

Revenue (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 2092

DATED 16th May

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording G.O., Local and Municipal
Dept^{ts}, Communicating to Collectors Government
of India remarks on the additional Plague
Regulations and issuing a notification
amending them.

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G.O. 974			14.4.98				

Revenue 1898 Department

Government {1898} of Madras. LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd.

Regd.

1898.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., &c., Nos. 330, 330A-P., 14th April 1898.

APRIL.

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Additional Plague Regulations.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper:—

G.O., No. 93 P., dated 26th February 1898.

ABSTRACT.—Ordering the publication, in the Fort St. George and District Gazettes, of a notification prescribing, under the Epidemic Diseases Act, Additional Regulations to be observed in district municipalities and other towns and villages; and declaring, with remarks, the districts of Bellary and Kurnool to be under observation.

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, 25th March 1898, No. 662.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 122 P., dated the 2nd instant, forwarding copies of the Additional Mufassal Regulations regarding plague issued by the Government of Madras under the Epidemic Diseases Act.

2. With reference to the rules regarding "certificates of the cause of death," I am to say that the Government of India have no doubt that the Government of Madras system of corpse examination is dangerous and requires the exercise of great caution and judgment. The Government of India observe that the Collector is not empowered to require the production of the certificate unless he has a sufficient medical staff at his disposal to secure immediate inspection, so that there may be no chance of funerals being delayed. The Government of India consider this to be a very wise precaution, and that it must absolutely precede the consideration of the question whether that it is necessary that the Collector should also have a sufficient staff of female assistants for the prompt examination of all corpses of women. The examination of the corpses of women by men should never be required. In the second part of rule 16 of the rules issued by the Government of Madras, it is stated that if burial or cremation takes place without a certificate of the cause of death having been obtained, the death may be presumed to have been due to plague and the persons believed to have been in recent immediate contact with the corpse shall be liable to segregation and detention. In the event of it ever becoming necessary to enforce the provisions of rule 16 anywhere in the Madras Presidency, the Government of India consider that it should be made clear to the people that the examination of corpses will never be compulsory, and that they may always accept the alternative of the enforcement of the precautions adopted in the event of ascertained cases of plague.

3. It is provided in rule 30 under the head "passports and passes" that the Collector may "exempt from the necessity of taking out passes any Government official, any Railway employé proceeding by rail on duty, or any class of persons, including, in his discretion, the families and attendants of such persons." In connection with this rule I am to invite the attention of the Government of Madras to the last sentence of rule 11 of the Resolution of the Government of India in the Home Department, Nos. 227—240, dated the 3rd February last. In that sentence the Government of India expressed the opinion that the rules should not, under any circumstances, exempt from their operation any class of persons as such, or be limited to persons who travel by railway by a particular class. They consider that such class exemptions are open to the gravest objection, and that the rules should be governed by the principle that they should apply to all classes alike, but that the precautionary measures should only be enforced against persons with regard to whom there are reasonable grounds of suspicion. I am to request that, with the permission of the Governor in Council, rule 30 may be modified in accordance with these remarks.

4. In Appendix A, the rule is laid down that hospitals, suspect camps and health camps should be established on different sides of the infected village. It appears to the Government of India that this arrangement would greatly increase the difficulty of management, supervision and guard; and experience has shown that the precaution is not necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

ORDER—No. 330 P., dated 14th April 1898.

Communicated to all Collectors, whose attention is drawn to the remarks contained in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the letter read above. They will observe that the provisions of Additional Regulation 5 (b) regarding passports apply not only to areas declared to be "under observation," but also to places to which people arriving from infected localities proceed after passing through tracts placed under observation.

2. Regulation 30 will be modified as suggested by the Government of India. With respect to the instructions for the construction of plague hospitals, and suspect and health camps, the Government considers that the matter can more conveniently be dealt with in executive orders, and that all reference to it in the regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act may be omitted altogether. The following notification will be published in the Fort St. George and all District Gazettes:—

NOTIFICATION.

"In exercise of the power delegated to him under section 2, sub-section (3) of the Epidemic Diseases Act, His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to direct that Notification No. 169 published in the Fort St. George Gazette, dated 1st March 1898, Part I-A, pages 55—63, be amended as follows:—

"(1) The words 'as laid down in Appendix A' in Regulation 19, and the words 'Appendix A' in Regulation 22 shall be omitted.

"(2) For Regulation 30, the following shall be substituted:—

"The Collector may exempt from the necessity of taking out passports or passes any person with regard to whom there are no reasonable grounds for suspicion of infection."

"(3) Appendix A shall be omitted, and Appendix B shall be read as Appendix A."

(True Extract.)

J. S. Roberts

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

To all Collectors.

- " all Presidents of District Boards.
- " all Chairmen of Municipal Councils.
- " the Deputy Adjutant-General, Madras Command.
- " the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
- " the Public Department.
- " the Public Works Department (Railway).
- " the Revenue Department.
- " the Financial Department.
- " the Marine Department.
- " the Commissioners of Land Revenue.
- " the Commissioner of Salt, Abkari and Separate Revenue.
- " the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, &c.
- " the Inspector-General of Police.
- " the Surgeon-General.
- " the Sanitary Commissioner.
- " the Superintendent, Government Press.

Editors' Table.

ENDORSEMENT—No. 330-A P., dated 14th April 1898.

Copy to the Government of India, Home Department (Sanitary).

H. TREMENHEERE,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

Exd. A. F. Eccleston.

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____

159 .

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
159 ,

DATED

C
CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.

B = Not to be copied.

P = Copy abstract only.

Q = Copy heading only.