

Public Works (1898) Department.

RAILWAY BRANCH.

G.O., No. 231-32. *dy*

DATED 10th Feby 1898.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Bubonic Plague

Pros. L.L. in Dept. stating with remarks, that the suggestions made by the Dist. Magistrate, Coimbatore, that the Muzaffar regulation No. 17 under the Epidemic Diseases Act should be amended, does not commend itself to Govt. Commd. to the Ry. Adms. concerned + copy of the pros. forwarded to the Govt. of Mysore.

Forwarded

To The Agent & his assistants
 - 6 - Agent & 2 R.
 - 1 - Agent & 1 ch. Eng. R.
 - 4 - Supervisor Eng. R.
 - 4 - Agent & 1 ch. Eng. R.
 - 4 - Counsel in Eng. R.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ the following paper:—

Proceedings of the Judicial Department, No. 1785, dated
16th December 1897.

Read again G.O.No. 1607, Judicial Department, dated 17th November 1897, communicating to the Inspector General of Police, for necessary action, letter from the Collector of Coimbatore suggesting that the attention of the Inspector-General of Police should be drawn to the duties imposed upon the police by Regulation 17 of the regulations issued under the Epidemic Diseases Act.

Read also the following papers:-

From the Inspector General of Police, Madras, No. 4210,
dated 19th November 1897.

With reference to G.O. No. 1607, Judicial, dated 17th November 1897, communicating a letter from the District Magistrate Coimbatore, in which he accuses the Police of entirely neglecting their duty in the matter of communicating information regarding passengers, who alight at railway stations from infected areas, I have the honour to say that the District Magistrate appears to me to have failed to observe that the Police cannot take any action under those rules unless the Station Master or Ticket Collector stops the passenger and hands him over to the Platform constable. He brings forward no evidence whatever to show that this has ever been done. I think he might have done so before bringing this sweeping accusation against the Police force. The probability is that no Station Master or Ticket Collector has ever required a passenger to furnish the Police officer on duty at the station with his name and address. If this had been done, the Police officer at the station would probably have done his duty.

2. The special importance of the rules in question was brought to the notice of all the Police in May last and their attention

attention will again be drawn to them. I think I may respectfully ask that the District Magistrate at Coimbatore withdraw his statement unless he has better ground for making it than appears in his letter. Instead of addressing the Police, he would have done well to address the Railway authorities.

From the District Magistrate of Coimbatore, Dis.No. 4139/Rev. dated 9th December 1897.

I have the honour to return with remarks the letter dated 19th November 1897, No. 4210 from the Inspector-General of Police which was forwarded to me under the Ag. Under Secretary's Endorsement, dated the 24th November 1897, No. 2507.

2. After reading again Regulation 17 of the Regulations framed under the Epidemic Diseases Act, I find that there is ground for the Inspector General's contention that the duty of ascertaining the destination of passengers from infected localities rests primarily with the Railway officials I previously understood the rule to throw the responsibility for the performance of this duty upon the platform orderly where there is one, but my view seems to have been incorrect and it is therefore possible, as the Inspector-General contends that the responsibility for the neglect of the rule may rest with the Railway officials and not with the Police. If so, I have cast an unfair aspersion upon the Police and owe to the Inspector-General apologies for having done so.

3. But if Regulation 17 does really mean that the platform orderly is to be the mere passive recipient of such information as the Station-Master or ticket-collector chooses to supply, I venture to suggest that the rule requires amendment. The result of throwing upon the Station-Master or ticket-collector the duty of furnishing the address

+ or rather, of requiring the passenger to furnish his address to the platform orderly, for so the rule now runs.

to the platform orderly is that it will never be possible

to fix the responsibility for failure to perform this duty. If a case of failure to send to the nearest station-house officer the report required by Regulation 17 is investigated, the platform orderly will be sure to defend himself, by saying that the Railway officials gave him no information, while the Railway officials will deny the

truth

truth of his statements and it will be impossible to ascertain which is lying. For this reason it would be futile to try to discover now who is responsible for the fact that arrivals from infected localities have not been reported regularly as required by regulation 17 in this district.

4. I therefore submit that regulation 17 should be amended so as to cast in clear terms upon the platform orderly, where there is one, the duty of ascertaining, as well as of reporting, arrivals from infected localities. We have more control over the Police than over the servants of Railway companies and the rules are consequently more likely to be rigorously enforced if the former instead of the latter are held responsible. It is also perfectly easy for the platform orderly to get the requisite information. He has merely to take his stand by the ticket-collector as the passengers go out and ask the ticket-collector to stop any one presenting a ticket from an infected locality. The ticket-collector will comply with this request because he will have no reason for not doing so.

5. If the platform orderlies are given distinctly to understand that, if a passenger from an infected tract passes unreported they will be punished, there will probably be no grounds for complaint in future that Regulation 17 has remained a dead letter.

Order No. 1785, dated 16th December 1897.

Communicated to the Inspector-General of Police.

2. The suggestions made in the District Magistrate's letter will be considered in the Local and Municipal Department.

Order

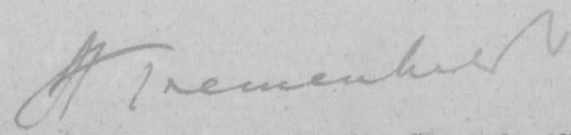
Order No. 111 M.Mis., dated 17th January 1898.

The suggestion made by the District Magistrate of Coimbatore in para 4 of his letter No. 4139 dated 9th December 1897, that No. 17 of the Mufassal regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act should be amended so as to impose upon the Police, instead of on the Railway subordinates, the duty of requiring passengers from infected localities to furnish their names, addresses &c, does not commend itself to Government. There can be no doubt that if a Station-master stops a passenger and calls on him to give his name and address to the platform orderly, the latter will not fail to record these. Moreover, it is perfectly right that the responsibility in this matter should be thrown on the Railway staff, as Station-masters are persons of much more education and authority than platform orderlies, and come under the complete control of Government for any disobedience of a regulation under the Act.

2. The attention of the Railway administrations in this Presidency will accordingly be drawn, in the Public Works Department to the duties imposed upon their staff by No. 17 of the Mufassal regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act, and the necessary enquiry will be made as to who was responsible for the fact that arrivals in the Coimbatore District from infected localities have not been reported to the District Medical Officer, and others, as required in the Regulation.

3. It will be pointed out to the District Magistrate, in the Judicial Department, that the Government views with regret his failure (1) to read regulation 17 carefully, (2) to warn the Railway subordinates who were in default and (3) to prosecute those who did not benefit by warning.

(True extract)


Ag. Secretary to Government.

To

The Judicial Department.

„ Public Works Department, (Railway Branch).

Gnd