

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

(1898)

MISCELLANEOUS.

No. 1064

Dated 31-12-98

Despatched 3-1-99.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Destruction of Rats.

Requesting the Collector of Anantapur
to induce people towards the destruction of
as many rats as possible round Guntakal.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

No. 1264/0

Amantapur Collector's Office,

Dated 28 December 1898.

CAMP Guntakal

ENCLOSURE.

FROM

Bennett, Esq., Barrister at Law,

Collector of

Amantapur.

TO

THE

Plague Commissioner,
Madras.

SIR,

I regret to have to report that rats dying from plague have been found in about a dozen houses of Konakondla 3 miles south of Guntakal village.

2. I visited the place again this morning 28 December with Dr. Chatterworth, Mr. Marshall, Lieutenant Ames & the Deputy Tahsildar on duty at Guntakal, and our enquiries failed to elicit any information as to sickness among the villagers, though Captain Robertson, I.M.S., is of opinion that sick people at Konakondla must have infected the rats in the houses. Circumstances seen, however to point to a migration of rats from Guntakal village where they can now find no food.

3. The Subedar of the 9th Madras Infantry reports that at Guntakal he saw trails of rats in mass leaving Guntakal by several streets. On my way to Konakondla I found

I found a dead rat in the road midway, apparently run over by a cartwheel. Unless it had been sick such an accident was unlikely.

4. Similarly some days ago dying rats appeared in the huts near Jūmincharla station which is about a mile by road from Guntakal village. Lt. Col King, I.M.S., speaks of such migrations of rats and they would I think naturally travel by roads in preference to going laboriously over black cotton soil covered with crops.

5. It is possible for us to regulate the emigration of people from infected villages but it is a task beyond our power to control the movements of armies of rats.

6. The 12 houses concerned have been vacated and disinfected and the rest of the village are moving out as quickly as possible.

7. I have not enough tents to lend them any but am allowing them to cut branches of babul trees freely for huts and leaves of date palms where available.

8. I go tomorrow to visit Bhayapuram a hamlet 2 or 3 miles southwest of Konakonda as dead rats have also been reported from that locality. Should cases of plague appear as is only too likely among the inhabitants of

Konakonda

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3
1

Konakonda the Guntakal medical Column will move there and it would be advisable to move the Company of Sepoys also to the spot for speedier disinfection work.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
your most obedient servant,
W. Marshall
for Collector

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

FROM

THE COLLECTOR OF

Anantapur.

To

THE

Plague Commission

Madras

No 1064 of 31-12-98

Sir, with reference to your

letter 12607, d. 25. XII. 98.

I have the honor to report you to

take steps to induce people

to kill as many rats as

possible in the neighbourhood.

Yours faithfully,

31/12/98

Dated 28

Despatched 29

Received

Decr 1898.

31/12/98

No. 1260/O.

ENCLOSURES.

SUBJECT.

Reporting the manner of the spread of
plague thro rats -

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