

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

(189)

MISCELLANEOUS.

No. 953

Dated 13 4 89

Despatched 14 4 89

Indexed H.L.
17.4.25

[Despatch Abstract.]

with remarks

Recording, letter from the Collector of North Arcot.
stating the reasons for appointing Revenue Inspectors
instead of Sanitary Inspectors for observation circles

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

LAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

(189)

CURRENT No. 3967

In adms
7/4/89
7/4/89
Progs. No. 953 2/13/4
Letter
Ref.

Choo 3967 + 4107 (*Letter from SE*)
do 11/29 of 8-4-99

Recorded.
2. The P.L. agrees with
the Director.

From *The collector of*
North Arcot

10/4
1/3 FSC R93967
Q34107
Letter
enclosure in copy
Copy of letter
Ref. to copy

W *is No. 865 of 8*

Dated 31-3-99.
 Received
 Registered 7-4-99
 Enclosures 7
 Spare copies

Despd 14/4/89
51

SUBJECT.

Shating the reasons
for appointing Revenue
Inspectors instead
of Sanitary Inspectors
for the observation
circles formed round
Ballone.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.
GO. 1063 L	11-6-98
GO 1001 P	3-9-98
Diary 292	31-1-99

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

North Arcot, Collector's Office,
Chittoor dated 31st March 1899.

Dis: No. 865/P of 1899

From

J. K. B A T T E N Esquire,
Ag. Collector & District Magistrate,
North Arcot.

To

The Plague Commissioner,
M a d r a s.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose copies of the Sanitary Commissioner's letter No. 1/T dated the 7th February 1898 and his reminder No. 1037/S, dated the 29th March 1899. In submitting to you with my letter No. 220/Ref. on C.P. dated the 28th January 1899, proposals for opening observation circles round Vellore, I gave my reasons for preferring to have, as plague circle inspectors for the observation circles, Revenue Inspectors acquainted with the people and the country rather untried and young Sanitary Inspectors who though they had received a training in sanitation had had no experience in dealing with the people. I had no desire to raise any general question or to enter into any controversy regarding the merits of the Sanitary Inspectors trained by the Sanitary Commissioner. All I wanted to do was to select for the special work in question the men I thought most suited for the work. Colonel King seems throughout to have misunderstood my objects and motives as in his letter No. 577/S dated 22nd February 1899, he asked me when I proposed to give effect to my scheme for replacing Sanitary Inspectors in the observation circles above the ghauts, by Revenue Inspectors. I had to reply that I never suggested anything of the sort and that to take away the men who had already been at work for some time and who had gained some experience would be useless. As Colonel King insists on raising the general question, I am bound to give my views. The circular referred to by Colonel King, of which I enclose

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a copy, was compiled under my supervision and is based on orders received on the subject from time to time. From Colonel King's second letter No. 1037/S dated 29th March 1899 he seems to think that I have attempted to lay down sanitary rules. But how my circular can affect general sanitary questions I do not know. The circular had nothing to do with general sanitation. I never stated that I issued a circular on the subject of disinfection "which would suffice for the theoretical instruction of Revenue Inspectors for sanitary work". I merely said that from my circular Revenue Inspectors had learnt theoretically the method of disinfection, meaning by disinfection solely the disinfection of plague infected houses. I have never suggested that Revenue Inspectors would make better Sanitary Inspectors than would trained Sanitary Inspectors. I merely expressed my preference to have as plague circle Inspectors, under article 6 of the additional mufassal regulations, Revenue Inspectors who have experience in dealing with the people, rather than Sanitary Inspectors who have no such experience. It is no where laid down in the regulations that observation circle Inspectors should be trained Sanitary Inspectors, and I considered it my duty as Collector to select the men whom I thought best fitted for the special duty they had to do. If I could have got men of experience who were also trained Sanitary Inspectors I should have preferred them to Revenue Inspectors. But the Sanitary Inspectors previously appointed for the observation circles had not with a few exceptions showed themselves to be the sort of men I wanted. Mr. Scott Elliot, who until plague broke out in an indigenous form at Kuppam, was continuously touring through the observation circles on the Mysore frontier, repeatedly represented to me that the circle Inspectors (being Sanitary Inspectors) were young and untried men and were not successful in dealing with the people who at first were very suspicious of all plague officers, and continually suggested that I should replace them by local men. Mr. Scott Elliot cannot have been prejudiced one way or the other, as he is a military, not a Revenue Officer. By calling for all the old circle ^{inspectors' diaries I could collect} many instances where the circle Inspectors had shown want of tact. As Colonel King asks for specific instances, I will give one, but I could

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give many more. Abdul Razack, Inspector of Mamadugu circle, instructed village headmen to levy fees from carts halting in the village. This no doubt tended to keep the village clean but was quite illegal, tended to exasperate the people and was a nothing no Revenue Inspector would have dreamed of doing. I don't understand Colonel King's allusion to Rain Ali, as no such man has been employed in the District, and I have punished none of the Sanitary Inspectors sent by Colonel King. The fact is, Colonel King seems to look at the matter from a different point of view from what I did. What I wanted was a staff of men who would carry out plague preventive measures in plague observation circles. General sanitation is no doubt an important plague preventive measure but general defects in sanitation cannot be cured in a minute, and what I wanted enforced were the special preventive measures for which the frontier observation circles were primarily as I take it, instituted. I enclose a copy of my original instructions to the circle Inspectors on the observation circles on the Mysore frontier (No. 185 P of 98 dated 9th October 1898). I found from a careful perusal of the circle Inspectors' diaries that as was natural from their training, they were inclined to neglect special plague measures in favour of general sanitary observations. Regulation 7 of the additional mufassal regulations includes reports on sanitary defects but its main object is to ^{gain} give information regarding cases of plague. In issuing instructions to circle Inspectors of the new circles round Vellore I drew their special attention to this point. Vide my circular No. 396 P dated 7th March 1899, copy enclosed, but I at the same time pointed out the importance of noticing sanitary defects.

As regards the question of "tact and patience", I may be wrong, but I think that the burden of proving that young men mostly straight from college are likely to possess tact and patience lies on the person who asserts it. It is contrary to general experience.

When I last saw Colonel King at Arcot, we had a friendly argument on the subject, and he went so far as to express

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the opinion that Revenue Inspectors being known to the people and having close relations with the village officers would as plague circle Inspectors be repugnant to the people. Though - Revenue Inspectors are not immaculate, I do not consider that they would be more repugnant to the people than unknown men.

In its Resolution Nos. 671 - 683 Sanitary dated the 26th March 1898 communicated with G.O. No. 1063 L dated 11th June 1898, the Government of India has admitted the undesirability of interfering too much or too suddenly with the sanitary customs of the people. I do not consider an epidemic of plague the best time to choose for enforcing general sanitary measures except in a secondary - manner and in selecting circle Inspectors for the new circles. I chose men who would devote their attention chiefly to what I considered most important, viz: the tracing of all plague cases. I have written at some length because Colonel King seems to consider that my action has some bearing on general sanitary matters, whereas it was merely concerned with a special purpose relating to a part of this District. I have never raised the question of the desirability of having trained sanitary Inspectors for the general sanitary improvement of rural areas. I write to you on the matter as Colonel King's letters to me are not in answer to any letters of mine to him but with reference to a letter written by me to you. If you think fit, please forward my letter to the Sanitary Commissioner with your remarks.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd) J.K. BATTEN

Acting Collector.

Despatched 5th April 1899.

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

(1899)

CURRENT No. 4107

Progs.
Letter
Ref.

From

The Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras.

Submitted to S.C. in continuation of

Chs 3967.

Sent to S.C. on 7-4-99

11/4/99

Received

with reference to
P.C. 11/4/99

No. 1199
S

Dated 8th April 1899.

Received

Registered 11-4-99

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Forwarding copy of a letter
received from the Collector of
North Arcot and requesting
to be favored with information
sought in this office letter No. 7
77. 2. 99.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

Copy of letter N^o 865 P date d 30 March 1899 from the Collector of North Arcot to the Sanitary Commissioner.

With reference to your letter N^o 1037 S dated 29 March 1899, I have the honor to state that I have addressed my reply to your letter, dated 7 February 1898, N^o 7, to the Plague Commissioner since your letter to me was based on a letter which I wrote to that officer.

No. 1199 S

Forwarded to the Plague Commissioner, Madras, with the request that he will kindly favor undersigned with the information sought in this office letter N^o 7 dated 7 Febry.

W. M. V. S.

Sanitary Commissioner for Madras

* Requesting Collector of North Arcot to favor him with a copy of Circular on the subject of disinfection issued for the theatrical in. Union of Rev. Inspectors and to give concrete instances of want of tact and patience on the part of Sanitary Inspectors employed on Plague duty. Vide Plague Commissioner's Proceedings N^o 292 21 8731-1-99.

Camp Luddapah
8 April 1899

given for copying _____
 copied _____
 examined _____
 then signed _____

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Copy of letter of 17th Nov 1899
 sent to you from the
 of North West to the Secretary

With reference to your letter
 of 17th Nov 1899, I have the
 honor to acknowledge the receipt
 of your letter of 17th Nov 1899
 and to inform you that the
 same has been forwarded to the
 proper authorities for their
 consideration.

Yours truly,
 The Secretary

Secretary

Secretary