

Local & Munl. (189) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 741 P mis.

DATED 17-5-99.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Measures for the Suppressing Plague

Recording P.C.'s Progs to 1179 dt 1-5-89
reviewing the opinions of Collectors on
certain ——— adopted in Bombay.

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.



Recd. 9- }
Regd. 10- } 1899. }
Enclosures
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Proceedings, No. 1179, 1st May 1899.

MAY.

17/5
Sd/- No 741 (P. mis) 17-5-99.
mis
Recorded
15-V-99.

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.

9/5

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

READ—again the following paper:—

Proceedings, No. 433, 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 Gódvári	" 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.

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.

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