

Public Works (1897) Department.

RAILWAY BRANCH.

G.O., No.

1177 R

DATED

20th Decr 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Bubonic Plague

Pres. L. & Co. Dept. recording Pres of the Public
Dept. directing the republication in the Fort St.
George and District Gazette of the Notifi-
cation of the Govt of India with regard to
the pilgrimage to Meedjaz during the current
season, Communicated to the Ry.
Administrations Concerned

V. C. 10/1/98

Indexed.

13/1/98

[illegible]

CURRENT No. 189

From the L & M Department.

Order No. 477. R dated 20/12/97

No. 2708 in the 2^d of 12.7

Communicated to
the Agents, Madras, South
Indian Legation & Mysore R.
& Mysore R. Co. for
information in con-
tinuation of L.O. No 1137 R
of 15th Decr 1897

Dated 6. 12. 97.
Received } 8. 12. 97.
Registered }
Enclosures
Spare copies

SUBJECT.

To
 The Agent & Man. Madras Ry
 - Agent S. & R. Ry
 - Agent & Man. Mysore Ry
 - Agent & Chief Eng. M. Ry
 - Man. & Eng. Const. Ry
 - Comptroller Ry.

Despatched on 27-12-97

Government { 1897 } of Madras.
PUBLIC.

Regd.

Spare copies

1897.

G.O., No. 1576, 29th November 1897.

NOVEMBER.

Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz.

Directing the republication in the Fort St. George and all District Gazettes of the notification of the Government of India, No. 2495, dated 20th November 1897, with regard to the — during the current season; and issuing a circular on the subject to all Collectors, District Magistrates and certain others.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local and Municipal Department, dated Calcutta, 20th November 1897.

Number 2500, Sanitary. Pilgrimage to Mecca. Secretary of State has sanctioned proposal that pilgrimage should be permitted subject to proviso that pilgrims will not be allowed to start from port of Bombay and that pilgrims from any part of the Bombay Presidency other than Sind will not be allowed to go on pilgrimage at all. Letter follows.

Endt. No. 1216.

Transferred to the Public Department.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
26th November 1897.

(Signed) J. H. A. TREMENHEERE,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

From J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Sanitary), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local and Municipal Department, dated Calcutta, 21st November 1897, No. 2524.

In continuation of the correspondence ending with my telegram, No. 2500, dated the 20th instant, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of Madras, a copy of a Notification, No. 2495, dated the 20th instant, issued by the Government of India under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, with regard to the pilgrimage to the Hedjaz during the current season.

2. I am to request that all possible means may be taken to make the purport of the orders immediately and widely known, and to explain the reasons on which they are based. Every endeavour should also be made through Magistrates of districts, the religious heads of the Muhammadans, pilgrim-brokers, and in any other way that the Government of Madras think best, to dissuade intending pilgrims from going to the Hedjaz this year.

3. With reference to your telegram of the 13th instant, I am to say that the Government of India consider it essential that the pilgrims from the Madras Presidency should be kept under observation for a period of ten days before being despatched to the port of embarkation. This procedure has been prescribed in the case of pilgrims from all parts of India to remove any possible danger or feeling of alarm.

4. It is still under consideration whether pilgrims from the Madras Presidency and the States of Mysore and Hyderabad shall be shipped from Karachi or Chittagong and a further communication will shortly be sent on this subject.

ENCLOSURE.

NOTIFICATION of the Government of India, Home Department (Sanitary), dated Calcutta, 20th November 1897, No. 2495.

In the notification of the Government of India in the Home Department, No. 625, dated the 20th February 1897, it was ordered, under the powers conferred by section 2, sub-section (1) of the Epidemic Diseases Act (III of 1897), that the pilgrimage to the Hedjaz should be suspended for the season of 1897.

The Government of India do not think it necessary that the pilgrimage should be altogether suspended for the current season, but as plague is widely prevalent in the Bombay Presidency, they consider it essential, in view of the strong opinions of all European Governments, including Turkey, regarding the danger of plague being communicated to Europe, and in view of the danger of plague being spread by intending pilgrims from infected to non-infected portions of India, that the pilgrimage should be subjected to careful restrictions.

The Governor-General in Council is therefore pleased to cancel the order contained in the notification of the Government of India in the Home Department, No. 625, dated the 20th February 1897.

The Governor-General in Council is further pleased to direct that until further orders no person, resident permanently or temporarily in the Presidency of Bombay, with the exception of Sind, shall be permitted to embark from any port in India with the object of making a pilgrimage to Mecca.

The Governor-General in Council is further pleased to direct as follows:—

- (1) That no person shall be permitted to embark with the object of making a pilgrimage to Mecca, except at the ports of Karachi in Sind and Chittagong in the Lower Provinces of Bengal, and unless and until such person has been kept under observation in a place appointed for the purpose until such time as the Medical officer in charge shall be satisfied that all risk of such person conveying the infection of plague has been completely abated; and unless such person is conveyed from the place of observation to the place of embarkation under the orders of an officer appointed for the purpose.
- (2) That no passage tickets for the Hedjaz shall be sold, except at the places appointed for the detention of intending pilgrims under observation.
- (3) That all persons who have entered the Bombay Presidency (excluding Sind), with the object of proceeding to the Hedjaz, shall be placed in a camp of observation until such time as the Medical officer in charge shall satisfy himself that all risk of the occurrence of plague among them has been completely abated. They shall then be sent to their homes.

Although the Government of India have decided that the pilgrimage to the Hedjaz may be permitted subject to the safeguards enumerated above, they are nevertheless convinced that intending pilgrims will be well advised in deferring their purpose until another season, in view specially of the stringent quarantine rules imposed by the Turkish Government and the inconvenience and harassment to which it is likely they will be subjected on arriving in Arabia.

The latest information received by the Government of India shows that the Hedjaz is still in a most disturbed condition, and that the journey to Mecca is fraught with danger to life and property.

(Signed) J. P. HEWETT,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Endt. No. 1220.

Transferred to the Public Department in continuation of endorsement No. 1216, dated 26th November 1897.

2. The further communication promised in paragraph 4 is awaited.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
26th November 1897.

(Signed) J. H. A. TREMENHEERE,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

ORDER—No. 1576, Public, dated 29th November 1897.

The notification of the Government of India will be published in the Fort St. George and all District Gazettes.

2. The following circular will be despatched to all Collectors, District Magistrates, the Deputy Adjutant-General, the Inspector-General of Police and the Paymaster, Carnatic Stipends:—

CIRCULAR.

Copy forwarded to * * * * with the request that all possible means may be taken to make the purport of the orders immediately and widely known, and to explain the reasons on which they are based. * Every endeavour should also be made to dissuade intending pilgrims from going to the Hedjaz this year.

All pilgrims from the Madras Presidency will be kept under observation for a period of ten days before being despatched to the port of embarkation. The port of embarkation will be either Karachi in the Bombay Presidency, or Chittagong in Lower Bengal. A further communication will shortly be made on this subject.

(True Extract.)

A. T. ARUNDEL,
Chief Secretary.

To the Local and Municipal Department.
" the Superintendent, Government Press.
" all Collectors and District Magistrates.
" the Deputy Adjutant-General, Madras Command.
" the Inspector-General of Police.
" the Paymaster, Carnatic Stipends.

Local and Municipal Department.

Order, No 2708 M. No., Dated 6th December 1897.

Recorded.

(True Extract)

A. T. Arundel

Asy. Secretary to Govt.

To,

The Public Works Dept. (Railway Branch)

" Marine Department.

" Surgeon-General.

" Sanitary Comm^{ns}.

Ed. A. F. Eccleston.