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Local & Munl. (189) Department

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1066 P

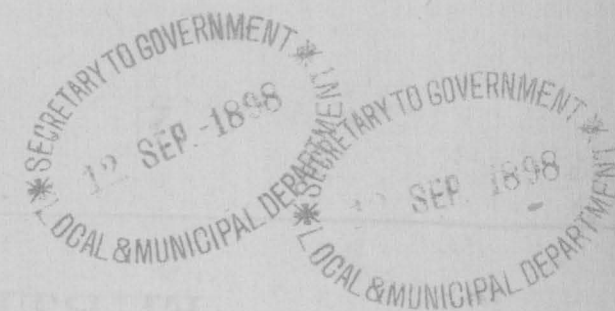
DATED 14. 9. 98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Plague at Guntakal.

Recording the report of the Col
Anantapur on the re-appearance of
cases of — in the family of a tin

CURRENT No. 1709



Order. № 1066 P. mei. d. 14. 9. 98

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Despd
13-9-1896

Ref on C No. 107 P.

Dated 3^d September 1898.

Received 12th Sept. '98

Registered *ss.*

Enclosures /

Spare copies “

SUBJECT.

Reporting how the no.
of 5 cases of plague at home
in the family of Pakkiam. Or
a native Roman Catholic
employed as a tinker by the
P. N. Railway at Sion.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

No. 1202

Plague Observation Camp,
Hospet 3 Sept 1898

Certified that Mr. E. Jones
travelling from Mubli to Guntakal
has been detained under observation at Hospet
from 3 Sept 1898 to 3 Sept 1898 and that prior
to his departure his person has been washed and clothes and baggage
her ed.

Surg. Capt. I.M.S.
In charge of Plague Observation Camp,
Hospet.

Ref No. 107 P.

Collector's Office,

9 September 1898

FROM

Bannatyne Macleod Esq., M.A., Barrister-at-Law,

Collector of

Anantapur

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Local & Municipal Department,

Potacamund, Madras.

SIR,

I have the honor to report on the reappearance of 5 cases of plague at Guntakal in the family of Pekkiam Pillai, a native Roman Catholic Christian employed as a tinker by the Southern Mahatla Railway at Guntakal Junction on daily wages of annas 12/- a day.

2. The family have lived quietly for several months at Guntakal in a part of the private house of Mr Archer, a Eurasian Railway man who has been employed for the last ten months at Mubli. The other half of the house was occupied by a dhoby, a Bombay Presidency man as Archer's caretaker. He paid Rs 2 1/2 rent and collected Rupees one per month from the tinker.

3. The house was a flat roofed isolated building of stone in mud outside the Railway Drivers' lines and near the Roman Catholic Chapel, and had no insanitary surroundings. The dhoby did his washing some mile or two away and ironed clothes in the house. He describes himself as a poor man's dhoby, i.e., one who works for Eurasians such as drivers and guards in Railway employ.

4. The tinker's brother Amirdam Pillai is a Roman Catholic Catechist at Gooty and visits Guntakal at intervals to look after the Chapel. He officiated on Sunday 10th September at Guntakal bringing the tinker's eldest girl of fourteen with him from Gooty. The tinker had living with him, the widow, & male child aged six of another brother. This boy fainted in the Chapel on Sunday. The Chapel was subsequently aired and disinfected.

5. On Tuesday morning 6th September the Catechist came to the Railway Apothecary and said the girl and boy had fever, which by night the Railway Apothecary diagnosed as plague. As to the point whether the Ry. Apothecary negligently delayed in informing Captain Robertson, I.M.S., the latter officer is taking steps to report the matter to Dr. Chennai, the superintending physician, I.M.Ry.

6. On Wednesday morning 7th September received information and with
Mr Mainwaring

Mr Mainwaring, Superintendent of Police, and Captain Robertson proceeded to the spot to take necessary measures. The two sick children and the rest of the tinker's family were removed to hospital. One mother & fever which has developed into plague the other mother and the remaining boy of 4 have also been attacked and Pakkiam Pillai alone of the family is in good health. The boy of 6 died on 9th instant & the girl on 10th.

7. On entering the premises we found the dhoby's portion locked. We burst open the padlock and found nothing belonging to him or his profession, only guard & other's furniture. There was a barred window opening into the room where the sick girl lay. The premises and contents were burned, only a few solid articles being kept after disinfection.

8. The question now arose where was the missing dhoby. We employed our best efforts and found him and his family concealed by another dhoby in Railway premises set apart for him. This second dhoby washed for all the respectable European Railway employees of Guntakal, and the Superintendent of Police has since had the anxious and harassing duty to perform of getting the linen sorted out & disinfected and rest

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After due precautions to their respective owners. Both families of dhobies have been segregated, and are all perfectly well, but seem thoroughly determined to tell lies and not admit for a moment that any dirty linen came to be washed from Hubli or Bangalore, from stretchers or from running drivers and guards. The poor man dhoby had intended going off to Kurnool by the next train.

7. A small girl, daughter of telegraph peon Mala Channa, who lives in the porters' lines was employed to come daily and herd stretchers' 3 cows. While we were attending to the tinker's family she drove the cattle away, but was quickly found and segregated. She is perfectly well and so ^{appears} other people. Proper precautions have been taken at the Porter's lines, and at the Catechist's empty house at Hooty.

10. The Catechist says that guard Archer often got his dhoby tenant to send him up parcels of his personal property. Telegraphic advice from Hubli says that stretchers denies sending any soiled linen to be washed at Guntakal and challenges proof. However he has a wife and family at Hubli who wear English clothing, and it is a natural theory that he made

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he made some arrangement with his dhoby caretaker at Guntakal to do his washing in lieu of rent and smuggled it down by accommodating fellow guards. No body can be got however to prove this idea, fear of unpleasant consequences having tied their tongues.

11. From the circumstances of the ~~case~~ case and the absence of infection from Guntakal for so many days, it seems only reasonable to conclude that the infection has been brought by dhoby clothes from Hubli.

12. I have ascertained that Mr. E. Jones, a Eurasian Railway guard, who is leaving the S. M. Railway service to better his prospects in Africa, came from Hubli on 4th September, and had his clothing disinfected as per enclosed certificate. He got them ironed at Guntakal by another dhoby not living with those already referred to. The subject is still under active enquiry and should anything definite be ascertained I will submit a supplemental report.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
Bannister Macleod
Collector

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