

M.R.O. 1-49,000-16-10-25

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1087

Press
Min.

Dated

29-8-1970

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

29th August 1870.

No. 141. Read the following letter from the Sanitary Commissioner, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Tanjore, 2nd August 1870, No. 15:—

With reference to Order of Government, dated the 21st July 1870, No. 899, Public Department, I have the honour to state that the police returns of cholera deaths had kept me informed of the distribution of cholera in the districts through which the works of the Great Southern of India Railway Company will have to be carried out.

2. After a rather long period of rest, some portions of Southern India have been subjected to an epidemic invasion of cholera; and, unhappily, the later returns received show that the epidemic, which was generally declining in June, has again revived in some parts of the Tinnevely District. Cholera has been very generally diffused, not only over the line of country on which railway survey works are being carried on, but in many other parts of the districts of Madura and Tinnevely.

3. The normal course of a cholera epidemic in the South of India is to exhibit its chief strength in the first year of its invasion, a diminished power in the second year, and but a feeble vitality in the third year. The present year I regard as the first year of a distinct epidemic wave from the northward, and the districts, therefore, which have suffered during this epidemic will probably be more or less liable to a reproduction of cholera (climatic and other causes favouring the reproduction) for a further period of one or, it may be, two years.

4. While this tendency to localized outbreaks of cholera obtains in the Southern Districts, I am of opinion that it would be a prudent and justifiable measure for the Government to suppress, as far as practicable, all useless gatherings of people at fairs and festivals in the districts concerned. All experience goes to show that, while the epidemic tendency exists, cholera is encouraged and aggravated into its local outbreaks by the assembly of human beings in unusual numbers. If these aggregations of people cannot be wholly prevented, it would, I think, be politic on the part of the Civil authorities to warn the native public of the risks they personally run in attending such gatherings.

5. It is a matter of importance, too, that the fact of the unusual prevalence of cholera in Madura and Tinnevely should be duly recognised by the executive staff of the Great Southern of India Railway, so that every personal precaution may be taken to preserve health in an exceptionally unhealthy season. I need scarcely allude to the importance of selecting high and dry encamping grounds, somewhat removed from towns and villages, for temporary or permanent residence, the careful filtration of unknown or untried drinking water, and scrupulous care in regard to the cleanliness and cooking of food. I infer that some of the victims of cholera, mentioned in Mr. Logan's letter, were recent arrivals in the country, and I believe it to be quite true that such persons, coming within the choleraic influence, are more likely to become affected by it, than those who have lived longer in the country, and have experimentally learned the necessity for strict personal hygiene.

6. The papers before me do not specify any one locality, the circumstances of which, in regard to cholera, require to be specially investigated. I have shown that cholera is not confined to the line on which the survey works are being carried

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out; but that it is very widely distributed and, consequently, I do not apprehend much practical benefit from a personal inspection of the line. However, on this point I hope to be able to speak more clearly after my inspection of Madura and after a personal interview with the Chief Engineer of the line.

7. I hope to be at Madura about the end of the present month.

No. 142. ORDER THEREON, 29th August 1870, No. 1087.

Communicated to the Department of Public Works, and to the Board of Revenue with a view to Collectors of Districts being instructed to make generally known the prevalence of cholera in the Southern Districts, and the probability of a continuance of the disease in an epidemic form.

2. The Collectors in their Notification should warn the public of the danger which will attend the usual pilgrimages to the shrines of the Southern Districts, more especially those in the Tinnevelly and Madura Districts.

(True Extract.)

H. E. STOKES,
Under Secy. to Govt.

To the Public Works Department.

„ Revenue Department.

„ Inspector-General of the Indian Medical Department.

Ld. J. Wright.

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Order. Oracundo 29. August 1875
No. 1007

Communicated to the Department
of Public Works, and to the Board
of Revenue with a view to Collection
of District, being instructed to
make generally known the situa-
tion of Cholera in the Southern
District, and the probability of
a continuance of the disease in
an epidemic form.

2. The Collection in their hishp-
: cation should warn the public
of the danger which will attend
the usual pilgrimages to the shrines
of the Southern District, in some
especially true in the inner city
to Chavira District. M

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The Department of Public Works
Revenue Department
J. M. De la Cruz
cc. S. R.

Col. of 1870

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CALIFORNIA WORKS DEPARTMENT.
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Don't forget, 200.
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17. 200 August 1875. No. 1007.

ARROW.
Nos. 141-142.

Printing office of a report by the Secretary of the
Department of the Revenue of California, 1875.
In London and University of London.

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The Public Works Dept.
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Recd. Aug. 29.

End.

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Q. 29. Aug. 1. 1870. No. 1087.

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Passing orders on a report
by the Sanitary Commissioner
of the prevalence of Epidemic
Cholera in the Madura
& Tinnevely Dist.