

4. The Constantinople Superior Board of Health, which, before the war, exercised sanitary control in the Straits, as also in the other ports of the Turkish Empire, ceased to direct quarantine measures in the Straits during the war. The present directing authority is only of a temporary character consisting of the Inter-Allied Sanitary Commission at Constantinople.

The Near East Commission considered that it was beyond its province to make proposals regarding the nature of the future sanitary authority for the Straits to direct the measures (a) to (d) above. The commission, however, assumed that the body in question would be an efficient organisation possessing an international character, the functions of which need not necessarily be limited to the Straits. The commission, writing in April 1922, pointed out that from the point of view of practical hygiene there might be advantages in the same body, when established, exercising its functions over all the ports belonging to Turkey, including the Turkish ports in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

II.—*Sanitary Control at Ports in Syria and Palestine.*

The Near East Commission, after visiting the principal ports in Syria and Palestine and studying the satisfactory sanitary organisation which is being completed in each of these countries under the respective direction of France and Great Britain, concluded that there is no reason to recommend that exceptional measures should be taken in these ports for the prevention of the introduction or spread of infectious disease by shipping, provided that action is taken in accordance with the provisions of the International Sanitary Conventions in force.

III.—*Sanitary Control in the Suez Canal and Ports, the Sanitary Service of which is controlled by the Sanitary Maritime and Quarantine Board of Egypt.*

The Near East Commission details reasons for the conclusion that special measures in addition to those general measures which are authorised by the sanitary conventions remain necessary in the Suez Canal, and should be continued on the same broad principles which were adopted in the 1912 and previous international conventions. The commission consider, that for this purpose the countries of the world would do well to continue to rely on administration by the Sanitary Maritime and Quarantine Board of Egypt, a body with special international representation possessing experience obtained from many years' work. This body derives authority for its measures from the International Sanitary Convention of 1912 and antecedent conventions, and the Near East Commission recommended that certain modifications should be introduced into Part II of that convention in order to increase the efficiency of the work of the board. The modifications thus recommended have now been endorsed by the committee of the Office international d'Hygiène publique, and embodied by them in the new revision of the International Sanitary Convention of 1912, which that body has now prepared.

IV.—*Sanitary Measures in connection with Mecca Pilgrimage and in the Kingdom of the Hedjaz.*

The Near East Commission considers that in present circumstances it is essential to maintain the system of quarantine stations by means of which the infections of cholera, plague and other diseases among pilgrims going to the Hedjaz are detected and the importation of infection by pilgrims to Arabia is prevented. The commission considers it equally necessary to continue special measures to prevent the dispersal of pilgrims in an infectious condition on their return to their homes after completing the pilgrimage. Before the war all these measures were practically in the hands of two authorities, the Superior Board of Health of Constantinople and the Sanitary Maritime and Quarantine Board of Egypt. In present circumstances a portion of the control, at El Tor in the Gulf of Suez, remains with the Sanitary Maritime and Quarantine Board of Egypt. The quarantine station on the island of Kameran at the south end of the Red Sea is no longer administered by the Constantinople Board but by British India, and the land quarantine station on the Mecca Railway at Tebuk (which also was formerly administered by the Constantinople Board) no longer exists. The Near East Commission emphasises the importance of maintaining an efficient system of quarantine for the pilgrims of Kameran and of re-establishing as soon as possible an effective quarantine station on the Hedjaz Railway at a point which, though outside the

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