

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

(1899)

PRINTED

No.

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DATED

7-1-99

Despatch in M. S. to Salem. 7-1-99.

Despatch to B. S. 7-1-99.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Salem Observation Scheme.

Guards for the Stations in Salem on the Mysore

Frontier.

Negatives Captain Sprague.

Passing orders on the proposal to employ
sepoys and men from the active reserve in lieu
of Sub peons and Police constables as guards
for the Stations in Salem on the Mysore ~~front~~ frontier.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

Proceedings of the Plague Commissioner, MADRAS — 1899.

Reed.

Regd.

1899.

Enclosures

Spare copies

Letter, No. ⁵⁷/₆, 7th January 1899.

JANUARY.

Salem Observation Scheme.

Negating Captain French's proposal to employ sepoy and men from the active reserve in lieu of salt peons and police constables as guards for the stations in Salem on the Mysore frontier.

LETTER—No. 57, dated 7th January 1899.

From

L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., I.C.S.,
PLAGUE COMMISSIONER, MADRAS,

To

THE COLLECTOR OF SALEM (A).

SIR,

I have the honour to reply to that portion of Captain Ffrench's diary forwarded with your endorsement, No. 576, Plague, dated 24th November 1898, which deals with the proposal to employ sepoys and men from the active reserve in lieu of salt peons and police constables to guard the routes of the Mysore frontier. The reason for this recommendation was that the salt peons and police constables were found inefficient owing to want of direct authority over them. The necessary power to deal with subordinates of the Salt and Abkari department has since been conferred on plague officers by G.O., No. 1611 P., dated 20th December 1898, and better work can hereafter be expected from them. The Government has already ordered that the use of troops for plague purposes should be avoided and that their employment should be confined as far as possible to disinfection work when local labour is not available. If sufficient men are not forthcoming from the ranks of salt peons and police constables, it may be found possible to appoint men from the class from which village taliaris are drawn.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

L. E. Buckley
for Plague Commissioner.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
7th January 1899.

Copy to all other Collectors (except Madras) (A). ✓

Ed. P. Sesharam.

Proceedings of the Plague Commissioner,
MADRAS — 1899.

Proof for approval

Please correct stroke of 11-1-99
12/1/89

Recd.

Enclosures

1899.

Regd.

Spare copies

Letter, No. 57, 7th January 1899.

JANUARY.

negating Captain Ffrench's Salem Observation Scheme.

Passing orders on the proposal to employ sepoys and men from the active reserve in lieu of salt peons and police constables as guards for the stations in Salem on the Mysore frontier.

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Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

L. E. BUCKLEY,
Plague Commissioner.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
7th January 1899.

Copy to all other Collectors (except Madras) (A)

Proceedings of the Plague Commission.
Read—the following papers:—
APPENDIX.

DIARY of Captain T. Ffrench, Special Plague officer, Salem District, for 18th November 1898.
Kumaranapalli Camp.

1 (a). I went to visit the plague camp at Kumaranapalli to-day. There was no peon or constable on guard at the cross roads, so that any one could have got through without being observed. When I reached the camp I found the police constable No. 37 Narayanasamy who should have been at the cross roads just leaving camp. I asked the hospital assistant about it and he said he had already posted the above man as it was his turn for duty but that he had come away without leave. The man admitted it and said he had come back to bathe his eyes as they were smarting.

(b) One of the salt peons also No. 62 Venkatasami was away having his meals in a Mysore village across the boundary. This was strictly against my written orders.

(c) I asked the hospital assistant about it and he said these two men were in the habit of going away whenever they pleased and wherever they pleased and they were entirely beyond his control. I believe him for I have had them up before me myself only last week and spoke to them seriously and have also reported them to the heads of their departments but apparently without any effect.

(d) I find these sorts of men are utterly useless for dentry work and it would be much better if we could get sepoys from Regiments instead (they need not be armed except with a stick) and they would be much more amenable to discipline and the work would be more efficiently carried out I am sure.

We should also have power to punish such men for breaches of discipline ourselves without having to refer the matter to the heads of departments; this only takes time and besides the men don't care at all as they know we have no immediate control over them.

REMARKS.—I concur. All I can do is to get the hospital assistants to take the explanation of such men and then send it on to the Assistant Superintendent of Police or the Inspector of Salt and Abkari. What becomes of the matter afterwards I cannot say. I think I must be given some power over these men as Revenue officers were given power over Public Works Department subordinates in famine works.

(Signed) C. G. SPENCER,
Ag. Sub-Collector.

(e) If sepoys from Native Regiments cannot be had, men from the "active reserve" would do as well; there are many of them about in this district and such men are used to discipline and to guard duties, and I am sure would be more satisfactory than these police constables and salt peons besides being no extra expense to the State as if they come from regiments their places need not be filled up, the same as Police drill instructors and men on like detached duty. Of course if reservists are used they will have to be paid probably Rs. 7 a month.

Kindly give this your consideration as the present state of things is most unsatisfactory and I don't see any remedy for it except the above.

Endt. No. 576 P.

Submitted to the Plague Commissioner for orders.

2. If sepoy guards are not allowable I think it very necessary that the Collector should have authority to deal with the police and salt peons on guard duty at frontier stations directly if they do not do their duty. At present they are being paid and punished by their own departments.

SALEM,
24th November 1898.

(Signed) R. B. CLEGG,
Acting Collector.

Dated

89

From

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

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER,

To

The Collector of Salem ✓ (on next p.)

SIR,

See Page 70/79

I have to humbly reply to that portion
of Cap. French's diary forwarded with your
Envt No 876 Dated 24-11-90 which deals
with the proposal to employ depots & men
from the active reserve in lieu of salt bears
& Police constables to guard the routes of the
myrrine further. ~~with the authority now conferred~~
I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. H. H. H.

The reason for this
recommendation was that the Salt Pans &
Police constables were found inefficient owing
to want of direct authority over them. The
necessary power to deal with these subordinates

Other S.A.D. — has since been conferred on plague officers by
S.D. No 1611 P. dt 20-12-98 and ~~in~~
~~expect~~ better work can hereafter be expected
from them. ~~There is no necessity to employ the~~

~~as sentries~~ The Govt has already ordered that the
should be their use ^{of troops} for police purposes
should be avoided ~~as far as possible~~ and

^{if possible}
I consider that they should
~~not be employed as guards.~~
If sufficient men are not forthcoming
from the ranks of salt peons &
Police Constables, ^{the village servants}
of the taluqari and tota classes
may be tried. They will be
found useful & trust worthy, &
perhaps more agreeable to the people
than others.

it may be found possible to
appoint men from the
class from which village
takeins are drawn.

Lump
6/1/89

Cy to all the Colles (except Madras) & to the

NOTE FOR THE Major Commr

Capt French in his diary
forwarded with C.O. 1041 of 1890
states that salt peons ^{& Constables} are
useless for sentry work i.e. for
guarding the routes, and recommends
the appointment of depuys in their
stead or at least of men from
the "active reserve". The Colles
but Colles has not offered any
remarks on this suggestion nor
does the Colles make any specific
recommendation. The Colles however
remarked that if depuy guards
are not allowable, the Colles should
be given power to deal with salt
peons & Police Constables in plague
duty. This the grant of this
power was recommended by the D.C.
and has been sanctioned by Govt
in G.O. No 1011 P. dt 20-12-90, a
copy of which is submitted.

2. The Colles of Malabar has
similarly found the salt peons useless
and has employed local men.
The Govt has ordered that the
use of troops for plague purposes
should

*
Para 7 of Colles letter
printed in No 1067
31-12-98

Should be avoided as possible
 (C. C. Prop. No. $\frac{2}{23}$ d/28-8-94,
 that they should never be employed
 to cord a village & that they
 might in special cases be
 employed in disinfecting work
 (C. C. Prop. No. $\frac{2}{397}$ d/25-10-94)
 & It is therefore doubtful whether
 the use of troops will be allowed
 for guarding the routes on the frontier.
 With the power recently described,
 Police officers should be able
 to get better work from folk
 heads & Police Constables. If
 good men are not forthcoming
 from these classes, the village servants
 from the Indian and Lohi classes
 may be tried. These people
 are generally honest and not
~~attracted to~~ ^{prone to} perjury & extortion.
 Long
 5/1/95

They will be used as Lohi
 as provision as guards

draft acct.
 9/1

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CURRENT No. 1641

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