PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

(1898)

PRINTED.

Letter **No.** 88

DATED 7. 10. 98

Desp^d 22-10-98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Plague

Passing orders on the Sanitary Commr's recommendations regarding the formation of observation circles with a radius of 5 miles round an infected area, a reserve of Sanitary Inspectors &c.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.
Cw 1201.			
Cw 1454/98			

Proceedings of the Plague Commissioner,

MADRAS—1898.

Recd. } 1898.
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Letter, No. 88, 7th October 1898.

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MS 19-10-98

OCTOBER.

Plague.

Passing orders on the Sanitary Commissioner's recommendations regarding the formation of observation circles with a radius of five miles round an infected area, a reserve of sanitary Inspectors, &c.

BACK

No.	Date.

FUR

No.	Date.
C no 1207. C no 1404 98	

I suppose a copy of the scheme which Dr. King told me two days ago should be sent to the Sanitary Commissioner with his scheme

21/10 98

~~[illegible]~~ Why was this not despatched to M. S.? Please despatch printed copy at once

21/10

File with No 88/98

Proceedings of the Plague Commissioner,

MADRAS—1898.

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Letter, No. 88, 7th October 1898.

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19-10-98

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Passing orders on the Sanitary Commissioner's recommendations regarding the formation of observation circles with a radius of five miles round an infected area, a reserve of Sanitary Inspectors, &c.

BA

No.	Date.

FUR

No.	Date.
C no 1201	
C no 1454 98	

Note for P.A.

I suggested to Government to
think the sanctioning of
Dr. King's scheme of
maintaining a reserve of

10. Sanitary Inspectors
on $\frac{1}{2}$ pay as a Reserve to
meet emergencies of Contg-
and.

10 Others to be kept at 1/8
~~[illegible]~~ each as a retaining
fee.

Did the Sanitary Commr. ever
write in officially asking for
Sanction for this scheme?
If he has did I pass orders?

W.S.

Put up

19.X.98

Yes sir
Please see No. 88 d/ 7-10-98 put up
21/10/98

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Read—the following paper:—

From Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Plague Commissioner, Ootacamund, dated Camp Mancherla, 20th September 1898, No. 1-P.—T.

With reference to my inspection of the locality affected with indigenous plague at the Guntakal Railway station, Timmencherla and Chippigiri, I have the honour to suggest that the following requirements are dictated by the experience gained:—

(1) The formation of "observation circles" round affected areas where they have not been already formed, should be carried out with the *utmost rapidity*, with the object of not only inspecting the villages in the vicinity, but especially of ascertaining the whereabouts of persons from the affected villages, as a certain number will, on the first appearance of the disease, or of efforts by Government officers to combat it, flee in alarm to villages in the neighbourhood, where they find readily accommodation in their relations' houses. This promptitude cannot be secured, unless the *personnel* wherewith to form the staff be obtainable by the Collectors concerned within a few hours' notice. To transfer certificated Sanitary Inspectors from "observation circles" already in existence, implies that they have hitherto fulfilled no sphere of utility. It should be possible to secure men not already employed on special duty. The alternative to removing men from existing "observation circles" is for Collectors to telegraph to my office for Sanitary Inspectors. I have already a list of Sanitary Inspectors and their addresses, but as I cannot promise them employment on a definite date, it stands to reason that a demand for their services may find them already engaged. The remedy seems to me that I should be permitted to entertain upon half pay ten certificated Sanitary Inspectors, who should be under my orders at Madras for any temporary duty upon which I may detail them, and be available for instant despatch to any part of the Presidency on my receiving demands from officers for plague duty. Full pay would be given to the sanitary staff from date of departure from Madras.

The Sanitary Commissioner has recently been authorized to train 50 men.

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(3) It should be ruled that round an infected area observation circles shall be five and not ten miles diameter. These might be known as "preventive circles."

Additional Regulation 6 says 5 miles radius, *i.e.*, 10 miles diameter.

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desirable that each Collector should determine when an area should be termed infected; an uniform method should be enforced. The moment of acute danger undoubtedly arises when the first indigenous case is reported.

(5) Within preventive circles heads of villages should be required to report, under pain of punishment, all arrivals from infected areas without passports. Their attention to this point and to the presence of fever as at present required, should be assisted by the appointment by the Tahsildar of a Sanitary Panchayat formed of three respectable persons to every 1,000 inhabitants, as far as in the discreption of the Tahsildar this is feasible. The President of the Sanitary Panchayat should be the village head. It should assemble daily before sundown, and make entry as to arrivals of persons from infected areas and other matters bearing on plague prevention in a diary and should send special reports of any occurrence within its jurisdiction to the circle sanitary inspector for transmission to the plague supervisor. Specially useful members of panchayats should be rewarded by bangles, or mention in the District Gazettes.

Regulation 17-vi (page 16 of pamphlet) provides for this.

This may be adopted. As regards Madras City, the President has been asked Demi-officially to appoint a public servant for every 50 houses, to report arrivals and illness.

(6) Officers not in receipt of a tentage allowance and carrying Government tents are required under existing rules to pay half the cost of transport. It cannot, for a moment, be suggested that daily allowance covers the cost of a camp upkeep that may be required on plague duty to move under 20 miles per day. I think it but fair that officers on plague duty carrying Government tents should be allowed to recover the total cost of transport.

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The Government has negatived this, because qualified men are wanting to supply the whole Presidency. The Government order is in the Press.

This was in the original draft of Additional Regulation 32 (page 36 of pamphlet) but was omitted with reference to India remarks on pages 78—80.

Please see remarks in paragraph 5 of G.O., No. 767 P., dated 8th August 1898.

(8) There exists confusion as to the interpretation of the Government Order requiring me to be informed of the appearance of plague in a district, and the further order directing me to prepare a weekly return from statistics supplied by Collectors. The result has been that up to the 14th September, I was unaware that indigenous plague prevailed in and around Guntakal. On my arrival, I found it had already secured a firm hold on the area. Unless this office is to lose all touch of the sanitary condition of the Presidency, Collectors should be reminded that a daily written report of cases of indigenous plague in localities already declared to have been attacked should be supplied, and that all cases of imported and first of indigenous plague in all localities should be notified *by wire*. Medical officers performing plague duty in districts should be reminded that in the execution of their sanitary functions they should keep the Sanitary Commissioner fully informed of their whereabouts, and of their efforts to stay the progress of the disease.

G.O., No. 829 P., dated 17th August 1898, seems clear enough.

Sanitary Commissioner himself can do this.

Surgeon-General may be asked to issue instructions.

(Intld.)

22nd September 1898.

To

The SANITARY COMMISSIONER.

Sir,

In reply to your letter, No. 1-P.—S., dated 20th September 1898, I have the honour to state that your proposal that observation circles round an infected area should be reduced from 10 miles diameter to 5 miles is sanctioned. I, however, see no reason to lay down any precise rule about what shall be considered infected areas. The matter will be left to the judgment of each Collector.

2. Your recommendation to keep a reserve of ten Sanitary Inspectors on half pay is sanctioned. I also sanction, as an experiment, your proposal to engage scavengers through a contractor. It should be reported upon after two months' trial. Collectors finding difficulty in obtaining scavengers will be requested to apply to you.

3. I do not think it is possible to carry out your idea about sanitary panchayats. Tahsildars have now so much to do that it is impossible to call upon them to appoint those panchayats. Village officers must continue to be held responsible as at present.

4. The question of tentage requires the orders of the Government of India and may lie over for the present.

5. The proposal to appoint special officers at railway stations has been negatived by Government in G.O., No. 1105, dated 17th September 1898.

6. The Collectors have been already instructed to report cases of plague to you (G.O., No. 829 P., dated 17th August 1898), and if they neglect to do so, they should be reminded.

7. The Surgeon-General will be requested to pass orders on the suggestion made in paragraph 8 of your letter.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

1 Copy for Signature

M. HAMMICK,
Plague Commissioner.

Copy to the Surgeon-General with the request that instructions may be issued to medical officers as suggested in paragraph 8 of the Sanitary Commissioner's letter.

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Copy to all Collectors for information and guidance.

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End W. D'Moss.

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Plague Commissioner.

Ead W. D'Moss.

2,250—1-4-97.

No. 1P/S

Office of Sanitary Commissioner,
Camp Nancherla ~~Fort St. George~~, 20 Sept. 1898.

18

From

Surgeon-Lieut.-Col. W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H.,
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras,

To

The Plague Commissioner
Ootacamund.

Letter No. 887/10/98

Enclosure.

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6. Officers not in receipt of a tentage allowance and carrying Government tents are required under existing rules to pay half the cost of transport. It cannot, for a moment, be suggested that daily allowance covers the cost of a camp up-keep that may be required on plague duty to move under 20 miles per day. I think it but fair that Officers on plague duty carrying Government tents should be allowed to recover the total cost of transport.

Cannot make [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

7. It is a useless proceeding to stop booking at railway stations near infected areas. The only safe method is to do away with the provision which delegates to police and station masters at small stations the duty of giving passports. Instead of these men, special Assistant Sanitary Inspectors on Rs 25 per month should be employed. To stop booking simply diverts traffic and spreads out the infected population. I hold the view strongly that the Regulation alluded to—viz where infected areas are not concerned—is one of the weakest points in the existing Regulations.

The Govt. have negatived this, because qualified men are wanting to supply the whole body. The [illegible] is in the [illegible].

This was the original draft of the [illegible] Rly 32 (Para 36 of [illegible]) but was modified with reference to [illegible] remarks on proposed [illegible]. Please see remarks in para 54 G.O. No. 2659 / 5.8.98

8. There exists confusion as to the interpretation of the Government Order requiring me to be informed of the appearance of plague in a District, and the further order directing me to prepare a weekly return from statistics supplied by Collectors. The result has been that up to the 14th September, I was unaware that indigenous plague prevailed in and around Guntakal. On my arrival, I found it had already secured a firm hold on the area. Unless this Office is to lose all touch of the sanitary condition of the Presidency, Collectors should be reminded that a daily written report of cases of indigenous plague should be supplied, ~~and~~ in localities already declared to have been attacked, and that all ~~first~~ cases of imported and first of indigenous plague in all localities should be notified by wire. Medical Officers performing plague duty in districts should

G.O. 829P / 17 [illegible] seems clear enough

S.C. himself can do this

should be reminded that in the execution of their sanitary functions they should keep the Sanitary Commissioner fully informed of their whereabouts, and of their efforts to stay the progress of the disease.

S. G. may be asked to issue instructions

22 [illegible]

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servt.
W G King.
Surgn. Lt. Col.
Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras

To

The Plague Commissioner

Dated 20 }
Despd. 20 } Sept. 1898.

No 1P/J.

Offering certain suggestions for combating plague

Plague Commr's Office Don't print

~~Local & Munl.~~ (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 21

V.U.

To P.C.

Submitted for orders with marginal notes.

~~Order~~ [illegible] 22/9/98.

(1) Dr. King proposes:- 1. to 50 Square miles reducing circles from 100 to ~~[illegible]~~ 50 square miles as officers work on squares not on circles. - this is what ~~[illegible]~~ is Sanitary Commr. from conversation with Dr. K. I understand he advises. Commr. think the area infected. - I see no reason to lay down any precise rule about what shall be considered infected areas. in cases where the The C.M.O. can judge of the matter.

2. The proposal to keep a Reserve of the Sanitary Inspectors on half pay is approved.

3. The proposal as to Scavengers is also approved as an experiment. It should be reported upon after two months trial. It may enable the Commr. to get over the difficulty of getting Scavengers which is a real one.

4. Talukdars have now so much to do that it is unfair to call on them to appt. Sanitary Committees. The matter cannot be sanctioned. Village Pts must continue to be held responsible as they are at present.

5. The question of ten[illegible] cannot be gone into any change would require the sanction of the Govt. of India.

6. The appt. of special men at Railway Stations cannot be sanctioned.

7. The Sanitary Commr. should remind Civil Surgeons of their duty to keep him informed of the progress of plague.

8. Medical officers on plague duty are under the Surgeon General and that officer will be written to if the ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible]

From The Sanitary Commissioner

No. 1P/J.

Dated 20. 9. 98

Received }
Registered } 22. 9. 98

Enclosures -

Spare copies. -

SUBJECT.

Offering certain suggestions for combating plague.

to what [illegible] of the letter.

26.9.98

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

No. 88
7.10.98

58

To

The Sanitary Commr.

Sir,

In reply to your letter No. 1P/5 dated 20-9-98, I ~~have the honour~~ to state that your proposal that observation circles round an infected area should be reduced from 10 miles diameter to 5 miles is sanctioned. I ~~do not~~, however see no ~~any~~ reason to lay down any precise rule about what shall be considered infected areas. The matter will be left to the judgment of each Collector.

2. Your recommendation to keep a reserve of ten Sanitary Inspectors on half pay, is sanctioned. I also sanction ~~temporarily~~ as an experiment your proposal to engage ~~through~~ scavengers through a contractor. It should be reported upon after two months' trial. Collrs finding difficulty in obtaining scavengers ~~should apply to~~ will be requested to apply to you.

3. I do not think it is possible to carry out your idea about sanitary panchayets. Tahsildars have now so much to do that it is impossible to call upon

upon them to appoint these panchayets. Village officers must continue to be held responsible as at present.

4. The question of tentage requires the orders of the Govt of India and ~~I do not think it~~ may lie over for the present.

5. The proposal to appoint Special officers at Railway Stations has been negatived by Govt in G.O. No 1105/17-8-98

6. The Collrs have been already instructed to report cases of plague to you (G.O. 829 P. dy 2-8-98), and if they neglect to do so, they should be reminded.

7. The Surgeon General will be requested to ~~issue~~ pass orders on the suggestion made in para 8 of your letter.

I have &c

O.C. 6.9.98

Copy to the Surgeon General with the request that ~~[illegible]~~ instructions may be issued to medical officers as suggested in para 8 of the Secy's letter

O.C.

6.9.98

Copy to all Collectors for information and guidance

O.C.

Copy 7/10/98

6/9

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9/10/98

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