

6. Any vessel having on board at the time of its arrival, or having had on board at any time during the voyage, yellow fever or cholera, would be sent to Ship Island at once, and not allowed to enter the bay at all until discharged from the station, and even then, if there was any suspicion that she still remained dangerous, she would be disinfected anew at our own station."

Mississippi:

The county boards of health of Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties control the maritime quarantines of Mississippi. There is no direct foreign commerce, but Bay St. Louis has a large coasting trade with Mobile and New Orleans, and acquires some quarantine importance in consequence.

Louisiana:

The quarantine system of Louisiana is under the control of the State Board of Health, which is authorized by various acts of the State Legislature to fix the duration of quarantine and to make and enforce all necessary regulations, to contract for building, employ persons, etc. At its discretion the Board may at any time cause the detention at the quarantine stations for disinfection, fumigation and purification, of any or all vessels from ports in which yellow fever usually prevails or from ports where other contagious or infectious disease is reported to exist. Quarantine stations are established by law on the Mississippi river not less than 70 miles below New Orleans, at the Rigollettes—the entrance to Lake Pontchartrain—and below Morgan City on the Atchafalaya. But the State Board is also empowered to establish additional stations upon any of the approaches to the city of New Orleans in its discretion.

Under this latter authority the present Board has recently established a refuge station in Pas a L'Outre, some 28 miles below the original station, which latter is on the right bank of the Mississippi 75 miles below New Orleans. A boarding station is also maintained at Eadsport at the head of the jetties.

Accompanied by Dr. Joseph Holt, President of the State Board, and to whose indefatigable energy the recent practical improvements are mainly due, I made a personal inspection of the Mississippi river stations on the 15th, 16th and 17th of July last, and witnessed the inspection of vessels, the disinfection and treatment of an arrival from an infected port—a 2900-ton iron steamer; inspected another which had been treated two days before my arrival and was not yet released; examined the appliances for disinfection, etc., and the buildings, hospitals, warehouse and other items of the quarantine plant. I am, therefore, enabled to endorse from personal observation the claim made that this is the most thorough and vigorous system of sanitary quarantine which has ever been enforced for the protection of a port from the introduction of foreign contagion into this country—if not in the world.

Beginning with the arrival of a vessel in soundings she is met by the pilot, who cooperates with the quarantine authorities and is frequently accompanied by the medical officer from the boarding and inspection station at Eadsport. This officer examines the ship's log and receives a sworn statement from the captain as to the sanitary history of his vessel and her voyage, beginning at the port of departure. All on board are mustered and carefully examined for cases of suspicious sickness. If the vessel be found in good sanitary condition and free from infection she is allowed to proceed up the river, but reports at the upper quarantine station for a second inspection. If from a non-infected port, she is now given free pratique and proceeds to the city. If from an infected or scheduled port, or if any suspicious development has occurred in the interim after first inspection, she is either subjected to treatment at the upper station or sent below to the refuge station, as the circumstances demand. For example: A short time before my visit a Mexican steamer had arrived; she was inspected at the boarding station and all hands mustered and examined as usual, without detecting any suspicious illness. After she had been allowed to depart the pilot reported that a sick man had been roused from his berth to be mustered with the crew. The fact was at once telegraphed to the upper station, and on the arrival of the vessel the man was found to be suffering with what proved to be yellow fever. The vessel with the sick man on board was at once sent down to the refuge station for necessary treatment, entirely out of the track of commerce.