

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

PRINTED.

G.O., No. 494.P.

DATED 18.5.1898.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Bubonic Plague.

Requesting all collectors to report what effect has been given to the instructions issued in G.O. No. 274. M. dated 23.2.97. regarding the destruction of rats as a plague precautionary measure.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Government {1898} of Madras. LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

} 1898.

Spare copies

G.O., No. 494 P., 18th May 1898.

MAY.

Bubonic Plague.

Ordering the discontinuance of the experiment of killing rats on the Kurnool frontier, and requesting all Collectors to report what effect has been given to the instructions issued in G.O., No. 274 M., dated 23rd February 1897, regarding their destruction as a plague precautionary measure.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper :—

G.O., No. 459 P., dated 10th May 1898.

ABSTRACT.—Requesting the Marine and Revenue departments to instruct Port and Customs authorities to see that no rats are landed with goods imported by sea and that rats found in ships are destroyed forthwith.

READ—also the following paper :—

From the Collector of Kurnool, dated 7th May 1898, R. C. No. 623-General.

ABSTRACT.—Forwarding a report on the methods adopted for killing rats in certain frontier villages.

ORDER—No. 494 P., dated 18th May 1898.

The result of the Collector's endeavours to destroy rats on his frontier is satisfactory, but since the experiment was ordered, plague has been diminishing in His Highness the Nizam's dominions and there is not now much risk of getting infection through rats from that quarter. The Government is therefore of opinion that the experiment may be discontinued in the frontier villages of the Kurnool district. There is, however, greater danger of infected rats being brought with goods imported by railway or sea, and all Collectors are requested to report what effect has been given to the instructions issued in G.O., No. 274 M., dated 23rd February 1897, at the ports and railway stations situated in their districts.

(True Extract.)

H. TREMENHEERE,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

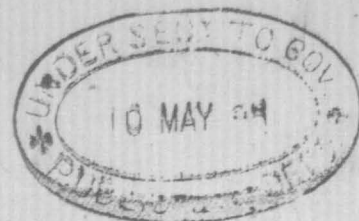
To all Collectors.

Copy to the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
" to the Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. P. Seetharam.

Plague *Local and Municipal* *2 Abstract*
Public Works (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 716P



Order

From

The Collector of Kurnool

No. 623/91

Dated 7. 5. 98

Received 10. 5. 98

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Forwarding a report
on the methods adopted
for killing rats in
certain frontier
villages.

SA 10/5/98

BACK PAPERS.

FURTHER PAPERS

[illegible]

Rec. No. 623 of 1898
General
ENCLOSURES.

KURNOOL COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,

Lamp China, Tekur
Dated 7th May 1898

FROM

Mahomed Raza Khan Esquire C.S.

Acting COLLECTOR OF KURNOOL.

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT

CURRENT No. 716 P

To

THE SECRETARY TO *Government,*

Local and Municipal Department,
Madras.

SIR,

In continuation of my Disposal No. 1302 General, dated 3rd April 1898, I have the honor to submit below a table showing the number of rats killed during the last month in some of the frontier villages of the Ramallakota and Nandikotkur Taluks.

Taluk	Officer who conducted the experiment	Name of Village	No. of rats killed	For how many days the experiment was carried out
Ramalakota	Deputy Tahsildar, Kurnool Town	1. Panchalimala	147	19
		2. Etavola Tandrapad	263	29
		3. Gondipalli	98	16
		4. Devamada	8	1
	Tahsildar, Ramalakota.	5. Palukudoddi	25	3
		6. Sangala	15	4
		7. Timmandoddi	56	7
		8. Gundrevula	92	3
Nandikotkur	Tahsildar, Nandikotkur	9. Athur	75	17
Total			779	

U
[It will be seen that 779 rats have been killed as a result of the trial of Dr. King's scheme. Originally orders were issued only for conducting the experiment in two villages namely Etavola-Pandrapad and Panchalingala; but endeavours were subsequently made towards the destruction of rats in a few more villages where 369 rats were killed.

2. Nets, scissor traps and rat cages were the instruments employed in the experiment and various methods were adopted. Two persons held a net in a dark storeroom (the rats are chiefly found in places where cholam and other agricultural produce are stored) and a third individual drove away the rats by frightening them with sticks thrust into holes, pots etc, and by making noise. These creatures will

Q
will then run in confusion and try to climb up the wall in order to get to the roofs when he would sweep with a broom as many rats as he could into the net. This process should be repeated only at pretty long intervals; otherwise it is not likely to be attended with success. The reward of 2 pice now offered does not operate as an adequate incentive to this method being resorted to in many instances as it requires some time and the exertions of several persons. The scissor traps were used in catching one or two rats each day. Though involving no labour this process ~~also~~ ^{always} requires some interval as the rats seem, out of the natural instinct of self preservation, to shun the bait for some time after every case in which they are caught.

The Deputy Tahsildar of Kurnool Town reports that as many as 20 rats were

6
were entangled in a rat-cage in a
certain house the first day it was
used. On the second day the number
caught was 10 and on subsequent
days it was smaller. This is
attributed to the fact that when
rats move about in a cage a sort
of small sticks to it which drives
away the new rats that approach
it. There may probably be some
improvement in the results if the cage
is well washed every time it is used.

Another mode suggested by the Villagers
was to sprinkle poisoned food in the
different parts of a house so that
the rats may eat it and die, but
this plan is highly inadvisable, not
only because of the danger of things
intended for human consumption being
rendered poisonous but also because
the rats would in that case die
in roofs and holes and the removal
of the dead ones would be
fraught

3
fraught with considerable difficulty
and inconvenience and produce any
epidemic if removal is not effected.

It was not therefore adopted in any
village. The Villagers appear to know
other methods by which the rat population
may be very much thinned but
they do not readily come forward to
carry on the experiment on a large scale
as the reward now held out does not
serve as a sufficient inducement. Unlike
Brahmins and Komates, the Boyas,
Telugus and other low caste people have
no scruples to kill rats and if the
Government be pleased to enhance the
rate of reward at least to 3 pies per
rat as suggested in my letter R.O. No.
623 dated 4th April 1898, I think that
much better results can be secured.

CO 342
16-4-98.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
your Most obedient Servant
7/5/98 M. D. P. A. N. S.
Acting Collector

1898.

CORRESPONDENCE DEPARTMENT.

FROM

THE COLLECTOR OF

KURNOOL,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO

Government
Local and Municipal Department
Madras.

Dated

Received



1898.

No. 623

General

of 1898

ENCLOSURES.

SUBJECT.

Reporting the results of the rat-killing experiments conducted in the Ramakkota and Nandikotkur Taluks and recommending that the reward may be enhanced.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Again G.O., dated

189 , No.

Current No.

716 P

of 1898, dated

7-5-98

from the

Coll. of Kurnool

Current No.

of 189 , dated

from the

SUBJECT.

Destruction of rats.

FOR ORDERS.

Am for in form
↓ orders

In his letter No 484-S dt 2-3-98 the Sanitary Commr suggested to the Coll. of Kurnool that steps should be taken to destroy rats within 20 miles of the borders of his district and a reward of 2 pice should be offered for each rat killed. The Collr referred the matter to Govt, as G.O. No 93 P dt 26-2-98 authorized the grant of rewards in areas declared infected. He was authorized to try the experiment in one or two villages and report the result in 10 days.

Flag-D

2. In his letter No 1302 dt 3-4-98, the Collr reported that the reward of 2 pice was not found to be sufficiently attractive and that

Flag-E

that he would make further
endeavours and intimate the
result in the beginning of May.
In a subsequent letter of 4-4-98,
he recommended that the reward
should be raised from 2 to
3 pias. The Govt said that the
recommendation would be considered
after getting the promised report.
This has now come (Chs 716 P.).
704 rats have now been killed
in 8 villages in the Ramallikot taluk
and 75 in one village in Nandikotkur.
The money spent on rewards
amounts to Rs 8-1-10. The Collector
states a reward of 2 pias is not
enough & sends his application
to raise it to 3 pias.

3. Now that plague has almost
disappeared from
Hyderabad, there is not much
risk of getting infection through
rats from the Karnool frontier,
and the experiment there may
perhaps be discontinued. There
is however greater cause for fearing
that infected rats may be brought
with goods imported by rail and
especially by sea, and the Collectors
of

Flag-F.

Flag-G.

Flag-I for. No 459 P. of 10-5-98

Flag-H.

of districts where there are
railway stations or ports may
be asked what steps are being
taken in those districts to carry
out the instructions issued in
G.O. No 274 & 23-2-97. The
municipalities are the principal
authorities who should take action
in this matter. The Marine
Revenue Departments have been
requested to issue instructions to
the Port and Sea Customs authorities
to see that no rats are landed
and that those found in ships are
promptly destroyed.

Long
13/5/98 I think the suggestion
may be approved

HT
B 5-25

DD
14/5/98

[L. & M.]
300-10-3-05.

Papers to be read in Proceedings:—

Again G.O., No. dated 189 ,
 { Again G.O., No. 459P dated 10-5-98 189 ,
 Current No. 716 P of 1898, dated 7-5-98 , from Colls. of Kurnool
 " " " " " " " " " " " "
 " " " " " " " " " " " "

ORDER. No. 494 P. dt 18-5

The result of the Collis' endeavours to destroy rats on his frontier is satisfactory, but since the experiment was ordered, plague has been diminishing in H.H. the Nigani's dominions and there is not ^{now} much risk of getting infection through rats from that quarter. The Govt is therefore, of opinion that the experiment may now be discontinued in the frontier villages of the Kurnool District. There is, however, great danger of infected rats being brought with goods imported by railway or sea. all Colls. ~~of the district~~ and all Collectors are requested to report ^{what effect has been given to} ~~what effect has been given to~~ the instructions issued in G.O. No 274 M. dt 23-2-97 at the ports.

The Collector of Frontier and
maritime districts

and railway stations situated in
this district.

H.T.
18598

Please recast so
that for railway
this may apply only
to frontier districts.

H.T.
16398

To all C.M.s
Ct. to President's Mr. Madh
" Sanitary Commr.

Sept 16/98

Recd
18-5-1898

Revised, but it is
submitted that with
looking of goods, it seems
immaterial whether the
railway station is in a
frontier district or not.

Aug
17/5/98

First copy sent to Press. 23. 5. 1898.
Returned for signature. 2. 6. 1898.
Despatched in print. 4. 6. 1898.

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 4591. DATED 10. 5. 1898

CURRENT No. 716-P.

REMARKS TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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

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