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[Despatch Abstract.]

Bubonic Plague. Commenced to the A. & pro-
ceedings, L & M dept, passing order on
letter from the Collector of Kurmool
submitting proposals for the establi-
ment of Frontier Inspection stations &
the formation of observation circles.

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Government {1898} of Madras. LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

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Bubonic Plague.

Passing orders on the letter from the Collector of Kurnool submitting proposals for the establishment of Frontier Inspection Stations and the formation of Observation Circles.

28/3/98

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated 2nd March 1898, C. No. 593-Genl.

In continuation of my telegram, dated 26th February 1898, I have the honour to state that, as the bubonic plague is reported to exist in an epidemic form in Naldrug and Gulburga districts (His Highness the Nizam's Dominions), the latter of which is only about 60 miles from Kurnool, I think it advisable that this district should be declared as one "under observation" within the meaning of the Additional Mufassal Regulations which it is under contemplation to issue shortly and which should, in my opinion, be brought into force here immediately.

2. At present the whole of the Hyderabad frontier, extending over a length of about 70 miles along the Tungabhadra river, is looked after by five Hospital Assistants stationed at five of the eight abkari chowki stations. The charge of each of the Hospital Assistants is as follows :—

Mela Somapuram.	}	Hospital Assistant at Mudumala.
Timmandoddi.		
Sangela Gundurevula.		
Kondapuram.		
Mudumala.		
Irladinne.	}	Hospital Assistant at Gopala Singavaram.
Padamati Singavaram.		
Kothakota.		
Sunkasala.		
Kontalapad.		
Dudyala.		
Edurur.		
Banapur.		
Singavaram.	}	Hospital Assistant at Kurnool.
Nidzur.		
Munugalapad.		
Mamidalapad.		
E. Tandrapad.	}	Hospital Assistant at Allur.
Roza Ghât in Kurnool Municipality.		
Padidampad.		
Pudur.		
Allur.	}	Hospital Assistant at Allur.
Satanikota.		
Bijinevemula.		

Kondapragetur.
Arlapad.
Morawakonda.
Vellala.
Sanganeswaram.
Siddeswaram.

} Hospital Assistant at Morawakonda.

The Hospital Assistants have thus itinerant duties to perform and their charges are large. They are assisted by a few constables posted for observation duty at some of the frontier villages and by two Sanitary Inspectors, one of whom has charge of the border villages of the Ramallakot taluk and the other of those of the Nandikotkur taluk; but considering the great length of the frontier and the proximity of the infected area, the supervision maintained under the present arrangements can only

be very meagre. I accordingly propose establishing at each of the eight abkari chowki * stations a Road Frontier Observation Station, and place it in the charge of a Hospital Assistant. At each of these localities the other establishment referred to in draft Regulation 4, viz., one gumastah (Rs. 15), one conservancy maistry (about Rs. 12), one toti (Rs. 9 or 10),

and two police peons (Rs. 7 each) will also be entertained. Orders have been issued for the immediate collection of the materials required for the construction of sheds to be put up at the proposed observation stations; and disinfectants and stores will be maintained in accordance with the scale laid down by Government.

I may state in this connection that four of the five Hospital Assistants employed on observation duty are men attached to local fund dispensaries which had to be temporarily closed for want of hands. I think it inexpedient to close any of these institutions as the district is malarious and unhealthy, and as the deputation of the medical subordinates may have to last for an indefinitely long period, seven new men will thus be necessary for the road observation stations.

3. Gajjalakonda and Maddikera are the two stations at the eastern and western extremities of the district, respectively, on the line of railway.

The former is however insignificant and, therefore, I propose establishing an observation station at the next station, i.e., Markapur Road, which is only three miles from the head-quarters of Markapur taluk. As regards Maddikera also, it would probably serve no useful purpose to employ an Apothecary and other staff at this place, as the passengers are examined at the station immediately to the west, viz., Guntakal; the observation staff will therefore be stationed at Kurnool Road instead of at Maddikera. The Apothecary in each case will be of one of the last grade, with Rs. 50 pay and Rs. 25 allowance.

4. With reference to Regulation 6 of the Additional Regulations and to the instructions conveyed in your telegram of the 25th ultimo, the villages (to a depth of 20 miles from the frontier) of the Ramallakot and Nandikotkur taluks, which border on His Highness the Nizam's Territory, will have to be divided into thirteen circles, each being looked after by a Plague Inspector. The whole length of the frontier is, as stated already, 70 miles, but as portion of the eastern limits of Nandikotkur is hilly, there will be six circles in the front range (with 10 miles depth) and seven circles in the hind of interior range (with similar depth of 10 miles). The head-quarters of the circles are as noted below :—

	Ramallakota taluk frontier.			Nandikotkur taluk frontier.		
	Gundurevula.	Kontalapad.	Kurnool.	Allur.	Konidedu.	Vellala.
Front Range ..	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Pattikonda taluk.					
Hind Range ..	Palakurti.	Kodumur.	Laddagiri.	Uyyalavada.	Kadumur.	Mandlem.
	13	12	11	10	9	8
						Kokkarancha.
						7

A list showing in detail the villages comprising each of the circles is enclosed.
The thirteen circles will be distributed to three Supervisors, as shown below :—

Supervisor No. 1, head-quarters Gudur.	Circle No. 1, Pattikonda and Ramallakot.
	" " 2, Ramallakot.
	" " 13, Pattikonda.
	" " 12, Pattikonda and Ramallakot.
Supervisor No. 2, head-quarters Kurnool.	Circle No. 3, Ramallakot and Nandikotkur.
	" " 4, Nandikotkur.
	" " 10, Ramallakot.
	" " 9, Nandikotkur.
Supervisor No. 3, head-quarters Pagadyala.	Circle No. 5, Nandikotkur.
	" " 6 "
	" " 7 "
	" " 8 "

5. Thirteen Plague Inspectors are thus required but, as stated in paragraph 2 above, two Sanitary Inspectors are already in employ on observation duty in the Ramallakot and Nandikotkur taluks. The number of new men to be despatched from Madras is, therefore, eleven. A Sanitary Inspector for Nandyal and a lady Apothecary or Hospital Assistant for the Kurnool town will also be needed. The former will attend to the sanitation of the important town of Nandyal, which it is under contemplation to constitute into a municipality, and will also inspect the passengers at the railway station (two miles from the town) in conjunction with the Apothecary and the Hospital Assistant by turns. The lady Apothecary above proposed will be eminently useful in a town like Kurnool where there are so many Muhammadan Goshas females.

The Supervisors will be appointed from among the district staff, as it is desirable that the selection should be made from men who have local influence and who are well acquainted with the manners and customs of the inhabitants of the area to which they are appointed.

6. The District Medical and Sanitary Officer suggests, and I concur in his view, that the ambulance, stores and staff referred to in Regulations 8 and 9 should be arranged for. Ward attendants, dhooly-bearers, dhobies, cooks and compounder may be locally had, but the rest of the establishment will have to be indented for from Madras.

7. The Nizam's frontier extends over a great length with numerous villages situated thereon, and the difficulty of properly guarding it is vastly enhanced by the fact that the Tungabhadra, which forms the boundary, is now fordable at all points and will continue to be so till June next, and communication from the Hyderabad territory will be so easy and through so many routes that there can be no effective observation unless the staff is sufficiently strong numerically. There appears to be no provision in the regulations for closing any routes or for prescribing that the travellers shall go only through the observation stations or through such other limited number of additional stations as might be appointed for the purpose. Observation stations will be established at the places most frequented by travellers from the Hyderabad territory, but it is essential that the routes leading to other border villages should also be effectively watched if they are all to be left open as usual. The strength of the village establishment has been considerably curtailed owing to the introduction of the Madura scale, and it is consequently found to be extremely difficult, if not altogether impracticable, to spare any village servants for plague duty. I therefore consider it advisable to obtain at once 25 men of the Madras Infantry referred to in Regulation 11 for the duty of guarding the routes in border villages, &c. I have addressed the Deputy Inspector-General of Police and the Deputy Commissioner of Salt and Abkari Revenue for immediate information as to the number of peons each of them can spare for plague duty in this district.

8. Regarding Regulation 13, the District Medical and Sanitary Officer requests that the Commissariat Department may be addressed for the supply of personal and office tents to him. I think this is necessary to enable him to be constantly on the

move in the areas requiring special attention and to see whether the arrangements are being carried out with diligence and care. It will also be necessary to strengthen my office and that of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer.

9. I request, in conclusion, that the Government will be pleased to declare this district as one "under observation," when the arrangements above sketched out will be carried out.

10. If the proposals herein contained are given effect to, the establishment that will be necessary for plague duty is as follows :—

Number of paragraph in the Draft Regulation.	For what purpose.	Plague Supervisors.	Sanitary Inspectors.	Plague Inspectors.	Conservancy maidries.	Toties.	Apothecaries.	Hospital Assistants.	European or Eurasian nurses.	Lady Apothecary or Hospital Assistant.	Gumastah.	Ward attendants.	Dhooly-bearers.	Dhobies.	Cooks.	Compounders.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
4	Observation stations ..	..	(a) 1	13	(b) 10	(b) 10	2	(c) 7	..	..	(b) 10	..	..	..	..	..
6	" circles ..	..	..	..	..	(d) 5	..	(f) 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9	Ambulance staff ..	..	..	..	..	3	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	Reserve ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

- (a) The Sanitary Inspector is provided for Nandyal.
(b) Eight for the abkari chowki stations and two for the Railway Observation Stations.
(c) One for duty at Dhone and the other at Nandyal.
(d) Two of these to be females and three males.
(e) Eight men required for the Road Frontier Observation Stations, but as there is a spare hospital assistant available, seven new men are needed.
(f) Spare hospital assistant for Kurnool town.
(g) For Kurnool town.

I have requested the Sanitary Commissioner and the Surgeon-General to arrange to have the above establishment in readiness so that these persons may be sent to this district immediately the new Regulations are ordered by Government to be brought into force here.

ENCLOSURE.

List of Villages comprising each of the Circles.

ORDER—No. 173 P., dated 9th March 1898.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is gratified at the promptness with which the Collector of Kurnool has submitted a scheme of operations against the plague now approaching the borders of his district.

2. The proposal to establish a Road Frontier Inspection Station at each of the eight abkari chowkis is approved. At Tandrapad, however, and possibly on one or two other main lines of travel, the establishment suggested seems too small. At the time of writing, the Collector had not received the Additional Plague Regulations, which empower selected officers to detain "suspicious" persons and contemplate an efficient disinfection of travellers' baggage. He will now consider and report whether it will not be wise to establish, at least at Tandrapad, a hospital to contain 20 sick and a camp to contain 100 "suspicious" persons, under the charge of an officer who may be entrusted with the responsibility of detention.

3. With reference to paragraphs 2 and 5 of the Collector's letter, the Surgeon-General will be requested to depute seven Hospital Assistants and one female Apothecary or Hospital Assistant for service in Kurnool.

4. In paragraph 3 the Collector proposes to constitute two Inspection Stations on the railway. This is not considered necessary.

5. The division of the frontier to a depth of 20 miles into thirteen Observation Circles is approved. In some cases, however, the head-quarters of the circles are not sufficiently near the centre, a remark which also applies to the head-quarters of the Supervisors.

6. The Collector will make his own arrangements to obtain the Supervisors and the Inspectors, but the former should be of the class designated in G.O., No. 93-P., dated 26th February 1898, paragraph 5. The question of a Sanitary Inspector for Nandyal, raised in paragraph 5, does not come into the present scheme. For the stores and staff mentioned in paragraph 6, the Collector has no doubt addressed the Surgeon-General and the Sanitary Commissioner.

7. In paragraph 7, the Collector seems to suggest that Government should take power to close certain routes with the object of compelling travellers to adopt those on which Inspection Stations may have been located. This suggestion does not meet with the approval of Government, nor is it considered advisable that the Collector should employ troops, as suggested in the same paragraph, to guard the numerous interstices between the Frontier Inspection Stations. When it is necessary to employ troops, they should be kept as far as possible together and utilized only for the purposes mentioned in Additional Regulation No. 11. The following telegram will be despatched to the Collector:—

"You have not fully comprehended purpose of troops. Do not apply for them without obtaining special sanction of Government."

8. It will be explained to the Collector that there can be no establishment large enough to effectively patrol every part of the very lengthy frontier of His Highness the Nizam's Dominions. All that can be done is to watch the principal points of ingress and to put in force the precautionary measures of the Regulations. It is true that people will pass elsewhere, thus introducing an element of danger; but the police and the village officers should be instructed to report the arrival without passports of persons from across the river, who can then be looked up by the observation staff and, if "suspicious," put under detention. If the matter is properly explained to the village staff, the Collector will have in it an infinitely better instrument of detection than could otherwise be devised.

(True Extract.)

for *29. Robert*
Ag. Secretary to Government.

24.3.98

To the Collector of Kurnool.
" the Collector of Bellary.
" the Collector of Kistna.
" all other Collectors.
" the Sanitary Commissioner.
" the Surgeon-General.
" the Public Department.
" the Financial Department.
" the Inspector-General of Police.
" the President, District Board, Kurnool.
" the Chairman, Municipal Council, Kurnool.

Exd. W. D'Moss.

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DATED

CURRENT No.

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

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