

Public Works (1898) Department.

RAILWAY BRANCH.

G.O., No. 396-97. *dy*

DATED 10th March 1898

[Despatch Abstract.]

Bubonic Plague

Pres. L. in Dept. ordering the publication
in the Fort St. George & the Dist. Gazette of a notice
revising certain Regulations under the Epidemic
Diseases Act, 1897, for Dist. Municipalities, towns
& villages. Comm. to the Dy. Sd. concerned
and copy of the Pres. forwarded to the Govt. of
Bombay.

Forwarded

Indexed. 21/4/98

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Enclosures

1898.

Spare copies

G.O., No. 73-P., 22nd February 1898.

FEBRUARY.

Bubonic Plague.

Ordering the publication in the Fort St. George and the District Gazettes of a notification revising Regulations 20 and 20-A of the Mufassal Regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, for District Municipalities and towns and villages.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper:—

G.O., No. 2830 M., dated 17th December 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Ordering the publication in the Fort St. George and the District Gazettes of notifications making additions to and amendments of the regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897.

READ—also the following paper:—

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, 8th February 1898, No. 270.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 38 M., dated the 6th January 1898, forwarding copies of the revised Regulations issued by the Government of Madras under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897. I am to make the following remarks on two matters dealt with in the Regulations.

2. Rule 3 (b) of the Mufassal Regulations and rule 11 (b) of the Regulations for the City of Madras permit the segregation of plague patients in their own homes or in some other suitable places, if, in the opinion of the medical officer in charge, they can be there treated with no greater risk of spreading infection than if they were removed to a place specially appointed for persons suffering from plague. In this connection, I am to invite the attention of the Government of Madras to paragraph 6 of the Resolution of the Government of India in this department, No. 227—240 (Sanitary), dated the 3rd instant, in which it is explained that, in the opinion of the Government of India, home segregation cannot be efficacious, and would interfere with the essential measure of evacuating infected houses.

3. Rules 20 and 20-A of the Mufassal Regulations deal with the disinfection of railway carriages. The instructions contained in rule 20 regarding the disinfection of vehicles in which no case of plague is suspected to have occurred follow the rules laid down by the Government of India in paragraph 3 of the Public Works Department Circular * No. 349 R. T., dated the 21st April 1897. Rule 20-A prescribes the same process of disinfection for infected carriages, whilst the orders of the Government of India referred to above require a more rigorous disinfection of such carriages followed by a period of disuse. The Government of India are advised that

* Addressed to the Public Works Department of the Government of Madras.

the procedure prescribed in the rule framed by the Madras Government is not sufficient to ensure safety, and they also consider it very desirable that the rules regarding the disinfection of railway carriages should be uniform throughout India. I am accordingly to request that, with the permission of the Governor in Council, rule 20-A may be modified in the sense of the instructions issued by the Government of India.

ORDER—No. 73-P., dated 22nd February 1898.

As regards the segregation of a patient in his own house, it will be pointed out to the Government of India that the case contemplated in Mufassal Regulation 3 (b) and Madras City Regulation 11 (b) is the occurrence of a case of plague in a detached house surrounded by a spacious compound facilitating effective segregation and disinfection.

2. The instructions of the Government of India regarding the disinfection of railway carriages will be carried out, and the following notification will be published in the Fort St. George and District Gazettes:—

NOTIFICATION.

His Excellency the Governor of Fort St. George in Council, in exercise of the powers delegated to him under section 2, sub-section (3) of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, by the Governor-General in Council, is pleased to prescribe, under the said Epidemic Diseases Act, the following revised Regulations in supersession of the corresponding Mufassal Regulations published in the Fort St. George Gazette, dated the 18th December 1897:—

"20. When any carriage from the Bombay Presidency or from any infected area is detached from a train at any railway station in the Madras Presidency, it shall be disinfected or vented in the following manner as soon as possible and before it is again brought into use:—

Third and intermediate class carriages—

The interior wood-work of the carriages, especially the floors and seats, shall be thoroughly washed with a solution of perchloride of mercury (1 in 1,000) or with a carbolic acid solution (a wine-glassful to a gallon) applied with a mop; the doors and windows shall be opened, and the vehicle exposed to the air.

First and second class carriages—

The floors and wood-work shall be treated as above, the cushions being also brushed and thoroughly cleaned.

"20-A. Any railway carriage from which a passenger who is suffering or suspected to be suffering from the plague has been removed shall be detached at the nearest convenient station, and shall be disinfected as follows:—

(i) The carriages, after being detached from the train, should be thoroughly washed with soft soap and lime-water. After an interval of two to three hours, this should be washed off with plain water, and then the following disinfecting solution should be thoroughly sprayed all over the interior as well as the exterior of the carriages by means of a syringe:—

Corrosive sublimate		1 oz.
Hydrochloric acid		1 "
Water		3 gallons.

This solution should be allowed to dry on the carriages. Special care must be taken to direct the solution into all the cracks and crevices and jilfills.

(ii) After disinfection, the carriages should be kept out in the open for 48 hours. They can then be brought into use again.

(iii) In the case of first and second class carriages, which afford greater facilities than third-class compartments for the harbouring of plague germs, it will be necessary, if the carriages are contaminated, to burn the cushions and to disinfect the wood-work in the manner indicated above, and repaint the interior.

(iv) Any compartment in which a suspicious case has travelled should be sprayed with the above disinfecting solution before being allowed to proceed."

3. The Translators to Government will furnish the necessary translation of the notification to the Superintendent, Government Press, who will print the required number of copies in English and in the vernaculars and forward them to the Collectors concerned for publication in the District Gazettes.

(True Extract.)

A. Edgington
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 Department.
 - „ the Public Works Department (Railway Branch).
 - „ the Marine Department.
 - „ the Inspector-General of Police.
 - „ the Surgeon-General.
 - „ the Sanitary Commissioner.
 - „ the Superintendent, Government Press.
 - „ the Translators to Government.
- Gazette.

300

No. 396. Ry dated 10/3/98

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following

G.O. no 73 P (Local & Mineral) dt 22.2.98.

*Communicated to
Railway administration in
continuation of No. 49 R,
dt 10-1-98.*

*A copy of these
Proceedings will be forwarded
to the Govt of Bombay in Cdn
of Encl. No. 50 R dt 10-1-98.*

No. 397. Ry dt 10/3/98

*WJ 5/3/98
OR*

*Genl. Mares R
S. I. R.
Marian R
M. J. R.
Manager ECH
Concy Engr for Pri.*

Despatched on 11/3/98

WJ 5/3/98

No. 397