

**STATE OF NEVADA. BIENNIAL
REPORT OF THE STATE BOARD
OF HEALTH; FOR PERIOD
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1914**

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State of Nevada. Biennial Report of the State Board of Health; For Period Ending December 31, 1914 by S. L. Lee

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STATE OF NEVADA

BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

—
For Period Ending December 31, 1914
—

S. L. LEE, M.D., Secretary



CARSON CITY, NEVADA
STATE PRINTING OFFICE : : : JOE FARNSWORTH, SUPERINTENDENT
1915



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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

OFFICE OF
SECRETARY OF THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH,
CARSON CITY, NEVADA, January 11, 1915.

To His Excellency, EMMET D. BOYLE, Governor of Nevada.

SIR: In compliance with an Act to create and establish a Board of Health and Bureau of Vital Statistics in the State of Nevada, I have the honor to present herewith a report for the biennial period ending December 31, 1914.

SIMEON L. LEE, M.D.,
Secretary State Board of Health.

PERSONNEL OF STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

W. H. HOOD, M.D., *President*.....Reno, Nevada
O. P. JOHNSTONE, M.D., *Member*.....Reno, Nevada
SIMEON L. LICK, M.D., *Secretary*.....Carson City, Nevada

PLACE AND TIME OF MEETING

The regular meetings of the Board are held in Carson City, Nevada, on the first Tuesdays of January and July of each year.

REPORT OF STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

The following is the amendment to the Vital Statistics Law, passed by the Legislature during the session of 1913, and approved by the Governor March 15, 1913:

AN ACT to amend an Act entitled "An Act creating a State Board of Health, defining their duties, prescribing the manner of the appointment of its officers, fixing their compensation, and making an appropriation for the support of said board, establishing County Boards of Health, requiring certain statements to be filed, and defining certain misdemeanors and providing penalties therefor, and other matters relating thereto," approved March 27, 1911, by amending section six thereof and adding three new sections thereto, and providing for the renumbering of sections twenty-five, twenty-six, twenty-seven, twenty-eight, twenty-nine, and thirty.

The People of the State of Nevada, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section six of the above-entitled Act is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

Section 6. The Board of County Commissioners shall appoint a local health officer for a period of not less than one year who shall only be removed for incompetency, and who shall act as a collector of vital statistics and is empowered to appoint such deputy or deputies as may be necessary, with the approval of the Board of County Commissioners. For collecting and compiling the vital statistics of the county he shall receive from the county a sum not less than \$25 per month, and the Board of County Commissioners is directed to allow a claim for this or for such greater sum as they may deem proper for the work performed; the deputies appointed by the local health officer, with the approval of the County Commissioners, shall be paid in the same manner a sum not to exceed \$25 per month for registering and compiling the data prescribed by the State Board of Health and by this Act. The deputy health officers shall file with the local health officer monthly reports not later than the fifth day of each month, which said report shall be compiled by the local health officer and forwarded to the Secretary of the State Board of Health not later than the tenth day of each month. In counties where deputy registrars are appointed the County Commissioners shall allow them a monthly salary or the sum of one dollar (\$1) for each birth and death certificate executed by them.

SEC. 2. Following section twenty-four the following are to be inserted:

Section 25. All cases of smallpox, diphtheria, or scarlet fever shall be reported by the attending physician to the local health officer within twenty-four hours after making such diagnosis, and on or before the fifth day of each month physicians shall report to the local health officer in their respective counties, all cases of contagious, infectious, or communicable diseases treated by them during the preceding month. Blanks for such reports shall be supplied by the State Board of Health.

Section 26. Any physician who shall wilfully neglect or refuse to perform any duties imposed upon them by the provisions of this Act, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not less than five (\$5) dollars nor more than twenty-five (\$25) dollars.

Section 27. It shall be the duty of the County Clerk of the several counties of the State to transmit to the Secretary of the State Board of Health, on or before the 10th day of January and the 10th day of June of each year the number of marriage licenses issued by him during the preceding six months.

Section twenty-five of said Act to be renumbered and known as section twenty-eight (28) and the following sections numbered consecutively up to and including section thirty-three (33).

INTRASTATE QUARANTINE RULES AND REGULATIONS

Passed by the Nevada State Board of Health, July 3, 1913

With a view to placing Nevada in harmony with national legislation, and subsequent amendments to the law issued by the Secretary of the

Treasury upon the subject of interstate quarantine, the State Board of Health, at a meeting held in Carson City, Nevada, on the 3d day of July, 1913, passed the following Rules and Regulations:

RULE 1

SECTION 1. Common carriers shall not provide in cars, vehicles, vessels, or conveyances operated in intrastate traffic, or in depots, waiting-rooms, or other places used by passengers, any drinking-cup, glass, or vessel for common use; *provided*, that this regulation shall not be held to preclude the use of drinking-cups, glasses, or vessels which are thoroughly cleansed by washing in boiling water after use by each individual, nor shall it be held to preclude the use of sanitary devices for individual use only.

SECTION 2. Common carriers shall not provide in cars, vehicles, vessels, or conveyances operated in intrastate traffic, or in depots, waiting-rooms, or other places used by passengers, any towel for use by more than one person; *provided*, that towels may be used again after having been sterilized with boiling water.

RULE 2

Water provided by common carriers on cars, vessels, or vehicles operated in intrastate traffic for the use of passengers, shall be furnished under the following conditions:

(a) Water shall be certified by the state or municipal health authority within whose jurisdiction it is obtained as incapable of conveying disease; *provided*, that water in regard to the safety of which a reasonable doubt exists may be used if the same has been treated in such a manner as to render it incapable of conveying disease, and the fact of such treatment is certified by the aforesaid health officer.

(b) Ice used for cooling such water shall be from a source, the safety of which is certified by the state or municipal health authority within whose jurisdiction it is obtained, and before the ice is placed in the water it shall first be carefully washed with water of known safety, and handled in such a manner as to prevent its becoming contaminated by the organisms of infectious or contagious disease; *provided*, that the foregoing shall not apply to ice which does not come in contact with the water which is to be cooled.

(c) Water containers shall be cleansed and thoroughly scalded with live steam at least once in each week that they are in operation.

RULE 3

SECTION 1. Common carriers shall not accept for transportation nor transport in intrastate traffic any person suffering from or afflicted with leprosy, unless there has been obtained from the Surgeon-General of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service or his accredited representative a permit stating that said person may be received under such restrictions as will prevent the spread of the disease, and said restrictions shall be specified in each instance.

SECTION 2. No person knowing or having reason to believe that he is a leper shall accept transportation nor engage in travel in intrastate traffic unless permits have been obtained, as set forth in the preceding section, and unless said person shall have agreed in writing to comply with the restrictions as specified in the permits mentioned above.

SECTION 3. Compartments or places in cars, vessels, or conveyances operated in intrastate traffic and that have been occupied by persons afflicted with leprosy shall be immediately closed after being vacated by the patient and so kept until after proper disinfection.

S. L. LEE, M.D., *Secretary*.

DISINTERMENT OF BODIES

Under the Act concerning crimes and punishments, the disinterment of bodies, dead of contagious or infectious disease, is forbidden under penalty.

The Secretary of the State Board of Health, holding that the Vital Statistics Act, approved March 27, 1911, repealed that portion of the Act concerning crimes and punishments in so far as it related to the disinter-

ment of deceased persons, submitted the matter to the Attorney-General for his opinion, which is as follows:

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL,
CARSON CITY, NEVADA, May 20, 1913.

Dr. S. L. LEE, *Secretary State Board of Health, Carson City, Nevada.*

DEAR SIR: I am in receipt of verbal inquiries from you to this office which may be summarized as follows:

First—"Does section 28 of the Act creating the State Board of Health repeal sections 6552-3 of the Revised Laws?"

The sections in question are sections 287 and 288 of the Act concerning crimes and punishments, approved March 17, 1911, and were adopted into said Act from an earlier enactment in accordance with the rule of the Code Commission including in said Act all laws concerning crimes and punishments which have been adopted by the Legislature since the enactment of the first Crimes and Punishments Act.

Said sections make it a misdemeanor to exhume or disinter any human remains except upon permission of the various Boards of County Commissioners, and expressly provide "that no such permit shall be granted or issued under any circumstances or at any time where the party or parties buried or interred have died from or with any contagious or loathsome disease."

The Act creating the State Board of Health was approved March 27, 1911, or ten days after the approval of the Crimes and Punishments Act. The provisions of sections 6552 and 6553 of the Revised Laws could have been adopted only as a health measure.

Section 28 of the Act creating the Board of Health which provides: "The State Board of Health is hereby declared to be supreme in all health matters," being a later enactment on the subject and fully covering the same, I am of the opinion that the said sections 6552 and 6553 are repealed by the Act creating the State Board of Health, and the said board is authorized to make and issue proper regulations in regard to the disinterment of human remains.

Second—"Is our board authorized to cooperate with the Marine Hospital Service in promulgating regulations covering intrastate common carriers which are exactly similar to those governing interstate common carriers?"

In response to this inquiry, permit me to say that in my opinion section 28 of the Act creating your board gives you full power to adopt such rules and regulations on the subject as you see fit to adopt. The letters submitted to me are herewith returned.

Very respectfully, GEO. B. THATCHER, *Attorney-General.*

The prohibitive law embraced in the Crimes and Punishments Act in relation to the exhumation of deceased persons, placed Nevada in a class by itself, and, that harmony should exist between her laws and the interstate quarantine regulations, the following rules were adopted by the Nevada State Board of Health at a meeting held in Carson City, Nevada, on July 3, 1913, they being, in effect, the same as promulgated by the American Public Health Association and the American Association of General Baggage Agents for the transportation of the dead:

RULE 1. The transportation of bodies dead of smallpox or bubonic plague through the State is absolutely prohibited.

RULE 2. The transportation of bodies dead of Asiatic cholera, yellow fever, typhus fever, diphtheria (membranous croup), scarlet fever (scarlatina, scarlet rash), erysipelas, glanders, anthrax, or leprosy, shall not be accepted for transportation unless prepared for shipment by being thoroughly disinfected by (a) arterial and cavity injection with an approved disinfecting fluid; (b) disinfection and stopping of all orifices with absorbent cotton, and (c) washing the body with the disinfectant, all of which must be done by an embalmer holding a certificate as such, issued by the State Board of Embalmers of Nevada, provided by law.

After being disinfected as above, such body shall be enveloped in a layer of dry cotton, not less than one inch thick, completely wrapped in a sheet securely