

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

(1898)

MISCELLANEOUS.

No. 1003A.

Dated 27. 12. 98

Despatched 29-12-98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Diary

Submitting to Govt. copy of the Plague
Comr's — ^{for} ~~from~~ 19 to 21 Dec. 1898

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

N^o 1003 4/27/12 98 Mary of the P.C. from 1952

Monday 19th Dec.

Camp spirit aper.

Inspected the Camp. The

observation camp is

insufficient for its purpose,

there are at present 6 sheds

& these are used for contact

from the town, but the

probability of plague

spreading in the town and

now that stricter measures

of observation are to be

taken at the by station,

more accommodation

will certainly be

required and the collector

has been requested to provide

it. The buildings on the

whole are fairly satisfactory

though they are erected on no

standard plan. The pitch

of the roof in some is very

good and of much

too flat and the huts are

likely to be very leaky

in wet weather. The

attention of the Local officer

is drawn to this. Some of

a very good thing if it is accepted
for he is lacking in ^{deliberately} execution.

At present there is no source of
water supply in the camp itself.
Water is brought by men from
the Station well. Arrangements
are being made for bringing this
water from pipes at a small cost
when compared with the expense of
digging a well. There has been delay
in the supply of pipes by Messrs Richardson
& Leardas. Steps should be taken to see
that the work is carried out as soon as
possible. There are ^{no} arrangements ^{that} ~~should~~ be made

that should be made. The
medical staff consists of two ^{doctors} ~~doctors~~
only; it may be found ^{desirable} to increase
that number. Two servants and a
brahmīn cook are wanted. The Col^l
should entertain them. There is no
furniture for Europeans. It is unlikely
that any will be stopped, but
provision should be made;
probably it would be sufficient
if three sets are provided. After
inspecting the camp Mr Macleod,
Mr Mac Michael & myself went
off to see the places in the town
where cases have occurred.

The houses had been evacuated
& disinfected. The collector
will do well, if it is not
already been done, to see that
the neighbouring houses are
also evacuated & disinfected.
It is probable that people have
already left such houses, for
I learnt that as much as
three-fourths of the population
had gone into the fields. We
met Mr. Spink at a house
in the main bazaar ready to
circulate those who come
forward. A peon & a mud wife
were ^{present} ~~present~~ offered ~~off~~ but no others were
anxious. Sick people had
been removed from the town
to the Hospital Camp & their
contacts placed under observa-
tion in the camp.

+ 20-12-98 Tuesday.

I left Huddapur early in the
morning to Talaspet where
I arrived early in the
morning of

21-12-98 Wednesday.
Here I was met by Captain

Kingston
 Easington & her ^{best} and went
 with them while they conducted
 the inspection of passengers. We
 were joined by Mr. Elegg the Collector.
 Afterwards we went round the camp.
 The ^{Shen} ~~contact~~ in the observation camp
 are in ^{not distant} fields & ^{there} of no doubt reduces
 considerably ^{the} cost of construction —
 while Timber & other materials
 are more readily available, ~~as~~ ^{as} here ~~than~~ at the ~~other~~
 accommodation appears much ^{more} ~~than~~ ^{other} ~~any~~ other
 camps. There is at present no house for
 the doctor. Through the kindness of one of
 the P. O. officers they are at present
 put up in his house. This is an
 arrangement that cannot go on,
 quarters are now being
 built close by at a cost of ~~and~~ about
 Rs. 1500/- The matter has not
 been brought to my notice
 before. Estimates should be
 sent for sanction. The accommodation
 in both observation & hospital camps
 being increased as it is at present
 sufficient for requirements at
 times. The drainage arrangements of the sick shed & latrines
 also require attention, so does
 the house. The camp itself

is not as clean as elsewhere
which requires attention.
^{this} It is however to a very considerable
extent due to the extension
of the buildings which is more
frequent. A good well has been
sunk and is worked by the pump
but as the water runs out
into a wooden tub only a few
feet from the ground there is
ample opportunity for the water
to be polluted. It was
suggested to the Collector
that he should obtain taps &
allow water to be taken from
taps of their own. Working costs
about 1 1/2 as a day. Report will
be called for as to the cost of digging
in other places for comparison.
It has been the custom to give
money to beggars instead of the
ordinary cooking food, and they
are given 3 as. This is extrane-
ous. If these people
should be able to pay for
their own food, & they must
take what is given them.
It is when the beggar cooks
It is probable from what

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I hear these people are inclined
to travel about from one observation
camp to another observation camp
merely to be fed at Govt's expense.
They should be given no encouragement.
The nurses are ^{better} accommodated by
housed ^{here} than elsewhere for they have
been able to get one of the buildings.
The hospital camp is satisfactory
except that here again no channels
have been provided for carrying away
disinfecting fluids from the sick
wards. New ^{water} wells are now being
added & it was arranged at the spot
for the necessary channels being
made. The channels ~~should~~
conveying fluids from the ^{latrines} drains to the
cisterns are not in all cases
satisfactory. They should be
attended to. The liquids should
not, as now, be allowed to run
in the cistern to be subsequently
~~boiled up~~ packets should be
placed in the cistern to catch the
liquids; they can be easily
removed and a basin can be
kept easily cleaned. A well
is in the course of construction
for the hospital camp and a

5
pump is to be supplied. It
has been the custom in all other
places to ~~erect~~ ^{erect the} pump directly
over the well. I have suggested
to the Collector that risk of
contamination would be
less if the pipes were brought
to the necessary height above
the surface & then bent
horizontally so that the pump
may be constructed on the ground
beyond the well. I am not
certain if this is possible
mechanically. Before ^{putting in} I make
the suggestion the Collector has
promised to consult the Engineer.
As it does not increase ^{the pressure} the
length of the lift I don't think
it should cause any difficulty.
The reports who have ^{been}
~~written~~ ^{sent} for from Varanasi
are now employed in guarding
the camp. There are six and
it is a strange thing that
although the number of
guards at this camp is 5 or
6 times of the number of
others it is at this camp only
there have been any escapes.

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They seem to be fairly common.
It is possible that people detained are tangled
approximately by the passing of
to see two ^{large} towns of Timpafur
& Vaniyambadi. At Timpafur
there is practically no control of
the land, yet none ^{run} away. This might
be because there is practically
no ~~place to run to~~. But at
Hosur & Hengur the camps are
close to the towns & it might have
been expected that many people
would make ^{away} but they do not
do so. I left at mid-day
for Madras & was present
while the train was examined
at Arkonam & saw something
of the passport issuing system
at Perambur.

Copies of notes in
the diary & paper
copies to
Wharton in my own

Ligature

Desp'd 29/12
A.S.

26/12

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