Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1357

DATED 10th March 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording Progs. Local and Municipal Departt. issuing orders on the final notification of the Govt of India suspending all pilgrimage to the Hedjaz for the current season.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again G.O., No. 215A M., dated 13th February 1897.

READ—also the following papers:—

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, Calcutta, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local and Municipal Department, dated 17th February 1897.

No. 521, Sanitary. Government of India have issued notification prohibiting departure on pilgrimage of pilgrims who are resident in the Bombay Presidency or Sind or who have gone there for purpose of embarkation; all persons who have entered Bombay Presidency for purpose of pilgrimage will be taken to camp at Nassick, which Bombay Government reports will be open on 21st, and kept there under observation for ten days, or, if plague takes place there, till ten days after last case occurs; those belonging to Madras will then be taken, in charge of official of Bombay Government, to some place in Madras to be arranged by the Madras Government and taken charge of by an official to be appointed by the Madras Government, and should then be conveyed to their homes. Government is defraying cost of tickets for their journey. Government of India will be obliged if Government of Madras will at once enter into communication with Government of Bombay to arrange place at which such pilgrims shall be taken over by official of Madras Government and will make the necessary subsidiary arrangements to carry this decision out. Government of Bombay have been requested to make arrangements for stopping intending pilgrims from entering Bombay Presidency at Bhusawal, Ahmedabad, Hodgi and Londa effectual, and Government of India will be obliged if Madras Government will take all measures possible to make it known to intending pilgrims that they will be turned back if they attempt to enter Bombay Presidency. It is desirable that all efforts that are possible should be made through magistrates of districts, the religious heads of the Muhammadans, pilgrim brokers, and in any other way the Local Government thinks best, to dissuade intending pilgrims from going on haj this year; but though by these means the number of pilgrims may be materially reduced, it appears likely that considerable number may still wish to go on pilgrimage from places other than Bombay Presidency and Sind. The Government of India have decided that all who persist in desire to go on pilgrimage shall be collected prior to departure at camp of observation at distance from port and situated in province to which they belong, or in case of residents of Native States in province nearest to their State, and placed under observation for at least seven days and until intimation is received from Commissioner of Police at port that steamer is ready to receive them; they will then be taken by special train and railed to place of departure of steamer and be at once placed on board. It is proposed that no tickets shall be sold at Madras or Calcutta and that they shall be purchasable only at camp of observation where pilgrims will be collected. Government of India will be obliged if Government of Madras will now, with as little delay as possible, work out the arrangements necessary to carry this decision out, and keep them and the Government of the ports of departure informed of measures taken to carry it out. It is in particular desirable the place selected for observation should be intimated with least possible delay. In order to make arrangements complete, it will be necessary to communicate with Political authorities of Native States.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, Calcutta, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local and Municipal Department, dated 18th February 1897.

No. 540, Sanitary. My telegram, No. 521, dated 17th, regarding pilgrimage. Government of India request that persons collected at camp of observation prior to departure on pilgrimage may themselves, their clothes, and effects be disinfected before leaving camp.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, Calcutta, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local and Municipal Department, dated 19th February 1897.

No. 567, Sanitary. My telegram, number 521, dated 17th, regarding pilgrimage. Government of India request that orders may be issued under Epidemic Diseases Act prohibiting sale of tickets to pilgrims at Madras and arranging that they shall only be procurable at observation camps.

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

No. 614, Sanitary. Secretary of State telegraphs that, in consequence of strong opinions regarding possible communication of plague to Europe of all European Governments, whom nothing short of prohibition will satisfy, Her Majesty's Government have decided that pilgrimage should be altogether suspended for the present season. Notification under Epidemic Diseases Act will issue at once. It is essential that reasons for decision of Her Majesty's Government shall be made widely known by Government officers and that every endeavour shall be made by the agency of Muhammadans of position and trust to explain them to those who had intended to proceed on pilgrimage and to Muhammadans generally. It will also be necessary to stop all intending pilgrims near their homes and on frontier of British India and to induce them to return to their homes so that they may not gather in large bodies. Governor-General in Council need not impress upon Government of Madras the importance of endeavouring to make this decision as little unpalatable as possible to Muhammadans and relies upon Government of Madras to use all means in their power to do so.

Notification of the Government of India, in the Home Department, dated Calcutta, 20th February 1897.

The question of the suspension of the pilgrimage to the Hedjaz having been under the consideration of the Government of India and Her Majesty's Government, Her Majesty's Government have now come to the conclusion that, in consequence of the strong opinions of all European Governments, including Turkey, regarding the danger of plague being communicated to Europe, it is impossible to meet their demands by any measure short of the suspension of the pilgrimage for the time being. The Governor-General in Council is therefore pleased, under section 2, sub-section 1, of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, to order that the pilgrimage to the Hedjaz shall be altogether suspended for the current season.

ORDER—No. 288 M., dated 24th February 1897.

The final notification of the Government of India of the 20th February suspending all pilgrimage to the Hedjaz for the current season renders it now unnecessary to consider the arrangements required for the quarantine of pilgrims coming from unaffected tracts and for their embarkation at the port of Madras. It remains to carry out the orders of the Government of India as to the conveyance to their homes

of the pilgrims belonging to Madras who are now in the Bombay Presidency and have been turned back from their intended journey. The pilgrims are to go into camp at Nassick for ten days' quarantine on the 21st February, so that they will not arrive at the Madras frontier till the 3rd March—at the earliest.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council appoints the Guntakal Junction railway station to be the place where these pilgrims will be taken over, and the officer to do so will be the Sub-Magistrate who has been deputed there on special duty. The Sub-Magistrate will at Government cost purchase railway tickets for the party, and, unless in any case action under regulation 14 of the Mufassal regulations notified in the *Fort St. George Gazette* of the 15th February is necessary, despatch them without avoidable delay to their homes in charge of police constables. Before their departure the medical officers at Guntakal will inspect the pilgrims and cause all their clothing, bedding, &c., to be carefully disinfected. The Inspector-General of Police will make the necessary police arrangements in connection with the conveyance of the pilgrims to their villages. The police constable in charge of a party or an individual will report the arrival of the party or individual to the Commissioner of Police if the destination is the Madras City, and in the case of other destinations to the Municipal Chairman or village headman. The Commissioner of Police, or the Chairman or headman, as the case may be, will countersign the order with which the constable will be furnished and the constable will then transmit it to the medical officer in charge of the camp at Guntakal, who will report to Government the return thereof.

3. The Bombay Government has been asked by wire to inform this Government of the number of Madras pilgrims and their destinations, and the information, as soon as it is received, will be communicated to the Inspector-General of Police, the Medical Officer in charge at Guntakal, and other officers concerned.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Anantapur.
„ the Inspector-General of Police.
„ the Surgeon-General.
„ the Sanitary Commissioner.
„ the Public Department.
„ the Judicial Department.
„ the Revenue Department.
„ the Public Works (Railway) Department.
„ the Financial Department.

ENDORSEMENT—No. 288A M., dated 24th February 1897.

Copy to the Government of India, Home Department.

G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.

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Exd. A Raitt.

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} 189.

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 189 , DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
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STATEMENT WITH DITTO							
PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.							

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