

[L. & M.]
[1898-1899]

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1458. P

DATED 16-11-1898

Plague Disturbances.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording Chingleput District Collector's letter to the Plague Commissioner submitting a report ^{on} ~~the~~ — ~~that took place at~~ Conjevaram on the 21st October and ordering that the result of the magisterial inquiry in the matter should be reported.

1893

FROM

THE COLLECTOR OF

Chengren

To

THE

Reque Comissarios

Dated

28. Oct 1898

189 8

Submitted to Government for
information -

Dep. m. No. $\frac{2005}{81}$ of 1898.

ENCLOSURE.

Cone

Massachusetts
P.L. Comm.

SUBJECT.

$$\underline{28 \times 90}$$

No. 14 58 - P. his 8/16-11-98
H. 2m 5/16-11-98

Reporting on the riot that
took place on the 21st of
Instant at Conjeeveram.

10.11.19
Records.
2. The result of the May 1st trial should be reported.

8 11 18.

8 11 90
(I am sorry I cannot
explain how this has
been delayed.)

Letter No. 794 of 98.

Joint Magistrate's Office
Chingleput 27th October 1898

From J. H. Robertson Esquire
by Joint Magistrate of Chingleput

To The District Magistrate,
Saidapet.



As already reported in my deui-official
of Friday last, I have the honor to inform you
that a riot occurred at Conjeevaram on the 21st inst.
in connection with some anti-plague inoculation oper-
ations that were being conducted by the District medical
and Sanitary officer, Major Marsden.

2. I happened to have gone to Conjeevaram that
morning for the purpose of holding an enquiry regarding
the burning down of the plague segregation sheds,
and though the actual rioting had stopped by
the time I arrived, there was still considerable
excitement and the crowd had not dispersed.

3. From enquiries that I made on the spot
it appears that Major Marsden had gone to
Conjeevaram to perform inoculation in response to
an invitation from the Municipality. The
operations were conducted in public at Vishnu-
Kanchi Police Station at about 8.30 A.M. and
only those persons who came forward of their own
will were operated on. The first person to be inocu-
lated

Lated was the Inspector of Police, Mr. Hartnett, and after him three Constables and Dr. Walker of Wallajabad. Considerable interest was manifested by the public and the District medical and Sanitary officers permitted them to forcibly examine the Syringe etc. One or two Brahmmins then came forward and asked to be inoculated but unfortunately the Syringe got out of order and further operations had to be postponed. All this time there was not the least sign of trouble. Dr. Walker then returned to Wallajabad and Major Marsden drove back to the Saluk office with the Municipal Apothecary. On the way through Hudsonpett a large crowd suddenly gathered and stopped Major Marsden's Carriage and commenced throwing stones at him. They next proceeded to unharness the horse and attempted to overturn the vehicle. Seeing this Major Marsden got out receiving, as he did so, a blow from a stone on the cheek. Fortunately at this juncture the Police Inspector, who happened to be following a little distance in the rear saw the disturbance and came up with head Constable No. 400. These two officers kept the crowd in check by the Hudsonpett bridge and enabled Major Marsden to drive away to the Saluk Cutchery. The Inspector then went to the Hospital as he was not sure whether Major Marsden had gone there or to the Saluk office. He was pained by the crowd with stones. After reaching the hospital he went on to the Saluk office passing his own house on the way. There as stones were still being thrown at him he went in to get his revolver and while inside the crowd threw stones at the house. As soon as he came out with his revolver the crowd fell back and

and allowed him to go without further trouble to the Saluk office, a distance of only a few yards. Some ten of the rioters were arrested and lodged in the Subjail.

4. Shortly after this I happened to arrive and learning what had occurred enquired as to the cause. So far as I could ascertain the trouble was due to an unfounded fear that persons were to be forcibly inoculated. I therefore explained to the crowd in the fullest manner the orders of Government regarding inoculation and laid special stress on the fact that no one would be inoculated except at their own express desire. This appeared to reassure those present and I had the matter further notified by beat of tom-tom. Subsequently there was a little more trouble owing to the crowd demanding the release of those arrested for the riot and at one time I was a little afraid that a forcible attempt might be made to rescue them. However after sometime the crowd dispersed.

5. Next day as all was quiet and things had resumed their normal aspect I returned to Chingleput.

6. In the riot no one was seriously injured but Major Marsden's bandy driver, some Saluk peons and other persons who gave assistance to the Police including the Police Inspector himself were more or less severely handled, and it was only owing to the Inspector's prompt action

action that there were not more serious results.
It was by the merest chance that I happened
to be at Conjeevaram, as I was not aware
that Major Marsden was going there on that
day. The Tahsildar and Submagistrate
too were absent having gone to the station
to meet and assist me in the inspection
of the burnt plague sheds.

I have etc

(Sd), J. H. Robertson

(True copy)

Joint Magistrate

As District Magistrate

S

28.10.98.

831

2/17/98

No.

C 10 831
Chingleput
District MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE,
Station, Saidapet
28 October 1898.

FROM

D. W. G. Coore Esquire
District MAGISTRATE OF
Chingleput

TO

Chief
THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Judicial DEPARTMENT,
Madras.

SIR,

I have the honor to report for the
information of Government that on the 21st
Instant a riot took place at Conjeevaram in which
Major Marsden I. M. S. District Medical
and Sanitary Officer, Chingleput, the Police Inspector
of Conjeevaram and several constables were
injured. I enclose the joint Magistrate's report
on the matter from which it will be seen that
the riot was due to a scare against anti plague
inoculation. Major Marsden was attacked
on his return from one of the Police stations
where he had publicly inoculated the Police
Inspector and several constables.

2. I received intimation of what had
occurred at my camp at Kunnathur, Saidapet
Taluk on Sunday afternoon and reached

Coryveeram on Monday morning. I found every thing quiet and the result of my enquiry confirms the view expressed by the joint Magistrate that the riot was due to a scare caused by the selection of the police station for the performance of the inoculation and by the active assistance that the police seemed (to the ignorant) to be giving the medical officer. The rioters were poor weavers & a considerable number of whom I learnt have recently been thrown out of employment owing to the fact that cloths manufactured in Coryveeram have been returned from Bangalore and other places in the Mysore state.

3. The action of the Medical officer in as it were identifying himself with the Police in selecting a Police station for the commencement of his operation was in my opinion extremely ill advised. Fortunately no one was seriously injured in spite of the determined attack that was made by the rioters.

4. I have further to report that in all 17 persons have been identified as having taken part in the riot and will be placed before the joint Magistrate for trial.

I have &c
(Signed) D. W. G. Cowie
Joint Magistrate
(True Copy)

(True Copy)

Forwarded to the Plague Commissioner
for communication to Government (Local and
Municipal Dept.).

Ag. Collector.

28710

Further the
Municipal Plague
- Dept. had been
burnt down in
the previous riots
and the fire was
undoubtedly the
work of incendiarism.
This fact should
have been taken
into account before
- including
of the 1st 15
thous. inoculation
in Coryveeram
had been made