to see that all necessary precautions are taken to prevent such outbreaks. Every effort consistent with the proper protection of the inhabitants of the city of Colombo and its neighbourhood has been made to minimize the inconvenience caused to the shipping interests of the port by the enforcement of quarantine. The limitation of the period of observation in the case of vessels carrying immigrant coolies to 24 hours was in itself a concession. But if this very lenient preventive measure is to be withdrawn, when cholera is prevalent on the Indian coast, grave consequences may follow.

4. It has often been observed that passengers who land in an apparently healthy condition subsequently develop cholera, and this is not surprising, as the passage between some of the Southern Indian ports and Ceylon is of very short duration, and as the period of incubation in the case of cholera extends to five days. Moreover, a vessel which produces a clean bill of health from one port where no cholera prevails may, and often does, carry passengers who have come

Public C No 521.
N-14

W
Halliday 9/1/203
P/3/91
Order
Recorded
Recorded

Statistics

29th January 1891

The
Letter to Fort St George
N:1 & Enclosures

From
The Rt Honble
the Secy of State for India

Collector Tammiselly &
" Tanyore (with copy 480.591)
P.P.O. 6/11/91 do 1.
Desp 2
3/4/91.
Ch.
25/2

D 29-1-91
Recd 18-2-91
Rep 23-2-91.

Re quarantine in Ceylon
arrivals from Tuticorin.

With Order

Received 18 Feb 91

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REC'D
1888
29 DEC 30

[Extract from the "Ceylon Government Gazette" No. 4,322, of February 2, 1888.]

IN consequence of the prevalence of cholera and other infectious or Contagious Diseases in several of the districts and ports of Southern India, and of the danger of the same being brought into and spreading in this Island, His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to make the following regulations and orders under and by virtue of the provisions in that behalf contained in the 10th section of the Ordinance No. 8 of 1866, intituled "An Ordinance to provide against the spread of Contagious Diseases in this Island."

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, February 2, 1888.

By His Excellency's command,
G. T. M. O'BRIEN,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

QUARANTINE REGULATIONS.

1. The regulations made under the said Ordinance No. 8 of 1866, and published under dates respectively May 6, 1873, August 3, 1876, September 9, 1876, January 26, 1877, and February 10, 1877, are hereby severally repealed, except so far as the same or any of them repeal any previous regulations.

2. The master or other person in charge of any vessel entering or about to enter any part of this Island, in which vessel any case of cholera, yellow fever, Asiatic plague, small-pox, or other disease dangerous to the general health may have occurred within a period of ten days previous to the date of the arrival of such vessel, shall notify this fact by hoisting a signal, which signal shall be in the day time a yellow flag at the vessel, and in the night time two lighted lanterns, one over the other, at the same mast-head; and such master or other person, as aforesaid, shall not take up anchoring ground within the said port without having obtained the previous sanction of the Master Attendant or other officer in charge of the port, nor without such leave shall he hold any communication with the shore or with any shipping within the said port.

3. It shall be the duty of the health officer, or other officer nominated by the principal civil medical officer of the port, to proceed without delay on board any vessel entering or about to enter any of the ports aforesaid, in which vessel any case of cholera, yellow fever, Asiatic plague, small-pox, or other disease dangerous to the general health shall have occurred within ten days previous to the date of the arrival of such vessel as aforesaid, and such health officer or other medical officer as aforesaid shall inspect the crew and passengers of such vessel and make careful inquiry as to the nature of the diseases then existing on board thereof, and make a report thereon to the Master Attendant or other officer in charge of the said port.

4. Whenever cholera, yellow fever, Asiatic plague, small-pox, or other disease dangerous to the general health shall be actually prevailing amongst any of the crew or passengers of any vessel as aforesaid, it shall be the duty of the principal civil medical officer of the port to report the state of the facts to the Master Attendant or other officer in charge of the port. Thereupon the Master Attendant or other officer in charge of the port shall, if so required by the said medical officer, place the vessel in quarantine, and shall require the master or other person in charge of such vessel as aforesaid to take the said vessel out to sea for a period of ten days, or to anchor at any place to be appointed for that purpose for a period of ten days, or until the said medical officer of the port reports that she may be released.

5. Every sailing vessel carrying coolies from any port of Southern India, and entering or about to enter any port of this Island, shall if cholera, yellow fever, Asiatic plague, or small-pox be prevalent at the time in Southern India, and no such disease shall have appeared on board, be subjected to a quarantine for such time not exceeding five days, as the principal civil medical officer of the port shall deem advisable.

6. It shall be lawful for the principal civil medical officer of the port, into which any vessel subject to quarantine shall enter, to allow the passengers to land before the expiration of the quarantine, and to require such passengers to perform their quarantine on shore in such place as such officer shall determine.

7. All persons on board any vessel in quarantine are hereby prohibited from communicating with the shore beyond the limits of any place, which may be set apart for performing quarantine on shore, or with any vessel in the roadstead or port or vicinity thereof, except with the permission of the principal civil medical officer of the port; and all persons are hereby prohibited from going on board any vessel in quarantine, except with such permission as aforesaid. And all persons required to perform quarantine in any place on shore are hereby prohibited during such quarantine from leaving such place or communicating with any person beyond or outside such place without such permission as aforesaid. And all persons, not in quarantine, are hereby prohibited from communicating with any persons in quarantine on shore, except with such permission as aforesaid.

8. It shall be lawful for every officer, duly authorised by the Government in that behalf, to appoint a sufficient number of subordinates for the purpose of enforcing any of these rules, in respect of any vessel liable to quarantine, at the expense of the owners of such vessel; and the master or other person in charge of such vessel shall pay the subordinates so appointed and defray all expenses incurred in pursuance of this rule. It shall be the duty of the officer in charge of the Custom-house to refuse port clearance to such vessel, until all such demands be discharged.

9. It shall be lawful for every officer duly appointed as aforesaid, with the sanction of Government to appoint as many places for performing quarantine on shore as may be required, and to provide accommodation at such places for passengers on board any vessel liable to quarantine at certain fixed fees to be determined from time to time by the Government, which fees shall be payable by the master or other person in charge of such vessel. No person shall be permitted to leave the places so appointed within ten days from the date of the last case of the disease for which quarantine was enforced, unless with the previous sanction of the said officer, duly authorised as aforesaid.

10. Any of the duties and powers vested by these regulations in the principal civil medical officer of the port may be performed and exercised by any person duly authorised by the Governor in that behalf.

11. Disobedience to any of the above regulations will subject offender, and all the persons aiding and abetting him, to a prosecution under section 11 of Ordinance No 8 of 1866.

1891

[Extract from the "Ceylon Government Gazette" No. 4,932, of June 28, 1889.]

WHEREAS under and by virtue of the provisions in that behalf in the 10th section of the Ordinance No. 8 of 1866, intituled "An Ordinance to provide against the spread of contagious diseases in this Island," contained, certain regulations and orders, called Quarantine Regulations, were on the 2nd day of February, 1888, made by His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, and the same were duly published in the *Government Gazette* dated the 3rd day of February, 1888, for general information: And whereas it is necessary to amend the said regulations and orders in manner hereinafter appearing: It is notified that from and after the date hereof regulation No. 5 of the said Quarantine Regulations of the said 2nd day of February, 1888, is hereby cancelled, and the following regulation made by His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the said Executive Council, shall be substituted therefor:—

5. Every vessel entering or about to enter any port of this Island shall, if cholera, yellow fever, Asiatic plague, or smallpox shall be at the time of her leaving the last port from which she shall have put out, or shall have been during the ten days next preceding her departure therefrom, prevalent in or about such last-mentioned port, whether such port shall be within or without this Island, and no such disease shall have appeared on board, be subjected to a quarantine for such period not exceeding ten days as the Principal Civil Medical Officer of the port of arrival shall deem advisable. The master or other person in charge of such vessel shall notify the fact of his having last sailed from an infected port by hoisting signals as in Regulation 1 of the Regulations of February 2, 1888, provided with reference to vessels on board of which disease has appeared; and the rules in the same Regulation contained as to anchoring or holding communication with the shore shall apply to the case of vessels coming under this Regulation.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, June 27, 1889.

By His Excellency's command,
E. NOEL WALKER,
Colonial Secretary.

[Extract from the "Ceylon Government Gazette" No. 4,963, of November 15, 1889.]

WHEREAS under and by virtue of the provisions in that behalf in the 10th section of the Ordinance No. 8 of 1866, intituled "An Ordinance to provide against the spread of Contagious Diseases in this Island," contained, certain regulations and orders, called quarantine regulations, were on the 2nd day of February, 1888, made by His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, and the same were duly published in the *Government Gazette* dated the 3rd day of February, 1888, for general information:

And whereas by a notification dated the 27th day of June, 1889, the said regulations and orders were in manner therein appearing amended:

And whereas it is necessary to further amend regulation No. 5 of the said quarantine regulations: It is notified that from and after the date hereof regulation No. 5 of the 27th day of June, 1889, is hereby cancelled, and the following regulation made by His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, shall be substituted therefor:—

"5. Every vessel entering or about to enter any port of this Island shall, if cholera, yellow fever, Asiatic plague, or smallpox shall be at the time of her leaving the last port from which she shall have put out, or shall have been during the ten days next preceding her departure therefrom, prevalent in or about such last-mentioned port, whether such port shall be within or without this Island, and no such disease shall have appeared on board, be subjected to a quarantine for such period not exceeding ten days as the Principal Civil Medical Officer of the port of arrival shall deem advisable. The master or other person in charge of such vessel shall notify the fact of his having last sailed from an infected port by hoisting signals as in regulation 2 of the regulations of February 2, 1888, provided with reference to vessels on board of which disease has appeared; and the rules in the same regulation contained as to anchoring or holding communication with the shore shall apply to the case of vessels coming under this regulation."

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, November 14, 1889.

By His Excellency's command,
E. NOEL WALKER,
Colonial Secretary.

that it is only necessary for me to report on the three points raised in the despatch from the India Office to the Colonial Office (R. and S. 1392, of the 9th October 1890).

3. The first point is that Colombo imposes quarantine restrictions against Tuticorin although the vessels carry clean bills of health. This was so up to June of the present year, only in the case of vessels carrying immigrant coolies. A bill of health issued at Tuticorin no doubt correctly states whether cholera is prevailing there, but it is well known that the disease is often epidemic in the districts which supply Ceylon with labourers (who merely embark at Tuticorin), when there is not perhaps a single case at that port. We impose a period not exceeding 24 hours observation in order to have the immigrants inspected a second time by the Port Surgeon before allowing them to land.

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ENCLOSURES.

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I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 290, of the 21st October, forwarding, for my consideration and report, copies of a letter from the India Office and of its enclosures, on the subject of the quarantine restrictions imposed at Colombo against arrivals from the port of Tuticorin.

2. I enclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of the quarantine regulations in force in this Colony. I have the honour to state that these regulations are enforced against arrivals from Southern India as long as cholera is understood to be prevalent there.

3. It is a well known fact that all epidemic outbreaks of cholera in Ceylon have originated in arrivals from India, and it behoves the Government to see that all necessary precautions are taken to prevent such outbreaks. Every effort consistent with the proper protection of the inhabitants of the city of Colombo and its neighbourhood has been made to minimize the inconvenience caused to the shipping interests of the port by the enforcement of quarantine. The limitation of the period of observation in the case of vessels carrying immigrant coolies to 24 hours was in itself a concession. But if this very lenient preventive measure is to be withdrawn, when cholera is prevalent on the Indian coast, grave consequences may follow.

4. It has often been observed that passengers who land in an apparently healthy condition subsequently develop cholera, and this is not surprising, as the passage between some of the Southern Indian ports and Ceylon is of very short duration, and as the period of incubation in the case of cholera extends to five days. Moreover, a vessel which produces a clean bill of health from one port where no

cholera prevails may, and often does, carry passengers who have come up to that port for embarkation from infected districts in the neighbourhood. Your Lordship will observe that, for these reasons, some restriction is absolutely necessary in dealing with vessels arriving from the Indian coast during the prevalence of an epidemic there.

5. In certain instances quarantine for longer periods than 24 hours has been enforced against vessels arriving from Indian ports with bills of health showing that cholera in a "sporadic" form was prevailing in those ports, but this has been done on occasions in which, from the number of cases stated, the Health Officer of this port considered the character of the disease to be really epidemic.

6. It is true, as the Government of Madras complains, that quarantine of observation of 24 hours has been enforced against steamers arriving from Tuticorin without passengers, but this has been done only in cases in which the steamers could not produce clean bills of health.

7. With regard to the objection urged by the Government of Madras that, while quarantine restrictions are enforced in regard to arrivals from Tuticorin, large numbers of coolies are permitted to land at other ports in the island from infected stations on the Madras coast, I have the honour to state that, as coolies taking the usual immigrant route and arriving at Manar, on the north-west coast of Ceylon, on their way to the tea growing districts, have to travel on foot along 150 miles of an unfrequented road, on which hospitals and rest-houses at frequent intervals are specially provided for them, they practically perform a very effective quarantine. I am not aware of immigrant coolies being admitted into the island by any other avenues. Passengers who are mostly natives of Jaffna returning from India are, however, often landed in the ports of the northern province, but the number of such passengers is small, and in cases when they land from vessels carrying foul bills of health they are subjected to quarantine.

8. I submit a copy of a letter from Dr. Kynsey, Principal Medical Officer, describing the system of quarantine observed in Ceylon, and commenting on the objections raised by the Government of Madras. It seems to me that Dr. Kynsey shows successfully that the system here, which is, as far as possible, the same as that adopted in Great Britain, is only such as the public safety necessitates, and that the statement of the Madras Government that the quarantine system of Ceylon is capricious and uneven in its application has been made in ignorance of the circumstances of the case.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) A. E. HAVELOCK.

The Right Honourable
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

Sub-enclosure.

Principal Civil Medical Office, Colombo,
3rd December 1890.

Sir,

I have the honour to return the correspondence on the subject of quarantine forwarded to me for report, and to submit, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor, the following remarks.

2. The letter of Doctor Garvin, Port Surgeon of Colombo, which is printed in the proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department, 26th May 1890, No. 381, gives so fully the reasons for the action of the Civil Medical Department of this Colony with regard to quarantine,

that it is only necessary for me to report on the three points raised in the despatch from the India Office to the Colonial Office (R. and S. 1392, of the 9th October 1890).

3. The first point is that Colombo imposes quarantine restrictions against Tuticorin although the vessels carry clean bills of health. This was so up to June of the present year, only in the case of vessels carrying immigrant coolies. A bill of health issued at Tuticorin no doubt correctly states whether cholera is prevailing there, but it is well known that the disease is often epidemic in the districts which supply Ceylon with labourers (who merely embark at Tuticorin), when there is not perhaps a single case at that port. We impose a period not exceeding 24 hours observation in order to have the immigrants inspected a second time by the Port Surgeon before allowing them to land.

4. This action is, I regret to find, an inconvenience to the owners of such vessels, but this is, from a public health point of view, a small matter when it is borne in mind that cholera is not endemic in Ceylon, and that every outbreak of that disease is connected with the arrival of Indian immigrants, and that it never finds its way to Ceylon by other means. Outbreaks occur in frequency in direct ratio with the frequency and shortness of communication with the opposite continent, and the propagation of the disease at all events at first is mainly by human intercourse.

5. The second point is that the procedure in Ceylon as regards quarantine is contrary to that of Great Britain and India. This is not so with regard to Great Britain, with the single exception of the treatment of vessels carrying immigrants, and I have not the slightest doubt that far more restrictive measures would be adopted at English ports if they were within a few hours of a country where cholera is always endemic.

6. The procedure adopted in this Colony is as far as practicable the same as in Great Britain, viz., personal inspection of passengers and crew, removal of the sick to hospital, the detention of all suffering from diarrhoea on board under observation, and pratique to all the healthy, and the disinfection of the vessel and infected clothing after clearing the vessel. Vessels with foul bills of health are subjected to a short period of observation.

7. I can well understand that at Indian ports where cholera is endemic, the introduction of additional cases is considered a matter of little consequence, but take the Indian possession Aden, and what are the facts. The appearance of cholera at Calcutta, although none at Colombo, the last port touched, if noted on the bill of health is sufficient reason to cause a first class steamer to be placed in quarantine for 24 or more hours. This after a voyage of 16 days, with all on board healthy.

8. The third point is that the procedure differs at the different ports of Ceylon, and that while coolies are allowed to pour into the island at some ports of this island without restrictions, quarantine is enforced at Colombo. A consideration of the facts will at once remove the impression that there is the slightest desire on the part of this Colony to injure the trade of any Indian port, or that the action taken at the northern ports is less protective than the medical inspection and observation of vessels at Colombo. No quarantine is imposed on immigrants arriving in Ceylon by the Paumben-Manar route. The sick are removed to hospital, and the healthy are allowed to perform their journey to the estates, a distance of 200 miles. Along this route there are some 16 halting stations, with hospitals, medical men, and attendants; at each the coolies are inspected, the healthy being always allowed to pass on and the sick detained. The roads between the

stations are provided with patrols who carry medicines, so that a sick immigrant, if he falls out between the stations, is treated without delay, and conveyed on a stretcher to the nearest medical man. There can be no more perfect system of medical inspection in the interests of the immigrants, the employers of labour, and the country.

9. This differs from the system in force in Colombo, where there is a period of observation on board ship during the prevalence of cholera in Southern India, but, with the absence of islands off the coast, and the necessity of landing the immigrants on the mainland to perform quarantine, this cannot be avoided.

10. I am of opinion the request made in the concluding paragraph of the letter from the India Office to the Colonial Office should be answered in the negative, as it would be unsafe even to modify the very lenient system of quarantine for immigrant labourers which comes into existence when cholera is prevailing within a few hours steam of Colombo with its population of 120,000 persons.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) W. R. KYNSEY,
Principal Civil Medical Officer and
Inspector General of Hospitals.

~~Press~~
Miscellaneous No. 205 dated 17-3- 1891.
~~Routine~~

Keep these copies with Paine
 by 203 of D³ March 1891/plus