

L. A. M.
1899-1900-01

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 81 P mis ✓

DATED 12-1-99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Malabar Observation Scheme.

Recording Plague Commissioner's Proceedings approving, with remarks, the proposals of the Collector, ^{opinion} to make certain improvements in 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 — 1898.

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Recd. 5 - } Jan 4 } 1898.
Regd. 6 - }

Enclosures

Spare copies 6 of inv.

Letter, No. 1016, 27th December 1898.

DECEMBER.

Miss. Order No. 81, 12-1-99
H. M. 10.1.99.

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Malabar Observation Scheme.

Approving, with remarks, the proposals of the Collector to make certain improvements in
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PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

READ—the following paper:—

From G. W. DANCE, Esq., Collector of Malabar, forwarding copy of his Proceedings to the Plague Commissioner, dated Sultan's Battery, 12th December 1898, No. C.—Tour.

The present arrangements for the observation of persons coming from Mysore territory are in my opinion very inadequate and afford no protection against the plague. A hospital assistant and compounder at Muttanga and a compounder at Chedleth are expected to roam about daily advising any persons they meet who appear to have come from Mysore to go to Sultan's Battery and obtain a passport. There is no attempt made to ascertain whether the advice is acted on or not, and, even when the passports are obtained, the rules regarding daily examination are frequently ignored. I am of opinion that the plague inspection stations should be nearer the frontier, and that the examination should be thorough as far as it goes, and the passport rules strictly enforced.

2. Instead of the present observation posts and patrols there will in future be two inspection camps, one at Muttanga and one at Chedleth. Hospital Assistant Govindan Nair will be in charge of the former with the present compounder to assist him, and the hospital assistant, whom I have asked the District Medical and Sanitary Officer to send me without delay, will on arrival be posted to Chedleth. The compounder who is now at Chedleth will be posted on the other side of the Thirunelli bridge at the turning to Odapallam. Persons coming from Mysore territory through Odapallam will be stopped by the compounder on arrival at his post, and sent into Sultan's Battery for examination in charge of a peon, who should be given a note to the apothecary stating the number of persons and pack-bullocks in his charge.

3. The Local Fund overseer will at once run up a segregation shed at Muttanga near the site of the forest bungalow, of the same size as the one at Sultan's Battery, and at a distance of not less than 150 yards from the road. Further back again should be built a plague hospital to accommodate five patients.

4. The overseer will also put up a segregation shed at Chedleth, half the size of the one at Sultan's Battery, and a plague hospital to accommodate five patients. The compounder at Thirunelli should be provided with a hut. It will probably not be necessary for him to remain there at night, as persons are not likely to be passing then.

5. The hospital assistant at Muttanga will be supplied with six peons and two coolies for taking letters. It will be his duty to examine persons who pass his post, and to detail a peon to watch the turning from Muttanga to Odapallam which is within a furlong or two of the post, so as to intercept any persons who may come by it. At night traffic should be stopped from Mysore by closing up the road with bamboo rails. The hospital assistant at Chedleth will be supplied with four peons and two coolies for carrying letters. The compounder at Thirunelli will be supplied with three peons. The apothecary at Sultan's Battery will have three peons, who should be used among other things for the purpose of intercepting persons who may have evaded the frontier inspection stations. The Deputy Collector is requested to appoint as many peons on Rs. 9 as are required to fill up the above staff, as well as four letter coolies on Rs. 6. For the present the peons temporarily appointed for plague duty should be supplied with the belts and badges of amsam peons, who are well known in their amsams.

6. The frontier inspecting officers at Chedleth and Muttanga are authorized to detain all persons from Mysore territory, who appear to be suspicious whether by reason of their appearance, the dirty condition of their clothes, or the fact that they are travelling in gangs, or belong to classes who are likely to disseminate disease, or cannot be traced on arrival at their destination, or for any other reason. The powers thus conferred are very extensive, and the Collector trusts that they will be used with judgment. It is, however, very necessary to insist on persons who are given passports giving such information as will enable them to be traced to their destination. Should therefore persons be found to be habitually giving wrong information as to their names or destinations, it may be necessary to detain a few until they can give a satisfactory account of themselves. Of course all persons suffering from fever should be detained under observation, unless the hospital assistant thinks fit to exempt them as shown below. All carts, especially those containing grains, should be carefully examined in order to see whether they contain any rats or rags or other infectious matter. Persons detained in the segregation camps who wish to supply their own food may be allowed to do so, and may be given the assistance of the peons for procuring supplies. All persons coming from an infected area should be disinfected as well as their clothes.

7. Frontier inspecting officers are authorized to exempt from the necessity of taking out passports all persons with regard to whom there are no reasonable grounds for suspicion of infection. The temporary peons will doubtless be able to give some assistance in determining what persons may be exempted, as they will know most of the local inhabitants by sight and what their business is. A register of the persons exempted should be maintained in the following form:—

Date.	Name, &c.	Reason for exemption.

Persons who are able to produce a certificate from a local authority in Mysore showing that they do not come from an infected village may be exempted at the hospital assistant's discretion. This provision should be made known along the Wynaad frontier by beat of tom-tom.

8. As they are no post-offices at Chedleth or Muttanga, the inspecting officers there, will send in copies of the passports granted each day by the letter coolies to the apothecary at Sultan's Battery. If the place to which the passports have to be forwarded possesses a post, where there is a daily delivery, the apothecary will send them on by post. If not, he will forward them on by cooly and charge the hire in his contingencies.

9. The rules regarding passports are now so generally disregarded that it may be necessary to institute a few prosecutions. I trust that the examples will be judiciously selected. The inspecting officers themselves may sanction the prosecution of a person who has disobeyed the rules. One of the peons who was present when the passport was given him, and the local authority before whom he did not appear, as ordered, will be the only witnesses required. In order that the prosecutions may be as few as possible the Sub-Magistrates are directed in case of conviction to give deterrent sentences.

10. The sanitary arrangements at the inspection stations I leave to the medical officers in charge. They will each be supplied with a permanent advance of Rs. 30 for dieting segregated persons and other expenses.

11. The rulings as to what should be done with passports when the holders return to Mysore territory are conflicting. I think, however, that they should be given up at the frontier stations.

LETTER—No. 1016, dated 27th December 1898.

SIR,

I have the honour to approve generally of the proposals you make in your No. C-Tour, dated 12th December 1898, to improve the observation system on the Mysore boundary, and to request you to furnish me with an estimate of the cost of carrying out your proposals.

2. I note that the establishment you propose differs from that sanctioned for the Salem ghât stations, where the following are entertained:—

- 1 Hospital Assistant.
- 1 Constable.
- 2 Peons.
- 1 Conservancy maistry on Rs. 7.
- 1 Toti on Rs. 6.
- 1 Waterman on Rs. 6.

In sending up your estimate of expenditure you may perhaps find it advisable to alter the composition of the establishments.

3. The most recent instructions with regard to the passports of persons who return to Mysore are to be found in the Plague Commissioner's Proceedings, No. 635, dated 11th November 1898.

4. The working of your instructions with regard to the acceptance of certificates from local authorities in Mysore, that the holders do not come from an infected village, must be most carefully watched, as it opens a door for personation and forgery. Unless very strong reasons exist for such a privilege being given, I am inclined to think it should be withdrawn. The class of officer included in local authority is not defined, and it may be that local authorities may be ignorant of, or anxious to conceal, the existence of plague in a village.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

D. S. Mahalingam
for Plague Commissioner.

To the Collector of Malabar (A—L).

Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

" " Surgeon-General.

" " Local and Municipal Department.

Encl P. Seetharam.

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READ AGAIN G.O., No.

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CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
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