

Local & Munl. (189 7) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 159 Pmiv ✓

DATED 1-2-99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Plague Commissioner's diary.

Recording — of work done
from 22nd to 24th Jan'y. 99 at Vellore and Arcot.

BACK PAPERS:

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 180 P.

From

The Plague Commission

Order

No. 250

Dated 25 -
Received 26 - } Jan 7/99
Registered 27 -

Enclosures

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Submitting his diary from 22^d to 2^d
January, 199 whilst he was on tour
to Vellore and Arcot.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

No. 250.

22-1-99. Sunday.



24.
3 The for
HT
26 195

It is reassuring that
a plague has made
a little progress in
Ethiopia. may it be
in Arcob also.

Aug. 1. 99.

6.0/5:

2. The unrefined wine tasted of Cast.
It had a strong when stored was be
for others.

31.1.99

PC for personal

1299

with reference to H.S.'s
para 2, I had already
noted him. LB

Loted him $\frac{1}{2}$ LB.
 To Don sup

in the North East corner, along the Arcot road. There was but little doing to-day being Sunday.

The infected houses are all in the neighbourhood of the infected houses I had already seen on my previous visit. While going round the quarter we heard two deaths had occurred in another portion of the town during the day. We went off to make enquiries, but although the people had been undoubtedly hasty in the disposal of the corpses there was no reason to believe that the persons had died of plague. During the day Captain Abdul Aziz Khan, Sirdar Bahadur, a pensioned officer, came to see us and we were able to discuss matters. He is a man of very considerable influence and with his aid and the aid of other pensioned officers committees of Muhammadans are ready to make house to house visitation every day to discover any deaths. Hindus are more backward. They profess to be willing to act privately as long as they are not publicly appointed, but the majority of them are not anxious to appear publicly as they appear to fear the odium they will incur. It is hoped, however, that Hindu committee will be ready to act in a few days. The influence of Captain Abdul Aziz Khan may be inferred from the fact that when we went to make enquiries about the 2 deaths above referred to, we had some little difficulty with the people, till the Captain arrived. As soon as the people saw him, although they are high class Hindus they said "we will do whatever the Captain tells us." This gentleman refuses paid employment, but gives most useful help.

Other pensioners have been appointed on the plague staff.

As it appears that the state of things in Arcot is worse than in Vellore I arranged with Mr. Sherrard who is in command of the sepoy to send 20 sepoy by carts this night to Arcot for disinfection purposes.

23-1-99. Monday.

Mr. Batten & I started in the morning to inspect the quarters that have been provided ~~for~~ for the two lady nurses who are to be sent to Vellore for inoculation purposes. The quarters will suit very well. Mrs. Lancaster, wife of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer, had very kindly provided necessaries for their use on first arrival. As soon as I heard on Friday last that nurses were to go to Vellore, and ~~that~~ the Collector could not get furniture locally, I immediately went & purchased some furniture for them and had it despatched on Saturday morning. The bill may be a heavy one, but I had no time to spend in picking & choosing and I had to take what I could get. We went on to Saidapet ward and saw the sepoy at work in disinfecting one of the infected houses. There was some difficulty in opening holes in the roofs as the bamboo reapers were placed close together horizontally across the rafters, so close indeed that when the tiles were taken off ~~practically~~ ^{practically} no light was ~~let in~~ ^{let in}. It had been attempted to make openings in the roofs by taking off lines of tiles from top to bottom. It was decided to take off rows of tiles from along the ridge

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of the roof to about a foot on each side of the ridge and then to remove the reapers. This should enable the sun to penetrate from side to side of the room in the course of the day. There was only one Chinese pump available, two having been sent off to Arcot; but I am glad to say that the one which was in use works very efficiently. No fresh cases were reported. In the afternoon the Collector & I left by train for Arcot and were able to visit the village shortly after 5. We found there Col. Lancaster the District Medical & Sanitary Officer, and Mr. Dutt the Sub-Collector. No cases have been reported during the day. The 20 sepoys who had been sent off from Vellore previous evening had arrived in the morning and had been able to disinfect one house. They will proceed with disinfection work of other houses as far as possible; as it grew dark we returned to Ranipet for the night.

24-1-99. Tuesday.

Mr. Batten & I went to Arcot again early in the morning. We saw sepoys disinfecting a house and were able to put them in the right way of working. The pumps were not working very satisfactorily as the nozzles were broken; arrangements were made for new nozzles being made by the local tin man. News was received of the death of a woman, the alleged cause being cholera. We went to the house with Col. Lancaster, the Hospital Assistant and midwife. The midwife examined the body and found no swellings in the groins, none were visible below the arms or ears, nor were the general symptoms those of plague, but of the hut was covered with faeces.

Notes
(Note. Biggles are in the village
doing work.)
25/1/99

The case was treated as one of cholera. No other deaths were reported. It was decided to divide the town into wards and to appoint Circle Inspectors for each ward. It was considered desirable that these Circle Inspectors should be local men of influence, pensioned sepoys etc. There can be little doubt that Sanitary Inspectors would be of little use. What we want, are men, who are able to obtain the earliest information as to sickness in a house, and local men would certainly be better able to do this. Arrangements were also commenced for forming committees of Native gentlemen to make daily visits in the town to assist in the work of discovering sickness. The camp was inspected and with a few alterations found sufficient for the present requirements. Government has already been asked to send a medical officer and sepoys. Quarters are available for a Medical Officer if sent and a site has been prepared for the sepoys who have been asked for. Mr. Dutt is in camp at Arcot and will look after matters. Col. Lancaster is at Ranipet and will make daily visits to Arcot for the next week or so. As far as I can see nothing ~~can~~ ^{now} be done at present.

25/1/99
Plague Commissioner.

Plague Commissioner's Office,
Madras, 25th January 1899.

To The Secretary to Govt,
Local and Mun. Dept.

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189

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189 .

CURRENT No.

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