

[L. & M.]
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Local & M^ul. (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 26478^{is} ✓

DATED 20/2/99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Cuddapah Observation Scheme.

According Progs. of the Plague Comm^{rs}.
relating to the Cuddapah Collector's letter
objecting to certain portions of the —

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Proceedings of the Plague Commissioner, MADRAS—1899.

Cno 259P

Recd. } 6 - 2 - { 1899.
Regd. }

Enclosures

Spare copies

Letter, No. $\frac{264}{20}$, 27th January 1899.

Order No 264 This of 20. 2. 99

JANUARY.

Recorded
18.2.99

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Cuddapah Observation Scheme.

Replying to the Cuddapah Collector's letter objecting to certain portions of the —.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

READ—the following papers:—

From Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Plague Commissioner, Madras, dated 6th January 1899, No. 38-S.

With reference to your Proceedings, No. 624, dated 7th November 1898, in which you communicated to me your approval of the Collector's opinion that "Observation circles" should not be formed in the district of Cuddapah, I have the honour to advise that the subject be re-considered. It seems improbable, considering the advance made by plague on the Mysore border, that the Cuddapah district cannot much longer be heard of the existence of the disease till it had become firmly established in its indigenous form. Under present conditions, it is improbable that anything would be heard of the existence of the disease till it had become firmly established in its indigenous form. It seems certainly unlikely that if in the remaining Ceded districts it has been possible to establish "Observation circles" without inducing popular disturbance, that by the exercise of appropriate measures by the Revenue authorities, it should not have been feasible here also. In the other Ceded districts there was no want of misapprehension, but both the Revenue authorities and sanitary inspectors faced the position and have fully secured the sympathy of the people. It must be remembered that none but men of good caste—largely Brahmans—have been sent for work as sanitary inspectors in districts.

Ref. on C. No. 237, dated 7th January 1899.

Forwarded to the Collector of Cuddapah for favour of very early remarks. Observation circles are now being opened in the south of Anantapur, and it appears desirable that similar steps should be taken in Cuddapah; which otherwise will be the only district with an unguarded frontier.

(Signed) L. E. BUCKLEY,
Plague Commissioner.

From H. O. D. HARDING, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to the Plague Commissioner, Madras, dated Camp, Rázámpéta, 21st January 1899, Ref. on Cur. No. 347-P. of 1898.

With reference to your endorsement, Ref. on Cur. No. 237, dated 7th January 1899 (herewith returned), I have the honour to report as follows.

I have not been myself among the threatened villages except Madanapalle itself since the scare in October when we had to abolish our whole scheme. I found, however, at Christmas that the removal of the dreaded supervisors and circle inspectors had quieted the whole country. People had no more complaints, were happily pursuing their businesses and keeping private kawals in the villages. I found them doing this at Madanapalle and now hear from the Plague officer that they are, as they promised,

keeping careful watch in all frontier villages. At the same time a case may come in and they may say nothing about it and some supervision is necessary beyond what is now given by the Plague officer himself and the ordinary revenue inspectors. I object strongly to supervisors and circle inspectors for various reasons. They are ruinously expensive. They are strangers to the people, they only excite fear and opposition and will not be allowed to enter villages or inspect anything. I am informed that the villagers have lost none of their objections to that and believe that if we put a lot of strangers on to them again we shall merely revive the troubles about inoculation and poisoned wells and so forth which are dying a natural death. If, however, we employ revenue inspectors—men whom the people know well—we can get a certain amount of observation due without causing harm. I have been doing this as far as is consistent with these men's ordinary duties. I would now suggest that two revenue inspectors be detailed from ordinary duty for plague work. They may be called special revenue inspectors—not plague officers—as the name plague officer is by some, alone considered sufficient to cause death. They may be appointed one to Madanapalle and one to Kadiri to patrol the frontier villages as circle inspectors and they may be paid Rs. 40 only each, *i.e.*, the pay of a first-class revenue inspector from District Board funds. Various ignorant young men attracted by the high pay offered have been throwing up 15-rupees clerkships and after a brief training coming forward as sanitary inspectors. I asked one what he had really learnt of sanitary laws, and he gravely observed that he had studied earth, air, fire and water and knew all about them. A trained revenue inspector is worth six of these raw boys and some rudiments of sanitation could be driven into him by a ten days' course under the District Medical Officer. I would therefore suggest the appointment of two revenue inspectors on Rs. 40 each as circle inspectors for Madanapalle and Kadiri and nothing else. Mr. Hawkes, Plague Officer, constantly patrols the frontier and has made friends with all the people, so far indeed that some villagers are now asking to be inoculated. These revenue inspectors will work under him. If plague becomes much worse on the Vellore side, I would put one on at Píleru or Vayalpad also. It is a significant comment on this system of circle observation that my one case of plague occurred outside the threatened area, *i.e.*, Vayalpad taluk, where no scheme was even considered necessary at all. No scheme can prevent occasional stragglers getting through in a jungly country, and in my opinion we get far better protection by inviting and using the friendly help of the villagers themselves than we shall get by imposing again a scheme of expensive, distasteful, and not very useful sanitary inspection.

LETTER—No. 264, dated 27th January 1899.

From

L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., I.C.S.,

Plague Commissioner,

To

THE COLLECTOR OF CUDDAPAH (A—L).

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Ref. on C. No. 347-P. of 1898, dealing with the question of protecting your district from plague.

2. Under the circumstances reported by you, I agree with you that local officers already known to this people should be employed rather than sanitary inspectors. I consider, however, that two men cannot do much good in so large an area, and should like to see seven men employed, one for each circle shown in the map forwarded by you with your letter of 28th September. You may call them what you will, but I consider that they should draw the same pay and allowances as officers holding corresponding positions in other districts. I agree with you that no supervisors are required for the present.

No. 204, 27TH JANUARY 1899.

3. Plague is now in Kolar district and in Hindupur. In your letter of 28th September you say that further measures may be required if Kolar district becomes infected; I have the honour to request that you will report if you now consider any further measures necessary. It is also possible that an inspection station may be required on the Hindupur road; this question and the question of re-opening the road inspection stations recently closed deserve consideration.

4. I note you say you have not been among the threatened villages since October; from the reports received in this office, this would seem to be a mistake for November. I have the honour to suggest that your presence on the frontier will be likely to allay any excitement which the introduction of the present scheme may arouse.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

H. S. Macanahan

Personal Assistant,
for Plague Commissioner.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
27th January 1899.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department.

" " Sanitary Commissioner.
" " Surgeon-General.
" " Collector of Nellore (A).
" " " of Anantapur (A).
" " " of North Arcot (A).

Ed. P. Sotharam.

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READ AGAIN G.O. No. _____
189 .

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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