Public Works (1898) Department.

RAILWAY BRANCH.

G.O., No. 388 Eg

DATED 8th March, 1898

[Despatch Abstract]

Bubonic Plague

Pros. Lt de Dept, declining, with remarks, to notify Pakala as an Inspection Station under Regulation 14 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897. Recorded.

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Indexed. 21/4/98.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Government {1898} of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

P.W. Ry C No 327

Recd 7.3.98

Recd. } 1898. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 98-P., 28th February 1898.

FEBRUARY.

Bubonic Plague.

Declining, with remarks, to notify Pákala as an inspection station under Regulation 14, and requesting all Collectors to submit a full report showing how the provisions of Regulations 16 and 17 are carried out.

Chandragiri, who was directed to enquire into the matter, reports that passengers coming from beyond Guntakal and going to places lying to south of Katpadi take the shortest route *viâ* Dharmavaram, Pákala and Katpadi, and that they never come to Rénigunta and change trains so as to avoid inspection at Arkonam. He states that there is as strict an inspection at Guntakal as at Arkonam.

ORDER—No. 98-P., dated 28th February 1898.

The Government does not think that an inspection station under Regulation 14 is required at Pákala. The proper safeguard against the development of plague, after a person has passed Guntakal, is in the working of Regulations 16 and 17, under which the name and address of every individual coming from an infected area are communicated to the local authorities of the place of his destination, where he is, or should be, kept under observation. If these Regulations are attended to everywhere, there is no need to establish a number of inspection stations in the interior of the Presidency, and it would, as a rule, suffice to have them on the frontiers.

2. Whether these Regulations are properly carried out in the mufassal the Government now desires to be satisfied. All Collectors will therefore be requested to submit within ten days from the receipt of this order a full report showing what is done and containing detailed information on the following points among others :—

(*a*) whether the names and addresses of passengers arriving from an infected locality are communicated to the local authorities of the place of destination, and if so, what is done thereon ;

(*b*) whether the Chairmen of Municipalities and the heads of villages when they get the names and addresses keep the passengers under observation, and if so, for what period ; and

(*c*) what reports do they send to the Collectors (or Tahsildars or Divisional Officers as the case may be) showing that they have really done so.

On receipt of the Collectors' replies, distinct rules with forms of reports will be prescribed. Possibly, the best plan with reference to villages will be that the headman should be informed through the Tahsildar, who will thus be able to get all passengers from infected areas on to a single list and see that they are inspected for ten days.

(True Extract.)

A Eddington

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

To all Collectors.
„ all Presidents of District Boards.
„ all Chairmen of Municipal Councils.
„ the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
„ the Public Works Department (Railway Branch).
„ the Inspector-General of Police.
„ the Surgeon-General.
„ the Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. A. F. Eccleston.

Form No. 1.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

RAILWAY BRANCH.

Papers to be read in Proceedings :—

Again G.O., dated		189	, No.
Again G.O., dated	28th February	1898	, No. 98 P, Local & Munl.
Current No.	of 189 , dated		, from
„ „	„ 189 , „		, „
„ „	„ 189 , „		, „

ORDER. No. 388-Ry, dated 8/3/98. Recorded.

Agent Sl. Rly
Chief Supdt Rly.

Despatched on 9/3/98

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

From Surgeon-Major-General C. SIBTHORPE, C.B., F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated Madras, 30th November 1897, No. 490.

I have the honour to forward herewith extracts from letter, No. 624, dated 21st November 1897, of the Plague Medical Officer at Arkonam for information of Government.

2. I concur with the medical officer regarding the inadequacy of the accommodation provided.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACTS of letter, No. 624, dated 21st November 1897, from Plague Medical Officer at Arkonam.

* * * * *

4. In the correspondence between the Collector and myself a question about the amount of accommodation in the segregation native sheds has been hotly contested by us, he, the Collector, stating that there is accommodation in each for *four* patients, and basing his decision on G.O., No. 319, dated 27th February 1897, which provides for four patients. He is quite right there, but the sheds that were built have accommodation for not even two patients, and I have proved this to the Sanitary Commissioner by the measurements taken of each shed, there being about 192 square feet of superficial area, and 1,728 cubic feet of space. I shall not discuss the question any more, but will leave it to be settled by the Sanitary Commissioner.

5. I trust it will not be presumption on my part to point out a matter which, I think, has been overlooked by the authorities, and, in my opinion, requires urgent notice. I was informed by some European passengers some days ago who were passing through here from Katpadi station (Vellore) that they observed some native passengers getting down there and taking fresh tickets to go further south; when asked why they did not go from Rénigunta to Arkonam and from there by South Indian Railway line, which would be shorter and quicker, they said that it was on account of the examination that they have to undergo here. No doubt, some of these passengers from Rénigunta to Katpadi come from plague-stricken area, and when they alight at Katpadi, there is no medical man there to examine them for plague. By this means I would not be surprised if plague suddenly appears in one of the towns of Southern India. My reason for bringing the above to your notice is to show the necessity of having Katpadi as an inspecting station also. The South Indian Railway line from there and the South Indian Railway line from here form a junction at Villupuram near Pondicherry. Please observe that for the past two weeks the numbers that alight here from infected area are decreasing. This fact alone, I think, goes to prove that some passengers take another route instead of going through here, to avoid inspection. Only eighteen passengers alighted here during the week from plague-stricken area and 26 the week previous.

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No. 1255.

The Surgeon-General is requested to give his opinion on paragraph 5 of the Plague Medical Officer's letter.

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

4th December 1897.

From Surgeon-Major-General C. SIBTHORPE, C.B., F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated Madras, 11th December 1897, No. 515.

With reference to your endorsement, No. 1255, dated 4th December 1897, herewith returned, I have the honour to state that, in my opinion, it is most desirable that the District Magistrate of North Arcot should investigate the question brought to notice. If the statements are found to be correct, Katpadi should certainly be made an inspection station.

No. 1311.

Referred to the Sanitary Commissioner for opinion on paragraph 5 of the Plague Medical Officer's letter, which should be submitted after consulting the Collector of North Arcot.

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

14th December 1897.

No. 2694-S.

Forwarded to the Collector of North Arcot for favour of opinion.

(Signed) W. G. KING, Surgn.-Lt.-Colonel,
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
23rd December 1897.

From Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated Fort St. George, 1st February 1898, No. 215-S.

With reference to your endorsement, No. 1311, dated 14th December 1897, I have the honour to forward herewith a letter, No. 89, dated 17th January 1898, from the Collector of North Arcot. His statements seem to me to emphasize the desirability of recognizing Pákala as an observation station, as advised in this office letter, No. 2372-S., dated 18th November 1897. The fact that a man has undergone observation at Guntakal does not imply that seventeen hours subsequently he may not have been seized by plague.

ENCLOSURE.

From W. C. HOLMES, Esq., Sub-Collector and Joint Magistrate in charge, North Arcot, to the Sanitary Commissioner, dated Chittoor, 17th January 1898, Dis. Eng. No. 89.

Referring to your endorsement, No. 2694-S., dated 23rd December last, herewith returned, I have the honour to inform you that it does not appear that passengers going to places lying to the south of the south-west line of the Madras Railway evade inspection at Arkonam by travelling *viâ* Rénigunta, Pákala and Katpadi. The Traffic Manager, Madras Railway, informs me that there has been a decrease of over 50 per cent. during 1897 in the number of passengers alighting at Rénigunta from stations beyond Raichur, as compared with the figures of 1895 and 1896, and the Tahsildar of