PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

(1899)

MISCELLANEOUS.

No. 274

Dated 27—1—99

Despatched

[Despatch Abstract.]

Officers on Plague Duty in the Bombay Presidency

Recording letter from the P.C. Bombay, stating the concessions granted to the officers of several departments employed on plague duty in the Bombay Dep.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

(189)

CURRENT No. 57

From The Plague Commissioner Bombay

Order No 2714 dt 27-1-99

Recorded

No. 3546

Dated 30-12-1898

Received 3-1-1899

Registered 3-1-1899

Enclosures 4

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SUBJECT.

Stating that in the Bombay Presidency military, medical, civil & police officers are employed on plague duty & some of them get plague allowances and some have concessions

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

Letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, No. 673, dated Simla, the 26th June 1897 :—

"In continuation of this Department telegram No. 613, dated the 17th instant, I am directed to state that the question of the allowances to be paid to combatant commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers and men when employed on duty in connection with the plague has been considered by the Government of India, and I am now to communicate their orders on the subject for the information and guidance of the Government of Bombay.

"2. The duties performed by the troops in connection with plague appear to be of two kinds—

(1) Searching, disinfecting, superintending, scavengering, &c. This may be called Sanitary duty.

(2) Guard duty.

The Guard duty is an ordinary military duty which any body of troops may be called upon to carry out, and the Governor General in Council is therefore of opinion that no allowances are admissible for its performance.

"The Sanitary duty, on the other hand, is an unusual one, and it is disagreeable and dangerous. His Excellency in Council considers that the officers and men who have been called upon to execute it should receive adequate remuneration. His Excellency in Council recognizes that the same troops may be occupied on both sorts of duties at the same time, and in this case it must be left to the discretion of the Local Government to decide, on the merits of the case, whether or not the allowances should be granted.

"3. The following are the allowances sanctioned by the Governor General in Council for the performance of Sanitary duties —

(1) Combatant British officers.—The same rate as that admissible to officers employed on famine duty under Article 101 of the Civil Service Regulations, namely, Rs. 300 a month for officers of over five years' service, and Rs. 200 a month for officers of under five years' service.

(2) British non-commissioned officers.—Re. 1 a day.

(3) British privates.—12 annas a day and 6 annas a day extra ration money.

(4) Native officers.—Re. 1-8 a day.

(5) Native non-commissioned officers.—12 annas a day.

(6) Sepoys.—8 annas a day.

"4. From the date of issue of the orders allowances at the above rates should be substituted for the allowances which are at present being paid under the orders of the Government of Bombay. In cases where no allowances have hitherto been paid, the present orders may be applied retrospectively, with effect from the date on which the troops were employed on Sanitary duty.

"5. It is understood that the two officers of the Indian Staff Corps who were deputed to Sind on special plague duty and who have been employed in supervising the disinfection of large villages (*vide* the Resolution of the Government of Bombay, No. $\frac{2392}{1857\text{-P.}}$, dated the 3rd May 1897,) have hitherto been paid detention allowance at the rate of Rs. 5 a day. The Government of India consider that the rates sanctioned in paragraph 3 above should be applied retrospectively in the case of these two officers who have been employed on important executive work. They should also be granted the travelling allowances of a Military officer in Civil employ, namely, those admissible to a member of the Indian Civil Service.

"6. In conveying sanction to the grant of the allowances which have hitherto been paid to troops employed on plague duty, I am to say, with reference to your letter No. M.—211-P., dated the 20th April 1897, that whilst the Governor General in Council fully recognizes the importance of prompt action to which your letter alludes, His Excellency in Council is of opinion that it would have been better and would have saved some difficulty and embarrassment if, when it was decided to employ troops on plague duty and to grant them special allowances for the work, the question of the allowances had been immediately referred to the Government of India."

Resolution of the Government of India in the Finance and Commerce Department, No. 5047-P., dated 15th November 1897 :—

"READ—

Letter from the Government of Bombay, No. 182-P., dated 19th August 1897.

Telegram to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, No. 4766-P., dated 26th October 1897.

Telegram from Her Majesty's Secretary of State, dated 9th November 1897.

RESOLUTION.—The Governor General in Council is pleased to announce that Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India has sanctioned the following concessions to officers employed on duties connected with famine relief or the plague, subject to the restrictions specified below :—

2. (i) To officers who have been so employed for a period of not less than five months—

either (*a*) one month's extra privilege leave,

or (*b*) full pay instead of half pay for the first two months of furlough or other leave for which half pay is ordinarily admissible.

(ii) To officers so employed for a period of not less than ten months—

either (*a*) two months' extra privilege leave,

or (*b*) full pay instead of half pay for the first four months of furlough or other leave as above.

3. The grant of the above concessions is subject to the following explanations and limitations :—

(i) The concessions are admissible in the case of famine duty, in any province in which there has been famine, and in the case of plague duty in the Presidency of Bombay including Sind.

(ii) They are not admissible to any officer whose duty in connection with famine or plague has not, in the opinion of the Local Government, been so unusually arduous as to render him deserving of them, or who has been specially appointed to such duty and has been remunerated during the performance of it by special salary or allowances.

(iii) The extra privilege leave admissible under this Resolution may be taken in combination with privilege leave earned under the ordinary rules, provided that the total amount of privilege leave so taken at one time shall not exceed three months. Any balance of privilege leave which cannot be taken in consequence of the three months' limit will remain at credit to be taken under the ordinary rules.

(iv) The concessions will ordinarily cease to be admissible after the expiry of two years from the date of this Resolution, but may, with the consent of the Local Government, be carried on beyond that date in cases where the exigencies of the public service have necessitated the refusal of leave when applied for and have thus prevented the grant of the full concessions earned, within the prescribed period.

(v) Any officer eligible for the concessions may choose between the alternatives (*a*) and (*b*) of paragraph 2 at the time he applies for leave.

Accompaniment to ~~this Office~~ No. 2746 dated 30th December 1898 of the Plague Commissioners Bombay Presidency.

Pensions.

To families of Policemen dying of plague contracted in discharge of plague duties.

No. 3086.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 14th April 1897.

Resolution of Government, No. 1818, dated the 5th March 1897.

Letter from the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, No. 2056—51, dated the 8th March 1897—Suggesting, for consideration, the desirability of allowing pension under Article 781 of the Civil Service Regulations to the families of Policemen of the Bombay City Police Force, who have died from plague while doing duty. Making remarks.

Letter to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, No. 2146, dated the 15th March 1897, as follows:—

"I am directed to forward herewith, for the consideration of the Government of India, copy of a letter No. 1176, dated the 14th February 1897, from the Collector of Thána, reporting that the Police employed on plague duty in that district may possibly desert unless some provision is made by Government for the widows and children of such as may die of plague contracted in the execution of their duty. I am also to submit a similar proposal, based on similar reasons, received from the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, in his No. 2056—51, dated the 8th March 1897.

"2. In submitting these papers for the orders of the Government of India His Excellency the Governor in Council regards it as unnecessary to dwell upon the gravity of the present condition of affairs in this Presidency, which the Supreme Government already realizes. But in dealing with the existing problem one of the difficulties which confront this Government is the fear of the disease entertained by the Police, a fear which springs, not merely from a natural anxiety as to their personal safety, but also from the knowledge that if they fall victims to the pestilence, their widows and families will be left unprovided for and in many cases destitute. These apprehensions can neither be wondered at nor condemned, and Government have to deal with the fact that any serious defection among the members of the force would bring to a stand-still the measures most necessary for the suppression of the plague. Isolation of the sick in hospital, segregation of the probably infected, removal of residents from condemned houses, medical inspection of travellers, control of burning and burial grounds—for all these purposes the Police are needed, and in many instances it has even been necessary to call upon them at night to remove the dead.

"3. Of the actual mortality among the Police, statistics are not yet available except for the City of Bombay, where 57 members of the force have died of the plague, the infection having been contracted, in most cases, in the performance of special duties in connection with this disease. Their widows and children, who are left destitute, naturally turn to the State for aid, and this Government can at present give them no other answer than that their claims are inadmissible. The effect on the *morale* of the Police still employed on plague duty cannot but be disastrous, and in the opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council, it cannot be expected that the men should, under these conditions, continue faithfully and cheerfully to perform the duties which they are now required to discharge, in the absence of some special concession suitable to the nature of the special risks they have to incur. The principle is already recognized that the State should in certain cases make adequate provision for the families of Policemen who are killed in the performance of their duties, and the Government of India in their letters cited in the margin have recorded their desire to give a liberal interpretation in the case of the Police to the rules regarding pensions to the families of officers who lose their lives in the execution of their duty. The innovation involved in the extension of the principle which is recommended in the letters herewith submitted does not appear to the Governor in Council to constitute a serious objection at a time when, to avert what may be a great disaster, Government are compelled to adopt uncommon methods and to enact unusual laws.

Home Department No. 526, dated 17th July 1895.
Home Department No. 403, dated 13th June 1895.

"4. In these circumstances I am to express the earnest hope of the Governor in Council that the Government of India will be pleased to empower this Government to grant suitable pensions to the widows and children of Police officers who may have met or who may meet their death through plague, contracted in the discharge of their duties in localities where the presence of the plague throws special work on the Police. As the subject is of an emergent nature, I am to request that the decision of the Government of India may be communicated by telegram."

Telegram from the Government of India, Home Department, No. 1203 (Sanitary), dated the 5th April 1897, as follows:—

"Your letter 2146, dated 15th March, pensions to families of Police officers. Government of India are willing that Police officers who have met or meet death through plague contracted in discharge of duties connected with plague shall be considered as killed in execution of duty attended with extraordinary bodily risk within meaning of Civil Service Regulations 781 and 782 and authorise Government of Bombay to act on this interpretation."

RESOLUTION.—The decision of the Government of India should be communicated to the Officers and Departments concerned.

2. In submitting recommendations for family pensions under this sanction the nature of the duty on which, and the locality where, the deceased Policeman was employed when he was attacked by the disease must be fully reported to enable Government to decide on each instance whether the case is covered by the orders of the Government of India.

(Signed) S. L. BATCHELOR,
Under Secretary to Government.

To

The Commissioner in Sind,
The Commissioner, N. D.,
The Commissioner, C. D.,
The Commissioner, S. D.,
The Collector and District Magistrate, Thána,
All other District Magistrates,
The Inspector-General of Police,
The Commissioner of Police, Bombay,
All Superintendents of Police,
The Accountant General,
The Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor,
The General Department,
The Financial Department,
The Public Works Department (Railway).

No. of 1897.

Copy forwarded for information and guidance to

Letter from the Government of the Punjáb, Home Department, to the Government of India, Home Department, No. 692, Medical and Sanitary, dated the 18th April 1898.

I am directed to forward a copy of the correspondence marginally noted regarding the grant to Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Rám, on inspection duty at the Kálka Railway Station, of a plague deputation allowance of Rs. 2 per diem, under the terms of Mr. Nathan's letter No. 11-Sanitary—1157, dated 29th March 1897, and to convey the following remarks for the consideration of the Government of India.

Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, No. 3163, dated 7th September 1897.
Punjáb Government letter to Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, No. 1366, dated 11th November 1897.
Inspector General of Civil Hospitals' letter No. 119, dated 12th January 1898.

2. With effect from the afternoon of the 25th August 1897, Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Rám, Sanitary Officer, Kálka, has been employed, *in addition to his own duties*, on the medical inspection of passengers arriving at the Kálka Railway Station. Three trains arrive at Kálka each day, the earliest at 5-15 A.M. and the latest at 20-15 (=8-15 P.M.).

3. In Mr. Hewett's letter No. 668, dated 23rd June 1897, it was observed that "the Government of India intended the allowances to be granted only to officers employed exclusively and expressly on plague duty on account more especially of the risks of that duty." It was added that the Government of India were "at present inclined to the opinion that the allowance should only be granted to Subordinate Medical Officers employed at railway or other inspection stations, and such officers have presumably been expressly deputed to plague duty, and would therefore be eligible for the allowance under existing orders." This letter was written in answer to my letters Nos. 81-s. and 132-s., dated respectively the 28th May and the 3rd June 1897, which represented that very few Medical Officers had at that time been employed exclusively on plague work, and suggested that the orders on the subject should be so framed as to allow of the grant of the allowance in cases where this appeared to the Local Government to be desirable, even to officers who were not exclusively employed on plague duty. The letter indicated the willingness of the Government of India to consider the question further, but invited in the first place an estimate of the extra expenditure which the concession would involve. It arrived at a time when, owing to the diminution in the virulence of the disease, the number of inspections was being considerably diminished, and the Government of India were informed in my letter No. 1264-s., dated 27th August 1897, that the class of officers only partially employed on plague duty had practically ceased to exist, and that the Lieutenant-Governor therefore withdrew the proposal under discussion, more especially as, in any case, he would not have been prepared to suggest that any ruling granting a deputation allowance to officers of that class should have retrospective effect. The case of Bhagat Rám came up for orders after the date of this letter.

4. It would, I am to say, apparently be open to the Lieutenant-Governor to secure some additional emolument to Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Rám by declaring him appointed to special duty in addition to his ordinary duties and granting him a deputation allowance, or by giving him an honorarium under Article 89, Civil Service Regulations, or a local allowance under Article 187. All these methods would, however, he thinks, involve something of an evasion of the orders which have already been cited, and he prefers therefore to refer the case for the consideration of the Government of India, the rather that the present appears to him to be a favourable opportunity of ascertaining the principles on which, in the opinion of the Government of India, the plague deputation allowances admissible to various classes of Medical officers employed in one way or another on duties connected with the detection, prevention and treatment of the disease should be regulated.

5. At the present time those duties vary widely in character, from the actual treatment of the sick in hospital, and itineration in actually infected or suspected areas, to the conduct of inspections at places more or less remote from the scene of danger, and the supervision of sanitary precautions in places which are known not to have been infected up to the present time. Where an officer is engaged on the actual treatment of the sick there can be no doubt that he is entitled to the allowance. Where he is engaged merely on preventive sanitary work at a distance from the scene of the actual outbreak, it seems equally clear that he is not entitled to a plague allowance, though it is possible that he may be entitled under ordinary rules, without regard to the existence of plague in the Province or elsewhere in India, to some other allowance on account of additional or exceptionally arduous duties performed, or for some other valid reason. It is in the case of itinerating and inspecting officers that doubts are apt to arise. The Government of India orders appear to contemplate something else beside special risk of infection as a ground for the grant of allowances, for they assume that the allowances should be given to Inspecting Medical Officers expressly deputed to this work, even though (as must obviously be the case when the inspections are conducted at a distance from the scene of the outbreak) it does not expose those who do it to any appreciable danger, and the Lieutenant-Governor has therefore a difficulty in determining the principles which should be applied.

6. Sir Mackworth Young's own view, after a reconsideration of this subject, is that the plague allowances admissible to Medical Officers should be given only in cases where the duty done by them involves the risk of contraction of the disease. Other allowances may be admissible to them where there is no such risk, but these should be given in accordance with ordinary financial rules and precedents which would be equally applicable if their duties were in no way connected with the existence of plague.

7. The effect of the adoption of this principle will be that Inspecting Medical Officers will only in very rare instances, if ever, be entitled to a plague allowance, though they may, as in the case of Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Rám, be entitled to some other allowance of a different kind. The application of the rule to the itinerating officers will be somewhat more difficult, for in some cases these officers are touring about where plague may be discovered at any time, and they will be expected to deal with slightly infected villages before the disease has developed sufficiently to require them to be made over to the separate executive staff which arranges for evacuation, the establishment of cordons and disinfection prior to the return of the inhabitants, while in other, though fever cases, the chances of the itinerating staff coming into actual contact with the disease are comparatively small. Probably, however, these itinerating Medical Officers will, as a rule, be entitled to plague allowance if the proposed test of claims be adopted.

8. If these views on the subject of allowances for work done by Medical Officers in connection with plague are accepted, they would take effect from the date on which the Government of India signified its approval of them, arrangements being made that from that date only those officers whose work the Lieutenant-Governor considerd to satisfy the prescribed test should be notified as on plague duty and so entitled to draw the allowance.

Letter from Surgeon-Colonel D. O'C. RAYE, Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, Punjáb, to the Junior Secretary to Government, Punjáb, No. 3163, dated 7th September 1897.

Your letter, No. 1162-s., dated 18th August 1897, Home (Medical and Sanitary), conveyed to me the wishes of the Government of India that the inspection of passengers at Kálka should in future be conducted by an Assistant Surgeon instead of a Commissioned Officer. I accordingly have directed

Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Rám, Sanitary Officer, Kálka, to carry on the work in addition to his own duties from the afternoon of the 25th August 1897. As this entails considerable fatigue, trains having to be visited at intervals from morning till midnight, I recommend that as a special case a deputation allowance of Rs. 2 per diem may be granted to him. This will be a much more economical arrangement than the appointment of an Assistant Surgeon wholly for inspection duty.

Letter from H. J. MAYNARD, Esq., Junior Secretary to Government, Punjáb, to the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, Punjáb, No. 1366, dated 11th November 1897.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 3163, dated the 7th of September 1897, recommending that Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Rám, Sanitary Officer, Kálka, should be granted a deputation allowance of Rs. 2 per diem as a special case for the inspection of passengers at the Kálka Railway Station.

2. In reply, I am directed to refer you to the correspondence ending with my endorsement to your address, No. 1265-s., dated the 27th of August 1897, which shows it to be the intention of the Government of India (*vide* Home Department letter No. 668, dated the 23rd of June 1897) that an allowance of the kind should be only admissible to Subordinate Medical Officers who may be "*employed exclusively and expressly on plague duty*" and "*on account more especially of the risks of that duty.*" Under these circumstances and seeing that there can be no risks worthy of consideration in conducting inspection at a place like Kálka, it seems impossible to make out a special case. His Honour therefore regrets his inability to forward your recommendation on behalf of Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Rám to the Government of India.

Letter from Surgeon-Colonel D. O'C. RAYE, M.D., Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Punjáb, to the Junior Secretary to Government, Punjáb, No. 119, dated 12th January 1898.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1366, dated 11th November 1897, Home (Medical and Sanitary), regarding the plague allowance proposed for Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Ram, Inspecting Medical Officer, Kálka, and venture once again to submit it for the consideration of Government.

2. I was aware, in recommending an allowance of Rs. 2 a day in September last, that Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Rám was not entitled to it under the terms of Government of India, Home Department, letter No. 668, dated 23rd June 1897, but his case was so special that I had no hesitation in making that recommendation. Perhaps, in doing so, I did not make the special nature of the case clear enough.

3. Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Rám's appointment is that of Sanitary Officer, Kálka, where on account of the traffic to Simla it was held necessary to have a special officer to look after the sanitation of the town and the frequent inspection of people putting up in serais, cartsheds, &c.

4. Owing to the strain on all branches of the Medical Service, I was obliged some months ago to make Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Rám take charge of the Kálka Dispensary in addition to his regular duties as Sanitary Officer, in order to set free the Dispensary Hospital Assistant for inspection duty on the road entering Kálka. This, though it added to Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Rám's work considerably, was not an undue amount of extra duty.

5. At this time the railway inspections were done by a Commissioned Medical Officer, who drew for this work a special allowance of Rs. 300

monthly. Military necessities caused the withdrawal of that officer and eventually your letter No. 1162-s. of the 18th August last, authorized the posting of an Assistant Surgeon for railway inspection work. There was none available, and the only arrangement which could be made was to add the inspections to the double duty already being done by Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Rám.

Ordinarily speaking, the inspection of a few trains daily is not heavy work, but in the present instance not only was the Assistant Surgeon already fully occupied, but the hour at which the morning train arrived rendered its inspection a sufficiently onerous duty. The first train arrives at 5-15, and to be present at the station on its arrival means that a man must daily leave his house about a quarter before 5 o'clock. There are two other trains, one at 9-50 and one at 20-15. From this it will be seen that although the extra duty imposed on Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Rám entails, as your letter No. 1366 of the 11th November last remarks, no risks worthy of consideration so far as plague is concerned, it nevertheless is of a very fatiguing nature, and Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Rám has complained to me, and I believe justly, that he is feeling the strain of it greatly.

If there were an Assistant Surgeon available solely for railway inspection duty, I would place him at Kálka, but at present there is none.

6. Under the above circumstances, as the allowance of Rs. 2 per diem sanctioned by the Government of India is not applicable to Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Rám's case, I would ask that he may be granted a special allowance to that amount by the Local Government from the date of his taking charge of the train inspection work until such time as he can be relieved of that duty.

Letter from the Government of India Home Department (Medical), to the Government of the Punjáb, Home Department (Medical and Sanitary), No. 1123, dated the 20th August 1898.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 692, dated the 18th April 1898, submitting, for the orders of the Government of India, the question of the grant of a plague deputation allowance of Rs. 2 per diem to Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Ram, employed on inspection duty at the Kalka Railway station, in addition to his own duties as Sanitary Officer, Kalka.

2. In view of the intention of the Government of India, expressed in the letter from this office, No. 668, dated the 23rd June 1897, that the grant of plague allowances should be confined to officers employed exclusively and expressly on plague duty on account more especially of the risks of that duty, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor did not feel justified in exercising his powers under the Civil Service Regulations to secure to Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Ram some additional emolument for the extra work thrown upon him, and has accordingly referred the matter for the consideration of the Government of India. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor at the same time desires to ascertain the principles on which, in the opinion of the Government of India, the plague deputation allowances admissible to various classes of Medical Officers employed in one way or another on duties connected with the detection, prevention and treatment of the disease should be regulated.

3. In paragraph 6 of your letter it is said that in Sir Mackworth Young's opinion the plague allowances admissible to Medical Officers should be given only in cases where the duty done by them involves the risk of contracting the disease, and it is understood that the Lieutenant-Governor intends that, if such risk exists, the allowance shall be granted to every officer, whether wholly or only partly, employed on plague work.

4. In reply I am to say that the adoption of this proposal would involve a complete alteration in the orders which now regulate the grant of allowances

for plague duty, and the Governor General in Council does not consider such a change necessary or desirable. Those orders provide adequately for the remuneration of all officers wholly employed on plague duty, and the concessions in regard to leave granted by the Finance Department Resolutions marginally noted afford, in the opinion of the Government of India, a suitable reward in the case of officers of the higher grades of the services employed on plague work, in addition to their ordinary duties. These concessions, however, will be of little practical benefit to Subordinate Medical Officers so employed, and in these circumstances the Governor General in Council agrees to the grant to them of a local allowance under Article 38 (*a*), Civil Service Regulations. It should be subject to two restrictions, *viz.*, that the allowance should in no case exceed in amount the deputation allowance authorized under Article 98 of the Civil Service Regulations, and that it should be given only to officers whose additional plague work, such as that of the medical inspection of passengers by road or railway, is entirely separate from and outside the sphere of their ordinary duties, and not to officers whose ordinary and legitimate work, such as that of attending on the sick in hospital, has been increased owing to the occurrence of plague.

No. 5047-P., dated the 15th November 1897.
No. 2852-P., dated the 29th June 1898.

5. I am to suggest that Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Ram's case may be disposed of in accordance with these orders.

No. 2847 of 1898.

From

The Hon'ble Mr. A. Wingate, C.I.E., I.C.S.
Plague Commissioner,
Bombay Presidency.

To

The Chief Secretary to Chief Commissioner,
Central Provinces,
Nagpur.

Bombay 30th December 1898.

Sir,

In reply to your letter No. C/304, dated the 12th Instant, I have the honour to state as follows:-

If reference is meant to the Plague organization for a town, in Bombay City the operations are entrusted by Government to the Municipal Commissioner assisted by a Deputy Commissioner for Plague operations. Both these officers belong to the Indian Civil Service. The town is subdivided into Wards or Districts, each of which is placed under a Military Officer. This Military Officer is aided by specially appointed medical men who may or may not be in Government service, and by a large body of representative citizens of all ranks and creeds, formed into Committees, each under a chairman. Some 800 have thus enrolled themselves, each of whom is responsible for a definite street or section. These Committee men advise the people as to cleanliness, air and light, gain information of sickness and death and remove any cause of fear or complaint. While the Ward or District Officers watches the mortality and sees that the measures are brought into effective operation by the Committees and that

that disinfection and vacation follow immediately on the existence of plague in a house being ascertained. The municipal Commissioner supplements this special Agency by the whole strength of the municipal Establishment and the Commissioner of Police is able to afford very useful assistance.

2. In towns in the mofussil the Collector has usually taken charge of the operations assisted by his Medical Officer. One or two Assistant or Deputy Collectors, Military Officers or officers temporarily lent by the Forest, Survey and other Departments with such medical officers as could be made available were placed on special duty in the town to take superintendence of Wards and occasionally it was possible to find non-official gentlemen, like Bankers, Merchants &c to take a ward. Under them, were a staff of subordinates, drawn from the employés in the Revenue Offices, vaccinators, school masters &c, assisted by volunteers. At the beginning of an epidemic it is frequently necessary to begin with Government servants but it is usually soon possible to introduce volunteer Agency more freely. To Government Subordinates, thus withdrawn from regular duty and exposed to danger an allowance varying from 1/2 or 1/3 of pay was usually allowed according as their salary was below or above a certain rate of pay. Pensioned Native officers have been found very useful.

3. As to the size of a charge, in mofussil towns Collectors are left a fairly free hand but for a town with 100,000 inhabitants, 8 or 9 wards would usually be constituted. If the population is not evacuated on any large scale, this number can hardly be reduced. In Bombay, the Establishment consists of 12 officers but in that city there are many capable of assisting and in mofussil towns it is not always easy to find any help.

4. In the Districts, the sub-division must depend on the intensity of plague and where it is distributed.

5. In regard to pay and allowances I append a copy of a letter addressed to the Plague Commissioner, Madras

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
Sd/ A Wingate
Plague Commissioner.

'True Copy'
M. V. Merchant
Asst Head Clerk to the
Plague Commissioner

URGENT. No 2846. of 1898.

C No 57

From

The Hon'ble Mr. A. Wingate C.S.I. &c. I.C.S.
Plague Commissioner
Bombay Presidency.

To

The Plague Commissioner
Madras.

Bombay 30th December 1898.

Sir.

I have the honour to ac-knowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1769, dated the 3rd instant, and in reply beg to state that in this Presidency the following officers have been employed on plague duty

(1) Military Officers and troops both British and native.
(2) Medical Officers, both Superior as well as inferior.
(3) Civil officers, superior as well as inferior, belonging to the various departments such as Revenue, Forest, Salt, Customs &c &c.
(4) Police officers.

2. With regard to (1) I beg to invite your attention to paragraph: 3 of the

P. C. 3 JAN. 1899

4/5-2 of 1899

the letter from the Government of India
No. 673 dated 26th June 1897 (copy enclosed).
which regulates the payment of allowances
to this class of officers and men for
Plague duty and to add that in a
subsequent communication the
Government of India have sanctioned
the payment of six annas a day as
ration money to British non Commissioned
Officers also.

3. With regard to (2) I may state that
Officers of the rank of Civil Surgeons
who are in medical charge of Districts
and who are expected to cope with
any unforeseen outbreak of ~~Plague~~
or Epidemic in their Districts are not
usually granted any allowance for
Extra plague duty but are entitled to
the benefit of the leave concessions
sanctioned by the Government of
India in their Resolution in the
Finance and Commerce Department
No. 5047 dated 15th November 1897 (copy
enclosed). Officers belonging to the
Indian Medical Service and ~~—~~ Royal
Army Medical Corps get the allowance
admissible to Military Officers on Famine
duty as per article 101 of the Civil Service
Regulations

Regulations.

4. As regards subordinate Medical
Officers I may state that officers
of the rank of Assistant Surgeons
and Hospital Assistants who are
exclusively employed on plague duty
get an allowance respectively of Rs
2 per day and Rs 25 per mensem while
those who are deputed to perform
plague work in addition to & outside
the sphere of their ordinary work will
get an extra allowance equal to 1/5th
of their pay under the orders of the
Government of India contained
in their letter to the Government of
the Punjab No. 1123, dated 20th August
1898 (copy enclosed). In cases in
which Government think it ne-
-cessary, conveyance allowance
and house rent are granted to
subordinate Medical officers
in accordance with the local Cir-
-cumstances and the merits of
each case. Local Bodies have
also been allowed with the sanction
of the Surgeon General to give a
bonus where good work has been
done within their local area.

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5. As regards (3) I may mention that no extra allowance is given merely for increased clerical work which may result from plague but in the case of officers who have been specially deputed to plague work which is foreign to their ordinary work and dangerous in its nature a deputation allowance equal to 1/6th. of their pay is usually given, in addition to the pay and allowances drawn at the time of transfer to Plague duty.

6. Subordinates drawn from Revenue and other Offices to do actual plague work. i.e. foreign to their ordinary duty and dangerous in its nature have ~~frequently received~~ increment to salary usually about 1/2 if the salary was Rs 20 and under and 1/3 if the salary was over Rs 20. Vaccinators who volunteered for plague duty were allowed an extra remuneration of annas 4 per diem.

7. With regard to (4) I may state that as a rule no special allowances are paid to Police officers for plague duty, though in Exceptional instances allowances have been granted, but with

but with a view to encourage this class of officers in the discharge of their Plague duties the Government of India have ruled that Police officers who have met or meet with death through Plague contracted in the discharge of duties connected with plague shall be considered as killed in execution of duty attended with extraordinary bodily risk within the meaning of articles 781 & 782 of the Civil Service Regulations and their families entitled to pensions admissible to such Officers. Copy of the Government Resolution is attached. Also Police men in common with all Government servants get the advantage of the Leave Concession.

8. I may add that as the measures are being understood and cooperation is replacing former feelings, the services of volunteers are proving a most valuable Agency in dealing with Plague. I venture to append a copy of a letter addressed

× will follow

addressed to the Chief Secretary
to the Chief Commissioner Central
Provinces, which may perhaps be
of use.

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

Abongel
Plugne Commissioner

When given for copying
Then copied
Then examined
Then signed
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