

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 590 R

DATED 24. August 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

detention of trains at Ashonam. Pro: L. V. de B. de B.
According with remarks correspondence on the subject
of the — for the medical examination of passengers
forwarded to the Cons. Engineer for the Comm.
ination to the Abit & Manab, Madras Railway.

$\frac{2}{3} \frac{c}{8}$

P.W. 26.
[8,000—80—11—08.]

Indexed.

6/9/97

[illegible]

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	953R		11-11-97				

The Madras Standard - 25th June 97.

Page No. 753 of 1807

D. G. № 46

My dear Libtrops /
Will you kindly in-
quire of the head officer
in charge at Arkonau
whether, if there is any hand-
ship, such as is complained
of in the newspaper extract
in the margin, anything can
be done to remedy it.

Pressing

Doty

20/6/97

At

Please return this
with your reply

Sir,—Will you kindly permit me to bring to the notice of the authorities concerned, what I consider to be a very great hardship to passengers by the S.-W. and N.-W. trains at the Arkonam junction. I allude to the examination conducted there in connection with the plague. The doors of all carriages are locked at the station just before Arkonam on both lines. On arrival at Arkonam first and second class passengers are examined by the Doctor himself and this part of the examination is over in a few minutes. The officers then proceed to one end of the train for examination of third class passengers. The examination is conducted compartment by compartment, the passengers in each being made to come and stand out in two rows—men and women, separately. After examination, they are locked up again and remain locked up until all the carriages have been examined. I noticed, that passengers in compartments that had been examined and locked up were struggling to be let out to go and ease themselves. In one case a third class passenger after struggling in vain to get out actually eased himself in the compartment in which he was locked up. After the examination was over, the train stopped only for eight minutes—and this I need hardly say, is quite insufficient for passengers to walk up to the latrine which is at one end of the long platform and be back in time. There could certainly be no objection to the examination being conducted with the greatest strictness; but I fail to see what particular object is gained by locking up passengers who have been examined, and I do think from what I have seen that the process adopted is unnecessarily rigorous inasmuch as the comfort and convenience of passengers are altogether disregarded.

R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIAR.

Statement shewing detentions to Up mail and passenger trains at Arkham on account of plague examination for the month of June 1897.

Date. 1897.	Up S.W. Line Mail train.	Up A.W. Line Mail train	Up S.W. Line Passenger train	Up A.W. Line Passenger train.
June 1	16 Minutes	3 Minutes	8 Minutes	"
2	20 "	8 "	11 "	11 Minutes.
3	14 "	12 "	20 "	4 "
4	15 "	8 "	"	"
5	16 "	8 "	16 "	4 "
6	16 "	5 "	11 "	"
7	18 "	10 "	21 "	9 "
8	38 "	11 "	23 "	9 "
9	31 "	20 "	23 "	9 "
10	20 "	17 "	29 "	"
11	33 "	5 "	13 "	9 "
12	22 "	7 "	20 "	8 "
13	36 "	7 "	12 "	7 "
14	21 "	15 "	32 "	13 "
15	28 "	7 "	34 "	23 "
16	28 "	13 "	41 "	22 "
17	38 "	36 "	45 "	28 "
18	39 "	29 "	27 "	18 "
19	33 "	20 "	41 "	15 "
20	48 "	20 "	57 "	20 "
21	36 "	28 "	53 "	28 "
22	39 "	29 "	65 "	16 "
23	44 "	9 "	39 "	16 "
24	39 "	9 "	47 "	23 "
25	36 "	9 "	56 "	12 "
26	41 "	9 "	46 "	38 "
27	44 "	28 "	40 "	38 "
28	54 "	25 "	50 "	39 "
29	37 "	21 "	54 "	20 "
30	64 "	22 "	60 "	28 "

ENG. No. 1 TO F. P. C. No. 3045 OF 1907
 LETTER No. 659 OF 13-7-97
 FROM *Am*

Madras Railway Company,
 Traffic Manager's Office,
 Central Station, Madras,
 9th July 1897.

8 9929 B
 29888

The Agt Agent and Manager,
 Rayapuram.

Dear sir,

Referring to the article which appear-
 ed in the "Madras Times" of ^{7th July 1897} yesterday upon
 the alleged hardships to which native passen-
 -gers are subjected at plague examining
 stations, and especially at Arkonam, and
 to letters containing similar complaints
 which have previously appeared in the press,
 and also to the strong complaints which the
 public, through the press, the Chamber of
 Commerce and other channels, have re-
 -cently made regarding the unpunctuality
 of our up trains, I beg to enquire whether you
 are disposed to address Government with a
 view to moving them for an addition to the
 staff of Medical officers employed at those
 plague examining stations and to an in-
 -vestigation of the methods in force there.

2. The duties to be performed by the Medical
 officers at those stations are both invidious
 and difficult, and we have been anxious
 to

3
 2876 mg 96-

Encl
 CNo 147/10

to give them every assistance in our power and to refrain from making complaints or pointing out the results of their method of performing their duties as long as possible, but the detentions at Arkonam especially are increasing so rapidly in duration and the complaints from the public are getting so serious, that it seems now advisable to bring the matter to notice.

3. I enclose a statement showing the time occupied at Arkonam in the examination of mail and passenger trains each day during the month of June last, and you will notice that the average time has considerably increased in the latter portion of the month. This, I understand, is in consequence of certain changes in the procedure which the Medical staff at that station have carried out, and it appears to be these changes which have caused the complaints from the public. The method now is to empty each compartment successively and put the passengers back after examining, again locking them up and not allowing any

any passengers to leave the train until the whole of the carriages on the train have been inspected. The result is that these passengers when finally let out to answer the calls of nature &c. are very difficult to deal with and cause additional delay to the train, whereas under the former system, when as each carriage was completed its inmates were, if found unaffected, allowed to get out of the carriage they were re-seated in good time, the train was got away with far less confusion and far less loss of time.

4. This part of the question no doubt chiefly concerns the public, but in the interests of our passengers it seems advisable to bring it to notice. In the interests of the Railway I beg further to urge that the strength of the medical officers at those stations should be increased. Some of the trains contain over a thousand passengers, and for this number to be examined thoroughly by a staff of only 2 Europeans and 4 natives involves great delays.

5. At Guntakal also, the staff appears insufficient

4
insufficient for the purpose. Since the institution of the new train service the mail train has been detained from 20 to 45 minutes daily, and when once thrown out of its running it is very difficult for it to make up time.

Yours faithfully,
Sgt. D. Ross Johnson.

Encl.

Sgt. Traffic Manager.

(True copy)

Alfred
for Ag Agent & Manager.

Back

Enc. No. 2 to F. M. O. No. 3045 of 1337.
Letter No. 659 of 13-7-97
From Am

(A. & M. L.)

No. 9553.

659

MADRAS RAILWAY.

AGENT AND MANAGER'S OFFICE,

Madras, 13th July, 1897.

From

The Actg: Agent and Manager.

To

Madras Railway.

The Consulting Engineer for Railways.

SIR,

MADRAS.

I have the honor to forward a copy of a letter

No. C 9929 b of 9th July 1897 from the Acting Traffic Manager
29888

from which it will be observed that some improvement is urgently needed in the system of carrying out the provisions of the Epidemic Diseases Act 1897 at Arkonam with a view to mitigate the great inconvenience and hardship to which passengers are now subjected, and to minimize the detention to the trains at this Station.

2. The statement submitted by the Ag: Traffic Manager shews that during the latter part of the month of June the detentions, owing to the medical examination for the detection of the plague, amount to periods varying from $\frac{3}{4}$ to a full hour, whereas in the earlier part of the same month the detention did not as a rule exceed half an hour.

3. Owing to the serious complaints made by passengers as well as by the press the matter calls for early remedy, and it

2/2876 mfg

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2/2876 mvg

it is requested that in the interests of both passengers and the Company the Medical Staff may be increased, without delay, and the present unreasonable detention to the trains at Arkonem prevented.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

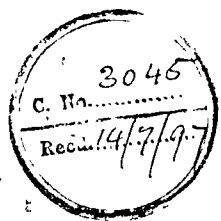
Your most Obedient Servant,

Healey Sweet

Ag: Agent & Manager.

Encls 2

all



From
MADRAS RAILWAY.
The Agent and Manager.
To
The Consulting Engineer
for Railways.
Dated
Recd.
No.

1/2876 mgf 97

L & M.
1,000-11-96.

Local & Munl. (1897) Department.

D.O.
~~CURRENT~~ No. 72

No. 757 dated 15th July 1897.
Transferred to the Public Works
(Railway) Department.

Secretary to Government

Obtained
(15th July 1897)

From
The Surgeon-General
with the Govt of Madras.

No.

Dated 14. 7. 97
Received do
Registered 15. 7. 97
Enclosure 1
Spare copies

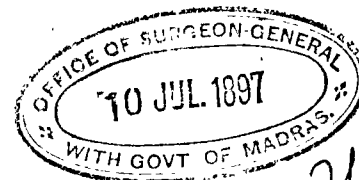
SUBJECT.

Reply to D.O No. 46, regarding
detention of trains at
Arkonam for medical
examination.

To
The Public Works (Railway) Dept.

Plague Camp Arkonam
9th July 1897

586/211
From



Surg. Lieut. F. D. Browne. M.B.
Medical officer in Plague duty

To
The Secretary Surgen. General
with the Govt of Madras
Madras

Sir,

With reference to the Cutting
from the "Standard" of 25th June 1897
forwarded to this office its contents are
correct as a whole

2. The passengers of first and second
class after examination are locked in
carriages till the examination of the
whole train is completed. This is done
to keep the Platform fairly clear and
in accordance with the recom-
mendation No 1 of the Sanitary

G.O. 1003 m
with Mr. Venn
Sanitary file

Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal as
contained in his Inspection Report of 10th Feb 97.

3 If however, a passenger is found
urgently requiring to seek the Latrine
his ticket is taken by myself or Assistant
Surgeon (this necessitates his immediate
return) and is allowed to go.

4 If the Carriage doors are not locked
up it is impossible with small
number of Constables to prevent
passengers walking up and down
the Platform in and amongst
those who are undergoing Inspec-
tion thus causing confusion.

5 The difficulty could easily be
got over if the Railway authorities
allowed the trains to stop for
quarter of an hour after the
Inspection is completed.

By this means I don't think
any more time would be spent
than if the Carriage doors were
unlocked so causing trouble
and waste of time during
inspection.

I have the honor to be
in
Your most obedient servant
F. Browne M.B.
Surgeon-Lieut Ins.
Med. Officer on Plague
Duty.

L.M. No. 14710

No. 885. Dated 21/7/97

D. O. No.

L.M. D.O. No. 72

Office of Surgeon-General
with the Government of Madras,
Pottamunth, 14th July 1897.

My dear Forbes,

Kindly see Brown's answer.
I think his suggestion is sound if
we could get the railway authorities
to detain the train.

Yours sincerely,

C. F. Thompson

Encl:
C. No. 72.

L.H. No 14710

No 885. D dated 21/7/67

with ref to Ltr No 757 of
15/7/67 please see letter
from Agent & Maw. Madan
R. No 9553 of 13/2/67
655

The suggestion of Surg. Lt. F.D. Koon
to keep the train a quarter of
an hour after the inspection
does not seem feasible.
It is evident from the letter
submitted by the Traffic Manager
that the delay is getting more
& more serious. The Agent
seems to think this is partly
due to the staff not being sufficient
but the method of examination
now adopted appears to cause
unnecessary inconvenience to
passengers as well as delay
to trains. It is suggested that
when a carriage full of passengers
has been examined then subsequent
carriages should be allowed to re-enter
the carriage without our concern

To
The Local & Municipal Dept

[Signature]
with reply

[Signature]
16/7/67

Encl:
C.No 72.

Copy of extract from the *Hindu* dated ^{July} 16th 1897
Railway Passengers and Plague Regulations.
 (From a Passenger)

While so much is said about the working of the regulations elsewhere, it is well that they pay some attention to the way in which the medical men are working them here.

2 Besides in some out of the way places, a rigid examination has been going on at the Guntakul and Arkonam Junctions. The European Medical Officer and his Assistants at Guntakul, observe the rules laid down with great scrupulousness and propriety; and I wish the European Medical officers at Arkonam were equally good.

3 In April last I travelled to Madras second class. The European Medical officer, a young man, accompanied by the Sub-magistrate and a force of Constables came to my compartment. He felt my pulse, and in pushing me aside gave a jerk to my hand which he held in his hand without even looking me in the face. I would have resented it, had I not known that I would be detained at once if he were so minded. I had to pocket the insult-coolly, and thanked my stars for the small mercy shown.

4 The family of a Sub-Judge were travelling from Kurnool Road to Salem; and at Arkonam they were detained for 24 hours because a baby was ailing from fever, and lodged in the plague sheds. Next day they were somehow let go; and they quietly came back abandoning their trip to Salem.

5. A few days back a gentleman was travelling with an Assistant-Surgeon in a third class compartment. Both of them were marched up the platform, and made to stand in a row along with other passengers between two ropes held on both sides and guarded by Police Constables, so as to prevent ingress and egress. Passengers were ordered to tie their cloths round their waists as they do what they call Heummerlund. The doctors examined them, raised their arms up and down, and let them go. But there were two poor devils of passengers from Kalahasti to Madras, hale and healthy to all appearance. These two people on a motion from the doctors precipitately removed; and the train started with all their luggage. Fancy their consternation.

6. Now, the higher authorities should consider the absurdity of detaining passengers who travel from places which are so far removed from the plague-stricken parts as the Harnul Road and Kalahasti, on the flimsiest of pretexts, and lodging them in the plague sheds. The Medical officers at Arlonam seem to think that they must be doing something, to justify their existence at Arlonam; and unless they are reminded of the hardships they are unconsciously inflicting on the passengers by their light-headed procedure, they would continue to annoy people like this.

7. Further, these medical men are wanting in ordinary sympathy and politeness which are so marked features of the Chief Medical Officer at Guntakul. If they remove a passenger and

... and detain him or her, they should have
humanity to see that his or her luggage is
not carried away by the train. Is it so difficult
to see to this? Railway Guards in charge of
trains may be apprised of the detention of
the passengers, and the passengers' luggages
removed.

8. So you will see that there is room
for complaint even in this Presidency; and I
sincerely trust that the higher authorities
would insist on the Plague officers at Arkonam
behaving better in future.

9. As matters stand, we feel considerable
trepidation to send our wives and children to
Madras, or to travel via Arkonam. It is
civilization not to complain of the plague
regulations which have caused more trouble
and alarm than the plague itself; but I
hope it is not ingratitude if I crave for a
little more care, decency and humanity in
enforcing regulations.

10. As it is, Medical Officers here are more
dreaded than even the much abused Police.
How to bring them to book for their questionable
conduct and where to appeal? It is therefore
all the more incumbent on Government
that there is no medical tyranny in the
name of science and civilization.

(True copy)
A.S.
23/1

ENC. No. 1 TO E. P. G. No. 3223 OF 1897
 LENT 704 24.7.97
 FROM Am

It was sent (13) 1.
 Not one of them
 is sent at present
 in demand of it
 is sent at present
 in demand of it

It was sent (13) 1.
 Not one of them
 is sent at present
 in demand of it
 is sent at present
 in demand of it

It was sent (13) 1.
 Not one of them
 is sent at present
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 in demand of it

13

(No. II.)

No. 9553

MADRAS RAILWAY.

AGENT AND MANAGERS' OFFICE,

Madras, 24th July 1897

From

The Ag. Agent and Manager.

M. R. Co.

To

The Offg. Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Madras.

SIR,

CM 7

With reference to para I of this
 Office letter No. 9553 of the 13th instant, I have
 the honour to enclose copy of an extract -
 from the Hindu of the 16th instant.

ER
 The Extract I consider
 to be correct in
 the details of
 the examination
 of the pass which
 was sent
 in the train, reflects on the
 company
 The fact appears to have
 "recorded" the previous case
 as their case is filed
 CM 7
 (1 Enclo.)

File 28

CM

W. C.

28.3.98

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. S. S. S.

Ag. Agent & Manager.

me

ref.

1-9

5

or

er

6-



From
MADRAS RAILWAY.
To
The Agent and Manager.
The Consulting Engineer
for Railways.
No. 188
Dated
Recd.

[L & M.]
[1,000-11-11-96.]
Public Works (Ry)
Local & Munl. (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 7330

No. 3372C, D 28. July 1897

Recorded with
reference to No. 885 D
of 21st July 1897.

From The Local and Municipal
Department

No. 1620 M

Dated 17. 7. 97

Received
Registered 24. 7. 97

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Recording, with reference
to Correspondence transp.
with Encl. No. 757 dt 15. 7. 97
Memo: of the P. W. D.
inviting attention to
para. 17 of the report
on Native newspaper
for fortnight ending 30. 6. 97
re: examination of press
at Arkonam Station

29/7/97
21/7/97

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following paper:—

Memorandum from the Public Works Department (Railway Br) inviting attention to para. 17 of the Report on Native newspapers for the fortnight ending 30th June 1897, regarding examination of passengers at Arkonam station.

Order:—No. 1620 M. M. S., dated 17th July 1897.

Recorded with reference to the communication from the Surgeon General on the subject which was transferred to the Public Works (Railway) department with endorsement No. 757 dated 15th July 1897.

/True Extract/

[Signature]
Secretary to Government.

To

The Public Works (Railway) department.

new provision made in the new and particularly noticed one man being brought down

Copy of a letter No C. 35577, dated 29th July 1897
to the Sg Traffic Manager from the Assistant
Traffic Manager, Arkonam.

I beg to report that I was a passenger
by the 21-25 of 21st instant from Arkonam.

I arrived at the Station almost on
the arrival of the Train which to the best
of my recollection remained at the platform
for about an hour.

The Plague Examination had commenced
and the whole of the Platform from end to
end of the train was roped in so as to prevent
passengers leaving the Train before it was
fully examined as also to prevent outgoing
passengers to enter the train.

The Plague Inspection Officer Dr Browne was
examining the front portion of the train. The rear
rope was across the platform just in front
of the Station Master's Office so as to leave
that Office free. I stood by this rope from
my arrival almost to the departure of the
train.

From this spot to the Lavatory where
"suspects" are reexamined is only 4 paces. I
saw several men taken to this Room and
particularly noticed one man being brought
down

down the platform about 50 paces away by a Constable as usual and no sooner he arrived at the Lavatory than he the (Constable) took the passenger by the back of the neck and pushed him with all his force into the room. I immediately called for his number which was given to me as N° 85 and I asked the East Indian Sergeant whether he had seen the treatment and he said yes. I said I would report the matter. I know the Sergeant was surprised at the conduct of the Constable because I saw a look of surprise on his face and turned round to see whether I had noticed the assault.

Last Evening Dr Browne said he had heard that I had reported one of his men for ill treatment of passengers and I told him that I had not done so as yet. He said it would not be any use because the passenger placed in the room for "Suspects" (4 yards from where I was standing) and would not allow his apothecary to take his temperature, had rushed from the room almost upsetting the Police Constable who was placed over the room and that Constable N° 85 brought him back using the force I mentioned above.

above.

As I said previously Dr Browne was in the front of the train and I had been standing 4 yards away from the Examination room fully quarter of an hour before the assault was made watching the proceedings and I am confident that there was no such escape as mentioned to me by Dr Browne or it would have at once attracted my attention.

However taking the statement of the native Apothecary and 2 Police Constables against my statement I submit that Constable N° 85 was absolutely wrong in taking the law into his own hands and "chucking" a passenger into the Examination Room by the scruff of his neck.

I have asked Dr Browne to take notice of the Policeman's action and he declines doing so saying that the man was justified in the assault committed.

I bring this to your notice as I am sure you will agree with me that it was never the intention of ^{the} Government when they ordered the Examination of all trains that passengers should be maltreated; and recent events show that the utmost care should be

be taken in carrying out this most disagreeable duty and that when a report is made by an Officer in my position serious notice should be taken.

Dr Browne may say that he has not received an Official Complaint but I have spoken to him and also written to him on this subject and he has declined to take notice of the Constable's Conduct and upholds him in his action.

Copy of a Communication from the Ag Traffic Manager, to the Ag. Agent and Manager Rayapuram, N^o C $\frac{39772}{30058}$ dated 31st July 1897.

Plague Inspection at Arkonam

x x x x x
In Continuation of this Office letter N^o C $\frac{9929^B}{29888}$ of the 9th instant, I beg to forward copy of a report I have received from the District Traffic Officer at Arkonam in which he gives particulars of an instance in which, in his opinion, unnecessary and unjustifiable violence was used towards a passenger by the Police under the orders of the Plague Inspection Officer at Arkonam.

2. You are aware that Complaints on the part of the public as to their treatment by the Medical Staff at Arkonam are increasing in number. As a rule it is very difficult to obtain accurate information as to the facts in such cases, and, as the facts are clear in the present instance you may think it advisable to bring the matter to the notice of the Consulting Engineer in connection with the question raised in my letter above quoted.

3. I may mention that I have before me

me a Complaint from a partner in an
influential Mahomedan firm in Madras
Complaining of unjustifiable detention
and ill treatment on the 7th instant. His alle-
gations have been denied by the Plague
Inspection Officer to whom I referred
the Complaint and I have had to tell
this native gentleman that the arrange-
ments for plague inspection at Arkonam
are in the hands of Govt officials.

Copy of Communication from the Agent and
Manager, Madras Railway to the Consulting
Engineer for Railways, Madras, N^o 9553 d 5.8.97.
742

In continuation of my letter N^o 659 of
the 16th Ultimo I have the honour to send herewith
copy of a letter from the Ag Traffic Manager
and the Enclosure referred to therein.

It will be noticed that the Conduct
of the Police Constable was witnessed by an
Officer of the Company and the Case appears
to be one which calls for investigation.

N^o 3499C of 13-8-97
ER's Current Rs. 3399.

5502

A. M's letter N^o $\frac{9553}{742}$ of
5th August 1897 with enclosures.

Transferred to the
Local & Municipal Depart-
ment for favour of investi-
gation in continuation
of D. O. No. 885 D of 21st July
1897.

2/13/8/97

F/M
R.
9/8/97

R. B. 11/5

18/6/97

Public Works (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 8852

From the Local Municipal
Department

Order

No. 1840 M. M.

Dated 21st August 1897.

Received }
Registered } 3.9.97

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Medical Establishment at the
Arkonam station in connection with
Plague.

stating that nothing can
be done at present in the way of
increasing the _____, as
the plague is subsiding.

[illegible][illegible]

The P. W. D. (By. Branch) ✓
 ,, Surgeon General
 ,, Collector of North Arcot.

N^o 590. R dated 24/8/97.

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

By Branch

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ the following

Endorsement from
the Local & Muni. Dept. } H.B. No: 757 of 15th July 1897

Endorsement from Jt.
Secy. Ry. Dept. to L & M Dept.
with enclosure } " " 883 D of 21st July 1897

Prop: of the Madras
Govt. Local & Muni. Dept. } " " 1840 M. No. of 21st Aug 97

Forwarded to
the Consulting Engineer for
Railways for communication
to the Agent & Manager
Madras Railway.

3/9/97
S.R.

To
The Consulting Engineer for Ry. 24/9/97