L. & M.
2,000—12-9-98.

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1450. P

DATED 14-11-98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Rules of Inspection

Recording — submitted by the Plague Commissioner in

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

C. No 24267

4th November 1898.

Note for the information of Government.

Jm. s Circ.
No. 1450. P. Jm. 8/14-11-98
Recorded 7/11/98.
To P.C.
for perusal of
note enclosed
H.T
Ks 11 98
Seen
Returned to
Madras.
15/11/98

I left Madras on Saturday morning and reached Hindupur on Sunday the 30th October. I have already in a Demi Official, to the Secretary Local & Municipal Department from Hindupur reported the facts connected with the death of the Tahsildar, Hindupur. I need say nothing more on this subject.

I left Hindupur on Tuesday the 1st November and spend Wednesday at Madanapally when I met Mr. Harding the Collector of Cuddapah, Mr. Thornton the Sub-Collector and Captain Hawkes, the special Plague Officer.

To show the kind of feeling which exists in these parts I may mention that the Station Master at Chinnatippasamudram 8 miles from Madanapalle, to whom I had wired for carts could get me only one jutka and that with considerable persuasion. The drivers about Madanapalle had agreed not to drive anybody about the country who was connected with plague measures. After some talk I succeeded in getting a second cart for my servants and clerk.

The Collector & Sub-Collector and the Police Inspector with whom I had a long talk all agreed that the attitude of the villagers all round the frontier Taluks of Cudda pah was one of intense suspicion of all our measures. The idea which everybody has is t that for some reason the Government desire to kill as many natives as possible in this and coming year. One notion is that it is

life, another is that in England now there is a great scarcity of women and we are therefore going to kill off the men and ship the ~~women~~ women home to fill up vacancies at home. The Muhammadans think that as they showed their joy last year in celebrating the victory of the Turks over the Greeks Christians we are now going to have our revenge. The Hindu astrologers all of them, give out that the stars show that this and the early part of next year is to be calamitous for the inhabitants of India and that probably British Rule will close with famine, pestilence and war and a new Rajah will appear. The constant repetition of these stories has now got the people into such a state that they look upon any measure connected with plague as taken merely to add to its force as a killing power. We innoculate in order to kill those whom may be spared from Plague. We put up frontier sheds in which to entrap people to kill them and we put poison (permanganate of potash) in all our wells.

There is no limit to the credulity of the people when once they are terrified.
When the railway bridge over the Kistna at Beyvada was approaching completion, a rumour was current that the Engineer Mr Spring was going sacrifice a certain number of children and that he had in his possession a parwana signed by the Queen Empress herself directing him to do so.
H.H.

After considerable discussion I decided that to start Circles in charge of Sanitary Inspectors on Rs.45 per mensem, with Supervisors would be useless. The Sanitary Inspectors are strangers to the people, sent up from Madras and they have many of them the worst reputation in other districts, though up to date we cannot get any cases against any of them. That many of them levy black mail I have no doubt whatever. The villagers will not permit frontier stations and from what the Collector told me the

This measure had been sanctioned lately by Government.

I quite agree.
H
A.H.

only too true
H

these frontier stations really useless. If we put up frontier stations which of course we could do, the Collector & Sub- Collector personally attending to each, they would be burnt down as soon as the European officers left the villages, The only frontier stations which appeared to be of any real use is at a village called Chikbailur and there where the Bangalore-Madanapalle road crosses the frontier a station will be made. As it is some distance from the nearest village, the villagers do not object. The other frontier stations will be given up.

The villagers here as elsewhere express themselves as determined to keep out all strangers from the Mysore side and I have no doubt they will do this and in this is our chief safety.

I told the Collector as regards Madana palle town to organise by means of the Union panchayet a vigilence committee which would work under the Sub-Collector's supervision in watching strangers who come in from Mysore. The people will arrange this willing ly enough.

The Collector, Sub-Collector and the Special Plague Officer (Captain Hawkes) will tour along the frontier stations and do all they can to reassure the villagers & probab ly, if plague does not appear in the next month the people will recover themselves and things will go on as usual.

The Inspector of Police told me that at present when he rides about every man, woman & chi i, who catch sight of him run aw nd he has the greatest difficulty in

meeting villagers who two months ago, were only too glad to meet and talk to him.

The result of my orders as regards Madanapalle will be that the division of the frontier into observation circles will be given up for the present and the Supervisors and Sanitary Inspectors sent back, that the important road station of Chikbailur will be retained and Madanapalle town watched by a vigilence committee under the Union Punchayet.

The two ambulance corps will be maintained for use if plague breaks out.

I hope the above measures will be sufficient. Any attempt to start Sanitary circles with strange Sanitary Inspectors scattered over a large extent of wild country must fail, if the people are against the measure as they are in this case.

I left Madanapalle on Thursday morning and reached Madras the same evening.

I may add that it is curious that our system of frontier circles & observation have not hitherto caused trouble. They have been at work in Salem, North Arcot, Bellary & Kurnool & Kurnool without any friction or disturbance. I imagine that the high death rate at Bangalore and the measures of the Mysore government in the interior of Mysore have alarmed our villagers along the frontier and the scare has started these absurd stories which are now current and believed everywhere.

The scare is also in some way mixed up with the old standing feud between the Komatis who are a strong body in Cuddapah and Anantapur, and the Brahmins. The

The Komatis are very conservatives, and they seem, many of them, to believe that the Brahmins are taking the side of the Government in the matter and stirring up both Muhammadans and the lower castes of the Hindus against ourselves and the Brahmins. Brahmins are in some places almost boy-cotted and the Hindupur Tahsildar was apparently attacked partly because he was a Brahmin.

We can only work with the people, not against them.

Seen - no remarks from me are called for
11-11-98

8.11.98

Yes, emphatically.

13.11.98

4/11/98

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 2426 P

From The Plague Commissioner

Order

No.

Dated 4 —
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Registered 7 —

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