L. & M.
500—13-4-98. P

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1457-P

DATED 16-11-98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Plague in the Nilgiris.

Recording Accepting the Plague Commissioners views in regard to certain important measures to be ~~pursued~~ adopted for the prevention and suppression of ~~the~~ —.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Cuts 2240 Pt 2288 P.

Ordn. No. 1459. P. Mis. Dy 16-11-98

Recorded with the following remarks:-
that Govt accepts the views of the P.C.
15-11-98

1. The proposal of the Collector to employ European Soldiers as Plague Inspectors in the Nilgiris does not commend itself to Govt. which considers that such the services of men should not be utilized in towns when this can possibly be avoided.

2. The Suggestion to entrust the work of inoculation to Vaccinators and Hospital Assistants will be referred to Dr Bannerman for remarks.

3. The attention of the Collector will be drawn to the remarks of the P.C. in para. 3 of his Govt: in which the Govt. concurs.

(Sd) [illegible]

To the Collector Nilgiris (2 to.)
with para. 3 of P.C's endt. dy 14.11.
P.C. (2 to)
~~Dr Bannerman (2 to)~~

Mis
16-11-98

Local & Munl. (189) Department.

CURRENT No. 2240 P

From The Plague Commissioner

Encs 2240 & 2288 P.

For Orders.

H.M. may PC's views be accepted?
W 26.10.98

No. 162

Dated 31-10-98

Received 1-11-98

Registered 1-11-98

Enclosures

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Suggesting to Govt certain important measures to be observed for the precaution and suppression of plague in the Villages

~~Order~~
~~Issue~~
~~The foregoing letter will be recorded with the following remarks,-~~
~~The employment of Sabnis as proposed by the Collector.~~

Rec'd 31-X-98

W 28/10

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Gen. 177 P. 98			
Mis	1400	L & M	2-XI-98

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 325.

118

From The Acting Collector of The Nilgiris

R.C No. 653 of 1898.

Order Eyclt. No. 1622 4/10/98 Ref.

Dated 5th October 1898

Received

Registered

Enclosures "

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Plague

Submitting a detailed account of the measures taken for the prevention & Suppression of ——

Submitted to government.

Personally I am not in favour of these European Soldiers in towns where it can forthwith be avoided. They are not likely to have fact and complaints arise almost certainly begin at once.

2/ The use of vaccination and even Hospital assistants as inoculators is also justly a step that should not be taken without Consulting Dr Bannerman. Dr King, the morning town no thought selected Civil Apothecaries & but suppose might be allowed to inoculate. I doubt if he would recommend any officer of lower grade.

3. The best chance for the Nilgiris & beyond lies in close observation & immediate Segregation - This must with the efficient Immediate Segregation is undoubtedly the important measure. 9.x 98 Mr Bannerman's Pl[illegible]

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Plague

NILGIRI COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,

OOTACAMUND, 5th October 1898.

REF. ON Cur No. 653 of 1898.

FROM A. Butterworth Esquire I.C.S.

of COLLECTOR OF the Nilgiris,

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, Local and Municipal

DEPARTMENT, through the Plague Commissioner

Madras.

SIR.

In response to official memorandum dated 1st October 1898, I have the honour to submit a detailed account of the measures taken or to be taken in this district for the prevention & suppression of plague.

2. Ootacamund. A site has been selected and a Camp is about to be taken in hand at once. This Camp will be divided into (a) a Hospital Camp (b) a Suspect Camp and (c) a healthy Camp. The Hospital is to afford accommodation for 20 beds. The details of the other parts of the Camp have now to be reconsidered but it is probable that the

ENCLOSURES.

Folio about the opening of the upper Post is in the Pub. Dept.

that the suspected healthy Camps will contain 8 huts each. The buildings will be of brick in mud, the climate necessitating the use of such materials.

The Camp should be complete in a month and meanwhile certain buildings have been repaired and run up at the west end of the Lake so that, should a few sporadic cases of plague occur before the Camp is built, they could be segregated at once. These buildings could also be used as an additional hospital should the hospital to be built in the Camp become overcrowded at any time.

If the plague shows further signs of advancing westward from Bangalore, I shall declare Cotacamund to be in imminent danger under Rule 5 of the Rules on page 61 of Sec 1 of the Plague manual.

The Chairman will then obtain an additional staff of Inspector, one peon and one Jobby for each of the three circles into which the town is divided. The best men to employ as Inspectors will, in my opinion, be Private Soldiers from Wellington & for each of them Rupees 25 per mensem should be allotted. The existing staff of Sanitary Inspectors would work in co-operation with these men, so as to give them the benefit of their local knowledge. Should plague occur in the town and spread, more extensive measures would be necessary and I have already expressed to Government my opinion that in that case, each circle should be put under a young Commissioned military officer. If three officers could not be spared, the whole town should be placed under a single military officer of the

the rank of Captain who would take the place of the Divisional Inspector contemplated by the rules. I need hardly say that Polacammal Cannot be treated on exactly the same footing as the ordinary Municipality on the plains. It is also essential to employ a European or Eurasian female Inspector at Polacammal in view of the large number of well to do Mahammadans here. Her principal duty will be to inspect Zenanas and her pay must be at least 50 Rs.

3. Coonoor. A site has been selected for the usual triple Camp. Unfortunately the Municipality is so short of funds that it Cannot carry out the necessary work without help from Govt. The District Medical Offr. has been asked to press on the building

of the Plague Camp & Government has been asked for a loan of Rupees 2000 to meet the cost of the suspect & Health Camps and certain other charges. The Camp is to be small, the hospital & suspect camps containing 4 beds each and the healthy camp accommodation for 20 persons.

It becomes necessary to declare Coonoor to be threatened, an additional Inspector on Rs 25, a peon and a bhisty will have to be entertained. The Inspector should be a soldier from Wellington and, if plague breaks out, a Commissioned Military officer should be placed in charge of the whole town as already recommended to Government.

4. Kotagiri. This is a very small place and is likely to escape for a long time

It has been arranged that, if a case of plague occurs it shall be removed to the Contagious diseases ward near the Hospital. This ward will hold 2 beds.

6. With regard to the protection of Wellington Cantonment, the matter is under correspondence with the Military authorities.

6. The district generally.

(1) A Camp has been nearly completed about three quarters of a mile down the Sigur Ghat with the special object of protecting Ootacamund & the plateau. The Hospital will afford accommodation for 16 or more patients; the suspect & healthy Camps each consist of 4 huts with necessary out-buildings. Inspection is to begin here almost at once. This Camp is to be under the Superintendence of the Civil Surgeon Ootacamund from which it is distant about 5 miles.

(2) A Camp is being Constructed at Kakankalla at the frontier on the road leading to Sanjangod in Mysore. The special object of this Camp is to protect the S.E. approach. Inspection here will probably begin in the middle of the current month.

Unhappily the locality is very feverish and it has therefore been decided to abandon it during the hot weather & transfer the establishment to a Camp close to Gudalur which will be taken in hand shortly.

The Camp at Gudalur will protect part of the approach and also the upper plateau. Kakankalla affords more efficient protection but is uninhabitable in the hot weather at which time, as the number of persons passing from Mysore into the district is comparatively small, there is not such urgent necessity

for protection rights at the frontier.

(3) Should plague occur in S.E. Wynaad, it will probably be necessary, for the protection of the upper plateau, to build a cantonment on the Gudalur Shola. In the course of my approaching tour in the Wynaad, I shall also make enquiries as to whether suitable localities for camps exist there. My present information leads me to believe that Kakankotta & Gudalur are the only places where they would be useful.

(4) If plague spreads westward through Mysore, it will probably be necessary to declare this district to be under observation, but I do not propose to follow strictly the rules relative to districts under observation. The plague rules may be suitable for ordinary districts, but they are not well fitted for application to the Nilgiris. Here we have two towns, one or two hilly villages and a number of minute hamlets scattered over a considerable area of mountain & forest. The towns will make their own arrangements. To protect the villages & hamlets it would, in my opinion, be absurd to employ the elaborate ambulance and cordon staffs prescribed by the rules or to partition the district into observation circles of 5 miles radius each under an inspector. The cost would be great and the results altogether disproportionate. Before the ambulance staff had reached a remote hamlet, the place would generally, I should say, have been decimated or deserted and in fact, nearly everywhere, the ambulance staff could find

no places to put up in on its
march or at its destination.

I propose then, when the
District is declared infected
observations to devide it into
such circles as I think expe-
dient, and to place in each
a Hospital Assistant with a
supply of serum and with
instructions to travel about
in his circle to inoculate
all who are willing, giving
particular attention to the large
gangs of coolies employed on
estates. The Planters are eager,
and rightly so, that such itinerating
officers should be appointed and
believe the plan to be far
better & cheaper than any other
in a district like this. I have
also arranged with the District
Medical & Sanitary officer that he
shall instruct vaccinators
in the process of inoculation.

5. I have very little belief
in Camps as a protective measure
and am of opinion that if
the plague approaches this District,
we shall owe it to chance that
it does not invade us. Both
the Wynaad & the upper Plateau
can be approached by innumerable
paths over the hills & through the
forests & there is no possibility
of guarding them.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant

Copied
Compared.

C. Butterworth.

As Collector.

Local & Munl. (189) Department.

CURRENT No. 2288 P

From The Plague Commissioner Madras

Order

No. 234

Dated 19-10-98

Received 22-10-98

Registered 22-10-98

Enclosures

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

approving the proposals of the Collector of the Nilgiris regarding the entertainment of an hospital assistant for inoculation etc and with the remark that if the Collector has a man who can be properly trained for the work the Govt will allow him to operate in the Wynaad

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Proceedings of the Plague Commissioner.

Read the following:-

Letter from the Collector of Nilgiris, No.Ref. on C. 1400/98 dated 8th October 1898:-

"I have today received from the Collector of Malabar a copy of telegram sent to him on the 3rd inst. by Government to the effect that plague has broken out in Mysore City & District. This is the first intimation I have had of the fact.

2. In the ordinary course I should move you, as representing Government, to declare this district to be under observation but, if this is done, the elaborate rules applicable to ordinary districts will come into operation and, considering the character of this district and the paucity of its population, I think all that is needful can be done without declaring the district to be under observation. The original rules on pages 8-21 of the Plague Manual enable the Collector to provide camps to compel evacuation of houses, to destroy huts, to detain & segregate people and generally to do all that is feasible in such a district as this.

3. The course which I propose to take is therefore as follows:-

As already reported in my letter dated 5th October 1898, R.C. No. 653 of 1898 inspection is beginning on the Sigur ghat and will shortly begin at Kakanhalla on the frontier. The District Board Engineer has been requested to finish the Kakanhalla Camp without delay.

In the centre of the Wynaad lies its only important village, Gudalur which has a population of about 2500. The District Board Engineer has

been instructed to set in hand at once the construction of a camp near the point where the main roads of the Wynaad converge. This hospital will be provided with a complete staff under a hospital Assistant.

In addition, effort will be made to obtain the services of a Hospital Assistant to visit each village and estate in the Wynaad for the purpose of inoculating people. The whole population of the Wynaad being only about 25,000, it should be possible, if we only get the anti-toxin, to inoculate a considerable proportion of it in the course of a few months.

No. 234 dated 19th October 1898.

The Plague Commissioner approves of the Collector's proposals. It is at present apparently intended by Government that only commissioned Medical Officers should inoculate but if the Collector has a man who can be properly trained for the work Government will probably allow Him to operate in the Wynaad.

Plague Commissioner.

To

The Secretary to Government (Local & Municipal Department).

,, Collector of Nilgiris.

When given for copying }
When copied } 189 .
When examined }
When signed }

HEAD AGAIN G.O., No. 189 . , DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT .. .. .. A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.