

**Preliminary report on the yellow-fever epidemic of 1882, in the state of Texas / Treasury Department, Marine-Hospital Service.**

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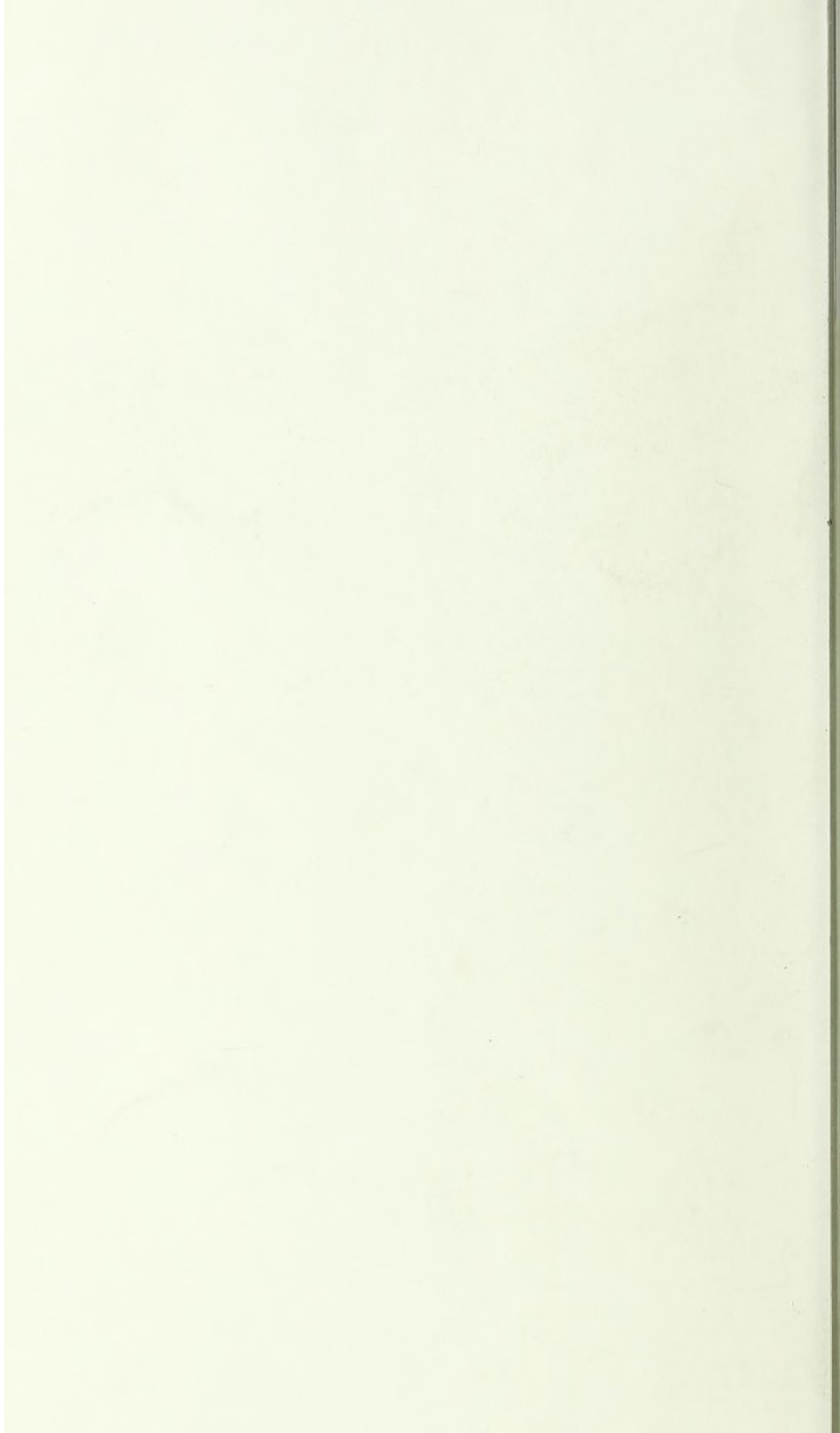
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*1882 as stated*

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Treasury Department.

Marine-Hospital Service.

PRELIMINARY REPORT

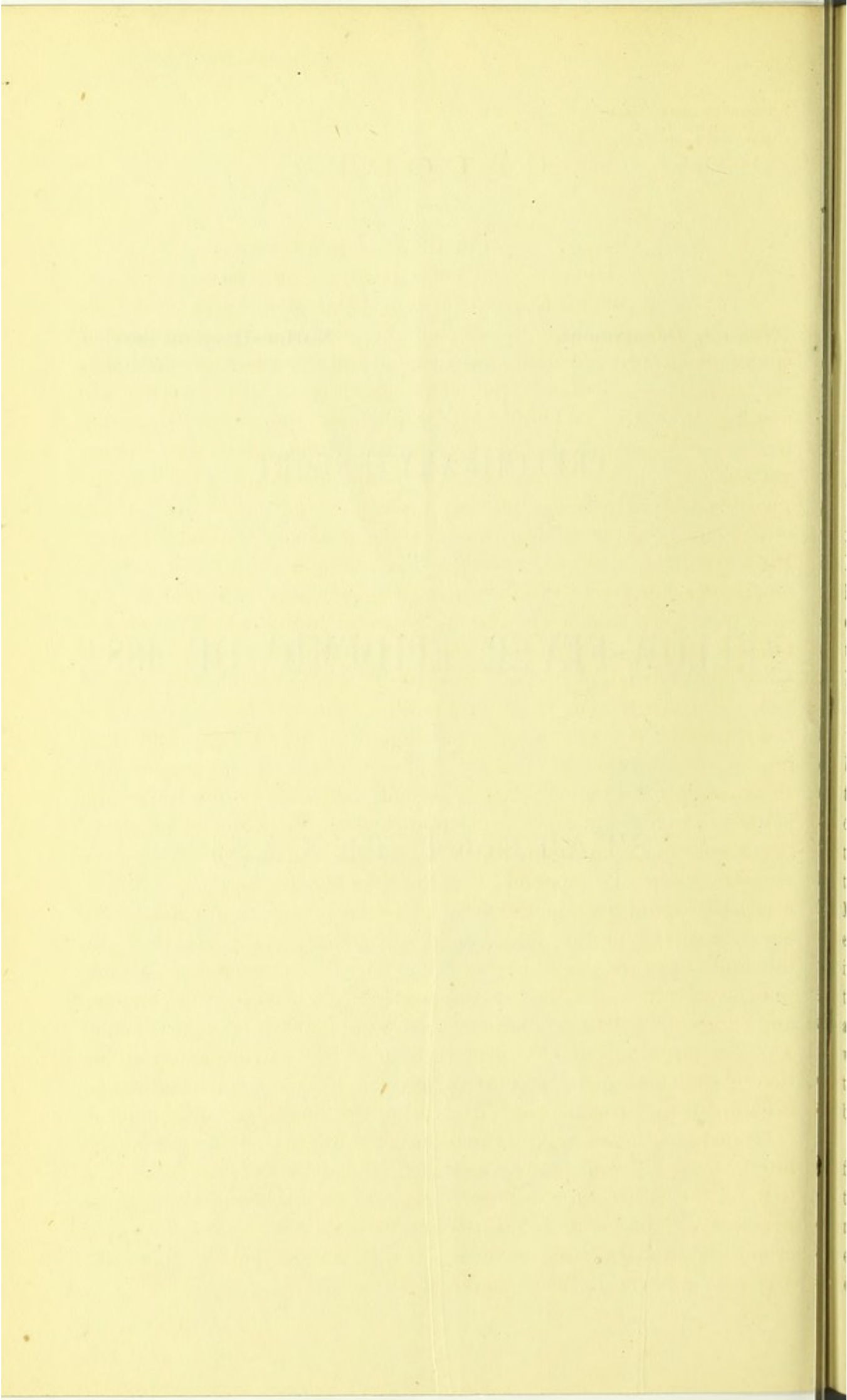
ON THE

YELLOW-FEVER EPIDEMIC OF 1882,

IN THE

STATE OF TEXAS.





## REPORT.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service, Washington, November 6, 1882.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information copies of the correspondence, telegraphic and otherwise, in relation to the epidemic of yellow fever which prevailed at Brownsville and vicinity in Texas, and Tampico, Matamoras, and towns along the frontier of Mexico bordering upon the Rio Grande, and which has not yet abated. Owing to the fact that communication by mail was impossible, orders by telegraph were necessary, and only a preliminary report can be made at this time, and the details of the work done in Brownsville by an officer of this Service, acting in conjunction with the health officer of Texas, will be furnished as soon as practicable after the cessation of the epidemic. The appropriation under which action was taken is in terms as follows: "The President of the United States is hereby authorized, in case of a threatened or actual epidemic, to use a sum not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, in aid of State and local boards, or otherwise, in his discretion, in preventing and suppressing the spread of the same." The President, acting in his discretion, decided to employ this contingent appropriation, through the agency of the Treasury Department, which, by reason of having in its service the officers of the customs, the Revenue-Marine Service, and the Marine-Hospital Service, has at all times the means at its command for effective service of this nature, and especially the prevention of the introduction of the disease at maritime ports. The Secretary committed the duty of inquiring into the necessity for the use of the money, and of directing its use in case of need, to this office, because its chief was not only the chief medical officer of the Department, but all action of the Department heretofore taken in relation to quarantine had been taken in pursuance of the advice of the incumbent of the office.

Immediately upon having the trust committed to me, a circular defining the manner of its use was issued, and steps were taken at once to place the Service in readiness to perform such services as might be necessary. But one State has applied for assistance, through its governor, and that the State of Texas—Florida having done so, but withdrew the application the same day it was received.



In accordance with the terms of the act, the most active measures were taken to prevent the spread of the disease to healthy localities. In this work the officers of the Department have received the encouragement and most cordial support of the State government of Texas, and so far have had the satisfaction of seeing their work crowned with success. The letter of instructions to Surgeon Murray and the report from that officer, and also those to the collectors of customs at Corpus Christi and Brownsville, and to Acting Assistant Spohn, will show the general plan which I advised the Department to adopt, and which, with the subsequent light thrown by experience, I should again advise in a similar exigency. This plan was, briefly, the establishment of a *cordon sanitaire* to restrict travel to and from the infected district, the establishment and maintenance of a hospital for the sick in the infected city, and subsequently the disinfection and cleansing of the places infected. No person was confined to the town by the quarantine, as will be shown further on.

It is too late in the nineteenth century for any one to claim for quarantine that it will prevent disease, but it certainly takes the first rank among the remedies for the prevention of its spread. When all cities shall be so clean that the filth therein shall afford no nidus for the growth and propagation of the seeds of contagion, and the common carriers of commerce are likewise clean and healthful, then, and not until then, may quarantines be abolished. This reflection would seem unnecessary were it not for the fact that at a recent meeting of a *quasi* scientific body the *cordon sanitaire* was denounced as "the murdering of people," and the members thereof individually pledged themselves to interest the members of Congress in the maintenance of some system directly opposite to that pursued, although no one announced for the public information the particular plan that should have been adopted. The plan of the *cordon sanitaire* is by no means new, although it is only in recent years that its application has been made on a scale so extensive. The plague which broke out in Russia in 1879 was confined to its original limits by means of a strict cordon, and it was adopted by the advice of the leading sanitarians of Russia, and afterwards directed by the advice of the International Sanitary Council, composed of representatives of the principal nations of Europe. The success of that measure has been met by a like success attending similar management here,\* and it is only necessary to point out the difference be-

\* "The navy-yard (at Pensacola) continues free from fever by virtue of its *cordon sanitaire*, notwithstanding it has been so long within sight of infected localities. Dr. Owen must feel grateful, not only that his seventeen hundred people have been saved from the infection and its dangers, but that a demonstration has been given as well of the non-indigenous nature of the disease as of the necessity for a less subtle means of communication than is afforded by the air."—Dr. Smart, Secretary National Board of Health, in *Philadelphia Medical News*, Nov. 11, 1882.



tween the rapid and fatal extension of the disease in Mexico, where there was no cordon or local quarantine; and in Texas, where the disease was held within the original limit of infection. I do not doubt that a cordon around Tampico and Bagdad in the first instance would have saved Matamoras and Brownsville the invasion of yellow fever, with all the train of suffering and disaster more calamitous than a war or famine.

The Department was not requested to take charge of the measures against the epidemic until a general panic prevailed in Southwestern Texas and the triangle formed by the Rio Grande river, the Gulf, and the line of railroad extending from Laredo to Corpus Christi was filled with refugees from Brownsville and Matamoras. The several counties of Texas bordering on the infected district had organized a desultory quarantine, and such of the guards as were efficient and willing to serve were mustered into the service of the United States, and an effective *cordon sanitaire* established for a distance of one hundred and sixty miles along the south side of the railroad. These guards were mounted, fed, and clothed at their own expense, and were paid at the rate of three dollars per day. Mounted pickets were placed along all roads leading from the cordon to Brownsville for a distance of fifty miles, to give timely notice of the approach of refugees with infected baggage. Within forty-eight hours after the establishment of this cordon several refugees were stopped and made to encamp inside the line, some of whom afterwards had yellow fever while in camp. The period of detention for persons was ten days, and baggage liable to carry the infection was prohibited from crossing the cordon on any pretext. This line was about one hundred and eighty miles distant from Brownsville. A medical officer experienced in the treatment of yellow fever was immediately ordered to Brownsville, and as soon as practicable after his arrival at that place a cordon was established thirty miles from Brownsville, extending from the bank of the Rio Grande at Santa Maria along the Arroyo Colorado to the gulf. The object of this was to enable disbanding the longer and more expensive cordon. Before this could be safely done, however, a sufficient length of time was allowed to elapse for the development of any yellow fever that might appear between the lines. The cases of yellow fever among the refugees in camp were isolated, placed in quarantine, their baggage and clothing burned, and the disease did not spread to any other persons. Finally the cordon from Laredo to Corpus Christi was disbanded, and that on the Arroyo Colorado alone depended upon. But at this period it was found that the fever was rapidly extending in Mexico, in the towns bordering on the Rio Grande. Reynosa, Camargo,



Mier, Guerrero successively became infected, and there was a great disposition to break through the local quarantines on the Texas side of the river; then the *cordón sanitaire* was established from Santa Maria, the western end of the Arroyo Colorado cordon, to Laredo, along the Rio Grande, where it is now maintained. The distance is nearly three hundred miles. During the prevalence of the epidemic a hospital was maintained in Brownsville, and supplies were regularly transported to Brazos Santiago by the revenue-cutter McLean. It was closed as soon as the disease diminished so that no new patients applied for admission.

The expenses of all kinds, on account of the epidemic, up to September 30, amount to \$26,855.23.

I cannot close this report without mentioning, as entitled to the thanks of the Department, if not of Congress, those officers whose services entitle them to such recognition as being in the highest degree faithful and meritorious, namely: Robert D. Murray, surgeon United States Marine-Hospital Service, and the assistants under his command; Acting Assistant Surgeon Arthur E. Spohn, and the assistants under his command; all the officers of the customs at Brownsville and Corpus Christi districts, and Doctor C. B. Combe, deputy State health Officer of Texas.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. HAMILTON,  
*Surgeon-General.*

The Hon. CHARLES J. FOLGER,  
*Secretary of the Treasury.*

*Mortality Table of Yellow-Fever Cases at Brownsville and Point Isabel,  
Texas.*

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS.

	Cases.	Deaths.
For two weeks up to August 11 .....	62	10
August 12 .....	13	.....
August 13 .....	23	1
August 14 .....	23	.....
August 15 .....	50	3
August 16 .....	17	3
August 17 .....	32	3
August 18 .....	38	1
August 19 .....	30	2
August 20 .....	35	1
August 21 .....	32	3
August 22 .....	54	4
August 23 .....	53	2

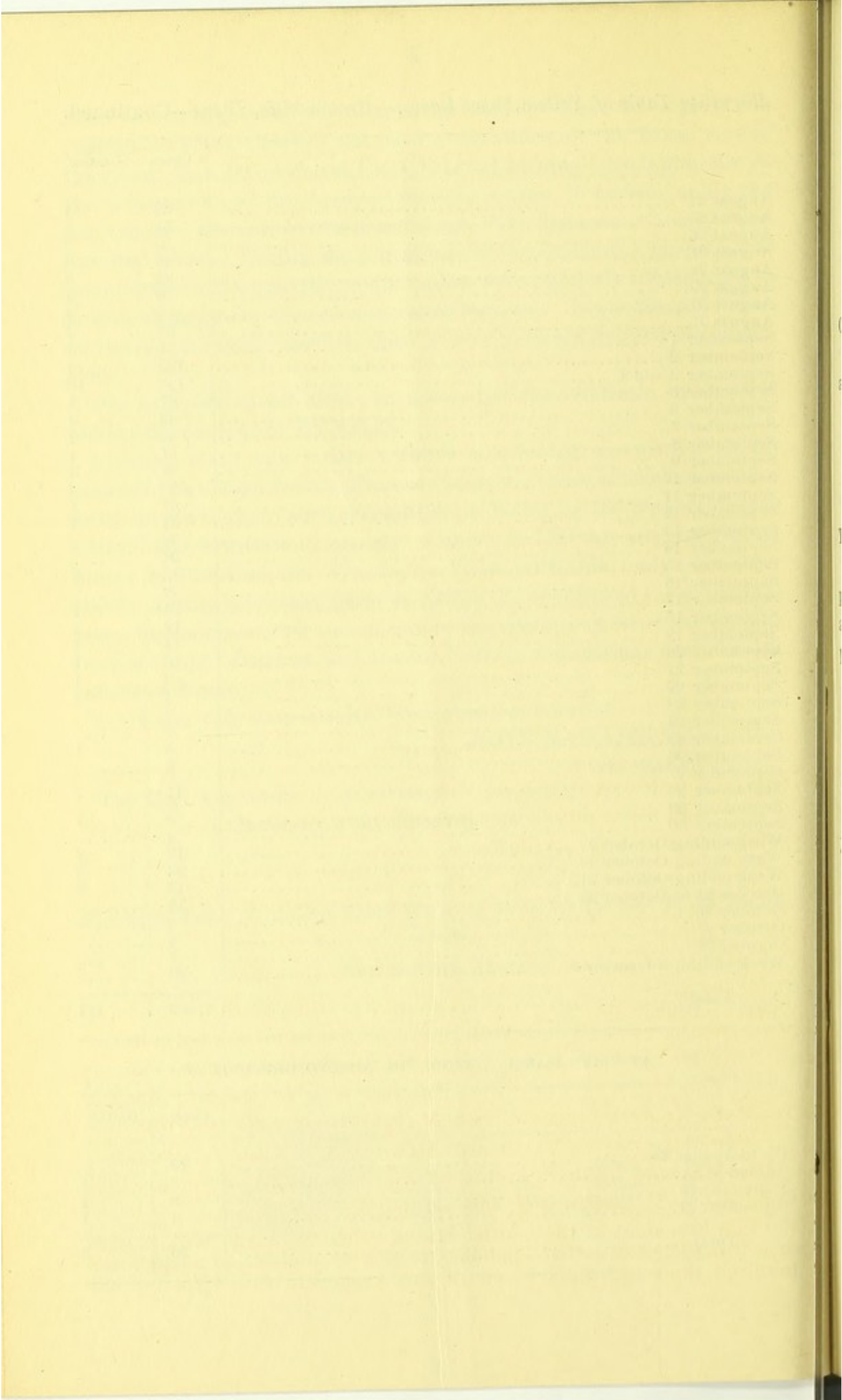


## Mortality Table of Yellow-Fever Cases.—Brownsville, Texas—Continued.

	Cases.	Deaths.
August 24 .....	62	1
August 25 .....	51	3
August 26 .....	56	3
August 27 .....	46	3
August 28 .....	82	8
August 29 .....	70	2
August 30 .....	50	3
August 31 .....	60	2
September 1 .....	71	3
September 2 .....	103	5
September 3 and 4 .....	148	10
September 5 .....	67	1
September 6 .....	49	2
September 7 .....	48	2
September 8 .....	57	4
September 9 .....	57	3
September 10 .....	58	.....
September 11 .....	47	1
September 12 .....	31	3
September 13 .....	32	.....
September 14 .....	24	.....
September 15 .....	18	2
September 16 .....	22	.....
September 17 .....	27	1
September 18 .....	19	4
September 19 .....	14	1
September 20 .....	18	1
September 21 .....	8	1
September 22 .....	4	1
September 23 .....	9	.....
September 24 .....	2	.....
September 25 .....	5	1
September 26 .....	5	.....
September 27 } .....	11	2
September 28 } .....		
September 29 .....	3	1
September 30 .....	4	.....
Week ending October 7 .....	12	2
Week ending October 14 .....	24	3
Week ending October 21 .....	15	2
October 21 to October 25 .....	15	.....
October 26 .....	8	.....
October 27 .....	2	.....
October 28 .....	1	.....
Week ending November 4 .....	23	.....
Total .....	2,000	114

## AT POINT ISABEL, (INSIDE THE ARROYO CORDON.)

	Cases.	Deaths.
Up to August 29 .....	10	.....
August 31 .....	8	1
September 16 .....	8	1
September 22 .....	4	1
Total .....	30	3





## CORRESPONDENCE.

[TRUE COPIES.]

[Telegram.]

AUGUST 6, 1882.

COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, *Brownsville, Tex.:*

Report by telegraph whether shipping affected with yellow fever, and sanitary condition of port.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *August, 7, 1882.*

To J. B. HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

Sanitary condition of this port not good. Yellow fever of mild form prevailing here. The fever is of more malignant type in Matamoras, against which place quarantine has been established. Shipping of port thus far not affected.

J. L. HAYNES, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

AUGUST 8, 1882.

GOVERNOR ROBERTS, *Austin, Tex.:*

Do you desire action of the Government in assisting you to suppress yellow fever at Brownsville?

CHAS. J. FOLGER,  
*Secretary of the Treasury.*

*Circular.—Threatened or Actual Epidemics.*

1882.  
DEPARTMENT NO. 91.  
Marine-Hospital Service. }

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service,*  
*Washington, D. C., August 9, 1882.*

TO MEDICAL OFFICERS OF THE MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE

AND OFFICERS OF STATE AND MUNICIPAL BOARDS OF HEALTH:

I am directed by the Secretary of the Treasury to inform you that Congress, at its last session, enacted that—

“The President of the United States is hereby authorized, in case of a threatened or actual epidemic, to use a sum not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars, out of any money in the Treasury not



otherwise appropriated, in aid of State and local boards, or otherwise, in his discretion, in preventing and suppressing the spread of the same."

He further directs me to inform you that the President has decided to employ this contingent appropriation through the agency of the Treasury Department, and that, in case of a threatened or actual epidemic, immediate action will be taken, upon application from the governor of a State addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury.

JOHN B. HAMILTON,  
*Supervising Surgeon-General U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

[Telegram.]

WASHINGTON, August 11, 1882.

COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, *Brownsville, Tex.:*

Furnish daily telegraphic reports, at ten o'clock each day, of progress of disease.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

*Circular.—Compliance with Local Health Laws.*

1882. }  
DEPARTMENT No. 94. }  
Marine-Hospital Service. }  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service,*  
*Washington, D. C., August 11, 1882.*

TO MEDICAL OFFICERS OF THE MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE:

The attention of all officers is called to the following paragraphs of the regulations governing this Service, approved by the Secretary of the Treasury November 10, 1879:

"PARAGRAPH 61. Medical officers and acting assistant surgeons of the Marine-Hospital Service will inform themselves fully as to the local health laws, and the regulations based thereon and in force at their respective ports and stations, and will comply strictly therewith.

"PARAGRAPH 62. Medical officers and acting assistant surgeons are, under the direction of the Supervising Surgeon-General, required to observe and to aid in executing the quarantines and other restraints established by the health laws of any State, and to report forthwith to the said Surgeon-General any important event or fact that may come to their knowledge bearing upon the importation, outbreak, or spread of cholera, yellow fever, small-pox, typhus, or other epidemic disease, at or near their respective stations."

A strict compliance with these paragraphs is enjoined.

JOHN B. HAMILTON,  
*Surgeon-General U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

Approved:

H. F. FRENCH,  
*Acting Secretary of the Treasury.*



[Telegram—Received August 12, 1882.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., August 11, 1882.

J. B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

First case of yellow fever occurred in Matamoras a month ago. Introduced through Bagdad, Mexico, by railroad tramps from Tampico. Average daily deaths in Matamoras for past ten days, ten. Disease appeared in Brownsville two weeks ago. Total number of deaths, ten or twelve. Several distinct types of fever prevail in both cities at present. No new developments to-day. Total number of all classes of fever cases in Brownsville, sixty-two. Disease in *statu quo*. Will report to-morrow.

E. H. GOODRICH,  
*Acting Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., August 12, 1882.

J. B. HAMILTON,

*Supervising Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

Thirteen new cases fever reported to relief committee. Mayor presiding. No deaths.

E. H. GOODRICH,  
*Acting Collector.*

[Telegram.]

AUGUST 12, 1882.

Surgeon MURRAY, *Marine-Hospital, Memphis:*

Hold yourself in readiness to go to Brownsville, if required.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

AUGUST 12, 1882.

Surgeon MURRAY, *Memphis, Tenn.:*

Four hospital tents will be shipped you to-morrow; store them until needed.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*



TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
*Office Sup'g Surgeon-General U. S. Marine-Hospital Service,*  
Washington, August 13, 1882.

SIR: Referring to telegrams from this office of the 12th instant, relative to holding yourself in readiness to proceed to Brownsville, Texas, you are directed, in case the necessity arises, (of which you will be notified by telegraph,) to take with you the four hospital tents referred to in despatch of the 12th, and proceed by the most direct route to Galveston, Texas, where a revenue cutter will be in readiness to take you to Brownsville. Upon arrival at Galveston you will lay in a supply of such medical and hospital stores as may be needed, taking them aboard the cutter with you. A number of efficient medical men of Texas will meet you at Galveston and proceed with you to Brownsville. Their names will be furnished you upon your arrival at Galveston. In regard to nurses, it is believed that you can obtain all that will be necessary at Brownsville; and you are directed to confer with the authorities of that place in all matters connected with the management of the disease, with a view of having perfect accord in measures for the suppression of the epidemic.

It is suggested that you place one of your assistants in charge of each hospital tent, or make such disposition of them as the exigency of the occasion may require, at all times working in conjunction with the local authorities; and the health officer of the State, (Dr. Swearingen,) with whom you will place yourself in communication immediately upon your arrival at Brownsville. If not already done, you will suggest to the State health officer the propriety of at once establishing a cordon extending from Laredo, to Corpus Christi, across the country, and an inspection station at Rio Grande City, (which is the head of river navigation,) for the purpose of requiring a rigid examination of travellers and their baggage, and permitting as little transportation of the latter as practicable.

No measures should be adopted by you in conflict with the local or state health officers, without first submitting a statement of the same to this office; and you are requested to make a daily report by telegraph of the progress of the disease and what has been done to arrest it, and such report should be signed conjointly by yourself and the State health officer.

The tents, of course, will be used for such cases as cannot be cared for at their own houses, or in such manner as may be decided upon by yourself and the health officers.

No fees shall be accepted by you for any services rendered under these orders, and you will be governed by the Regulations of the Ser-



vice, par. 171, in all purchases you may make, forwarding bills for the same in the usual manner, chargeable to the contingent fund for the suppression of epidemics. This fund is limited to one hundred thousand dollars, (\$100,000,) and you are therefore directed to be judicious in your purchases, as funds may be needed at other points throughout the South.

Very respectfully,

JOHN B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General, U. S. Marine-Hospital.*

Surgeon ROBERT D. MURRAY,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service, Memphis, Tenn.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., August 13, 1882.

J. B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

Twenty-three new cases fever; one death from yellow fever.

E. H. GOODRICH,

*Acting Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., August 14, 1882.

J. B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

Twenty-three new cases fever reported; no deaths.

E. H. GOODRICH,

*Acting Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., August 15, 1882.

J. B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

Fifty new cases of fever reported to relief committee; three deaths reported from yellow fever.

E. H. GOODRICH,

*Acting Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., August 16, 1882.

J. B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

Seventeen new cases of fevers. Three deaths from yellow fever.

E. H. GOODRICH,

*Acting Collector.*



[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., August, 17, 1882.

J. B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

Thirty-two new cases fevers. Three deaths from fevers.

E. H. GOODRICH,  
*Acting Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., August 17, 1882.

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, *Washington, D. C.:*

Following communication handed me to-day:

*“Collector of Customs: One of the results of the quarantining of this city by all the ports of Texas and New Orleans has been the throwing out of employment of large portion our working population. These people, thus deprived of their resources, have become paupers and are dependent for means of existence on charity, and we have thus far kept them from want, but the establishing of a hospital therefor and care of the sick, the fumigation, disinfecting, and sanitary measures made necessary by threatened epidemic, are taxing our citizens to the extreme limits of our means. We had not proposed to make any appeal to the outside world for help in this emergency, and could have borne the burden imposed upon us by the sickness alone, but the pressure of two thousand unemployed and destitute people warrant us in asking that you apply to the General Government for such relief as under the circumstances it may deem desirable to grant, as, if we have to care for the destitute, we can not deal with the sick, and neglect of either will bring about an immediate and most probably uncontrollable increase of the disease for the citizens of Brownsville.—*  
THOS. CARSON, *Mayor.*”

E. H. GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

AUGUST 18, 1882.

ACTING COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, *Brownsville, Tex.:*

Inform the mayor that all applications for aid from the Government must be made by the governor of Texas to the Secretary.

H. F. FRENCH,  
*Acting Secretary.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., August 18, 1882.

J. B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

Thirty-eight new cases fevers; one death.

E. H. GOODRICH,  
*Acting Collector.*



[Telegram.]

AUSTIN, TEX., *August 19, 1882.*

Hon. CHAS. J. FOLGER,

*Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.:*

On behalf of the mayor and citizens of Brownsville, Texas, I ask for aid in suppressing and confining the yellow fever. There are two thousand destitute and unemployed people who will need provisions at once, and fifty cases under treatment for yellow fever. Corpus Christi and other places near Brownsville need aid to pay guards. Please let me know when and how aid can be furnished that you proposed to me.

O. M. ROBERTS, *Governor.*

[Telegram.]

AUGUST 19, 1882.

O. M. ROBERTS,

*Governor of Texas, Austin, Tex.:*

This Department will muster quarantine guards into service and pay them. Will also take charge of hospital at Brownsville, and proper inspection stations if you desire. Cannot furnish rations except for the sick in hospital. Texas must feed the destitute. Answer.

H. F. FRENCH,

*Acting Secretary.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *August 19, 1882.*

J. B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

Thirty new cases fever; two deaths from yellow fever. Disease assuming more malignant character.

E. H. GOODRICH,

*Acting Collector.*

[Telegram.]

AUSTIN, TEX., *August 21, 1882.*

Hon. H. F. FRENCH,

*Acting Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.:*

Your telegram of 19th just received. Your tender of aid at Brownsville, Texas, accepted. Thomas Carson is the mayor of Brownsville.

O. M. ROBERTS, *Governor.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *August 21, 1882.*

J. B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

Thirty-two new cases fever; three deaths.

E. H. GOODRICH,  
*Acting Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *August 21, 1882.*

J. B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

Thirty-five new cases fever; one death.

E. H. GOODRICH,  
*Acting Collector.*

[Telegram.]

WASHINGTON, *August 21, 1882.*

Surgeon ROBERT MURRAY,

*Marine Hospital, Memphis, Tenn.:*

Take three tents, proceed to Brownsville via Galveston. Report departure from Memphis and arrival at Galveston.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

WASHINGTON, *August 21, 1882.*Dr. A. E. SPOHN, *Corpus Christi, Tex.:*

Marine-Hospital Service will take charge of quarantine in Texas by request of the governor. Inform local-health authorities, and act in conjunction with them. Inform me at once of condition of inspection-station, number of guards, and so forth.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

AUGUST 21, 1882.

O. M. ROBERTS, *Governor, Austin, Tex.:*

Orders given by Surgeon-General Hamilton; Surgeon Murray leaves Memphis to-day for Brownsville, Texas, via Galveston. Please direct State health officer to meet him at Galveston for consultation.

H. F. FRENCH,  
*Acting Secretary.*



[Telegram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., *August 21, 1882.*

JNO. B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General, Marine-Hospital Service, Washington, D. C.:*

As soon as yellow fever was declared in Matamoras and Brownsville this city enforced strict quarantine against those cities and vicinity, also requested the two Laredo's and all places on the line of the Texas Mexican Railway running between Corpus Christi and Laredo to quarantine immediately. This quarantine, as now established, cuts off all communication between Brownsville and the rest of the State by land. Corpus Christi and Nueces County have sixteen paid guards covering two lines south of the railroad, and one hundred volunteer guards guarding approaches to the city. We have nine quarantine stations besides Aransas Pass. The hospital at Aransas Pass was burned a few days ago; no shelter there for sick nor a proper boat for service. A steam-tug is necessary for the health officer there. We need tents, provisions, and medicines at our local stations, where many refugees from Brownsville are now under guard without shelter. We had official notice yesterday from Brownsville of large numbers of refugees coming this way, and of more from Tampico having landed at Bagdad, Mexico, who will follow. The danger to Texas is by land, there being little or no communication by water now with Brownsville. We need a hospital here to accommodate sick seamen, this being the principal port now supplying Central Mexico. The present arrangement is not satisfactory to our citizens. Our city is very healthy and in excellent sanitary condition.

ARTHUR E. SPOHN,  
*Health Physician.*

[Telegram.]

AUSTIN, TEX., *August 21, 1882.*

Hon. H. F. FRENCH,

*Acting Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.:*

Dr. Swearingen, State health officer, is on his way to Austin from Brownsville, and will be sent to Galveston as soon as he returns. If he does not; I have given directions to president board at Galveston.

O. M. ROBERTS, *Governor.*



[Telegram.]

WASHINGTON, August 21, 1882.

GOODRICH, *Acting Collector, Brownsville, Tex.:*

Report number mounted inspectors customs under you. What arrangements exist for land quarantine?

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., August 22, 1882.

J. B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

Three mounted inspectors at Brownsville; nine in northern part of district, which has quarantined against us. But one officer of force besides myself at this port for duty; remainder sick or attending their sick families. Have appointed four temporary officers. State withdrew city quarantine officers on 15th. Quarantine maintained against Matamoras by city authorities, with assistance of customs officers; not effective. On 14th, Mexican steamer "Asturias," from Tampico, landed at Bagdad, Mexico, some forty or more railway laborers. They were quarantined three days, during which time several died. Some sixteen or more of these pilgrims have entered Texas, and gone in direction of Corpus Christi. One left behind with fever placed in hospital here. Fever is being carried to the ranches by these parties and families flying from the city.

E. H. GOODRICH,  
*Acting Collector.*

[Telegram.]

AUGUST 22, 1882.

Doctor SPOHN, *Corpus Christi, Tex.:*

As soon as possible close cordon will surround Brownsville, to prevent infected persons and baggage from leaving city. There will then be no necessity for anything but inspection stations at Corpus Christi. Stations can be managed by the ordinary guards. You will be informed when Brownsville is invested. See instructions to collector. One hospital tent will be shipped.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

AUGUST 22, 1882.

Assistant Surgeon CARTER, *Memphis, Tenn.:*

Ship hospital tent to Dr. Spohn, Corpus Christi, Tex.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*



[Telegram.]

AUGUST 22, 1882.

COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, *Corpus Christi, Tex.:*

Direct deputy collector at Laredo to use inspectors of customs on lines of railroad coming from Mexico into Laredo. Baggage and freight from Mexico must be detained and fumigated before allowing it to proceed to other points in the State. Persons and baggage belonging to Laredo may pass without detention. Issue same instructions to inspectors of customs at or near Corpus Christi as to railroads and water lines. Allow transportation through baggage from Laredo with proper certificate. Baggage and freight from intermediate towns between Laredo and Corpus Christi detain and fumigate unless owners prove no communication with Brownsville.

H. F. FRENCH,  
*Acting Secretary.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *August 22, 1882.*

J. B. HAMILTON,  
*Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*  
Fifty-four new cases fever; four deaths.

E. H. GOODRICH,  
*Acting Collector.*

[Telegram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., *August 22, 1882.*

Surgeon-General J. B. HAMILTON,  
*Marine-Hospital Service, Washington, D. C.:*

A cordon around Brownsville is now impracticable and useless. All persons who can leave there left. A cordon cannot be placed around Matamoras; authorities here adhere to present arrangements to guard the country south of the railroad, as many of the ranches south of the railroad are full of people from Brownsville and Matamoras. No change from the present arrangement can accomplish the object in view. I speak advisedly, knowing the country well.

ARTHUR E. SPOHN,  
*Health Physician, A. A. Surg. M.-H. Service.*



[Telegram.]

AUGUST 23, 1882.

GOODRICH, *Acting Collector of Customs, Brownsville, Tex.:*

Muster into Marine-Hospital Service sufficient number guards to make quarantine effective, reporting number and rate of pay. Inform mayor. Surgeon and supplies will be at Galveston to-day *en route* for Brownsville.

H. F. FRENCH,  
*Acting Secretary.*

[Telegram.]

AUGUST 23, 1882.

COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, *Corpus Christi, Tex.:*

Muster sufficient number of men into Marine-Hospital Service to make cordon between Laredo and Corpus Christi effective, reporting number and rate of pay.

H. F. FRENCH,  
*Acting Secretary.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *August 23, 1882.*

J. B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

Fifty-three new cases fever; two deaths.

E. H. GOODRICH,  
*Acting Collector.*

[Telegram.]

AUGUST 23, 1882.

Doctor SPOHN, *Corpus Christi, Tex.:*

Supervise all professional matters in your district, and consult with collector regarding cordon from Laredo to Corpus Christi. Charter tug if necessary.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

AUGUST 23, 1882.

Assistant-Surgeon COOKE, *Galveston, Tex.:*

On arrival Surgeon Murray, inform him that he must take to Brownsville four doctors, eight nurses, barrel of sulphur, mustard, champagne, &c. Help him obtain medical aid. Doctor Spohn and collector at Corpus Christi have been directed to establish cordon Corpus Christi to Laredo.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

GALVESTON, TEX., *August 23, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Arrived at 6 P. M. Expect to sail to-morrow noon. Swearingen absent in quarantine.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*

[Telegram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., *August 23, 1882.*

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY:

In consultation with the marine-hospital surgeon at this port it is decided that as many as seventy-five mounted guards are necessary to establish cordon along line of railroad from Corpus Christi to Laredo; rate of pay, three dollars per day. Am I authorized to charter a special to establish cordon?

S. M. JOHNSON, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., *August 23, 1882.*Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, *Washington, D. C.:*

Your telegram of yesterday received. Have issued instructions to deputy collector at Laredo. There are no mounted inspectors at, or near Corpus, and the local inspector here is occupied all the time receiving bonded goods from foreign steamers. Shall I appoint a special inspector for the railroad trains from Laredo?

SAM. M. JOHNSON,  
*Collector of Customs.*

[Telegram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., *August 23, 1882.*

JOHN B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General Marine-Hospital Department, Washington, D. C.:*

Your instructions will be enforced immediately. The local authorities request me to ask you if the expenses incurred in guards up to date will be assumed by the Department.

A. E. SPOHN,  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon.*



[Telegram.]

AUGUST 24, 1882.

MURRAY, *Surgeon,**Care Doctor Cooke, Galveston, Tex.:*

Cooke has orders for you. Take cots with you; none at Brownsville. Report from Point Isabel and Brazos. Forward certified bills here.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

AUGUST 24, 1882.

Doctor SPOHN, *Corpus Christi, Tex.:*

Pay and expenses chargeable to the Department from date of muster into its service; cannot pay back expenses. You must have competent assistants for each town between Laredo and Corpus Christi. Refugees must not be allowed to cross railroad except after proper detention and fumigation. Household effects must be interdicted.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

AUGUST 24, 1882.

Doctor SPOHN, *Corpus Christi, Tex.:*

Instruct postmasters Corpus Christi, Laredo, and intermediate points about fumigation of mails. Expose all mails to fumes of burning sulphur. Letters must be punctured with sharp knife, not less than six cuts.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

AUGUST 24, 1882.

COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, *Brownsville, Tex.:*

Inform postmaster letters forwarded by mail must be punctured with sharp knife, not less than six cuts, and expose to fumes of burning sulphur. Department has given instructions to allow passage of letter-mail after fumigation as above.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

AUGUST 24, 1882.

JOHNSON, *Collector, Corpus Christi, Tex.:*

Authority granted to employ mounted guards at three dollars per day. You may charter special to establish cordon.

H. F. FRENCH,  
*Acting Secretary.*



[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *August 24, 1882.*

J. B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

Sixty-two new cases; one death.

E. H. GOODRICH,

*Acting Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, *August 25, 1882.*

J. B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

Fifty-one new cases fever; three deaths.

E. H. GOODRICH,

*Acting Collector.*

[Telegram.]

LAREDO, TEX., *August 25, 1882.*

JOHN B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General Marine-Hospital Service, Washington, D. C.:*

Cordon from Corpus Christi to Laredo perfected; also extended New Laredo by Mexican authorities, acting in conjunction with us.

A. E. SPOHN,

*Acting Assistant Surgeon, Marine-Hospital Service.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *August 26, 1882.*J. B. HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

Fifty-six new cases of fever; three deaths.

E. H. GOODRICH,

*Acting Collector.*

[Telegram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., *August 26, 1882.*

JOHN B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General Marine-Hospital Service, Washington, D. C.:*

We are holding under guard about fifty refugees from the infected district. Seven are from Tampico via Matamoras and Brownsville, the rest from Brownsville; they have neither food nor shelter. Shall we provide for all refugees at expense of the Department? Most of them are indigent.

A. E. SPOHN,

*Acting Assistant Surgeon.*



[Telegram.]

AUGUST 26, 1882.

Doctor SPOHN, *Corpus Christi, Tex.:*

The Department cannot feed any except sick. Apply to the governor for food for poor. After sufficient detention, allow persons to pass without baggage, and after fumigation of clothes worn. Allow no baggage to cross on any pretext.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

AUGUST 26, 1882.

Surgeon MURRAY, *Point Isabel, Tex.:*

Establish inspection station Point Isabel. Instruct postmaster about fumigation of letters. Puncture all letters, six cuts with sharp knife, and expose to fumes burning sulphur.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Letter.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

*Office Sup'g Surgeon-General U. S. Marine-Hospital Service,  
Washington, August 26, 1882.*

SIR: You will forward to this office at the close of each month pay-rolls for the quarantine guards mustered into the Service, made out on the regular pay-roll chargeable to the appropriation for "preventing the spread of epidemic diseases." You will certify the same, and cause them to be receipted, when checks will be forwarded in your care, drawn on the assistant treasurer at New Orleans.

Very respectfully,

JOHN B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General Marine-Hospital Service.*

COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS,

*Corpus Christi, Tex.*

[Letter.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

*Office Sup'g Surgeon-General U. S. Marine-Hospital Service,  
Washington, August 26, 1882.*

SIR: You will forward to this office at the close of each month pay-rolls for the quarantine guards mustered into the Service, made out on the regular pay-roll, chargeable to the appropriation for "preventing



the spread of epidemic diseases." You will certify the same and cause them to be receipted, when checks will be forwarded in your care drawn on the assistant treasurer at New Orleans.

JOHN B. HAMILTON,  
*Surgeon-General U. S. M.-H. S.*

COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS,  
*Brownsville, Tex.,*

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[Letter.]

U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE, DISTRICT OF THE GULF,  
*Port of Brownsville, Tex., Surgeon's Office, August, 28, 1882.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that myself and party arrived here via the R. G. R. R. at dark last evening. Several cases of mild type yellow fever were visited at Point Isabel, and one severe case. On inquiry it was found that there is no necessity for an inspection station there, as the only point necessary to guard is the mouth of the Rio Grande, which is protected by a competent guard.

The postmaster was instructed relative to mail fumigation.

Last night was chiefly spent in visiting patients, all of whom exhibit signs of yellow fever.

This A. M. I visited the relief committee, and as a result of the convention I have assumed the control and expense of the temporary hospital and placed Dr. Finney in it as medical attendant. Dr. Burke is placed in the contract drug-store as pharmacist, while Dr. Towsey and I go into the city as practitioners among the poor. The distress is great, and consternation is increasing, but amid all there is hope of a speedy subsidence of the fever.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. D. MURRAY, *Surgeon.*

Surgeon-General JNO. B. HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.*

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[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *August 28, 1882.*

J. B. HAMILTON,  
*Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C. :*

Forty-six new cases fever, three deaths, for twenty-four hours ending 10 A. M. yesterday. Eighty-two new cases and eight deaths past twenty-four hours. Dr. Murray has arrived.

E. H. GOODRICH,  
*Acting Collector.*



[Telegram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., *August 29, 1882.*SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, *Washington, D. C. :*

I have mustered into Marine-Hospital Service one hundred and twenty-five mounted quarantine guards, placing them where Acting Assistant Surgeon Spohn has instructed. A complete cordon from Corpus Christi to Laredo is now established.

SAM. M. JOHNSON, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

AUGUST 29, 1882.

MURRAY, *Surgeon, Brownsville, Tex. :*

Telegraph general condition of affairs.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, *August 29, 1882.*

JOHN B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C. :*

Two of the Tampico tramps reported sent back by our advance guards have died of the fever. We have an advance line of guards on all roads, fifty miles from cordon line, to report movement of refugees. The death of these tramps will create a panic in the ranches. I am re-enforcing the line, and may have to muster two hundred guards. Can you have a company of troops sent from Laredo to San Diego to assist us in keeping this line effective, or shall we rely entirely on the citizens, and do you approve of my increasing the force? Will go over the line in the morning and re-enforce where necessary.

ARTHUR E. SPOHN,

*A. A. Surgeon.*

[Telegram.]

AUGUST 29, 1882.

Surgeon MURRAY, *Brownsville, Tex. :*

Advise mayor to burn all infected bedding. Telegraph general condition of affairs.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*



[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *August 29, 1882.*

J. B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

Hospital organized for sixty patients; sufficient supplies for two weeks; don't need English doctors. Seventy cases, two deaths, past twenty-four hours. Will establish cordon on Arroyo Colorado today, completely investing Brownsville. Six cuts ruin letters. No mail to be sent unless we can slit envelopes. Station at Isabel impracticable. Doctor Towsey sent to Isabel, where there are ten cases, but no deaths.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*  
GOODRICH, *Collector.*  
CARSON, *Mayor.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *August 30, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Condition hopeful. Don't need doctors if local physicians are employed. Shall I pay them for visiting sick? Answer.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*

[Telegram.]

AUGUST 30, 1882.

Doctor SPOHN, *Corpus Christi, Tex.:*

Re-enforce line so far as is necessary, and with due regard to economy, but keep your cordon tight. Protective cordon now completely investing Brownsville. Put yourself in telegraph communication with Surgeon Murray as to movements of refugees.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

AUGUST 30, 1882.

Surgeon MURRAY, *Brownsville, Tex.:*

Keep Dr. Spohn, in charge of Laredo and Corpus Christi cordon, informed movements of refugees and other matters. Inform Cooke by telegraph supplies needed next shipment to Brownsville. Use your judgment about method fumigation of letters. Instructions heretofore given were those used in Europe time of plague.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*



[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *August 30, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Fifty new cases; three deaths. Don't need more doctors here. Not increasing at Point Isabel. Fever exists in western parts quarantine districts, for which medicines must be supplied.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*CARSON, *Mayor.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

AUGUST 30, 1882.

MURRAY, *Surgeon, Brownsville, Tex.:*

One doctor sent before your yesterday despatch received. Cannot pay physicians' bills for attending private patients. Direct your assistants to attend hospital cases and inspection stations. Detail one to Rio Grande City if necessary. Cordon must be regularly inspected.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

AUGUST 30, 1882.

Passed Assistant Surgeon COOKE, *Galveston, Tex.:*

Purchase, under paragraph one hundred and seventy-one, supplies on order Surgeon Murray, to go by next cutter in about ten days; sooner if necessary.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *August 31, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Sixty new cases, two deaths, past twenty-four hours. Dr. Melon sick. Hidalgo County quarantining Brownsville. Arroyo Colorado cordon from Santa Maria to Gulf in perfect condition. No known fever outside. Letters sent in perforated envelopes. Eight new cases, one death, at Point Isabel. When can cutter leave Galveston?

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*COMBE, *Health Officer.*

[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 1, 1882.

Surgeon MURRAY, *Brownsville, Tex.:*

Cutter can leave Galveston any day.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*



[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 1, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Seventy-one new cases reported. Some are evidently reported twice. Three deaths. Inspectors report no known fever in the ranches or north of Arroyo.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*

COMBE.

GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 2, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

One hundred and three new cases reported. Five deaths past twenty-four hours.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*

COMBE.

GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 2, 1882.*

Surgeon-General HAMILTON,

*Marine-Hospital Service, Washington, D. C.:*

Dr. Murray considers his authority and instructions confine his action to care of sick in hospital. Nine-tenths of our sick poor refuse to go to hospital, and have to be treated at their homes. Dr. Murray brought hospital accommodations for about thirty patients. We have over five hundred sick who need *gratuitous* medical care and medicines. All our present resources are barely adequate to relief of destitute. Can you instruct Dr. Murray to take charge of entire sick poor, and furnish him instantly with physicians and medicines to do so promptly and effectually? or otherwise we must appeal to the public for further help to enable us to do so.

THOS. CARSON, *Mayor.*

[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 2, 1882.

Surgeon MURRAY, *Brownsville, Tex.:*

Mayor Carson complains that sick outside of hospital not attended by you. Government cannot support Brownsville, but will give necessary aid in attending yellow-fever patients at proper places. See mayor and make your recommendation.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*



[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 4, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

One hundred forty-eight cases reported for two days; ten deaths. Cordon on Arroyo and river effectual. No emigrants from Mexico, and no refugees from here. Eight mild cases at Point Isabel. One death yesterday. Some disease in eastern ranches on river.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 5, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Sixty-seven new cases reported; one death.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*COMBE, *Health Officer.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 6, 1882.

COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, *Corpus Christi, Tex.:*

No pay-rolls received for guards. Forward certified pay-rolls at once, and checks will be sent.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 6, 1882.

GOODRICH, *Collector of Customs, Brownsville, Tex.:*

No pay-rolls received for guards. Forward certified pay-rolls at once, and checks will be sent.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Letter.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

*Office Sup'g Surgeon-General, U. S. Marine-Hospital Service,**Washington, September 6, 1882.*

SIR: I forward by this mail blank clinical records, sick reports, &c., which you are requested to use, if necessary, in compiling your report of the epidemic at Brownsville. I desire that this report should be



as thorough and complete as practicable, and to that end have to request that you will use all possible endeavors to make the record full and satisfactory. I suggest that the report, when completed, be accompanied with a meteorological statement from the signal observer at Brownsville, and that a sketch map of Brownsville be prepared showing the elevation and topography of the city and environs.

The monthly medical and surgical reports, Forms 1920 and 1921, should only show the cases admitted to treatment under your charge.

Very respectfully,

JOHN B. HAMILTON,  
*Surgeon-General M.-H. S.*

Surgeon R. D. MURRAY,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service, Brownsville, Tex.*

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[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 6, 1882.*

Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C. :*

Forty-nine new cases reported; two deaths in past twenty-four hours. Two cases fifteen miles above on river. Established quarantine for refugees at Santa Maria, with quarters, wood, and water for fifty or sixty people. Will insist on ten days' detention, with thorough fumigation. No cost to the service. The Arroyo cordon bids fair to confine the disease; are not allowed to send mail to Pena, the first railroad station on mail route.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*  
COMBE, *Health Officer.*  
GOODRICH, *Collector.*

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[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 7, 1882.*

Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C. :*

Forty-eight new cases reported, two deaths, past twenty-four hours. Disease diminishing, but more virulent. Pena still refuses to pass our mail. No accounts from here till mail has transit. Have I authority to fumigate houses and improve sanitary condition of city? Cordon on river and Arroyo confines all present fever. Is the Laredo cordon of any service?

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*



[Letter.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *September 7, 1882.*

SIR: I transmit herewith a report by the Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service on the present condition of the yellow-fever epidemic at Brownsville, in Southwestern Texas, and concur in his recommendation relative to the releasing of all inland quarantines north of the cordon extending from Corpus Christi to Laredo, now under the control of this Department.

Very respectfully,

H. F. FRENCH,  
*Acting Secretary.*

Hon. O. M. ROBERTS, *Governor of Texas.*

[Letter.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

*Office Sup'g Surgeon-General U. S. Marine-Hospital Service,**Washington, September 7, 1882.*

SIR: I have the honor to report to you, for the information of the governor of Texas, that two cordon lines have been established in southwestern Texas, one extending from Corpus Christi, on the Gulf, to Laredo, on the Rio Grande river, on the south side of the railroad between the two places, and also a protective cordon from Santa Maria, on the Rio Grande, down the Valley of the Arroyo to the Gulf. No known cases of fever exist now between the two cordon lines. Moreover, the fever at Brownsville is rapidly exhausting its material, and is manifestly decreasing from day to day. In view of these facts, it now seems proper, in the interest of trade, that you transmit this information to the governor of Texas, with the request that, if he concur in the recommendation, he issue a proclamation releasing all inland local quarantines in Texas north of the outer cordon.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. HAMILTON;  
*Surgeon-General M.-H. S.*

Hon. CHAS. J. FOLGER,  
*Secretary of the Treasury.*

[Letter.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

*Office Sup'g Surgeon-General U. S. Marine-Hospital Service,**Washington, September 7, 1882.*

SIR: In view of the fact that a report will have to be made to the Secretary of the Treasury on the conclusion of the epidemic, and further, for the information of this office, you are directed to prepare a full



report concerning the business and operation of the cordon under your charge as speedily as possible. For immediate information, I desire to know what is the distance patrolled by each guard. How many guards are there now in active service? How many hours are they off and on? Is the service carefully performed at night?

The news from Brownsville is thus far most encouraging. The Arroyo cordon is so far effectual. It looks now as if the disease would be confined to the immediate vicinity of Brownsville, which is gratifying in the extreme, if the result shall sustain the present appearances.

As soon as deemed proper to do so, you will be directed by telegraph to dissolve your cordon. Before so doing, however, it is desired that every ranch in this space between the Arroyo cordon and the cordon under your charge be inspected. This can best be done by your guards, after which they can be mustered out of service. It is believed to be perfectly practicable to do this, and I leave the details of its carrying out to your discretion, only premising that any ranches where cases of sickness have occurred of a suspicious character should be thoroughly fumigated, and a memorandum taken of the sanitary conditions of the place, &c., in order that it may be identified in case of a second outbreak of fever. If any cases of undoubted yellow fever have occurred at any ranch, the bedding should be destroyed. Please regard so much of these instructions as relates to the inspection of ranches as confidential until you are directed by telegraph to carry them into effect, which may, of course, be several weeks hence, although it now appears likely that it may be done sooner.

I have this day written to the health officer at Texas, Doctor Swearingen, suggesting this inspection of ranches, as it is evident it will require some authority of the governor for the guards to have the right of search of the premises, and will await his reply before giving you telegraphic instructions. If the inspection is made, it seems to me that the cordon guard can be deployed as skirmishers, marching towards the Arroyo cordon. The Arroyo cordon will be kept in operation for some weeks later.

Very respectfully,

JOHN B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General M.-H. S.*

A. A. Surgeon ARTHUR E. SPOHN,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service, Corpus Christi, Tex.*



[Letter.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
*Office Sup'g Surgeon-General U. S. Marine-Hospital Service,*  
*Washington, September 7, 1882.*

SIR: You are doubtless aware of the two *cordons sanitaire* in the southwestern portion of Texas, and I will not describe them in this letter. I write for the purpose of suggesting that, as soon as the yellow fever has exhausted its material at Brownsville, which it now seems likely to do at no very distant day, an inspection of the ranches in the space now confined between the two cordons, be made as early as practicable, as the guards on the outer cordon, namely, that from Corpus to Laredo, will be mustered out of service as soon as the epidemic has disappeared. They can, however, be utilized for the purpose of inspecting these ranches. It will, in my opinion, be of material effect, in preventing a future outbreak of the fever, that all baggage, &c., belonging to refugees from Brownsville or remaining in ranches which have been infected by yellow fever, and which may have possibly escaped the attention of those whose duty it was to report it, should be thoroughly fumigated or destroyed if necessary. It is evident that, under existing law, the quarantine guards cannot perform this service unless clothed with proper authority from the governor. In case you coincide with these views, I would suggest that you advise the governor in this matter, and co-operate with Doctor Spohn in carrying out the details of the inspection. Please notify me immediately of the governor's action in this case, in order that there may be no delay in commencement of operations, as the guards cannot be kept under pay when there is no longer any service for them. Should your views be different, inform me as soon as practicable, and oblige,

Yours, respectfully,

JOHN B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General M. H. S.*R. M. SWEARINGEN, M. D., *Health Officer, Austin, Tex.*

[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 7, 1882.

Dr. SPOHN, *Corpus Christi, Tex.:*

Quarantine officer at Pena is holding letters from Brownsville, notwithstanding they have been fumigated. Cause him to allow them to pass after second fumigation at Pena.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*



[Telegram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., *September 8, 1882.*Surgeon-General JOHN B. HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C. :*

We have passed the Brownsville mail, but the postmaster at Pena refuses to receive it. Will go out to Pena to-night, and pass it through if possible.

ARTHUR E. SPOHN.

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 8, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C. :*

Fifty-seven new cases reported; four deaths. Some mild cases at Isabel. No refugees from here. Destitution fully relieved.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*COMBE, *Health Officer.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 8, 1882.

MURRAY, *Surgeon, Brownsville, Tex. :*

You have authority to fumigate houses on request of health officer. Cordon on river and Arroyo under joint charge yourself and collector. All professional directions must come from you.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 8, 1882.

Doctor SPOHN, *Corpus Christi, Tex. :*

¶ [Murray reports Pena still refuses to pass Brownsville mail. Report where the obstruction is.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 9, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C. :*

Fifty-seven new cases fever. Three deaths from yellow fever.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*COMBE, *Health Officer.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*



[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 10, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C. :*

Fifty-two new cases reported; three deaths. Overflow river prevents all exit from Brownsville in vehicles.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*COMBE, *Health Officer.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 10, 1882.

Doctor SWEARINGEN, *Health Officer, Austin, Tex. :*

Surgeon Murray thinks lower cordon now sufficient. Please answer letter of 7th September by telegraph, after consultation with governor.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 11, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C. :*

Fifty-eight new cases reported. No deaths from fever.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*COMBE, *Health Officer.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 12, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C. :*

Fifty-seven new cases; reported death Customs Inspector C. Malley.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*COMBE, *Health Officer.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

AUSTIN, TEX., *September 12, 1882.*

SIR: I have received your telegram of 10th, and letter of the 7th, and have submitted them to the governor. As no infection has developed outside the lower cordon, the governor thinks, and I concur, that an inspection of the vast territory suggested by you is unnecessary. By the strengthening the line on the Arroyo Colorado, the Corpus Christi and Laredo cordon can in a short time be safely with-



drawn. Only county quarantines exist north of it at present, and by our law any county or town can declare and maintain quarantines at will against infected places.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

R. M. SWEARINGEN.

Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *M.-H. S., Washington, D. C.*

[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 12, 1882.

COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, *Corpus Christi, Tex.:*

Acting secretary directs that you disband cordon to-morrow. Forward receipted pay-rolls here for settlement. Direct Doctor Spohn to continue inspection station at New Laredo.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 12, 1882.

Surgeon MURRAY, *Brownsville, Tex.:*

Laredo and Corpus Christi cordon will be disbanded to-morrow. Strengthen your cordon if necessary.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., *September 12, 1882.*

JOHN B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

Guards on Brownsville road, forty miles from here, report three cases of fever and one death yesterday in camp of refugees. If cordon is disbanded, can you retain a few guards in the Service to hold these refugees a sufficient length of time for safety?

A. E. SPOHN.

[Telegram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., *September 12, 1882.*

J. B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General Marine-Hospital Service, Washington, D. C.:*

Do not know your reason for ordering disbandment of cordon, but, being on the spot, think it inexpedient to do it too abruptly. A gradual reduction is suggested as preferable, as the danger is still imminent. Answer.

TOM OCHILTREE.



[Telegram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., *September 13, 1882.*

J. B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General, Marine-Hospital Service, Washington, D. C.:*

Have examined cordon matters carefully. To abolish it entirely would be exceedingly dangerous. Refugees in camps between this and Brownsville reported dying with fever. Doctor Spohn goes to said camps to investigate, and respectfully suggest suspension of disbandment till he returns. Am convinced the force can be reduced two-thirds and be thoroughly efficient. Collector Johnson and Doctor Spohn agree with me in above.

TOM OCHILTREE.

(Sent by Sam. M. Johnson, Collector of Customs.)

[Telegram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., *September 13, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

I will go and investigate country between Corpus Christi and Brownsville cordon to-day. It will take four days. Please hold cordon if you can until I return.

A. E. SPOHN.

[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 13, 1882.

Doctor SPOHN, *Corpus Christi, Tex.:*

Detail necessary men from quarantine force. Surround refugees' camp. Detain them ten days, and fumigate. Arroyo cordon reported effectual for last ten days. Inform me when these refugees left Brownsville.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 13, 1882.

COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, *Corpus Christi, Tex.:*

Hold cordon four days longer.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 13, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Thirty-one cases reported; three deaths. Arroyo cordon prevents refugeeing. Country nearly overflowed. No refugees.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*COMBE, *Health Officer.*



[Telegram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., *September 14, 1882.*

J. B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

Taylor, assistant surgeon, Fort Ringgold, reports forty cases fever at Mier, Mexico, introduced in goods from Matamoras on 11th. Refugees going from Mier to Monterey.

JOHNSON, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

AUSTIN, TEX., *September 14, 1882.*

SIR: Yellow fever has appeared at Reynosa, Camargo, and Mier, Mexico, opposite the county of Hidalgo, and the towns of Rio Grande City and Roma, Tex. Will you please establish a line of mounted guards, connecting with north end of your lower cordon and extending twenty miles above Roma. Roma is the danger point, and a highway to the interior. If you cannot grant entire application, give us guards to front Reynosa, Camargo, and Mier. We have no money to meet these heavy demands, and must again ask for aid.

Your obedient servant,

R. M. SWEARINGEN,

*Surgeon, Health Officer.*

Surgeon-General HAMILTON,

*Marine-Hospital Service, Washington, D. C.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 14, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Thirty-two cases reported, including relapses and intermittent cases; no deaths. Force of disease broken.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*COMBE, *Health Officer.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 15, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Twenty-four cases reported; no deaths. No cases above Arroyo unless from Mexico. Some mild cases in ranches near here, that originated here. Please help us to get mail.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*COMBE, *Health Officer.*



[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 15, 1882.

COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, *Corpus Christi, Tex.:*

Consult with Doctor Spohn regarding reduction of force on cordon, but do not discontinue cordon. Guards have been ordered opposite Mier, Camargo, and Reynosa.

H. F. FRENCH,  
*Acting Secretary.*

[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 15, 1882.

COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, *Brownsville, Tex.:*

Use your inspectors at Roma, Rio Grande, and Edinburg, if practicable; otherwise muster into Marine-Hospital Service and place quarantine guards at crossings opposite Mier, Camargo, and Reynosa.

H. F. FRENCH,  
*Acting Secretary.*

[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 15, 1882.

Dr. R. M. SWEARINGEN,

*Health Officer, Austin, Tex.:*

Guards have been ordered opposite Mier, Camargo, and Reynosa.

H. F. FRENCH,  
*Acting Secretary.*

[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 15.

Surgeon MURRAY, *Brownsville, Tex.:*

Upper cordon will not be removed for the present.

P. H. BAILHACHE, *Surgeon.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 16, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Eighteen new cases reported; two deaths. Fifteen guards mustered for Hidalgo and Starr Counties. Overflow encroaching Brownsville, and renders travel difficult.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*  
COMBE, *Health Officer.*



U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,  
DISTRICT OF THE GULF,

*Port of Corpus Christi, Tex., Surgeon's Office, September 16, 1882.*

DOCTOR: I received your letter of the 31st August a few days ago, and delayed answering until I could hear from the country between Corpus Christi and Brownsville, which I have given you in a letter of this date reporting my visit to the camp of refugees. We had in all five camps—one at the head of Padre Island, one at a crossing called La Rita, one at Banquitti, and two near the rancho Los Olimas. Besides these camps, we had a family of eleven persons in quarantine near Corpus Christi. In the first camp there were seventeen, who left Brownsville on the 26th of August; in the second, fifteen, who left Brownsville on the 24th of August; in the third, five, who left Brownsville on the 22d of August; and the two near Los Olimas, described in my letter of to-day, containing in all sixteen, left Brownsville and Point Isabel on the 16th and 24th of August; with the eleven in quarantine near Corpus, in all sixty-four, besides many more who came to our line and turned back rather than be held in camps. I have not included in the above San Diego and Laredo, but about twenty-five miles extending from Corpus Christi to Banquitti. Our guards have done excellent work—in fact, are men who have their families here and are determined to allow no communication with any infected parts. I will send two of the guards to-day to examine the country nearer the Brownsville cordon. After they return, if satisfactory, more of the guard can be discharged, or, if necessary, moved to protect the country between Mier and Laredo. They have not sufficient Americans to make an effective guard between Laredo and Mier, and a Mexican guard cannot be depended on. My men are nearly all "cow-boys," who know every path, water-hole, and crossing between the Gulf and Rio Grande, by night as well as day, and can be relied on. We had difficulty in getting good guards at Laredo, as most of the men there are railroad hands, who know nothing about the country, and if sent out in the brush would never get back without assistance. I appointed Doctor King my assistant at Laredo, and Doctor Wright at San Diego. Would recommend they be allowed five dollars (\$5) per day, and I think I should have extra pay for this quarantine duty. I have been on the road almost constantly, which is a serious injury to me in my practice, which is very extensive. I think about ten dollars (\$10) a day would be just. In my report I will give full particulars of the cordon.

Very respectfully,

ARTHUR E. SPOHN.

(Unofficial.)

*To Surgeon-General M.-H. S., Washington, D. C.*



U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,  
DISTRICT OF THE GULF,

*Port of Corpus Christi, Tex., Surgeon's Office, September 16, 1882.*

SIR: I have just returned from the camp of the refugees, reported sick, seventy-five miles from this city, on the Brownsville road. When first reported they were only forty-five miles from Corpus Christi, their camp having been changed, on account of scarcity of wood and water. In one camp there are two persons, who left Point Isabel on the 16th of August. They are healthy, and have not been in communication with the other camp, and as soon as their clothing can be washed and fumigated they will be allowed to pass.

In the other camp there are twelve—one from Point Isabel, the rest from Tampico, via Matamoras and Brownsville. The man from Point Isabel told me that he left there on the 24th of August, in company with a Frenchman, whose name he does not remember. When four days out, (they were walking,) his companion was taken sick with fever. The next day he missed him, and after searching some time found him lying under a tree dead. He left him, and does not know whether he was buried or not; but tried to tell some Mexicans, and thinks they buried him. The other party say they were ordered to leave that city (Brownsville) about the 16th of August, and came until stopped by some of the guards. They went into camp and were furnished provisions by this county. The guards issued five days' rations at once, and heard no complaint of sickness until the man died. I suppose they were afraid to say they had sickness in the camp, for fear of being held longer. This man took sick on the 6th of September, and died on the 11th. They say he had brain fever; could not retain anything on his stomach, and was delirious three days before he died. Three of the others have been sick, but are now convalescent, and complain of being very weak. I gave each of them a new suit of clothes, ordered the old ones burned, and that they be removed to a new camp. The man who died is named I. W. McCarty, No. 63 Fifth avenue, Albany. I visited several of the ranches in the vicinity, and could not hear of any sickness or refugees. It would be almost impossible for any refugees to reach our line. The people on the ranches, being very much frightened, allow no person to come to their houses, and turn them back. I was told that the rancho Los Olimas turned back between forty and fifty refugees on the 12th. This ranch is about eighty miles from Corpus Christi on the Brownsville road. There may be more refugees nearer Brownsville, satisfied when out of danger, not caring to come to our line. We reduced the guard to-day to between



seventy and eighty, and will be able to do good service. We now anticipate danger from Mier, Mexico. It is strange the fever has not broken out in Camargo, built on a low flat between two rivers, while Mier is built on a hill of limestone rocks, well drained, and one of the healthiest points on the river. I lived there two years, and do not remember ever having seen a case of ague. Mier must now contain about ten thousand inhabitants; is one hundred and sixty miles from Matamoras and Monterey. With the present facility for travelling, it takes but two days and a half to go from Mier to Laredo via Monterey or up the river. While the fever was confined to Matamoras, I was satisfied with the Mexican quarantine, but now, threatened from Mier also, I do not feel secure, and recommended cutting off communication at Laredo. I have very little confidence in their quarantine. The mayor of New Laredo is a gentleman in favor of strict quarantine, but he has not the approval of his government, and the Mexican people do not believe there is any protection in it. I know they are very careless and take no caution to prevent epidemic spreading among them. Many persons coming from Monterey have told me no examination was made on entering New Laredo, and on the 14th the stage left Mier with the mail, and I suppose passengers, arriving in Laredo in the evening of the 15th. The authorities claim they did not know there was any sickness in Mier; still it was their duty to find out. We have no sickness of any kind in Corpus or vicinity; and if you will try and give us the guards a little longer, with the co-operation of the citizens I think we can prevent the disease spreading to Texas.

Very respectfully,

ARTHUR E. SPOHN,

*Acting Assistant Surgeon M.-H. S.*

JOHN B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.*

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[Telegram.]

WASHINGTON, *September 16, 1882.*

Surgeon MURRAY, *Brownsville, Tex. :*

Mail ordered to Galveston, to go by first steamer or revenue cutter.  
When will you need cutter to carry supplies?

BAILHACHE, *Surgeon.*



[Telegram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., *September 16, 1882.*

JNO. B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

Just returned. Refugees held under guard. Guards will be reduced. Have no confidence in Mexican quarantine. Would recommend stopping communication with Mexico at Laredo. Will write fully.

A. E. SPOHN.

[Telegram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., *September 17, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Fever in Reynosa and Carmargo; also extending to ranches above Brownsville, on Corpus Christi road. Would recommend to move this cordon, *increased*, south fifty miles, join with Murray's, and hold one strong line from the coast to Rio Grande City, outside the infected district, thence from Rio Grande City to Laredo. Murray's men could hold end near coast and not communicate with Mier.

ARTHUR SPOHN.

[Telegram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., *September 17, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

It is necessary to increase the cordon on account of fever spreading on this side Rio Grande. I must be allowed discretion as when to remove cordon, if I have charge. When necessary to remove, I will notify you, and I know the evil effects of the last reduction. Refugees have flooded the country where the advance guards have been removed.

A. E. SPOHN.

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 17, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Twenty-two new cases; no deaths. Sufficient supplies procurable here at present. No prospective use for cutter. Eight new cases, one death, at Point Isabel.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*COMBE, *Health Officer.*



[Telegram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., *September 18, 1882.*BAILHACHE, *Surgeon, for Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

I recommend moving this cordon south as far as possible, to keep outside of the infected district, and join with Murray's cordon and hold one strong line from the Gulf coast to Rio Grande City, then a line from Rio Grande City to Laredo.

ARTHUR E. SPOHN.

[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 18, 1882.

Surgeon MURRAY, *Brownsville, Tex.:*

Dr. Spohn recommends moving upper cordon south as far as possible, to keep outside of the infected district and join Murray's cordon, and hold one strong line from the Gulf coast to Rio Grande City, then a line from Rio Grande City to Laredo. What do you say? Consult with Spohn if necessary.

H. F. FRENCH,  
*Acting Secretary.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE TEX., *September 18, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Twenty-seven cases reported; one death. All distress fully met by contributions on hand. Confidence being restored. No disease beyond Arroyo.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*  
COMBE, *Health Officer.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 19, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Nineteen new cases; four deaths. Reply to telegram will be sent when couriers return to-morrow.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*  
COMBE, *Health Officer.*



[Te'egram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., *September 19, 1882.*

J. B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General M.-H. S., Washington, D. C. :*

Am thoroughly satisfied all Mexico, from Brownsville to Laredo, should be quarantined against. Captain Dick King and others agree to it, and Dr. Spohn, whose management here has been brave, judicious, and able, should be invested with great discretion in the future, as in the past. So far your course has been admirable.

TOM OCHILTREE.

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 20, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C. :*

Fourteen cases reported; one death. City full of Matamoras people. Attack being made on legality of Arroyo cordon. No action possible until governor decides jurisdiction.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., *September 20, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C. :*

"To the Collector of Customs and Health Officer, Corpus Christi, Tex.: We, the committee appointed by the citizens of Laredo, in mass meeting assembled, do herewith protest against any reduction of the present quarantine guard now acting, under direction of the United States military hospital authorities, between Corpus Christi and Laredo, and ask for their continuance, for the reason that the yellow fever has now passed the limits of Matamoras and Brownsville, and is actually in the town of Mier, Mexico, and a ranch on the Texas side, over one hundred miles above the Brownsville cordon, and sixty miles below this place. Please forward these resolutions to the United States Secretary, by telegraph, at our expense, and oblige J. P. Arthur, health officer, city of Laredo; M. Mullin, M. D.; C. G. Brewster, chairman committee; F. C. Ainsworth, captain and assistant surgeon, U. S. A., Fort McIntosh; J. H. King, U. S. M.-H. S."

Transmitted :

S. M. JOHNSON, *Collector.*A. E. SPOHN, *U. S. M.-H. S.*



[Telegram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., *September 20, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Murray telegraphs me he thinks there is no fever above his cordon. The whole Mexican side is infected to Mier. We think there is no danger south of us, but great danger from the upper Rio Grande. Families crossed from Mier before the fever was reported. Some came as far as San Diego, were stopped by our guards. Too late now to move this cordon, and it should be strengthened from San Diego to Laredo. If this line is not strong, the fever will extend to Southern Texas and the coast towns.

SPOHN.

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 20, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Quarantine against Matamoras raised by Mayor Carson, and guard arrested for stopping ferry. Unless our guards are sustained by State authorities, the cordon is futile and should be disbanded. Some conflicts must arise along whole line. Restrictions here, under our control, are necessary to prevent influx of paupers and new material and progress of disease into ranches. Copy sent to governor.

MURRAY, *Surgeon,*  
COMBE, *Health Officer.*

[Telegram.]

AUSTIN, TEX., *September 20, 1882.*

SIR: I have invoked all the power of law to sustain your officer, Doctor Murray, at Brownsville, and trust the State can continue his valuable services.

O. M. ROBERTS, *Governor.*

Surgeon-General HAMILTON,  
*U. S. M.-H. S., Washington, D. C.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 20, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Following telegram received from Governor Roberts: "Have sent following telegram to Mayor Carson: 'Surgeon Murray and Health Officer Combe have entire control of quarantine against Mexico. They can modify if they wish, but not suspend, quarantine until authorized by proclamation.'"

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*  
GOODRICH, *Collector.*



[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 20, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Inspectors report Arroyo cordon perfect, with no sickness outside of or near it. Can prevent the spread of fever if I am sustained against legal quibblers. The Arroyo is the only practicable line for cordon until fever gets five miles or more beyond it. Hidalgo and Starr Counties will not permit transit. Cameron is too large and too healthy to enclose in cordon. River guard is necessary, and full authority essential. Eighteen cases; one death.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*WOLFF, *Health Officer.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Letter.]

U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,

DISTRICT OF THE GULF,

*Port of Corpus Christi, Tex., Surgeon's Office, September 21, 1882.*

SIR: On the 17th instant I telegraphed you recommending moving this cordon south and joining with Murray's cordon to form a line from the Gulf coast to the Rio Grande somewhere near Rio Grande City, and then extend the line to Laredo. I did this because if Murray's cordon is effective there is no necessity for this. Murray telegraphed me on the 19th that he thinks there is no fever outside of his line. I immediately sent three men to examine the ranches between this line and Murray's, and we reduced the cordon at the Corpus Christi end and made it stronger towards Laredo, because there is now more danger from the vicinity of Mier. San Diego is made up of people from Mier, and as soon as fever was announced in Mier I gave instructions to guard against Mier refugees, and several have been turned back. After knowing refugees from Mier were in the country, I thought it would not do to move this cordon south, and telegraphed you to that effect, and that it should be increased from San Diego to Laredo. I ordered all communication cut off with Mexico on the 19th, and sent guards to all the crossings between Laredo and Rio Grande City. Murray has the river guarded from the edge of Zapato County to his line. Yesterday a man was found very sick with fever in the suburbs of San Diego, eleven days from Mier, Mexico. He slipped through the line at night on the 19th. The family he is with, six in all, were immediately removed out of town and put in a tent, the house fumigated, and the houses near guarded, although they had no communica-



tion with him. The case is suspicious, but may not be yellow fever. Mexico is now willing to put on rigid quarantine, but it is too late. Refugees were allowed to enter Monterey, and some died on the road. We cannot take any chances, and have cut off all communication with Mexico. The good result of our cordon is apparent from this fact, that the fever has not spread on this side to any extent, while the whole frontier of Mexico is infected. Will advise you with reference to San Diego by letter.

Very respectfully, yours,

ARTHUR E. SPOHN.

JOHN B. HAMILTON, Esq.,

*Surgeon-General M.-H. S., Washington, D. C.*

—  
[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 21, 1882.

Surgeon MURRAY and Acting Collector GOODRICH,

*Brownsville, Tex. :*

Employ sufficient guards for river. Governor Roberts telegraphs he has invoked all power of law to sustain you.

H. F. FRENCH,

*Acting Secretary.*

—  
[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 21, 1882.

Surgeon MURRAY, *Brownsville, Tex. :*

Telegraph deputy collectors between Brownsville and Laredo, and ascertain whether yellow fever exists on Texas side along river or vicinity. Also, whether it exists at Mier, Camargo, or Reynosa, and inform this office.

BAILHACHE,

*For Surgeon-General.*

—  
[Telegram.]

WASHINGTON, *September 22, 1882.*

Doctor SPOHN, *Corpus Christi, Tex. :*

Inform president board of health, New Orleans, at his expense, of sanitary conditions Corpus Christi. Will answer your telegram about upper cordon after reports received from deputy collectors on Rio Grande.

P. H. BAILHACHE, *Surgeon,*

*For Surgeon-General.*



[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 22, 1882.

Doctor SPOHN and Collector JOHNSON, *Corpus Christi, Tex.:*

River guards now extend from Brownsville to Zapata County. Swing down fifteen or twenty guards to complete river cordon to Laredo, and disband your cordon. Fever in Reynosa, Camargo, Mier, Guerrera, and intermediate ranches; none in Hidalgo or Starr Counties.

H. F. FRENCH,  
*Acting Secretary.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 22, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Eight new cases; one death. Four new cases and one death at Point Isabel. Forceful breaking quarantine for two days has increased the number of paupers.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*  
WOLFF, *Health Officer.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 22, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Have full reports from upper river. Wire has been down. Fever in Reynosa, Camargo, Mier, and Guerrera, and in intermediate ranches. Camargo prohibits oral messages across river. Seventeen deaths in Mier for three days ending Sunday. There is no fever in Starr or Hidalgo Counties for twenty miles above here. We guard to Zapata County. Will need men when river falls. Spohn should swing fifteen men south from Laredo. Law seems to be re-established here.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*  
GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Letter.]

CUSTOM-HOUSE, BROWNSVILLE, TEX.,  
*Collector's Office, September 23, 1882.*

SIR: In obedience to your telegraphic instructions of August 23, 1882, I mustered into Marine-Hospital Service the following-named mounted quarantine guards, at a compensation of five dollars per diem, viz.:



*August 24.*—Wm. H. Putegnat, O. B. Walton, jr., W. O. Reichel, Wm. More, William Wilson, F. M. Campbell, T. B. Russell, Peter Collins, Joseph Webb, John McGovern, E. Baltizer, Jules Lucadon, Martin Hanson, James O'Connor, H. Schreiber, M. Werbiskie, James Dougherty, Christian Stein, Ferdinand Seibert, Chas. F. Tilghman, D. M. Brown, and H. Sherwood.

*August 26.*—J. I. P. Franklin and Chas. F. Durr.

*August 29.*—Miguel Solis.

It was impossible to secure the services of efficient guards at less compensation, on account of sickness existing in nearly every family in the city. The expense of subsisting man and horse on the cordon, and the privations caused by the overflow of the river, which, while materially aiding the effectiveness of the cordon, rendered the service of much greater hardship to the guards.

At midnight of the 24th August, ultimo, a cordon was established from the mouth of the Rio Grande to Santa Maria, a distance of sixty-five miles by wagon-road, the course of the river being at least three times that distance. There being no duly-authorized State health officer outside of the city of Brownsville, upon obtaining the assurance of the county authorities that my action would be sustained by them, I instructed the guards to stop all ferries, haul out of the river or tie up all skiffs and other small boats.

On the 27th August, Surgeon R. D. Murray, Marine-Hospital Service, arrived, and on the 28th personally assumed charge of these guards, and formed a cordon on the Arroyo Colorado, a natural barrier outside of the fever district. The number of guards was increased as the necessity for their services became known, strengthening the cordon as directed. The appointments made for this purpose, together with those in the counties of Hidalgo and Starr, covering the river opposite Reynosa, Camargo, and Mier, will be submitted upon return of the inspectors from the cordon. No mail communication with these counties, and no wire connections other than with Rio Grande City, requiring messages to be sent along the river cordon.

The rate of compensation for the guards in Hidalgo and Starr Counties was fixed at three dollars per diem, as the same reasons for greater pay do not exist there.

Trusting my action may be approved, I am, sir, very respectfully,

E. H. GOODRICH,

*Acting Collector.*

To the SURGEON-GENERAL

MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE, *Washington, D. C.*



[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 24, 1882.

Surgeon MURRAY, *Brownsville, Tex.:*

No sick report from you since 22d. Spohn directed to guard river in Zapata County up to Laredo. Is river cordon complete? How many guards have you on river and Arroyo, and what rate of pay?

BAILHACHE, *Surgeon,*  
*For the Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 25, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

River cordon completed to Zapata County. Have thirty-four mounted guards, at five dollars per day; five foot guards, at two dollars fifty cents, on Arroyo and river cordon and Cameron county. Twenty mounted, at three dollars, on river Starr and Hidalgo Counties. Will need more guards on Arroyo when water falls.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 25, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Saturday, four cases, one death; Sunday, nine cases; to-day, two cases, no deaths. Several cases at Isabel—one death. Relief sent to ranches, but curtailed in city. Can cutter bring accumulated mail from Galveston now? Will she carry out mail?

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*  
WOLFF, *Health Officer.*  
GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, *September 25, 1882.*BAILHACHE, *Surgeon M.-H. S., Washington:*

Four cases of fever in camps of refugees sixty miles from here. One case of black-vomit reported at the Jarita ranch, eight miles this side of Arroyo. Cordon from Laredo to south side of Zapata County perfected; twenty men on duty. Seven men south of Corpus guarding refugees.

A. E. SPOHN.



[Telegram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., *September 26, 1882.*BAILHACHE, *for Surgeon-General, Washington, D. C.:*

Can I keep six guards—two to guard refugees, four general inspection duty—for fear tramps may come through Murray's line; and I think it necessary to keep look out.

A. E. SPOHN.

[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 26, 1882.

Doctor SPOHN, *Corpus Christi:*

Yes. Keep good lookout, and retain the six guards.

BAILHACHE, *Surgeon,*  
*For the Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 26, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Five new cases, one death, here. Isabel, one death—Deputy Collector Davis. River cordon completed to Laredo. No fever on Texas side from twenty miles above this place. Fever increasing at Reynosa, Camargo, and Mier, with great mortality.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*  
GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 26, 1882.

Surgeon MURRAY, *Brownsville, Tex.:*

Doctor Spohn reports case of black-vomit at Jarita ranch, eight miles above Arroyo. Employ more men when necessary. Cutter will carry mail to Brazos on next cruise south, but cannot bring away mail.

JNO. C. NEW,  
*Acting Secretary.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 27, 1882.*

Surgeon-General HAMILTON:

Five new cases; no deaths. Surgeon Murray gone to inspect Jarita and other ranches reported as infected outside cordon, with intention of placing cordon around them, Arroyo remaining as a base, if infection is found. Reports believed to be unfounded.

GOODRICH, *Acting Collector.*



[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 28, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

No new cases; no deaths. Surgeon Murray, at Jarita, reports no fever there, or at other ranches outside cordon reported as infected.

E. H. GOODRICH,  
*Acting Collector.*

[Telegram.]

SEPTEMBER 28.

Doctor SPOHN, *Corpus Christi, Tex.:*

Surgeon Murray visited Jarita ranch. Reports no fever there, or other ranches outside.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 30, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Three new cases fever. One death from yellow fever.

E. H. GOODRICH,  
*Acting Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *September 30, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Eleven new cases of fever. Two deaths from yellow fever. There are several cases intermittent and remittent fever.

GOODRICH, *Acting Collector.*

[Telegram.]

OCTOBER 2, 1882.

Doctor COOKE, *Custom-House, Galveston, Tex.:*

If Surgeon Murray needs any supplies, forward them by cutter which leaves for Brazos to-day.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *October 2, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Four cases, no deaths, since Saturday. Cordon perfect, with no fever beyond it. Closed hospital to-day. Shall surplus supplies be sold to liquidate miscellaneous bills?

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*  
GOODRICH, *Collector.*



[Telegram.]

OCTOBER 3, 1882.

Surgeon MURRAY, *Brownsville, Tex.:*

Destroy hospital-bedding used with yellow-fever patients. Pack medicines, store at custom-house; other appliances must be sold, and proceeds deposited in Government depository. Forward bills for payment. Commissary supplies on hand, if needed to relieve suffering persons, may be issued to relief committee.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *October 6, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Seven new cases, one death, past forty-eight hours.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *October 7, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Five cases the past twenty-four hours; no deaths. Disease continues in ranches, but is not fatal. Continues with severity in Mexican towns.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

OCTOBER 10, 1882.

Surgeon MURRAY, *Brownsville, Tex.:*

Offer your services to local authorities for house inspection, should they deem necessary. Employ your assistants in same service. As soon as work is done, let them proceed to cordon, pass necessary detention, fumigation, and order them home.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *October 10, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Ten new cases and two deaths from yellow fever past seventy-two hours.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*



[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *October 11, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Three cases, no deaths, past twenty-four hours. No fever beyond Arroyo. Towsey at Point Isabel, Tanner at Santa Maria, Burke in garrison. Impracticable to pass assistants through cordon and across country. Will subsist them here.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., *October 12, 1882.*

J. B. HAMILTON,

*Surgeon-General M.-H. S., Washington, D. C.:*

Owing to strict local quarantine between places on the Rio Grande and Mexican interior, large numbers are thrown on the border. Increase force of six men needed on line between Laredo and Rio Grande City. Is the increase authorized?

ARTHUR E. SPOHN,

*Acting Assistant Surgeon M.-H. S.*

NELSON PLATO,

*Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *October 12, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Seven cases past twenty-four hours; no deaths.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *October 13, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Three new cases and one death from yellow fever past twenty-four hours.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

OCTOBER 13, 1882.

Doctor SPOHN, *Corpus Christi, Tex.:*

Increase of six men authorized.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*



[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *October 14, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

One case, no deaths, past twenty-four hours. Disease diminishing in ranches from want of material. None outside of cordon.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *October 18, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Nine cases, one death, since report of 14th. No fever across the cordon. Efforts to nullify results on the part of politicians.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *October 19, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Three cases past day. One death, of recently arrived person. Brisk norther blowing, after hard shower.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*WOLFF, *Health Officer.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *October 21, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington D. C.:*

Three new cases in forty-eight hours; no deaths.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *October 24, 1882.*

Surgeon MURRAY:

As soon as Arroyo cordon can be safely discontinued, do so, and notify this office immediately when safe to dissolve Rio Grande cordon. Report.

HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General.*



[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *October 25, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Fifteen new cases, no deaths, since 21st. Surgeon Murray on cordon.

E. H. GOODWICH,  
*Acting Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *October 26, 1882.*

Surgeon-General HAMILTON :

Eight new cases in twenty-four hours; no deaths. Arroyo cordon will be disbanded at earliest possible moment, but not before the disease subsides at Mier. If disbanded sooner, disease will be carried into the country. The river guards nearly all on the cordon. Murray is compelled to give personal attention on horseback to the protective measures.

E. H. GOODRICH,  
*Acting Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *October 27, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Two new cases past twenty-four hours; no deaths.

E. H. GOODRICH,  
*Acting Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *October 28, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

One new case; no deaths. Murray, on river cordon at Roma, reports fever on increase in Camargo; decreasing slightly in Mier.

E. H. GOODRICH,  
*Acting Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *October 30, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Incoming mail not detained; outgoing detained at Pena Station, on Laredo and Corpus Railroad.

E. H. GOODRICH,  
*Acting Collector.*



[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *November 1, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C. :*

Fifteen cases since Saturday; no deaths. No fever behind the guard line. Have increased the upper river guard. Quarantine against Matamoras raised.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *November 2, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C. :*

Three cases past twenty-four hours; no deaths. One case Santa Maria. Near west end of cordon some fever, and much ague in ranches.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

LAREDO, TEX., *November 2, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C. :*

Your telegram received here yesterday. Officers sent to Pena today to fumigate mails from Brownsville and forward at once.

PLATO, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *November 3, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C. :*

Two cases past day; no deaths. Weather hot and sultry. Ague increasing in town and country.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *November 4, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C. :*

Three cases past day; no deaths. Mail starts on steamer to-day. Out-going mail prohibited transit at Pena, Duval County. All valuable mail has found exit via Monterey, Mexico.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*



[Telegram.]

LAREDO, TEX., *November 4, 1882.*HAMILTON, *Surgeon-General, M.-H. S., Washington, D. C. :*

Owing to extreme heat prevailing, authorities here refuse to permit Pena mail from Brownsville forwarded, even after fumigation. Thermometer ranges high as ninety-two daily. Soon as change of weather occurs, the delayed mails will be fumigated and forwarded.

PLATO, *Collector.*KING, *U. S. M.-H. S.*AINSWORTH, *Assistant Surgeon U. S. A.*J. P. ARTHUR, *City H. O. of Laredo.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *November 5, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C. :*

One case at Point Isabel yesterday. People returning to Mier and Camargo take fever. Seven deaths Camargo third; eleven deaths Mier second and third.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *November 6, 1882.*

Surgeon-General HAMILTON,

*Washington, D. C. :*

Four cases, one death, past two days. Weather hot and calm. Unsafe to discharge guards to-day.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*

[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *November 7, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C. :*

Two cases past day; no deaths. Slight breeze, but no material changes.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*



[Telegram.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEX., *November 10, 1882.*Surgeon-General HAMILTON, *Washington, D. C.:*

Fever cases occur yet, but difficult to get number. Arroyo cordon removed to-day. Receive-guards in Hidalgo and Starr Counties continued.

MURRAY, *Surgeon.*GOODRICH, *Collector.*

The following notice was given in relation to the *cordon sanitaire* at Brownsville:

AVISO AL PUBLICO.

Habiendose establecido un cordon de sanidad, desde la boca del Rio Grande hasta la linea del Condado de Hidalgo y por el Arroyo Colorado hasta el Golfo, con el fin de encerrar y curar la fiebre amarilla que hoy existe en esta poblacion y condado, se les avisa á todos los habitantes del distrito dentro dicho cordon, que esta prohibida la salda, si no es bajo las condiciones que esta oficina establezca y publica.

Las personas que desean salir, pasaran una cuarentena de diez dias, en algun punto de la linea en que no haya enfermedad y bajo la vigilancia de un guarda de la cuarentena. A los ocho dias se han de lavar y sahumar la ropa que llevan, entendiendose que no se les permitan llevar para fuera ropa de cama, ni ropa ó lienzo de lana, ni baules ò otras cubiertas que no han sido sahumados. Pasados los diez dias y estando en buena salud se les dan permiso para salir.

Personas del otro lado del Arroyo Colorado, pueden pasar la linea para dentro con el solo objeto de llevar provisiones ó necesarios de la vida, bajo la condicion que se han de entrar despues de la salida del sol y volver á pasar para fuera el mismo dia antes que se mete el sol.

Pueden mandar mercancías para el Arroyo de Brownsville ó Santa Maria bajo las condiciones siguientes:

Que el conductor de ellas no duerma dentro una casa en el camino y que no lleva ropa ó ropa de cama infectado para la orilla del distrito.

Se ha establecido una estacion de la cuarentena en el rancho del Sr. J. G. Tucker cerca á Santa Maria en donde las personas que quieren salir, pueden pasar los diez dias de la cuarentena, sin gasto para casa, leña ó agua.

A todos los habitantes del distrito fuera de Brownsville, se les recomienda particularmente, á que no admitan en sus casas á personas que residen en el pueblo y que cuando sus negocios les llaman al pueblo, que salgan el mismo dia.

Se desea que estas restricciones sean aplicado con todo la indulgencia posible y se espera que todos se trata de conformarse á ellas,



por que no tienen otro objeto que salvar á vidas preciosas, y el pronto reestablecimiento del trafico y comercio.

Quartel general del cordon de sanidad del Rio Grande y Arroyo Colorado, Brownsville, Texas, Setiembre 11 de 1882.

R. D. MURRAY,  
*Surgeon U. S. M.-H. Service.*  
C. B. COMBE,  
*Deputy State Health Officer.*  
E. H. GOODRICH,  
*Acting Collector of Customs.*

[Translation.]

#### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

A sanitary cordon having been established from the mouth of the Rio Grande to the line of Hidalgo County, and along Colorado river down to the Gulf, for the purpose of confining and stamping out the yellow fever, which now exists in this county, notice is hereby given to all the inhabitants of the district situated within the said cordon that no person is allowed to cross the cordon otherwise than under the conditions prescribed and promulgated by this office.

Persons desiring to leave will pass a quarantine of ten days at some point on the line where there is no disease, and under the supervision of a quarantine guard. On the expiration of eight days the clothing of the persons in quarantine must be washed and fumigated, it being understood that they will not be permitted to carry outside, bedding, woollen clothes, or underwear, and trunks or other packages which have not been fumigated. At the expiration of the ten days persons in good health get a permit to leave.

Persons from the other side of Colorado river may cross the line when coming for the sole purpose of fetching provisions or necessaries of life, under the condition that they must come in after sunrise and leave on the same day before sunset.

Goods may be conveyed across the river from Brownsville or Santa Maria under the following conditions: That the carrier shall not sleep in any house on the way, nor carry infected clothing or bedding across the line of the district.

A quarantine station has been established on the ranche of Mr. J. G. Tucker, near Santa Maria, where the persons desiring to leave may pass the ten days of the quarantine, without charge for room, fuel, and water.

It is particularly recommended to all the inhabitants of the district outside of Brownsville not to admit to their dwellings persons resid-



ing in the city, and not to stay overnight if coming to the city for business.

It is desired that these restrictions should be applied with all possible leniency, and it is expected that all persons will cheerfully submit to them, for the reason that their sole object is the preservation of precious human lives and the prompt re-establishment of trade and intercourse.

Headquarters of the Sanitary Cordon of Rio Grande and Colorado River, Brownsville, Texas, September 11, 1882:

R. D. MURRAY,

*Surgeon U. S. M.-H. Service.*

C. B. COMBE,

*Deputy State Health Officer.*

E. H. GOODRICH,

*Acting Collector of Customs.*







