PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

(1899)

PRINTED.

No. 1179/60

DATED 1—5—99
Dsd 8/5/99 with C

Indexed D

[Despatch Abstract.]

Measures for the suppression of plague

Reviewing the opinions of Collectors on three of the ——— adopted in Bombay viz taking of a census of the population of the infected village, prevention of surreptitious access to the infected houses which had been evacuated and the maintenance of the prohibition that no one from a village which has been evacuated must be allowed to take up his residence in another village -

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

Proceedings of the Plague Commissioner,

MADRAS—1899.

Recd.	1899.	*Enclosures*
Regd.		*Spare copies*

Proceedings, No. 1179, 1st May 1899.

MAY.

Measures for the suppression of Plague.

Reviewing the opinions of Collectors on three of the — adopted in Bombay, viz., taking of a census of the population of the infected village, prevention of surreptitious access to the infected houses which had been evacuated and the maintenance of the prohibition that no one from a village which has been evacuated must be allowed to take up his residence in another village except with the written permission of the plague authority.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

Read—again the following paper :—

Proceedings, No. $\frac{405}{33}$, dated 10th February 1899.

Abstract.—Communicating to Collectors of infected districts papers relating to the measures for the suppression of plague in the Bombay Presidency; and inviting their opinions as to whether some of those measures may be adopted in this Presidency.

Read—also the following papers :—

From the Collector of Malabar,	dated 22nd February 1899,	No. D. 208-P.
" " of Anantapur	" 27th " "	R.C. No. 646-P.
" " of Vizagapatam	" 24th " "	No. 61-P.
" Acting Collector of Bellary,	dated 4th March 1899,	D. Dis. No. 432-P.
" Collector of North Arcot	" 10th " "	Dis. No. 399-P.
" " of Gódávari	" 6th " "	D. Dis. No. 958 Rev.
" " of Kurnool	" 17th " "	Dis. No. 360-P.
" Acting Collector of Salem	" 21st " "	No. 626-P.

Proceedings—No. 1179, dated 1st May 1899.

Replies from Collectors on the questions raised have been received.

2. The general opinion is that a census is costly and of little use; it may also create alarm. The Plague Commissioner considers it undesirable to look upon the taking of a census of an infected village or town as a necessary part of plague operations.

3. Access to evacuated houses has been discouraged or prohibited in many of the affected areas. The Collector of Bellary would not make an unsanctioned visit to an evacuated village an offence, as there is seldom a Magistrate on the spot to dispose of such a case. Experience has shown that the value of evacuation is much reduced unless access to the infected houses is discontinued; in all cases where evacuation has been thorough and real, the disease has at once shown a marked falling off. In many rural villages the people have been found unwilling to remain in or return to their houses for a long time after the outbreak, but in towns such as Hosur and Hindupur surreptitious access to evacuated houses has been constantly attempted, until prosecution has been threatened or resorted to. In these towns Magistrates were available on the spot. The Plague Commissioner considers that free access to evacuated houses should be prohibited and the prohibition enforced where considered advisable and practicable.

4. As for the third measure referred for the opinion of Collectors, *i.e.*, maintenance of the prohibition that no one from a village which has been vacated shall be allowed to take up his residence in another village except with the written permission of the plague authority, opinions are divided. The Collector of Bellary is in favour of introducing it. The Collectors of Anantapur and Salem state that the people themselves generally carry out the principle with some thoroughness, but the attempt is said to be less successful in the large than in the small villages in Salem. The Collector of North Arcot considers that the introduction of the measure will create a panic in the minds of the people; that the people already know the danger

of infection; that they generally prevent strangers from coming into their villages; and that a mere warning will therefore be sufficient. The Collector of Kurnool is of opinion that the measure will involve a large expenditure under establishment, as well as great inconvenience to the people, without any corresponding advantage to them. The Plague Commissioner agrees with the Collector of Kurnool that the adoption of such a measure will involve much expenditure and public inconvenience. It is doubtful if it could ever be thoroughly carried out, and in any case the advantages are not likely to be commensurate with the cost and trouble involved. The present arrangements provide for village officers issuing passports to persons coming from infected areas and observing them for ten days. Experience in the Deccan districts and Salem shows that the people of healthy villages, as a rule, refuse to receive among them persons from infected villages, though exceptions are made in favour of near relations. The cases of such persons must be left to be dealt with by village officers, who must be carefully supervised by the plague and ordinary district establishments and who are likely to be generally supported by public opinion.

L. E. BUCKLEY,
Plague Commissioner.

To all Collectors (A—F).
Copy to the Local and Municipal Department.
" " Sanitary Commissioner.
" " Surgeon-General.
" " President, Municipal Commission, Madras.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

Copies for Signature 27
Spare copies 590

590-27

Proceedings of the Plague Commissioner,

MADRAS—1899.

Please Correct & Strike off

Recd. } 1899.
Regd.

Enclosures 4/5/99
Spare copies MAS 4/5/99

4/5/99

8

Proceedings, No. $\frac{1179}{60}$, 1st May 1899.

MAY.

Measures for the suppression of Plague.

Reviewing the opinions of Collectors on three of the — adopted in Bombay, viz., taking of a census of the population of the infected village, prevention of surreptitious access to the infected houses which had been evacuated and the maintenance of the prohibition that no one from a village which has been evacuated must be allowed to take up his residence in another village except with the written permission of the plague authority.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

READ—again the following paper :—

Proceedings, No. $\frac{405}{33}$, dated 10th February 1899.

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From the Collector of Malabar,	dated 22nd February 1899,	No. D. 208-P.
,, ,, of Anantapur	,, 27th ,, ,,	R.C. No. 646-P.
,, ,, of Vizagapatam	,, 24th ,, ,,	No. 61-P.
,, Acting Collector of Bellary,	dated 4th March 1899,	D. Dis. No. 432-P.
,, Collector of North Arcot	,, 10th ,, ,,	Dis. No. 399-P.
,, ,, of Gódávari	,, 6th ,, ,,	D. Dis. No. 958 Rev.
,, ,, of Kurnool	,, 17th ,, ,,	Dis. No. 360-P.
,, Acting Collector of Salem	,, 21st ,, ,,	No. 626-P.

PROCEEDINGS—No. $\frac{1179}{60}$, dated 1st May 1899.

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2. The general opinion is that a census is costly and of little use; it may also create alarm. The Plague Commissioner considers it undesirable to look upon the taking of a census of an infected village or town as a necessary part of plague operations.

3. Access to evacuated houses has been discouraged or prohibited in many of the affected areas. The Collector of Bellary would not make an unsanctioned visit to an evacuated village an offence, as there is seldom a Magistrate on the spot to dispose of such a case. Experience has shown that the value of evacuation is much reduced unless access to the infected houses is discontinued; in all cases where evacuation has been thorough and real, the disease has at once shown a marked falling off. In many rural villages the people have been found unwilling to remain in or return to their houses for a long time after the outbreak, but in towns such as Hosur and Hindupur surreptitious access to evacuated houses has been constantly attempted, until prosecution has been threatened or resorted to. In these towns Magistrates were available on the spot. The Plague Commissioner considers that free access to evacuated houses should be prohibited and the prohibition enforced where considered advisable and practicable.

4. As for the third measure referred for the opinion of Collectors, *i.e.*, maintenance of the prohibition that no one from a village which has been vacated shall be allowed to take up his residence in another village except with the written permission of the plague authority, opinions are divided. The Collector of Bellary is in favour of introducing it. The Collectors of Anantapur and Salem state that the people themselves generally carry out the principle with some thoroughness, but the attempt is said to be less successful in the large than in the small villages in Salem. The Collector of North Arcot considers that the introduction of the measure will create a panic in the minds of the people; that the people already know the danger

of infection; that they generally prevent strangers from coming into their villages; and that a mere warning will therefore be sufficient. The Collector of Kurnool is of opinion that the measure will involve a large expenditure under establishment, as well as great inconvenience to the people, without any corresponding advantage to them. The Plague Commissioner agrees with the Collector of Kurnool that the adoption of such a measure will involve much expenditure and public inconvenience. It is doubtful if it could ever be thoroughly carried out, and in any case the advantages are not likely to be commensurate with the cost and trouble involved. The present arrangements provide for village officers issuing passports to persons coming from infected areas and observing them for ten days. Experience in the Deccan districts and Salem shows that the people of healthy villages, as a rule, refuse to receive among them persons from infected villages, though exceptions are made in favour of near relations. The cases of such persons must be left to be dealt with by village officers, who must be carefully supervised by the plague and ordinary district establishments and who are likely to be generally supported by public opinion.

Personal Assistant,
for *Plague Commissioner.*

To all Collectors (A—F).
Copy to the Local and Municipal Department.
,, ,, Sanitary Commissioner.
,, ,, Surgeon-General.
,, ,, President, Municipal Commission, Madras.

Exd· Shaik Karim.

405 | 10-2-99
538 | 27-2-99
571 | 1-3-99

Proceedings of the Plague Commissioner.

Prop: 1179/60 d/1/5/99

READ—the following papers:-

(1). Again P.C's Pro. No. 405 dated 10-2-99

(2). Also replies from the Collectors of Anantapur, North Arcot, Bellary, Godavary, Kurnool, Malabar, Salem and Vizagapatam, C Nos 2676, 3083, 2821, 3297, 3418, 2511, 3507, ~~2819.~~

(3) ~~Also C Nos 251, 2819, & 3297.~~

Ent in full
=
1/5
(Print abstract)

16 P

~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~--

d/1/5

Replies from Collectors on the questions raised have been received.

2. The general opinion is that a census is ~~census is~~ costly and ~~o~~ of little use; it may also create alarm. The P.C considers it undesirable to look upon the taking of a census ~~of a~~ of an infected village or town as a necessary part of plague operations.

3. Access to evacuated houses has been discouraged or prohibited in many ~~cases~~ of the affected areas. The Collector of Bellary would not make an unsanctioned visit to an evacuated village an offence, as there is seldom a magistrate on the spot to dispose of ~~the~~ Such a case. Experience has shown that the value of evacuation is much reduced unless access to the infected houses is discontinued; in all cases where evacuation has been thorough ~~or~~ and real, the disease has at once shown a marked falling off. In many rural villages

~~-es~~ the people have been found unwilling to remain in or return to their houses for a long time after the outbreak, but in towns such as Hosur and Hindupur surreptitious access to evacuated houses has been constantly attempted, until prosecution has been threatened or resorted to. In these towns magistrates were available on the spot. The P. C considers that free access to evacuated houses should be prohibited and the prohibition enforced where ~~necessary~~ considered advisable and practicable.

4. As for the third measure referred for the opinion of Collectors i.e., maintenance of the prohibition that no one from a village which has been vacated ~~must~~ shall be allowed to take up his residence in another village except with the written permission of the plague authority, opinions ~~were~~ are divided. The Collector of Bellary is in favour of introducing it. The Collectors of Anantapur and Salem state that the people themselves generally carry out the principle with some thoroughness but ~~in Salem~~ the attempt is said to be less successful in the large than in the small villages in Salem. The Collector of N. Arcot considers that the introduction of the measure will create a panic in the minds of the people, that the people already know the danger of infection, that they generally prevent strangers from coming into their villages and that a mere warning will therfore be sufficient. The Collector of Kurnool is of opinion that the measure will involve a large expenditure under establishment, as well as great inconvenience to the people, without any corresponding advantage to them. The P. C agrees with the Collector of Kurnool that the adoption of such a measure will involve much expenditure and public inconvenience. It is doubtful if it could ever be thoroughly carried out, and in any case the advantages ~~-es~~ are not likely to be commensurate with the cost and trouble involved. The present arrangements provide for village officers issuing passports to persons coming from infected areas and observing them for ten days. Experience in the Deccan districts and Salem shows that the people of healthy villages, as a rule, refuse to receive among them persons from infected ~~areas~~ villages, though exceptions are made in favour of near relations. The cases of such persons must be left to be dealt with by village officers, who must be carefully supervised by the plague and ~~the~~ ordinary district establishments and who are likely to be generally supported by public opinion.

118

W.B. 1/5

30/4/99

29

To all Collectors. (A-7.)
Copy to [illegible]
President [illegible] Madras

Despd 8/5/99

T. Kemr 1-3-99

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

(1899)

CURRENT No. 25/11

Progs.
Letter
Ref.

2 heading

From The Collector of Malabar

62 **No.** D 208 / Pl 99

Dated 22nd February 99

P. C.
27 FEB 1899

Received

Registered 27-2-99

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Stating that the measures for the Suppression of the Plague, referred to in his Proc: no $\frac{405}{33}$ d/10-2-99 could probably be enforced in this District

✓

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

(1899)

CURRENT No. 2814

P. C.
5 - MAR. 1899

Progs.
Letter
Ref.

4 Leading

From The Collector Vizagapatam

PE

How many replies due still?
6/3

No. 618

Dated 24 February 1899

Received 6-3-99

Registered 6-3-99

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Submitting opinion as to whether some of the measures proposed in the resolution of the Bombay Government for the suppression of plague may be adopted in this Presidency.

BACK PAPERS.

No	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

C No 2676

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From

The Collector of

Anantapur,

To

The 63 Records

Plague Commissioner

Madras

B

Dated 27.
Despatched 28 } February 1899.
Received

Refrl No. 646/6

Enclosures.

Subject.

~~Stating that it is not possible to get an accurate census of the population of the infected village~~

~~Reporting that the villagers like 10 days observation~~

Stating that it is not possible to get an accurate census of the population of the infected village to prevent people leaving the village lands and entering other villages and reporting that the villagers are kept under 10 days observation

Refnc No. 646

ANANTAPUR COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
Dated 27th February 1899.

P. C.
3 - MAR. 1899

FROM

Bannatyne Macleod Esq., M.A. Bar at Law
COLLECTOR OF
Anantapur,

TO

THE

Plague Commissioner
Madras

SIR,

Enclosures.

With reference to clause C of your Proceedings No $\frac{405}{33}$ of the 10th instant, I have the honour to state that it is not possible without much trouble and more establishment to get an accurate censuses of the population of the infected village to prevent people leaving the village lands and entering other villages.

2. The measures proposed in clause (d) can easily be adopted and are now being done in this District with the aid of Police

3. As regards clause (f) the villagers themselves have realized the importance of prohibiting the entry of strangers into their villages. The Village Officers and Sanitary Inspectors keep those who come from infected localities under careful observation for at least 10 days after arrival.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
Mmacleod
Collector

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

(1899)

CURRENT No. 2821

P. C.
6 - MAR. 1899

Progs.
Letter
Ref.

5 Leaves

From The Acting Collector of Bellary

Dis. No. 432 P

Dated 4 - 3 - 99
Received 6 - 3 - 99
Registered 8 - 3 - 99
Enclosures one
Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Submitting remarks with reference to Plague Commissioner's Proceedings No $\frac{405}{33}$ / 10-2-99 inviting the opinions of Collectors as to whether some of the measures for the suppression of plague in the Bombay Presidency can be adopted in this Presidency.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

(189)

CURRENT No. 3083

[illegible]

Progs.
Letter
Ref.

From The Collector of North Arcot

62 Dis No. 399/.. of 99

Dated 10 - 3 - 99

Received

F. C.
12 MAR 1899

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

14

Stating that it is undesirable to adopt the measures referred to in clauses (c). [illegible] & (f) & that there is no objection to the clause (d) being adopted.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

(189/ .)

CURRENT No. 82 97

Theades

P. C.
18 MAR. 1899

Progs.
Letter
Ref.

From The Collector of
Godavari

Rd Dis No. 958/Rev of 99

Dated 6-3-99.

Received 18-3-99

Registered 18-3-99

Enclosures

Spare copies

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SUBJECT.

stating that clause C of his Proceedings does not appear to be of much use considering the superstitions prejudices against census operations

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

(1899)

CURRENT No. 3418

Sheader

Progs.
Letter
Ref.

From The Collector of Kurnool

Reply from the Collr of Salem is due. A Reminder is submitted

Ok How many replies due.

Dis No. 360/P of 99

Dated 17th March 99

Received

P. C.
21 MAR 1899

Registered 21-3-99

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT,

offering remarks regarding certain measures for the suppression of plague in the Bombay Presidency.

14

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

(1899)

CURRENT No. 8547

Progs.
Letter
Ref.

DESPATCHED
22 MAR. 1899

G. Reade

From the Acting Collr
of Salem

Sour

GS

No. 626/Plague

Dated 21st March 1899

Received P. C. 23 MAR. 1899

Registered 23-3-99

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Submitting the report called for on certain measures for the suppression of Plague

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BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

No. D. 208 / P.C. 99

Malabar Collector's Office
Calicut. 22nd February 99

From

G. W. Dance Esq:
Collector of Malabar

To

The Plague Commissioner
Madras

Sir,

With reference to your Proceedings No. $\frac{405}{33}$ dated the 10th instant requesting Collectors to give their opinions as to whether certain measures for the suppression of the plague can be adopted, I have the honour to state that the precautions referred to in clauses (c), (d) & (f) could probably be enforced in this District.

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

For Collector

Dis 61.P C No 2819

Vizagapatam
Collector's office
24th February 1899

From
W. C. Horne Esqr
Collector,
Vizagapatam

To
The Plague Commissioner
Madras.

Sir,

With reference to the last sentence of your proceedings no $\frac{405}{33}$ dated 10th instant, I have the honour to report that the measure proposed in clause B of the Regulation of the Bombay Government does not seem to me to be very useful as there are many more efficacious ways of preventing people from entering other villages and though a census might show how many had left it could do so only after the mischief had occurred. The measure proposed in clause (d) of the resolution is no doubt essential though perhaps difficult.

6 The measures proposed in clause (f) of the resolution could I think be very easily enforced by the aid of the surrounding villagers themselves

who will be quite ready to exclude infected persons. The wording of the Plague Commissioner's proceedings under reply leaves me doubtful whether as a Collector of the District not yet infected, I am meant to reply to it but I do so in case it is so.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
A Govinda Rau
For Collector

Rv

C R 2821

BELLARY COLLECTOR'S OFFICE.

DD No. 4321 Dated 4- 3- 1899.

FROM R. H. Campbell Esqr.
Ag COLLECTOR OF
BELLARY.

To

THE Plague Commissioner
Madras

SIR,

With reference to your proceedings no: $\frac{405}{33}$ d/10-2-99, I have the honour to submit the following remarks.

Clause (c)

a census should be taken whenever the size of the village allows it. It will be impossible to take anything like an accurate census in large towns.

Clause (d)

I am not in favour of making it a punishable offence to Revisist a village without permission; for to do so would necissitate the residence on the spot of a responsible officer to grant such permission. People as a rule fully recognize the danger of going into an infected village. It would be very difficult to to disinfect persons permitted to visit an evacuated village, and the only effect~~ual~~ive way of preventing Contagion caused by such visits would be to prohibit them absolutely. This would however be a very unpopular measure & impossible to enforce. I would however make it an offence to permanently reoccupy without permission a house in an evacuated village.

I think the prohibition may be enforced with good effect.

I enclose for perusal a letter from my Head Assistant Collector on the subject of this reference which deals very fully with the whole question.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant

E G de Lascombe
for ag. Collector

4-3-99

4/3/99

From E. S. Lloyd Esquire,

To
The Collector of
Bellary.

Sir

I have the honor to reply to your foot-note R 725 P / 19.2.99 inviting my opinion on the feasibility of the adoption of clauses c. d and f of the resolution of the Bombay Government.

2. All the three measures seem to me in theory excellent and the question as to the possibility of adopting them in practice must largely depend upon the size of the village and the staff available. In ~~no~~ small villages, if the Tahsildar, Plague Supervisor and Inspector in the absence of superior officers can reach the spot before ~~circulation~~ evacuation commences (and this they will almost invariably be able to do) there should be little difficulty in taking the name of the head of

ea

each household and the number of his family; and for being able to account for that number as often as an inspecting officer desires him to do so, the head may be made responsible under ~~fine~~ pain of prosecution.

3. A rough census of this description having been secured the people will willingly enough camp in the fields: they are however certain to try and come back at odd intervals to fetch some article of property they have left behind or simply to see what is being done to their houses & to assure themselves that their grain pits have not been tampered with. Several plague cases in Hospett have been traced to such surreptitious re-entry. In very small villages re-entry may be prevented by blocking the main entrances to the village with prickly pear [illegible] and posting talaries

or temporary peons to guard them: but in any village larger than the smallest a regular cordon will be necessary if clause (d) is to be properly worked. Much however can be done by influence and patience and I do not believe that as a rule people would try to re-enter if they were made to understand distinctly that it was forbidden without due permission and that they would be punished if they attempted to do so without such permission. Instances of course there will be of disobedience; they should be summarily dealt with and the punishment will act as a warning.

4. If clauses c and d are fairly worked there will be no difficulty in maintaining the prohibition & this can be

done by making such a breach of orders an offence under Section 188 I.P.C. and leaving it to the plague Inspectors to detect cases and report them through the Tahsildars for prosecution.

5 - In my opinion, then, there would be no great difficulty in introducing the provisions for villages the population of which does not exceed perhaps 5000. In larger places however the staff ordinarily available will, I think be found absolutely insufficient.

Taking it for granted that it is of the greatest importance to get the people out of an infected quarter at once as soon as it is obvious that there is indigenous plague in the place, I cannot see how any census can be taken before

the evacuation of the Bezarkesi was approaching completion within 48 hours of the discovery of the first three cases. The time of the officers present on the spot was during those two days far too fully occupied to make any attempt at counting the people at all possible.

[illegible] - The people camped on the village lands but each caste preferred having one or more distinct camps for itself, and the consequence was that within a week or so these were scattered over an area of something like 5 sq. miles. 7. It might now be possible to take a fairly accurate census of each camp but the work would be one of some difficulty and requiring time and extra staff and when completed we could have no ~~guarantee~~ guarantee that a proportion of the out-going population had not escaped notice or already gone to other villages.

8. In Hospett some arrangements have already been made for preventing return and no great difficulty would be experienced if sufficient police staff could be stationed in the town; it is however as has been seen by no means easy to get sufficient police without delay and if two or three places were attacked at once the supply would very soon be exhausted. It seems true however most necessary to cut off the infected area entirely as the small experience we have gained in Hospett certainly confirms the opinion expressed in the note to clause

9. In conclusion of ~~[illegible]~~ I am of opinion that the clauses are excellent in theory and should be introduced as far as practicable: they cannot however be introduced at all thoroughly in any but the smaller villages and will as a rule necessitate more staff than is generally available. They should therefore be recognized only as an ideal to be aimed at, not necessarily completely attained and much should be left to the discretion of local officers. It may be made an offence to return to an evacuated village without leave or to go to another village without written permission but such ~~written~~ permission should be freely granted and only refused to those who are really suspected

of being likely to disseminate the disease.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
E Reyd
24/2/99
Ag Head Asst Collector

C.A.
No 288

C. 725-P
27.2.99

From
The Head Assistant Collector
Hospet

Plague

To,
The Collector
Bellary

P Dis 29

Dated }
Despatched } 24 February 1899

Subject

Giving the opinion on the feasibility of the adoption of clauses c d & f of the resolution

CA No 821 of

C.A. No 3083

Plague

DESPATCHED
11 MAR 1899

NORTH ARCOT, COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
Chittoor dated 10th March 1899
Dis No. 399/P of 1899

FROM
J. K. Batten Esqr.
Ag. COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE,
North Arcot,

TO
THE Plague Commissioner
Madras.

SIR,

With reference to your proceedings no 405/33, dated 10th February 99, I have the honor to state that there is no objection to the clause (d) being adopted though it is not in my opinion of much use, especially if the remaining measures are not stringently enforced. Clauses (c) and (f) cannot however be adopted unless the officers entrusted with the duty of putting them in force are allowed to use force where necessary. This is perhaps undesirable. To prevent people especially at the beginning of

15

of an outbreak ~~against~~ flying to neighbouring villages and finding a shelter there, will be liable to create panic. Many of the villagers are now gradually recognizing the danger of taking in people from infected areas and with the advancement of time, this idea will become general. When it becomes general, the prohibition which it is now sought to enforce through plague officers and circle Inspectors will be worked by the people of their own accord. For the present when plague breaks out in any village, it may not be necessary more than to warn the people of the villages in the neighbourhood of the risk they run by taking in people from the infected village.

2. I should however add that in this district I have no real experience in evacuating infected villages, as so far indigenous plague is practically confined to large towns, when I am afraid the measures proposed would be found impracticable.

I have the honor to be,
Sir.
Your most obedient servant
W.W. Bather
Ag. Collector.

16

CN3297

15,000 5-96.

D.Dis No. $\frac{958.}{\text{Rev}}$ of 99

GODAVARI DISTRICT COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
6- 3- 1899.

DESP
15 MAR. 1899

FROM
V. A. Brodie Esquire
COLLECTOR,
Godavari District.

TO
THE Plague Commissioner
Madras.

SIR,

With reference to the concluding sentence of your Proceedings No $\frac{405}{33}$ dated 10-2-99 I have the honor to state that clause (e) does not appear to be of much use for the purpose in view and considering the superstitious prejudices against census operations of all kinds should be omitted. Clause (d) is practicable and may be enforced. Clause (f) is necessary and can probably be worked without difficulty as the villagers of other villag

18

REVENUE (189) DEPARTMENT.

FROM

COLLECTOR,
Godavari District.

TO

THE

No.

Dated
Despatched
Received
189 .

SUBJECT.

will probably cooperate readily if the danger is properly explained to them.

(Sd) V. A. Brodie
Collector

P Sitaramayya
15.3.99
For Collector

CN 3418

Dis No. 360/P of 99

Kurnool COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
Dated 17th March 1899.

FROM

Muhammad Razakha Esq.,
COLLECTOR, Kurnool.

TO

THE Plague Commissioner,
Madras.

SIR,

Adverting to your Proceedings No. 405/33 of the 10th ultimo, I have the honour to state as follows:-

2. Regarding clause (c) of para 1 of the Resolution of the Bombay Government No. 6013-6105-P / 1.11.98 I do not think that the taking of the Census of an infected village is necessary; the mere taking of a Census is not certain to prevent people from quitting their villages. Many persons may run away inspite of the Census and reside in villages remote from the infected

one.

one. There are on the other hand many safe guards enjoined already against the spread of infection. Persons leaving an infected area and arriving in a noninfected village are bound to take out passports and be observed for a period of ten days by the local authority. Special provisions concerning persons from an infected area against whom suspicion may be entertained are also contained in Regulation Nos: 3 and 29 of the original Mooffusal Regulations. If people run away from an infected village, they generally go only to a place where they have friends or relations and where they are readily recognized as shown by my experience. The importance, moreover, of guarding against the importation of infection into an uninfected area through the medium of the arrivals from an infected village is generally understood well by the village officers and they take the necessary steps for either preventing the entry of the runaways into the village or keeping them

them under careful observation. I therefore consider that the existing regulations are quite sufficient to secure the object (viz, the prevention of the spread of infection) ~~assumed~~ aimed at by a census of the infected village ~~to be~~ which is likely not only to lead to no material advantage but also to be productive of inconvenience to the people.

3. Referring to clause (d), the measures therein mentioned are already provided for by original Regulation No. 23 and additional Regulation Nos: 22, 23 and 25 which invest the Collector with certain powers regarding the evacuation and cordoning of infected houses and their reoccupation by the owners. The object aimed at by the clause in question will be easily gained by a careful working of the regulations already in force.

4. Also concerning clause (f) I think the prohibition therein referred to is unnecessary in view of the circumstances set forth in para 2 *supra*. The measure will, moreover, involve, in my opinion, a large unnecessary expenditure under establishment as well as great inconvenience to the people without any corresponding advantage at all.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
Collector

18/3/99

18/3 comp.

FROM

THE COLLECTOR,

To

THE

Dated

Despatched 189

Received

No.

ENCLOSURES.

SUBJECT

REGISTER No. 626
Plague

Salem COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
22nd. March 1899.

FROM

Robert, B, Clegg ESQ., I.C.S.
Acting COLLECTOR OF Salem.

To

THE ~~SECRETARY TO THE~~ Plague
COMMISSIONER ~~OF~~ Madras.

SIR,

With reference to your proceedings No. 405/33 of 10th. February 1899, I have the honor to make the following remarks:-

Clause (C) This was done by the Circle Inspector at Beri Mai himself of his own motion before the outbreak there. In villages of small dimensions say less than 500 houses, I think such, a census, can be made by the Village officers on the first appearance of plague In larger villages we have not the staff available as so much, depends on special circumstances for instance the rapidity the epidemic spreads, the extent of the nature of the people agricultural or traders; it is impossible to give any general opinion whether such a Census would be of much practical use.

(d) Our present staff cannot cope with this defect in the arrangements.

(e) There is no doubt that infection is carried to the temporary camps from the evacuated village. Nothing but a large staff of guards under responsible and efficient supervision, the cost of which would be probably prohibitive, could prevent it. The better course seems to be to get the vacated houses with their contents thoroughly disinfected at the earliest possible opportunity, so that access to such houses afterwards is not of much consequence.

(f) In the smaller villages the people themselves prevent any person from an infected place living within their villages. Orders have been issued in accordance with this principle and such refugees are kept outside the village, are passported and observed for the regulation period of ten days. In the larger villages they also attempt it, but it is not likely to be so successful.

This system of passes might be tried, I think with a fair amount of success. It will have [illegible] to be made penal to be found living outside the limits of

the

the infected Village without a pass.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant.

for Ag Collector.

x Dm

---

in this Procs No $\frac{405}{33}$ dt 10-2-99
" Collr's Procs No 538 dt 27-2-99

Read also replies from Colrs of Dist Clrs 2676, 2821, 3083, 3418 & 3507/99 (~~print full~~)

also Clrs 251, 2819, & 3297 (print abstract)

—

Recorded.

Draft [illegible] Messrs fair copy & show me [illegible]

Submitted with fair copy below 30/4/99

To all Collrs
S.C.
President M.C. Madras

Drug
24/4/99.

Replies from Collrs on the questions raised have been received. ~~P.C~~

2 The general opinion is that a census is costly & of little use: it may also create alarm. The P.C. considers it undesirable to look upon the taking of a census of an infected village etc as a necessary part of plague operations.

24 3. ~~The prohibition~~ of access to Evacuated houses [illegible] is discouraged or prohibited ~~as~~ ~~[illegible]~~ in many of the affected Areas. The [illegible] of being understood [illegible] be [illegible] made in ~~[illegible]~~ Evacuated villages

Read again Procs No $\frac{405}{33}$ of 10-

Read Clrs 2511, 2676, 2819, 2821, 3083, 3297, 3418 & 3507

Note

In the Procs read above, the Collectors of infected districts were requested to give their opinions, as to how far the following measures, the importance of which was impressed upon all officers by the Bombay Govt, for the suppression of plague in that Presidency, may be adopted in this Presy, the other measures referred to by the Bombay Govt, being already in force here, to a greater or less extent:—

(1). A sufficiently accurate census of the population of the infected village to prevent people leaving the village lands and entering other villages.

(2). Well-organised arrangements to prevent surreptitious access to the houses vacated and to permit access when necessary, under due precautions.

(3) Maintenance of the prohibition that no one from a village which has been vacated must be allowed to take up his residence in another village, except with the written permission of the Plague Authority.

2. The Collectors are not generally in favour of taking village census, either on the ground that in the case of large villages, an accurate census cannot

Offences, ~~in~~ these [illegible] seldom [illegible] magistrates [illegible] the offr [illegible] [illegible] Experience has shown the ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] much reduced unless access to ~~[illegible]~~ houses is discontinued ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] evacuation has been ~~[illegible]~~ and where foraging & [illegible] ~~[illegible]~~ the disease has at once shown a marked falling off. ~~evacuation~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~

2. In most villages the people (wishing to remain in [illegible]) have ~~[illegible]~~ been found ~~[illegible]~~ their houses [illegible] (except in Hosur, & [illegible] surreptitious access) in ~~[illegible]~~ evacuated houses ~~[illegible]~~ has been constantly attempted, until [illegible] has been threatened or resorted to [illegible] magistrates [illegible]

2 [illegible] ~~The P.C. considers that it~~ ~~is desirable~~. [illegible] ~~[illegible]~~ ~~in some cases~~ ~~to permit free access to~~ ~~evacuated [illegible]~~ 2 ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible]

~~Free access to evacuated [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] generally [illegible] [illegible] impracticable to [illegible]~~

~~In most cases, it will be found generally [illegible] impracticable to [illegible] to put an [illegible] to evacuated villages [illegible] a magistrate; [illegible] necessity for prosecution is likely to occur but rarely, for the rural people in this view has been found very amenable to orders & [illegible]~~

The P.C. considers that free access to evacuated houses &c should be prohibited & the prohibition enforced when necessary & practicable.

25

Vide Progs 571 / 1-3-99.

be taken unless they are provided with an expensive establishment, or on the ground that it is not of much practical use. The Collr of Kurnool thinks that mere taking of the census will not prevent people from quitting the village, and that it will cause inconvenience to ~~people~~ them.

A small establishment consisting of 3 men on Rs 15 each, was recently sanctioned, as an experimental measure to take the census of the Peddabohir village ~~and~~ in the Bellary Dt, and its result is not yet known.

3. As for the prevention of surreptitious access to vacated houses

the Collrs are generally in favour of the measure. The Collrs of Anantapur & Kurnool state that the measure is already in force in their districts. The Collr of N. Arcot thinks that the adoption of this measure is not of much use, unless the remaining measures are also enforced very stringently. The Collr of Bellary does not wish to make it a punishable offence to visit a village without permission, on the ground that to do so would necessitate the residence on the spot of a responsible officer to grant such permission. The Collr of Salem is of opinion that present staff

i.e. ([illegible]) referred for the opinion of Collectors, opinions were divided

Generally with some

but in Salem the attempt is said to be less successful in the large than in the small villages

the introduction of the measure

"cannot cope with this defect in the arrangements."

4. ~~As regards the~~ for the third measure, the Collr of Bellary is in favour of introducing it. The Collrs of Anantapur & Salem state that the people themselves carry out the ~~measure~~ principle ~~in small villages~~, but that in the case of the larger villages, ~~it is not likely to be so successful.~~ The Collr of N. Arcot ~~is of opinion~~ considers that the prohibition will create a panic in the minds of the people, that the people already know the danger of infection, that they generally prevent strangers from coming into their villages and that a mere warn

will therefore be sufficient. The Coll^r of Kurnool is of opinion that the measure will involve a large and unnecessary expenditure under establishment; as well as great inconvenience to the people without any corresponding advantage to them.

The papers may be recorded for the reasons stated by the Coll^r of Kurnool

24/3/99

Ger. The proposals are carried out to a certain extent in many places.

23/4

The P.C. agrees with the Coll^r of Kurnool that the ~~[illegible]~~ adoption of a cordon ~~[illegible]~~ measure will ~~cause~~ involve much expenditure & public inconvenience, ~~[illegible]~~ ~~advantages~~. It is doubtful if it would ever be thoroughly carried out, & in any case the advantages ~~which~~ are not likely to be in commensurate with the cost & trouble involved. The present arrangement provide for village officers using ~~reporting~~ prompt to persons coming from infected areas & observing them for 10 days. Experience in the [illegible] district shows that the people of healthy villages are in many cases ~~[illegible]~~ unwilling to receive persons from infected villages, though exceptions are made in favour of near relations. The cases of such persons must be left to be dealt with by village officers, & must be [illegible] supervision by the [illegible]

① and ordering district establishments, I [illegible] the [illegible] to be generally [illegible] of the public opinion

29/4 [illegible]

18
24/3

P.C. 1179/60 8/5

Proceedings of the Plague Commissioner,

MADRAS—1899.

Recd.	1899.	*Enclosures*
Regd.		*Spare copies*

1 Abstract

Proceedings, No. $\frac{405}{33}$, 10th February 1899.

FEBRUARY.

Measures for the suppression of Plague.

Communicating to Collectors of infected districts papers relating to the — in the Bombay Presidency; and inviting their opinions as to whether some of those measures may be adopted in this Presidency.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

Read—the following paper :—

G.O., Mis. No. 206 P., dated 8th February 1899.

Read—the following paper :—

Circular No. 6977—7068-P.

With reference to Government Resolution, No. 6013—6105-P., dated the 1st November 1898, General Department (Plague), Government are aware that a large number of villages have now been vacated. The next step is to ensure that proper effect is given to clause (*g*), the separation of the sick from the healthy.

2. Officers on plague duty when visiting a village should first endeavour to make the people understand the meaning of what they enjoin and the reason for the separation of the sick and for prohibiting visits to infected families, houses and sites. Unless the people understand, their intelligent co-operation cannot be secured and without their good-will no effective organization is possible.

3. Next, the infected families should be completely separated from the rest of the population; and the sick person in an infected family should have a hut apart from that occupied by the as yet healthy members of his family. That is, the healthy should not be suffered to live in the same hut with the sick person. On any case occurring in a healthy family the family should be immediately removed from the neighbourhood of other healthy families.

4. In the towns and larger villages a proper organization can be established with means for treating the sick. But in all villages the danger of infection must be taught and guarded against or plague will linger on. Wherever cases are occurring in the fields, the officer on plague duty should give his earnest attention to these points, and endeavour to get at and remove the cause of infection continuing.

5. Collectors will be held resposible for the efficient working of these instructions and that officers on plague duty understand what they have to do. His Excellency the Governor in Council feels confident that no efforts will be spared during this favourable season and coming hot weather to free the districts from the disease. As cases diminish, the establishment should be massed on the place remaining infected and the last cases should be sought for and segregated with ever-increasing vigilance.

Bombay Castle,
21*st December* 1898.

(Signed) A. WINGATE,
Ag. Chief Secy. to the Govt. of Bombay,
General Department (Plague).

Enclosure.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of Bombay in the General Department (Plague), No. 6013—6105-P., dated Bombay Castle, the 1st November 1898.

Resolution.—His Excellency the Governor in Council has watched with grave concern the recent increase in the number of villages attacked by plague, specially in the Southern Maratha Country. So long as the rains continued, Government recognised the extreme difficulty of doing anything to check the rising mortality and to prevent the disease spreading from village to village. Now, however, that the drier weather is approaching, His Excellency the Governor in Council desires to impress upon all officers that Government continue to attach the highest importance to the following measures :—

(*a*) Early and accurate information of the appearance of any suspicious cases of sickness and death.

(*b*) Prompt and complete evacuation of a village on the occurrence of the first well ascertained local cases or where mortality among rats is apparent.

N.B.—The people should receive sufficient notice and all their reasonable requests be met as far as possible.

(*c*) A sufficiently accurate census of the population of the infected village to prevent people leaving the village lands and entering other villages.

(*d*) Well-organised arrangements to prevent surreptitious access to the houses vacated and to permit access when necessary, under due precautions.

N.B.—The cases occur among the evacuated population, the reason may in almost every case be traced to surreptitious communication with the vacated village.

(*e*) Thorough and careful disinfection under responsible supervision of infected houses and clothing and admission of light and air.

N.B.—In small villages where the entire effects of the people can be exposed to the sun and the houses can be easily opened out to sun and air and two or three months can elapse before re-occupation is permitted, it may be left to the discretion of the Collector, advised by medical opinion, whether disinfection is necessary. Unless disinfection is conducted by a trusted officer, it is no use.

(*f*) Maintenance of the prohibition that no one from a village which has been vacated must be allowed to take up his residence in another village, except with the written permission of the Plague Authority. This prohibition must be enforced by a Circle Inspector or other authority (according to the extent of infection) systematically moving in the villages round the infected area. As soon as any population is pronounced to be healthy, the prohibition should be cancelled and the population be free to move about.

N.B.— As a rule no passes should be given to leave an infected village till the population have been ten days in the open. The Circle Inspector's work must be carefully supervised.

(*g*) The separation of the sick and infected families from the healthy.

N.B.—The healthy families should first be moved into the open. Then the sick with their families should be moved to a separate spot, for example, the opposite side of the village site.

2. For the effective supervision of these measures, the plague-infected area must be sub-divided under responsible officers, Staff Corps officers being employed where necessary. These officers should enlist to the utmost possible extent volunteer agency to assist in carrying out the measures. The measures are new to the people, particularly in fresh areas of infection and, if injudiciously or overzealously pressed, must defeat themselves by exciting opposition instead of gradually winning the co-operation of the people, or by scattering the people instead of inducing each village as soon as it is infected to settle down quietly on its own lands. His Excellency in Council trusts that every officer on plague duty will continue to make it his special aim to train his subordinates to work with sympathy and consideration. Complaints should be encouraged and, where possible, the objection should be removed. The importance of these considerations cannot be overrated.

3. To enable officers to afford necessary relief where measures in the case of the poor press too harshly, and so to convince the people that the measures are undertaken for their benefit, a sum of money for discretional relief as described in a separate Resolution of Government will be available. Collectors should from time to time apply to thePlague Commissioner for an allotment, but should, as far as possible, enlist private benevolence to assist.

4. The progress of evacuation should be particularly described in the weekly plague progress report.

Order—Mis. No. 206 P., dated 8th February 1899.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. TREMENHEERE,
Secretary to Government.

Copy to the Plague Commissioner.
" " Sanitary Commissioner.
" " Surgeon-General.
" " President, Municipal Commission, Madras.

PROCEEDINGS—No. $\frac{405}{33}$, dated 10th February 1899.

The above Proceedings will be communicated to Collectors of infected districts. Clause (*b*) of the Resolution is already being generally acted upon in agricultural villages. Collectors are requested to give their opinions whether clauses (*c*), (*d*) and (*f*) can be adopted.

L. E. BUCKLEY,
Plague Commissioner.

To all Collectors (A—L).
" the Sanitary Commissioner.
" the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.

Exd. A. F. Eccleston.

I. Remr 11-3-99
2d Rr to Salem 22-3-99

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

Replies to Pro. No 405/33 d/ 10-2-99 Subject Measures for the Suppression of Plague

Serial Number.	Name of District.	Current Number.	Date of Receipt.	REMARKS.
1	Anantapur	✓ 2676	3-3-99	
2	Arcot, North	✓ 3083	12-3-99.	
3	Arcot, South	✓		
4	Bellary	2821	7-3-99	
5	Canara			
6	Chingleput			
7	Coimbatore			
8	Cuddapah			
9	Ganjám			
10	Gódávari	✓ 3297	18-3-99.	
11	Kistna			
12	Kurnool	✓ 3418	21-3-99	
13	Madura			
14	Malabar	✓ 2511	27-2-99	
15	Nellore			
16	Nilgiris, The			
17	Salem	✓ 3507	23-3-99	
18	Tanjore			
19	Tinnevelly			
20	Trichinopoly	✓		
21	Vizagapatam	2819	7-3-99	

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ain No. 405
189

Dated 10·2-99, — P

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also
t No.: 2511, 2676, 2819, 2821, 3083,
3297, 3418 & 3507 } Q

Please show proof

15.5.99

ORDERS TO O. No.

30

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