

Public Works (1898) Department.

RAILWAY BRANCH.

G.O., No. 658. *Ry*

DATED 29th April 1898.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Bubonic Plague

Proc. L. & M. Dept. recording the papers showing the arrangements made by the Plague Commission, Bombay Presy., for the prevention of the spread of infection of plague by persons travelling by railway, recorded.

[illegible]

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

Recording the papers showing the arrangements made by the Plague Commissioner, Bombay Presidency, for the prevention of the spread of infection of plague by persons travelling by railway.

No. 304-P., 1st APRIL 1898.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From R. NATHAN, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Sanitary), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local and Municipal Department, dated Calcutta, the 15th February 1898, No. 306.

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Governor in Council, the accompanying copy of a letter* from the Government of Bombay, and enclosure, showing the arrangements made by the Plague Commissioner, Bombay Presidency, for the prevention of the spread of infection of plague by persons travelling by railway.

* No. 907-P., dated the 5th February 1898.

ENCLOSURE.

From the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, General Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Bombay Castle, the 5th February 1898, No. 907-P.

I am directed, in reply to your letter, No. 2648, dated 14th December 1897, to forward, for the information of the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, a memorandum by the Plague Commissioner of the Bombay Presidency which supplies the information required.

Arrangements made by the Plague Commissioner, Bombay Presidency, for the prevention of the spread of infection of plague by persons travelling by railway.

The most infected centre at present is Bombay and there is more or less plague in most districts and several Native States of the Presidency. The arrangements are directed—

- (1) to prevent, if possible, spread of infection within the Presidency;
- (2) to prevent, if possible, the disease spreading into other parts of India.

The arrangements are as follows :—

THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA LINE.

Bandra.—A detention and observation camp where disinfection by steam will shortly be introduced. For the present only those passengers are detained who are booked to stations short of Anand. The local traffic is interfered with as little as possible.

Anand.—A detention and observation camp with disinfection by steam and bathing arrangements. This camp is intended to protect the as yet uninfected area to the north and west; consequently, all passengers open to suspicion are detained. The detention period is, if possible, four days, but the influx of passengers has occasionally been so great that even this period cannot always be reached.

Ahmedabad.—This is subsidiary to, and a check against, evasion of Anand.

N.B.—The only plague north of Anand is in the Palanpur State, and from that no booking without passes is permitted.

It is believed that there is medical examination and a camp in Rajputana which furnish additional protection.

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA LINE.

Kalyan.—A detention and observation camp where disinfection by steam will shortly be introduced. At present passengers booked to stations short of Manmad and Sholapur are detained. Passengers are, if possible, detained not less than four days. The traffic is heavy.

A.—CALCUTTA LINE.

IGatpuri and Nasik.—Check stations where any one who had evaded Kalyan would be detained.

Manmad.—A detention and observation camp where those arriving by the Bombay or Dhond-Manmad trains are detained. There are disinfection by steam and bathing arrangements. This camp is intended to protect all the country to the east and the detention is for ten days.

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Bhusawal.—A detention and observation camp, used as a check on Manmad and to detain travellers who have entered the train at stations between Manmad and Bhusawal. It is believed that there are also medical inspection and camps in the Central Provinces.

B.—MADRAS LINE.

Khandala and Lanowli.—Check stations to control evasion of Kalyan.

Poona.—A detention and observation camp and disinfection by steam and bathing arrangements. This camp is in relief of Kalyan. All intending to travel by the Southern Maratha Railway and booked to stations short of Sangli and those booked to stations short of Sholapur who have not been detained at Kalyan are dealt with. The detention is for ten days.

Sholapur.—A detention and observation camp with disinfection by steam. This camp is intended to protect the country to the east. Plague has passed beyond Sholapur and the camp at Wadi in Hyderabad territory therefore grows in importance, while a camp where the train enters Madras territory is advisable. The detention is for ten days.

Dhond.—A small detention and observation camp for travellers over the Dhond-Manmad line from Sholapur and Poona. The detention is for ten days.

SOUTHERN MARATTA RAILWAY.

Kudchi.—The Sangli and Miraj States protect themselves and where the train enters the Belgaum district there is a detention and observation camp at Kudchi to protect against infection from the Satara district. At Kudchi also are detained passengers from Belgaum and infected places south of Kudchi. The detention is for ten days.

Hubli.—A disinfection station by steam with a detention and observation camp. Travellers passing out of the Presidency are not detained, though disinfected, as such are dealt with at a camp in the State of Mysore.

Dharwar and Gadag.—These are local camps for the protection of the Dharwar and Bijapur districts and to prevent suspicious persons entering the Bellary district.

Londa.—A detention and observation camp for persons intending to travel by the Marmagao railway. It is intended to protect the Goa territory.

At Karachi and nearly all coast ports there are detention and observation camps and at the more important ports disinfection is also carried out.

At all these stations persons who may be presumed to be free from infection, as Europeans, Eurasians, respectable and well-known Natives, persons with satisfactory passes or certificates, and all from uninfected places, are not detained. Such are left to be dealt with at their destination by the local authorities. Any person detained receives a certificate. The detention is for ten days at all camps except Kalyan, Bandra and Anand, where the traffic makes so prolonged a detention impossible at present.

All clothing and bedding and so much of the baggage as the officer in charge considers necessary of practically all passengers are disinfected, and many passengers are not detained longer than is necessary for this purpose. Persons free from suspicion are not interfered with in any way. The disinfection is carefully done under European supervision.

It seems unnecessary to explain the method of steam disinfection as it is well known. Usually a locomotive supplies steam to a steam chamber at about 20 lb. pressure to the square inch and the kit is run in and out of the chamber on a long trolley. Each operation takes about 20 minutes to half an hour and experience has shown that the plague bacilli do not survive even in the tightly-packed centre of a native traveller's bundle.

With inter-Presidency local traffic the surveillance system is difficult to work, though efforts are being made to substitute it where possible for detention.

N.B.—The delay in supplying the information is due to the fact that owing to the increase of plague in Bombay the arrangements have to undergo many changes.

READ also—G.O., Mis. No. 248-P., dated 22nd March 1898.

READ—the following paper :—

From the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, General Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Bombay Castle, 17th March 1898, No. 1912-P.

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of Madras, the marginally-noted notifications issued by this Government under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897.

No. 1400—1729-P., dated 9th March 1898.

ENCLOSURE.

GENERAL DEPARTMENT (PLAGUE.)

Bombay Castle, 9th March 1898.

No. 1400—1729-P.—In continuation of Government Notification, No. 744—906-P., dated the 5th February 1898, the following arrangements for the prevention of the spread of infection of plague by persons travelling by railway are notified for public information :—

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY (MADRAS LINE).
Lonávla.—Detention of 3.

Lonávla.—Detention and observation camp.

SOUTHERN MARATTA RAILWAY.

Bijápur.—Detention and observation camp.
Bágalkot.—Detention

Bagalkot.—Detention and observation camp.
(By order of His Excellency the Right Hon.

(By order of His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council.)

(Signed) A. WINGATE,
Secretary to Government.

Order—Mis. No. 248-P., dated 22nd March 1898.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Public Works Department (Railway Branch).
 „ Sanitary Commissioner.
 „ Surgeon-General.

ORDER—No. 304-P., dated 1st April 1898.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

To all Collectors.

Chairmen of Municipal Councils.
the President, Municipal C

„ the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
 „ „ Marine Department.
 „ „ Public Health Department.

" " Marine Department.
Public Works.

" " Public Works Department (Railway Branch).
" " Surgeon-General.

Surgeon-General.

" " Sanitary Commissioner.

Recorded

Ed. A. Raitt.

Agent. Major Ry

17 S. C. F. Alzini

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