

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

(1898)

MISCELLANEOUS.

No. 312

DATED 21. 10. 98

Recd 25/10/98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Plague at Kannamangalam & Rajampettai

Approving of the action of the inhabitants
of Kannamangalam & Rajampettai; N. Arcot
in segregating suspicious persons & requesting
the Collector to send to all Collectors a copy of
the proposed notice regarding the steps taken by
the inhabitants of Kannamangalam to prevent
plague for publication in St. Gazette. Rajampettai
& Kannamangalam

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

C No 575

FROM

THE COLLECTOR AND

DISTRICT MAGISTRATE,

North Arcot.

To The Plague Commission
Fort Saint George
Madras

Prop. No 312 d. 10. 10. 98

No. of Enclosures.

Letter, dated 18. oct. 1898

Reference No. 342 of 1898.

SUBJECT.

Submitting report
on imported plague
cases at Kannamangalam
and Rajampettai

It is very satisfactory to find
the Village making the necessary
preparations for future danger &
the Com. is required to do as he
can to encourage the system. As long
as the Village can provide a
decent shed out side their village
& suffer to make with food
then is no harm whatever
in their segregating every one who
comes to the village from infected
place for ten days & it is to
be wished that the system could
be followed in all villages
(Here enter from 2 on separate sheet)

Wm
20. 90

To The Com. of N. West

station adjacent to Rajampettai

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

FURTHER

No.	Date.

NOTE FOR THE S. C.

The following add here is suggested.

The Collector is requested to send to all other Collectors a copy of the proposed notice regarding the ^{steps taken} ~~the~~ of the people of Kannamangalam, for publication in their S. C. papers.

20/10/98

Yr. M. is no objection to this add

20/10/98

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Letter, dated 18. Oct. 1898

Reference No. 342 of 1898.

SUBJECT.

Submitting report
on imported plague
cases at Kannamangalam
and Rajampettai

This is very satisfactory to find
the Village realizing the importance
of segregating suspicious cases &
the C.M. is requested to do all he
can to encourage the system. As long
as the Village can provide a
decent shed out side their village
& supply to its inmates with food
there is no harm whatever
in their segregating every one who
comes to the Village from infected
places for ten days & as long
as he works that the system comes
to be followed in all villages
(Here enter from 2 on separate sheet)

20/10/98

To The Chief of Station

Chittoor. 8 18-10 — 1898.

Reform No. 342 of 1898.

From

J. K. Batten Esqr

Collector & District Magistrate,

North Arcot.

To

The Plague Commissioner
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to confirm the following telegram despatched to you from Kannamangalam on the evening of the 15th October 1898.

Abdul Wahab arrived by rail from Bangalore at Kannamangalam, Arni division eighth morning got fever twelfth morning still alive no buboes has been segregated since arrival by villagers of their own accord one Kuppam having slight fever left Bangalore with wife sixth arrived Valathur Railway station seventh walked Rajampettai

Three

three miles died evening on road
 Corpse buried eighth wife arrived
 Avaniapuram. Wandewash Sahib
 ninth disinfecting and segregated
 by Tahsildar eleventh contacts
 at Mallaganagar doing well
 no fresh cases reported from
 Pallikonda, Kalavai or Visharani."

2. At about 10 am on the 15th
 instant, I received a telegram
 from the deputy Tahsildar of
 Arni that one Abdul Wahab
 who had arrived at Kannamangalam
 from Bangalore had fever and that the Assistant
 Surgeon at Vellore, who examined
 the patient found no symptoms
 of plague but advised close
 medical ~~examination~~ observation.
 I left for Kannamangalam
 by the next train leaving Chittoor
 at 2.5 pm with Mr. Scott Elliot
 and ~~Colonel~~ Lieut. Colonel
 Lancaster, I.M.S. who
 arrived at Chittoor by the 12.1 pm
 train.

train. We arrived at Kannamangalam
 (a railway station on the Villupuram
 - Guntakal section of the S. I. R.)
 at 4.44 pm on the 15th and were
 met at the station by the civil
 apothecary of Arni and a leading
 Muhammadan merchant of
 Kannamangalam named
 Manji Abdul Latif Sahib. I
 found that the inhabitants of
 Kannamangalam under the advice
 and guidance of the said Manji
 Abdul Latif Sahib were voluntarily
 keeping all people coming from
 infected areas under segregation
 for a period of 10 days in isolated
 buildings on the outskirts of the
 village. The inhabitants have
 arranged with the station-master
 of Kannamangalam Railway
 station who is also the passport
 issuing officer at that station
 to send them immediate intimation
 of every arrival from the infected
 areas.

areas. The station master detains the passenger for a short time in order to issue passports and in the meantime sends intimation to the village which is only half a mile off either through any person going there or through one of his porters. The station orderly accompanies the persons to the outskirts of the village, and the villagers do the rest. The passengers from Bangalore are all taken through the fields to one of the isolated houses outside the village. Including Abdul Wahab three parties are now under observation in separate buildings outside the village. Abdul Wahab is put up in a tiled building belonging to Manji Abdul Latif Sahab, which is generally used as a cattle shed. A second party consisting of 30 members is put up in a garden remote from Abdul Wahab's residence and a third party consisting of three members is

is put up in another garden about 200 yards off. We went to the place where Abdul Wahab was kept under segregation and the Deputy Tahsildar and sub-magistrate of Arni who had arrived at the village on the 13th joined us. Halim Bee mother of Abdul Wahab and Mohammed Ismail, brother of Abdul Wahab are residing with Abdul Wahab in the segregated house and are nursing and attending upon him. Another brother of Abdul Wahab brings food for the inmates from the village and leaves it at a distance outside the house. A Constable of the local police station and a guard of talidars are placed round the house. The patient refused to be examined by the District surgeon and preferred to be treated by a native physician. I directed the physician who was present

6
present to have his hands and feet thoroughly washed with disinfectants every time he went near the patient. I also directed Alauji Abdul Latif sahib to disinfect the segregated house in the following manner after it is vacated by the inmates:-

(1) To remove two or three rows of tiles and to expose the rooms to the light and heat of the sun for 3 or 4 days.

(2) to burn the floor of the house by the kiln method which was explained.

(3) to whitewash the walls of the house with thick lime wash and disinfectants.

Alauji Abdul Latif sahib agreed to do all this except mixing disinfectants with the whitewash. I did not press the point as whitewash is a good disinfectant. The Submagistrate and the civil apothecary are still there and are supervising the operations. I returned to Chittoor by the 7.13 p.m. train the same day.

7.
3. Abdul Wahab, a Mussalman lad of about sixteen, was employed as a cook under Mera Abdul Karim sahib a grain merchant of Visheram in Sharapur, Bangalore. Owing to the fear of plague the merchant left Bangalore with a party on the evening of the 7th by the mail train and Abdul Wahab accompanied them as far as Katpadi where he changed train for Kannamangalam on the morning of the 8th. On his arrival at Kannamangalam at 6.38 Am on the 8th, the station master issued a passport to him and gave the usual intimation to the villagers. The villagers removed him at once to the house in which he is at present, and his mother and brother who were in the village went to reside with him. He was well till the 12th and about 10 a.m. on the 12th was taken ill with

8
with fever. The village munsiff
heard of this at 5 pm. the same
day. He ~~was~~ at once sent a report
to the submagistrate at arni
which was received by him at
about 8 o'clock on the morning
of the 13th. The submagistrate
and the civil apothecary left
for Kaunamangalam between
9 and 10 am. and reached the
place at about noon on the 13th.

The following medical history
is given by the civil apothecary:-

13th noon. Temperature 105°.

Restless and muttering things
to himself; facial expression
heavy but indifferent; eyes
somewhat suffused but not
injected; skin hot and dry; pulse
130; respiration 34 slightly laboured;
no cough; when shaken to was
roused up with difficulty; -
answers incoherent; tongue dry
and coated with white fur;
margins red; there was no
vomiting or diarrhoea; no
swellings

9.
Swellings of glands.

13th evening. Temperature 104°

14th morning. Temperature 103°;

Slightly improved

14th evening. Temperature 104.2°;

Condition much the same.

15th morning. Temperature 102°;

tongue clear; face fairly clear;
no swelling of glands. Assistant
surgeon also examined the patient
this morning. He said that he
felt the right inguinal gland to
be slightly harder and knottier
than the left but that condition
might be normal as there was no
pain or tenderness over the gland.

15th evening. Temperature 105°

4. The case is probably one of
plague. The arrangements made
by the villagers and the local
officers are excellent.

5. I propose to publish in the
village sheet of the district gazette
the

the excellent example set by the inhabitants of Kannamangalam village under the intelligent advice of Maulji Abdul Latif Sahab, so that it may be followed by other villages. This gentleman is a cousin of Maulji Mohammed Isak Sahab of Visharum who promised to help me in segregating the Cook Kader Mohideen and family in his bungalow and in disinfecting Murvittu ~~the~~ Fakir Mohammed's house. Abdul Latif Sahab says that his cousin was unable to fulfill all his promises because the villagers of Visharum are numerous and would not obey his orders. In Kannamangalam, the Dubbais are comparatively poor and form only about one third of the total population of about 2500.

6. The following history is given by the wife of Kuppau, the other person referred to in my telegram.

He

He was a resident of Avania puram village of Mandawash Taluk in this district. He went to Bangalore with his wife Santhi six months ago in search of livelihood. They lived in Bangalore near Odda's quarters where plague is said to be raging. Kuppau had slight symptoms of fever and he therefore left Bangalore with his wife on the night of the 6th instant. Their clothes and persons were disinfected at Bangalore station. They took tickets for Katpadi and travelled as far as Valathur station, where they alighted as Kuppau had developed symptoms of high fever. They then walked to Rajampettai three miles from Valathur. There is no village by the name of Rajampettai near Valathur and it is probably a mistake for Rajapalayam hamlet of Mahamedupuram in

10
12
in Vellare Taluk. They reached
the bank of a river running
near the village at about 11. am
on the 7th and stopped there
without going into the village.
Kuphan got an abscess in his
thigh during the course of the day
(probably a buto) and died of
its effect at 4 P.m. the same day.
The manigal of the village sent
a man to help the wife in guarding
the dead body of her husband
during the night. The body
was buried early next morning
on the bank of the river with the
assistance of the manigal. Imme-
diately after burial, the wife
left for Avaniyapuram and
reached that place at about
noon on the 9th. The manigal
of Avaniyapuram getting
information about her husband's
death and her arrival reported
the matter to the Tahsildar on
the 11th. The Tahsildar went
to the place immediately
and

13.
and had her disinfected and
segregated. 5 other persons
viz, 3 boys, one girl and one adult
male seem to have accompanied
this pair. Santhi says that they
stayed at Rajampettai and
that she alone walked to Ava-
niyapuram with the help of a
boy. The first intimation
which I got about this case
was a report from the Tahsildar
received by me on the 14th.
The report is not complete and
I have made further references
to find out
(1) whether the station master
of Palathur issued passports
to this pair and the party that
accompanied them.
(2) whether the station master
noticed that Kuphan had
fever and if so why he did
not give intimation about it
to the headman of the village

12
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- (3) Whether the Menegar of Mahamaduipuram sent any intimation about this case to the Tahildar.
- (4) Why the Menegar allowed this woman to go abroad when he knew that her husband died under such suspicious circumstances.
- (5) Where the other 5 persons went to after Kuppai's death and what has been done with them.
- (6) Who was the boy who accompanied Sauti to Avanigapuram from the place where her husband died; and what has been done with him.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

C. Scott Elliot
Tahildar Collector.

18/10/1857

18/10/1857

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When examined

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189