

International sanitary conference, 3rd, Mexico, 1907

THIRD INTERNATIONAL SANITARY CONVENTION

of

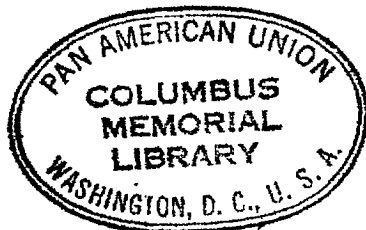
AMERICAN REPUBLICS

INDEXED

Held at the City of Mexico, December 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th,
6th and 7th, in the year 1907.

STENOGRAPHIC MINUTES

(English)



H. McElhone, Official Stenographer
150 Nassau Street,
New York City.
Telephone 4404 Beekman.

Ref
Jx
1980.678
.515.A95
1907
.A71

THIRD INTERNATIONAL SANITARY CONVENTION

of

AMERICAN REPUBLICS.

held at the City of Mexico, December 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th,
6th, 7th, 1907.

December 2nd, (A. M.)

(After remarks of delegate from Ecuador insert:)

SURGEON GENERAL WYMAN: Mr. Vice-President
of the Republic, (etc.) (Mr. Romero has copy.)

(After Dr. Ulloa reads list of members whose cre-
dentials have been examined by Committee:)

SURGEON GENERAL WYMAN: Is that supposed to be a
list of the delegates who are here?

DR. ULLOA: List of the delegates whose creden-
tials have been examined.

SURGEON GENERAL WYMAN: Is Dr. Owens here?

DR. ULLOA: His name is here, ^{in accordance with} ~~but they have the~~
notices from the Department of State.

DR. JOHNSON: Mr. President, I move you that the following gentlemen be invited to be present at the meetings:

(Copy list.)

(AFTER reading of report by delegate from Chili, insert report of Surgeon General Wyman.)

December 3, 11:00 A. M.

(After Dr. Ulloa translates from remarks of representative from Salvador to the effect that tomorrow he will have printed copy of his report in English and in Spanish:)

SURGEON GENERAL WYMAN: Mr. President, we have with us this morning the Secretary of the Bureau of American Republics, who has come from Washington to play his part with us, and to show the interest of the Bureau of American Republics in this Convention. I move you sir, that the privilege of the floor be granted to Mr. Yanes, Secretary of the Bureau of American Republics.

DR. JOHNSON: I second that motion.

(After remarks of Dr. Guiteras:)

SURGEON GENERAL WYMAN: I feel that I should not allow this occasion to go by (etc.)

(Mr. Romero has copy.)

December 4th, 9:00 A. M.

(After Dr. Ulloa speaks and delegate from Ecuador reads paper:)

SURGEON GENERAL WYMAN: Mr. President and gentlemen, I have here an abstract from a paper which I prepared at the request of Secretary Root for consideration by the American Delegates to the Rio Conference in 1906, which embraces principles that I believe should go on the record of this Convention. I have first a series of propositions:

(Insert printed copy.)

Now, the following pages, Mr. President and gentlemen, I have an elaboration of these propositions which I will not take up the time of the Convention in reading now, but which I will hand in to the secretary so that they may appear in the proceedings. I thank you for your attention.

(After Dr. Guiteras speaks concerning Dr. Liceaga's proposition as to the adoption of measures against malaria:)

DR. JOHNSON: Mr. President, I would like to join the other gentlemen in congratulating Dr. Liceaga on the importance of his plans with regard to malaria. I wish to add that in our section of the country malaria is very potent in intensifying the symptoms and the nature and extent of other diseases. It is therefore most important that this disease, which modifies so many other diseases, should be removed from our midst, if that be possible. In the paper which I read at the Second International Sanitary Convention, I drew attention to what appeared to me to be a valuable suggestion with respect to this malady, and selecting a name which would at the same time indicate the etiology. I suggested therefore, that malaria should be known as anopheles fever, on the ground that if the public at large understood the causation of this disease, it would greatly facilitate sanitary work in exterminating this disease, and therefore they would have the support of the public at large. I therefore renew the suggestion on this occasion that we no longer use the term malaria, and

suggest anopheles fever. In the world at large we believed the disease came from bad air. As a matter of fact it came from bad water and is carried about by the mosquito. Now, it is known to be propagated by the mosquito. I would suggest that it be known by the name anopheles fever.

(Dr. Ulloa translates; Drs. Mendizabal, Ulloa, and Arriaga ^{speech} speeches.)

DR. JOHNSON: I simply rise to say that in my paper at the last session I referred to that point, that it should be "mosquito fever", "anopheles fever", "stegomyia fever", indicating the kind of disease. Now, as we progress, there seems to be the suspicion that other mosquitoes are engaged in other diseases -- for instance, dengue fever. I think it is well to use the term "mosquito fever", and indicate which particular kind is referred to. I accept the suggestion of Dr. Ulloa, with that modification.

(After Dr. Ulloa translates remarks of delegate from Brazil:)

(Dr. Ulloa translates remarks of delegate from Brazil.)

SURGEON GENERAL WYMAN: I would like to inquire of the two gentlemen, Dr. Guiteras and Dr. Cruz, whether these are species of the general class of anopheles or not.

DR. GUITERAS: Of the anophelenas, yes. They belong to the anophelene family but they belong to different genera.

DR. VON EZDORF: In line with the proposition of Dr. Liceaga to commence a crusade against malarial fever I might add that since we have acquired the quarantine stations in the south, Mobile and New Orleans -- I can speak for New Orleans-- there we have been detaining all passengers with malarial fever coming from the Central American and Mexican ports, in fact from all the gulf ports in the south. And the same condition has been experienced in my station as with Dr. Guiteras: that all the cases proved to be malarial fever with the exception of twenty which were typhoid fever. I found the malarial parasite in all the cases, proving positively that they were malaria. Nearly all of them proved to be the aestivo autumnal form, and we know this form causes

great deal of difficulty in making a definite diagnosis between yellow fever and malaria. I think it is an excellent idea that we should take the additional precaution to isolate and hold malarial cases at quarantine stations until all doubts are removed as to their being complicated with yellow fever.

The other cases,- the typhoid cases, give us a great deal of trouble in making diagnoses, but the malarial seemed to be the most prominent. I held all such cases of malaria and typhoid fever at the quarantine, premitting the vessel to proceed.

The point I wish to make is that the individual with a fever, be it malaria or typhoid, was held in quarantine at my station for observation and treatment, thereby establishing a practice of quarantine for these diseases. I had no cases of yellow fever this year. It is evident that my practice reduced the possibility of adding infection of malaria and typhoid fever in a community where the spread of these diseases was favored. I consider this practice is justifiable and I favor the recommendation of Dr. Liceaga to isolate malarial fever cases arriving in the active stage of the disease.

(Dr. Ulloa translates Surgeon General Wyman's propositions into Spanish.)

SURGEON GENERAL WYMAN: I beg leave to offer the following resolution:

That the secretary be requested to include in the printed transactions of the Third International Sanitary Convention of the American Republics, a summary of all the formal resolutions adopted successively by the First, the Second and the Third International Sanitary Conventions.

In explanation of this I would state that there are a number of very valuable resolutions relating to sanitary matters that should not be lost sight of and I think it would be advisable to have a review of them in the printed transactions of this session.

I wish also to invite the attention particularly of the committees on trachoma and on yellow fever to the recent treatises on these two subjects which have been published by the Public Health Service of the United States. One is on trachoma and is a very valuable addition to our knowledge of the subject. It is a review of all the latest scientific ideas concerning that disease and a volume which is of great practical value, both

in the diagnosis of the disease and particularly useful in the efforts to keep trachoma cases from entering the country from another country. The second is a very valuable practical work on yellow fever,- its etiology, symptoms and diagnosis, which was prepared particularly for use by physicians who actually come in contact with these cases of yellow fever and with doubtful cases.

3:00 P. M.

(Insert after Dr. Liceaga's remarks following reading of report by delegate from Uruguay.)

DR. VON EZDORF : In order that some of the propositions presented this morning in relation to malaria may become more effective I wish to present the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the permanent Sanitary Bureau at Washington be instructed to distribute regularly information concerning the existence of malaria in their several important cities.

(Insert after Dr. Ulloa's translation of Dr. Liceaga's suggestion to politely decline nominations of Medico-

Legal Society, etc.)

SURGEON GENERAL WYMAN: I did not quite understand the purport of the circulars that were read. Are we invited to name delegates to their convention, or have they sent delegates to this convention?

DR. ULLOA: They have appointed delegates in a very peculiar manner from their honorary vice-presidents to this convention, but I have not myself received any communication from them, although I am one of those named and I suppose the same is the case with the other gentlemen named here.

December 5th, (6:00 P. M.)

(After Dr. Ulloa translates Dr. Liceaga's speech on tuberculosis and Dr. Hugo Roberts speaks.)

DR. VON EZDORF: My idea on the subject of tuberculosis on vessels is that we cannot take any particularly extraordinary measures against tuberculosis in the traveling public; but one measure I think we should take in regard to vessels and that is the examination of crews, to provide that crews at least be free from tuberculosis. I have no idea that

culosis.

As for the other measures, of course there are always some laws or regulations adopted to prohibit expectoration in public places or places where people congregate, and there should always be regulations of that kind on a vessel. There have been a number of suggestions made in this connection and one that I have thought would be applicable is the use of paraffine paper spit cups that could be made in a very cheap form and might even be distributed by means of slot machines, where you could get them for probably a penny or two pennies, with printed directions on the machine how to use the cup and directions for its disposition after it has been used for some time. Provision could be made for the destruction of the expectoration and the cup at one time by fire, which is the best way to disinfect infected expectoration.

I have one other proposition which I think would be a good one, and that is the screening of all the living quarters of a vessel. I believe this is practicable. It would tend to protect the vessel against mosquitoes and flies. On vessels the dining and living quarters frequently swarm with flies, and I have an idea that if

flies come in contact with infected expectoration they may deposit some of the organisms or some of this matter in the food or the milk, or in any of the edibles, and I believe that is one way by which tuberculosis may be spread. I therefore consider that the screening of

all living quarters is advisable on board a vessel.

I had some other points on this subject which I intended to present; I did not know it would be taken up this afternoon.

December 6th (9 A. M.)

(After Dr. Soza's and Dr. Liceaga's remarks.)

DR. von HZDORE: I should like to conclude what I had to say in regard to the transmission of tuberculosis from individuals on board vessels. I mentioned yesterday the advisability of having paraffine paper cups provided on board ship, and also the screening of the vessel, as practical measures.

In regard to vessels carrying passengers, we have to divide the ships into two classes. We have ships that carry a large number of persons, immigrants, etc.,

and others that simply carry cabin passengers, first and second class passengers. We also have ships which make only short voyages, and other ships that make long voyages, so that we have to discuss each one of these separately.

Now in regard to persons on board the ship that is carrying a large number of passengers: I think one of the first measures that we have to consider is that they should be educated to understand that the practice of expectorating promiscuously in places frequented by others may be dangerous to their fellow-men. I think everyone will agree to that, that expectoration is a filthy habit. The second proposition is that all persons should be encouraged to use individual drinking cups, and also cheap paraffine paper cups might be provided for use as expectorating cups--individual cups.

Now a point that I wish to make in regard to the third class passengers, or steerage passengers, whom Dr. Roberts referred to as being the most dangerous individuals on board the vessel and more likely than the other classes to infect the living quarters, because of lack of ventilation and lack of care--is that the only pro-

vision we could make in regard to those passengers is to endeavor to have them understand that they must not expectorate anywhere except in the places provided for that purpose, and one of the most practical measures that I think could be adopted on board ship is the use of the paraffine paper cup already mentioned, to be placed folded into a tin form which might hang along the sides of the bunks. As we know, these large steerage passengervessels are very crowded, and the passengers are in bunks one over the other, sometimes in tiers of three. These cups can be used in case of seasickness and for all ordinary expectoration. I think that is all we can possibly do with regard to that class of passengers.

These cups could be destroyed by fire or, at sea, thrown overboard. That is practicable for any vessel, whether a long-trip or a short-trip vessel.

But with regard to a long-trip vessel where the passage is, say, two or three or four weeks, I think there should be a disinfection of those quarters or barracks of the steerage passengers at the end of each voyage.

With regard to the short-trip vessels, where the passengers are in these steerage barracks for only two or three or four days, I think that periodical disinfection would be quite sufficient.

Whatever measures we wish to adopt should be practical and easy of application, and these have occurred to me as the most practical and easily understood by the steerage passengers that we have to deal with.

As far as the cabin passengers are concerned, I think they can understand instructions, wherever they may be placed in printed form about the cabins.

(After Dr. Ulloa translates Dr. Soza's remarks)

DR. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members of the Convention: In accordance with the preliminary programme, I have the following comments to make with respect thereto. .

(Mr. Rogero has copy.)

(After Dr. von Ezdorf seconds motion to combine all recommendations made to prevent spread of tuberculosis and Dr. Ferrer speaks:)

SURGEON-GENERAL WYMAN: I have a resolution to offer--not on this subject, however. I would like to inquire if it is pertinent or the proper time to introduce it.

(Copy in resolution.)

(Dr. Ulloa translates into Spanish.)

DR. GATEWOOD: Mr. President, I desire to present the following resolution, with a request for reference to the Advisory Committee:

(Copy in resolution.)

(Dr. Ulloa translates.)

SURGEON-GENERAL WYMAN: I beg leave to present to the Convention a report from Dr. A. H. Doty of New York, in compliance with some of the features of the preliminary programme, and he has also transmitted photographs of the work that has been going on in Staten Island for the elimination of mosquitos by drainage of swamps. I will turn this in to the Secretary for such use as he may be able to make of the illustrations or of the articles in question. I would suggest that the photographs

might be left on the tables for the members to examine.

I also wish, Mr. President, to invite attention to some very interesting papers that have been transmitted by Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, Commissioner of Public Health of the State of Pennsylvania. They have come to me since my arrival in Mexico and I have placed them on the table. They show the operations of the Department of Health of the State of Pennsylvania in its several divisions, with a number of photographic illustrations.

Dr. Dixon asked me to kindly transfer these to Dr. Liceaga as President of the Superior Board of Health after they have been examined by the members of this Convention, and I trust that Dr. Liceaga, as President of the Superior Board of Health, will kindly accept them from Dr. Dixon.

(After Dr. Ulloa's translation of Dr. Liceaga's reply:)

SURGEON GENERAL WYMAN: I move that the reading of that report be dispensed with at the present time. I think it would take quite a long while, and it can be included in the proceedings.

(After Dr. Liceaga replies to offer of resolution by delegate from Uruguay:)

DR. GOODE: Mr. President, I would like to offer this resolution. It is possible, however, that it may have been covered in some of the resolutions already offered:

(Copy in resolution.)

(After Dr. Ulloa translates resolution of Dr. Mendizabal copy in recommendation of Dr. Johnson.)

December 7th, 9:30 A. M.

(After Dr. Ulloa translates:)

DR. GATEWOOD: In regard to the matter of this resolution that has just been read to us, I did not altogether understand how the French language came into this and I did not hear anything about the English language in connection with it.

DR. ULLOA: Allow me to correct that to "Spanish English and Portuguese."

(After colloquy between Dr. Ulloa and Dr. Gatewood:)

SURGEON GENERAL WYMAN: I have two resolutions that I think are important, and I suppose they may yet

be considered by the Advisory Council and be reported on this afternoon, or they could be adopted by the Convention right now. Are we to have another report from the Advisory Council?

DR. ULLOA: The President requests you to leave those propositions to be submitted to the consideration of the Convention until we have discussed these recommendations.

(After Dr. Roberts speaks and Dr. Guiteras translates:)

SURGEON GENERAL WYMAN: Yes; I think that those should be referred back to the Advisory Council for amending as requested.

(After Dr. Pagen speaks:)

SURGEON GENERAL WYMAN: Mr. President, I think that is a resolution such as may be sent to the Advisory Council. I have no objection to a vote, but I think we had better retain the form.

(Dr. Guiteras translates.)

SURGEON GENERAL WYMAN: I have a resolution here which also should go to the Advisory Council, on international sanitation. Mr. Secretary, will you kindly translate this after me?

(Copy resolution.)

(Dr. Guiteras translates.)

SURGEON GENERAL WYMAN: I have one more, Mr.

President, concerning the relations between the International Sanitary Bureau and the Bureau of American Republics:

(Copy resolution.)

I will say in submitting these resolutions that I have prepared them in conjunction with Mr. Yanes who represents the Bureau of American Republics here, and that they meet with his approval.

(Dr. Ulloa translates.)

SURGEON GENERAL WYMAN: Mr. President, I have received a telegram this morning from Rome, Italy, from the American representative in Rome, appointed by the Government of the United States to meet the other representatives from other countries in order to form the International Sanitary Bureau of Paris.

The International Sanitary Convention agreed to at Paris provided that later delegates should be sent to Rome to organize the International Sanitary Bureau of Paris. Among the delegates sent to the same was one sent by the United States, Dr. McLaughlin, and in giving him

his instructions I directed him informally to convey to the members present at that conference the resolutions passed at Rio concerning the intercommunications between the International Sanitary Bureau of Washington and the International Sanitary Bureau at Paris. I have a telegram from Dr. McLaughlin which I would like to read, showing that evidently the President of the International Sanitary Bureau of Paris is in hearty accord with the idea of intercommunication between the two Bureaus.

(Copy telegram.)

DR. ULLOA: The President desires to know if this conference is in session yet at Rome.

SURGEON GENERAL WYMAN: They are meeting this month to form the International Sanitary Bureau. They are probably in session now.

(After delegate from Brazil speaks on President Diaz' compliments to Dr. Liceaga, copy in Surgeon General Wyman's speech. Mr. Romero has copy.)

3:00 P. M.

(After Dr. Ulloa reads his resolutions:)

SURGEON GENERAL WYMAN: Gentlemen of the Convention, I move that these resolutions be adopted by acclamation.

(So adopted.)

(After Dr. Liceaga thanks Dr. Espinol for resolution.)

SURGEON GENERAL WYMAN: I wish also to thank the gentleman, I having held the position of Chairman of the International Sanitary Bureau, and express my grateful appreciation of his suggestion.

(After Dr. Soza and Dr. Liceaga speak.)

SURGEON GENERAL WYMAN: I move that that be the sense of the Convention.

DR. JOHNSON: I second that motion.

(After Dr. Azurdia's farewell address copy in that of Surgeon General Wyman. Mr. Romero has copy.)

DR. GOODE: Mr. President, while our representative, Dr. Wyman, has spoken so well and has left but little for the other delegates to say, we are so appreciative of what has been done that we would like to add one little drop to it.

We have experienced great pleasure in our brief visit to this great City of Mexico. The beautiful and

modest women, the kind and intelligent men that we have had the honor and pleasure of meeting, evidence the highest mark of American citizenship. Great good to humanity will result from the work of the Third International Sanitary Convention, and to our President, Dr. Liceaga, we are indebted for not only the success of this meeting, but the happiness which we have all so much enjoyed.