PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

(1898)

PRINTED.

No. 767

DATED 22-11-98

Despd with [illegible] 14/2/99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Protection of ~~Plague in~~ the Nilgiri Dt. from Plague
~~Hospital assistant for Inoculation~~

Recording G.O. accepting the views of the Plague Commissioner regarding the entertainment of an Hosp. asst. for inoculation ~~in the Nilgiris Dt. &c~~ and the measures proposed by the Collr. for the ~~prevention & suppression of,~~

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

Proceedings of the Plague Commissioner,

MADRAS—1898.

Recd. } 1898. *Enclosures*
Regd. } *Spare copies*

Proceedings, No. 767, 22nd November 1898.

NOVEMBER.

Plague Preventive Measures in the Nilgiris.

Recording Government Order on the Collector's proposals regarding —.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

READ—the following paper :—

G.O., Mis. No. 1459 P., dated 16th November 1898.

Read—the following papers :—

From A. BUTTERWORTH, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Collector of the Nilgiris, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department (through the Plague Commissioner, Madras), dated Ootacamund, 5th October 1898, Ref. on Cur. No. 653.

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 and 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 suspect and healthy camps will contain eight 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 Ootacamund to be in imminent danger under Rule 5 of the rules on page 61 *et. seq.* of the Plague Manual.

The Chairman will then entertain an additional staff of one Inspector, one peon and one toty 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, and for each of them Rs. 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 rank of captain who would take the place of the Divisional Inspector contemplated by the rules.

I need hardly say that Ootacamund 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 Ootacamund in view of the large number of well-to-do Muhammadans here. Her special duty will be to inspect zenanas and her pay must be at least Rs. 50.

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 works without help from Government. The District Medical Officer has been asked to press

on the building of the plague camp, and Government has been asked for a loan of Rs. 2,000 to meet the cost of the suspect and healthy camps and certain other charges. The camp is to be small, the hospital and suspect camps containing four beds each and the healthy camp accommodation for twenty persons.

If it becomes necessary to declare Coonoor to be threatened, an additional Inspector on Rs. 25, a peon and a toty 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 two beds.

5. 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 Ghât* with the special object of protecting Ootacamund and the plateau. The hospital will afford accommodation for sixteen or more patients; the suspect and healthy camps each consist of four 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 *Kakanhalla* at the frontier on the road leading to Nanjangod in Mysore. The special object of this camp is to protect the South-East Wynaad. 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 and transfer the establishment to a camp close to Gúdalúr which will be taken in hand shortly.

The camp at Gúdalúr will protect part of the Wynaad and also the Upper Plateau. Kakanhalla affords more efficient protection; but is uninhabitable in the hot weather at which time, as the number of persons passing from Mysore into this district is comparatively small, there is not such urgent necessity for protection rights on the frontier.

(3) Should plague occur in South-East Wynaad, it will probably be necessary, for the protection of the Upper Plateau, to build a camp on the Gúdalúr ghât. In the course of my approaching tour in the Wynaad, I shall also make enquiries as to whether other suitable localities for camps exist there. My present information leads me to believe that Kakanhalla and Gúdalúr 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 petty villages and a number of minute hamlets scattered over a considerable area of mountain and forest. The towns will make their own arrangements. To protect the villages and 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 five miles radius each under an Inspector. The cost would be great and the results altogether disproportionate. Before the cumbrous 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 under observation, to divide it into such circles as I think expedient, 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 I believe the plan to be far better and cheaper than any other in a district like this. I have also arranged with the District Medical and 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 and the Upper Plateau can be approached by innumerable paths over the hills and through the forests and there is no possibility of guarding them.

Endt. No. 162.

Submitted to Government.

2. Personally I am not in favour of the use of European Soldiers in towns where it can possibly be avoided. They are not likely to have tact and complaints will almost certainly begin at once.

3. The use of vaccinators and even hospital assistants as inoculators is also probably a step that should not be taken without consulting Dr. Bannerman. Dr. King, this morning told me he thought selected Civil Apothecaries and Assistant Surgeons might be allowed to inoculate. I doubt if he would recommend any officers of lower grade.

4. The best chance for the Nilgiris and Wynaad lies in close observation and *immediate* segregation. This ought not to be difficult. *Immediate* segregation is undoubtedly *the* important measure.

11*th October* 1898.

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Plague Commissioner.

From A. BUTTERWORTH, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Collector of the Nilgiris, to the Plague Commissioner, Madras, dated Ootacamund, 8th October 1898, Ref. on Cur. No. 1400.

I have to-day received from the Collector of Malabar a copy of telegram sent to him on the 3rd instant by Government to the effect that plague has broken out in Mysore city and 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 and 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, inspection is beginning on the Sigur ghât 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, Gúdalúr, which has a population of about 2,500. 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.

Endt. No. 234.

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.

19*th October* 1898.

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Plague Commissioner.

Order—Mis. No. 1459 P., dated 16th November 1898.

Recorded with the remark that Government accepts the views of the Plague Commissioner.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. TREMENHEERE,
Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of the Nilgiris.
„ Plague Commissioner.

PROCEEDINGS—No. 767, dated 22nd November 1898.

Recorded.

M. HAMMICK,
Plague Commissioner.

To the Collector of the Nilgiris (A—L).
Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.
„ „ Surgeon-General.

Plague Proceedings [illegible]

Exd. P. Seetharam.

Proof 9/2

25 sign
28 Spare

Proceedings of the Plague Commissioner,

MADRAS — 1898.

Proof for approval

Please correct and strike off.
11/12/98

Recd. } 1898. *Enclosures*
Regd. *Spare copies*

Proceedings, No. 767, 22nd November 1898.

NOVEMBER.

Plague preventive measures in the Nilgiris.
Recording G.O. on the Collector's proposals regarding —

~~**Protection of the Nilgiri District from Plague.**~~

~~Recording Government order accepting the views of the Plague Commissioner regarding the entertainment of an hospital assistant to inoculate and the measures proposed by the Collector for the —~~

Observation Scheme for the Nilgiris

Recording G.O. approving of the
as modified by the Plague Commr.

7/12-98

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Endt. No. 162.

Submitted to Government.

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(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Plague Commissioner.

11th October 1898. (2)

Order—Mis. No. 1459 P., dated 16th November 1898.

Recorded with the remark that Government accepts the views of the Plague Commissioner.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. TREMENHEERE,
Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of the Nilgiris.
„ Plague Commissioner.

Proceedings—No. 767, dated 22nd November 1898.

Recorded.

Personal Assistant,
for *Plague Commissioner.*

To The Collr. of the Nilgiris (A–L)
Copy to the Sany. Commr.
" " Surg.-Genl.

Exd. P. Seetharam.

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.
(1898)

CURRENT No. 1483

~~Heads~~

From The Local and Municipal Department

138
22/11

~~**Order**~~ Gro. no 767 22-11-98

Recorded

Lms 22/11/98

22/11/98

No. 1459 P. Mis

Dated 16-11-1898

Received 20-11-1898

Registered 21-11-1898

To The Collr. of the Nilgiris L-21 **Enclosures**

Copy to S.C. **Spare copies**

" " S.G.

SUBJECT.

Desp'd 14/12

Recording with remarks endorsement of the Plague Commissioner approving the proposal of the Collector of the Nilgiris regarding the entertainment of an Hospital Assistant for inoculation

B

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.
162	11-10-98
234	19-10-98

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

C No 1483

[25]
500—20-10-98.

P. C.
20 NOV 1898

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

128

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ the following paper :—

From the Plague Commissioner No.234 d/19-10-98approving the proposal of the Collector of the Nilgiris regarding the entertainment of a/n Hospital Assistant for inoculation.

From the Collector of the Nilgiris R.C. No. 653 of 98,dated 5th Oct 1898.

Also endorsement from the Plague Commissioner No.162 dated 11-10-98

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omit

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Order No.1459-P.,Misc. dated 16-11-98.

Recorded with the remark that Govt.accepts the views of the Plague Commissioner.

(True Extract.)

A Edgington
For Secretary to Govt.

V.P.
19.11.

To the Collector of the Nilgiris.
Plague Commissioner ✓

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Enclosures to C. No.

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G. O. Mis. No. 1459 P dated 16-11-98

Read — C. No. 325
Endt. No. 162
etc. etc.

Progs. No. 407 dated 22-1-98
Recorded.

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