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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1486	Press Mis.
Dated 17-12-1876	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
17th November 1870.

No. 86. Read the following letter from the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, Colombo, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Colombo, 20th October 1870, No. 52:—

I am directed by the Governor of Ceylon to transmit to you, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor of Madras in Council, copy of a report by the Principal Civil Medical Officer and Inspector-General of Hospitals in Ceylon, on the origin and progress of the present outbreak of cholera in this island.

From the Principal Civil Medical Officer and Inspector-General of Hospitals in Ceylon, to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, Colombo, dated Colombo, 28th September 1870, No. 339.

I have had the honour to receive your letter, No. 253, of the 28th July, transmitting to me copy of Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated the 9th July, No. 850, on the subject of cholera in Southern India, and requesting me to report on the origin and progress of the present outbreak in Ceylon.

2. In explanation of the delay in forwarding this report, I have the honour to state that I awaited the receipt of the report, called for from the Colonial Surgeon of Jaffna, on the result of his visit of inspection down the central road from Jaffna to within a few miles of Dambul and on his return, striking off at Mattakachchee along the road to Mannar, which is frequented by the cooly immigrants proceeding from the coast to the interior of the island.

3. This report, with its explanatory maps, is now attached, and it affords a full detail of the origin and progress of cholera along the central road traversed by coolies on their way to the interior of the island, and on their return to the coast.

4. It also finally settles the question as to the origin of the disease, which has been recently raised by the Government Agent for the Northern Province.

5. The letter of the Sanitary Commissioner to the Indian Government, dated 1st July, No. 695, clearly states “ that cholera had been prevailing in the Southern Districts of India for some months past.

“ The disease became general in Tanjore so long back as October and November 1869. It then extended to Trichinopoly and Madura Districts, and, lastly, to Tinnevely.”

6. It had, moreover, prevailed in Tuticorin, in a minor degree, from 25th April.

7. With these statements, and the facts brought forward by Dr. Ondaatfe, no reasonable doubt can remain that the cholera which appeared in the north of the island and extended itself along the central road even as far as Matalé and Kandy—spreading, in a few instances, laterally to Anuradhapura and some neighbouring native villages, as reported by the headmen, locating itself in some of the bazaars, where the in-coming coolies were in the habit of resting, and thence regurgitating backwards to Davipatam by means of gangs returning to the coast contracting the disease at the halting places resorted to by the infecting gangs recently arriving—had its origin in the Southern Districts of India, and not in Ceylon.

8. The first cases reported at Matalé were coolies picked up on the road while proceeding towards the interior of the island on the 19th and 20th June, and the two first cases which occurred in Kandy were two Canarese, also on their way to the coffee districts, who were found in a state of collapse in the cooly shed at Mahayawa, at a distance of a mile from the town on the 12th June, both dates being from nine to sixteen days subsequent to the first cases reported along the central road.

9. The disease extended in Matalé and in Kandy to the inhabitants; but, although very fatal in its results, it limited itself to a comparatively few cases in both towns, and can no where be said to have assumed the form of an epidemic.

10. I have attached a table showing the dates of the first and last attacks, and the number of cases and of deaths at all the stations where it has made its appearance.

11. Independently, however, of such cholera as appeared in the Northern and Central Provinces in connexion with the immigrant coolies, and which has been traced to India, the disease

arose spontaneously in a small cluster of villages in the neighbourhood of Galle, as noticed by the Sanitary Commissioner in the 3rd paragraph of his letter.

12. The first case brought to the knowledge of the authorities—for I suspect other cases had occurred previously but were not reported—was a Singhalese woman on the 16th May, at a small village named Callawelle, one mile to the north-east of Galle. The disease rapidly extended itself to the small villages in its neighbourhood, within a radius of three to five miles, but did not enter Galle.

13. Thirty-three cases in all were reported, of which twenty-two died, and the last case occurred on 2nd July.

14. I am unable to offer any explanation of the origin of this small outbreak. The people were mostly Singhalese of the Washer caste. There is no evidence of its having been brought to the locality, and it confined itself within a small limit.

15. There were local causes in abundance, in the shape of filthy compounds and stagnant pools, emitting volumes of sulphuretted hydrogen from decaying cocoanut husks; but these evils are to be met with all along the seaboard of the Southern Province, without apparently prejudicing the public health.

16. The next appearance of cholera in the Southern Province was among the pilgrims on their return from the festival at Kattregam.

17. I have received no report of the health of the pilgrims during the festival itself, and they were free from disease during their progress from Colombo through the south of the island to Kattregam.

18. It was on their return that cholera appeared among them.

19. There is no evidence to show whether the disease broke out spontaneously among them, or whether it was brought to the spot by pilgrims proceeding there from the coast of India and the north of the island; but it prevailed among them, though not in a very severe form, the whole way from Kattregam to within a few miles of Colombo. It was conveyed, in a few instances, to the residents of localities through which the procession passed; but I believe that the preservation of the public health on this occasion was mainly due to the extraordinary efforts made by the authorities, and the precautionary sanitary measures adopted, to prevent the spreading of the disease in the neighbourhood of populous towns.

20. The first case reported to the authorities occurred in the district of Hambantota, where, between the 14th and 30th July, nine cases occurred, all of which proved fatal.

21. As the procession advanced to Tangalle, five cases were reported from that station between the 17th and 20th July, of which four were pilgrims and one a resident of the place. Of these five, two died.

22. At Matara, the next important station on their road, eleven cases were reported between the 22nd and 25th July, of which nine died. These were all pilgrims, and seven were females.

23. The next report came from Galle, where sixteen cases were reported from the pilgrim camp, which was not allowed to approach nearer than $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the town.

24. Of these, the Medical Officer states that five were treated in a hospital shed erected on the site of the camp, three died and two recovered. Two were treated in the verandah of a non-occupied house, near which they were found lying.

25. Five surreptitiously entered the town and died there, and the remainder died in the camp.

26. One resident of the town, a Singhalese, contracted the disease and died.

27. It is highly probable that many other cases occurred along the road which escaped the knowledge of the authorities.

28. As the procession left Galle, they halted at a Moor village named Gintota, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles on the Colombo road, and here the disease was conveyed to the residents.

29. Two cases of choleraic diarrhoea occurred on the 27th July, and on the 29th nine cases of true cholera were developed, and a little epidemic of cholera and choleraic diarrhoea was established among the residents of that village, which lasted to the 19th August, when the last case was reported.

30. One hundred and nineteen cases occurred between the 27th July and 19th August, of which twenty-seven proved fatal.

31. This small outbreak was entirely due to contagion conveyed by the pilgrims, the low sanitary condition of the place encouraging the rapid development of disease. Like Callawelle, the village is surrounded by stagnant pools of water in which the husk of the cocoanut is left to decompose, emitting a most offensive odour.

32. As the procession advanced towards Colombo, the disease began to exhaust itself. Twenty-one cases were officially reported by the Medical Officers appointed to accompany them, of which only five died, showing that amelioration in the intensity of the attacks, which generally occurs as the disease dies out.

33. They were detained for forty-eight hours at a distance of eleven miles from Colombo; and, as no fresh cases occurred among them during that time, they were permitted to enter the town, and no evil consequences followed.

34. It remains for me now to advert to the other localities appearing in my statement in which cholera made its appearance.

35. *Colombo.*—On 15th June a prisoner, who had been confined for some time previously in the Hultsdorf Jail, was attacked and died.

36. On 17th June, another long-sentenced prisoner in the Welikade Jail, which is at a distance of more than two miles from the Hultsdorf Jail, and has no communication with it, was attacked and died.

37. On the 18th, a resident of Grand Pass, a Singhalese, was attacked and died.

38. Solitary cases continued now to occur in different quarters of the town at periods of a few days from each other, and having no possible communication with each other.

39. Six more cases occurred in the Welikade Jail on the 12th, 14th, 17th, 26th, 28th, and 30th July, respectively, when it ceased.

40. All the cases in the town were spread about promiscuously, the disease never locating itself in any one quarter, with the exception of one large compound in Sea Street, in which a number of cattle were kept tethered day and night, and the grounds were filthy to a degree.

41. This compound was surrounded by small miserable huts inhabited by Moors and Malabars. Between the 13th and 26th August eight cases occurred, six of which proved fatal.

42. The 29th August is the date of the last case reported in Colombo, and between that and 15th June, the date of the first case, twenty-nine cases were reported, of which twenty-three died.

43. It cannot be said to have been epidemic at any one period. Cases occurred in every quarter of the town, and in not one instance could any direct contagion be traced. They were all of a very severe type, and the deaths were generally rapid. The appearance of the disease in the two jails is altogether mysterious. In both instances it was controlled by the greatest attention to sanitation, a lavish expenditure of disinfectants, the immediate segregation of the patients (in the Welikade Jail each case was removed at once without the walls), and the destruction by fire of every article of bedding and clothing which had been used by those infected.

44. In Badulla, twelve cases with nine deaths occurred between the 6th and 28th July.

45. It is more than probable that the disease was conveyed to this station from Kandy.

46. At Batticaloa, nine cases with five deaths were reported. The disease, in this instance, was clearly traced to two travelam men who had just returned from Badulla, where it was then prevailing.

47. At Kurunegala, a fatal case occurred on the 30th June. The individual had arrived from Kandy only two days previous to the attack.

48. A few cases were reported in the Peninsular of Jaffna. Between July 6th and August 25th, twenty-three cases were reported, of which eleven died.

49. The disease became established in a village called Vertettivo, situated thirteen miles to the east of Mannar, where thirty-seven cases occurred among the residents between the 12th July and 26th August; of these, twenty-three died.

50. At Pesalle, the port at which the immigrant coolies arrive from the coast, the residents were attacked. The first two cases, however, as reported by Mr. Ondaatfe, were coolies returning to the coast on the 23rd June (and they had evidently contracted the disease along the central road), and a resident of the place was seized on the same day.

51. I regret to state that cholera continues to prevail at Pesalle, forty-six cases having been reported from the 23rd June to 21st September, the date of my latest report. Of these, twenty-five have died.

52. Although the disease visited every province in the island including its chief towns, it has shown no disposition to spread; the total number of cases have been few, and it has now entirely disappeared, with the exception of Pesalle, where it still continues.

53. Since commencing this report, I have received a communication from the Colonial Secretary to the effect that it has again made its appearance near Batticaloa.

54. A reference has been made to the Medical Officer of that station for information on the subject; but these reports are so frequently made by headmen, during cholera seasons, without any foundation, that I must beg to discredit it.

55. I have said little on the progress of the disease along the central road, as its history has been very fully recorded in Mr. Ondaatfe's report, to which I have the honour to invite special attention.

STATEMENT showing the stations where cholera has appeared, the number of cases and deaths which had occurred since the beginning of the outbreak, 16th May last.

Provinces.	Stations.	Date of first attack.	Date of last attack.	No. of cases.	No. of deaths.	Remarks.
Southern...	Galle	May 16.	July 2.	33	22	Pilgrims. Do. Do.
	Do. second outbreak on the pilgrims... ..	July 21.	July 27.	17	14	
	Do. Gentota	" 29.	Aug. 19.	119	28	
	Hambantota	" 14.	July 30.	9	9	
	Tangalle	" 17.	" 20.	5	2	
	Matarra	" 22.	" 25.	11	9	
	Pilgrims on Colombo road from Galle	" 25.	" 27.	6	2	
	Mannar	June 1.	Sept. 12.	86	64	
	Central road	" 3.	July 11.	48	29	
	Mannar road to Matakachchee	" 3.	" 27.	12	10	
Northern...	Pesalle	" 23.	Sept. 21.	46	25	
	Vertettivo	July 12.	Aug. 26.	37	23	
	Jaffna	" 6.	" 25.	23	11	
	Anuradhapura	June 11.	July 13.	5	5	
Western	Colombo	" 15.	Aug. 29.	29	24	
Central ...	Kandy	" 12.	" 1.	36	28	
	Matalé	" 19.	July 23.	34	25	
North-Western ...	Badulla	July 6.	" 28.	12	9	
Eastern...	Kurunegala	June 30.	June 30.	1	1	
	Batticaloa	July 17.	Aug. 4.	9	5	

From W. C. ONDAATFE, Esq., Acting Colonial Surgeon, to the Principal Civil Medical Officer and Inspector-General of Hospitals, Ceylon, dated Colonial Surgeon's Office, Jaffna, 30th August 1870.

Having completed my inspection of the coolie stations on the line of road traversed by the Indian immigrants from Pesalle, in Mannar, the post of arrival and departure, to Allagamowa, on the boundary of the Northern Province, an extent of 102 miles, I have the honour to submit as

required by the concluding paragraph of your letter of the 15th ultimo, the following report which embodies the results of my inquiry as to whether cholera first appeared among the coolies arriving from, or returning to, the coast of India.

2. Agreeably to your instructions, I proceeded along the central road, arriving on the 22nd July at Matakachchee, the point from which I commenced to prosecute my inquiry, which I conducted, as far as circumstances permitted, in the mode here indicated.

3. The canganies and patrols, who have the earliest opportunity of seeing the cholera patients, were required to be present at the inquiry, the former being directed to produce their lists of the names of the immigrants who had been attacked with cholera since its first outbreak during the present year. I then proceeded to take down evidence from them as to the name, age, sex, native country, and destination of each immigrant, and also as to the symptoms from which each suffered.

4. The statements thus obtained from the substance of my diary of inspection, which is hereto annexed, while the several stations inspected by me in the course of my inquiry are indicated in the maps attached to the diary and the position of each place where cholera appeared as well as of other places to which reference is made in the diary being shown by certain marks.

5. I communicated also on the several points of this inquiry with the medical practitioners employed by Government on this line of road.

6. It appears that the first cases of cholera, on the Central and Mannar Matakachchee roads, all occurred on the same day, the 3rd of June last, in three individuals, namely, two immigrants and one patrol. It seems that a party of four coolies coming from Puttoocottay, on the coast of India, took shelter in the coolie shed at Periacatto, on the Mannar Matakachchee road, twenty-nine miles from Mannar, on the day referred to, on which day the patrol of the shed was attacked with cholera in the morning, as also one of the four coolies, a woman who had come to Puttoocottay, named Camachy, who was discovered having cholera symptoms on her while cooking her breakfast, and who died at 5 P.M. of the same day. The patrol, Periatamby, also died about the same time.

7. Before the arrival of the coolies no cholera had existed in the place since the beginning of the year, and the only conclusion to be drawn is that they had communicated the infection, a conclusion which is strengthened by the following fact.

8. The first case on the central road occurred on the same day and in the same month, the 3rd of June, at Marudenkeedaveli, 136 miles from Jaffna, in the person of a female immigrant who was one of a gang of in-coming coolies. This leads me to believe that these immigrants, as well as those referred to in the preceding paragraph, had all come from one and the same infected locality, one party being in advance of the other.

9. Cholera next appeared at Teempanne, 128½ miles from Jaffna (intermediate between the two last stations), on the 4th of June. The patient in this case also was an in-coming immigrant, a mason, and a native of the same place in India, Puttoocottay. It would thus seem decisive that the disease was imported in all the foregoing cases from the locality above mentioned, namely, Puttoocottay.

10. On the 7th June, an in-coming coolie from Salaputty, near Trichinopoly, and another, belonging to the same gang, were attacked with cholera at Allagamowa, 146 miles from Jaffna, but they both recovered, and were able to proceed to Kandy on the 11th of the month. The appearance of cholera at this station led to the infection being communicated, first, to the patrol who attended on the sick coolies, and next to a little girl who lived in the patrol's house, and then to his wife. In all these three cases, the disease proved fatal.

11. The next appearance of cholera was at Matakachchee, 106½ miles from Jaffna, a principal station where the in-coming and out-going coolies meet. The first case here was that of a Moorish girl, who lived in the bazaar and who had sold certain articles the night preceding to immigrant coolies who had then arrived. She was attacked on the 11th June, and died on the same day. Another case occurred on the 13th in the bazaar at this station; that of a dhoby who was living near the bazaar where the first fatal case appeared. A third fatal case occurred on the 13th in a road coolie, who also lived in the bazaar.

12. The bazaar people, and the immigrants who halt at Matakachchee, resort to a stream which issues from the tank in the place, and which runs close to the road, for the purposes of bathing, washing their clothes, and for providing themselves with water for drinking and cooking. It is, therefore, most probable that the contagious poison was communicated, in these instances, either by the water so indiscriminately used, or by intercourse with the coolies.

13. Another instance of infection appeared, on the 13th June, in a party of three Telegraph coolies. They were employed for some time on the central road where cholera had broken out since the 3rd instant, lodging in the bungalows occupied by the coolies. They had been in perfect health, till two of them were attacked with the disease when returning to Mannar, at a place called Cally-cattocaddo, which is about eight miles distant from that station.

14. One died, and the other recovered.

15. On the 14th of June, a case occurred at Osylancolom, 8½ miles from Mannar, in the person of a woman named Cavenpay, an out-going cooly, who died in the night. She was accompanied by about six coolies, who had been travelling through the infected cooly stations.

16. On the 14th June of a gang of fifty coolies coming from the coast of India, one was attacked with the disease at a place called Kalaar or Chetty Colom, about twelve miles from Maan Colom (forty-three miles from Mannar), to which station the patient was brought. He died on the same day.

17. At Marnden Colom, 117 miles from Jaffna, the first case occurred in an in-coming cooly who was admitted into the hospital on the 15th June, and recovered.

18. At Mehintale, 119½ miles from Jaffna, on the 15th June, an Arab trader and a cooly girl coming from India were attacked with cholera and were attended by the medical practitioner and recovered.

19. On the 16th June at Matakachchee, two immigrants from the coast were brought by their friends to the hospital and given in charge of the cangany and patrols; one of the patients had come from Palamcottah, and the other from Aranthangy. Both cases proved fatal.

20. Four other cases were also admitted on the 17th June; the patients were immigrants from India. All of them had been seen by the medical practitioner, who gave me this information. Three of the cases terminated fatally.

21. On the 18th June, at Rambave, 112 miles from Jaffna, two fatal cases occurred among the in-coming coolies. Both were found dead on the roadside, and their names, and whence they had come, were ascertained from the mother and wife of the deceased.

22. Another fatal case occurred in an immigrant from the coast at Gulcolom, 125½ miles from Jaffna. The patient was seen by Mr. Fretz, Superintending Officer of the Roads, who gave me this information.

23. On the 18th June, at Alagamowa, a cooly coming from the coast was seized with the disease, and was treated in hospital and recovered on the 21st instant, and proceeded to a coffee estate named Nagalwatte, in Matalé.

24. The disease next appeared, on the 20th June, on the Mannar road at Pulliadrakum, twenty-three miles from Mannar, among an in-coming gang of fifty coolies, natives of Puttoocottay and Perrambacudy or Carambacuddy, in Sevasinghy, near Madura. Two were attacked and recovered.

25. On the 22nd of the month, at the same station, of a gang of thirty coolies coming from Wellasally, on the coast, a girl aged 12 was attacked and died. Her brother, who accompanied her, gave the patrol this information.

26. At Pesalle, on the 23rd June, two out-going coolies were seized with the disease, one died, and the other recovered and proceeded to the coast.

27. The disease appeared on the central road, at Terupanne, on the 23rd June, in two coolies, who came from Salaputty and Nerraor, near Trichinopoly. One died.

28. On the same day, at Matakachchee, an in-coming cooly was carried affected with the cholera to the shed by some of the gang and given in charge to the cangany. The case proved fatal.

29. On the following day, 24th June, a child was found dead close to the station, supposed to have died of cholera.

30. On the 24th, at Marudenkeedaveli, two Moorish traders from India were seized with the disease and died. They were on their way to Matalé.

31. On the 27th of the month, an in-coming cooly was found dead at Maan Colom, supposed to have died of cholera.

32. On the same day, a Singhalese, who was returning from Anuradhapura, was seized with the disease on the road to Maroodencuda, and was brought to the hospital at that station, and died.

33. On the 28th, two coolies coming from the coast, and both of them natives of Sevasinghy, were admitted into the hospital at Terupanne with the disease, but recovered.

34. At Pesalle, on the same day, a cooly, who landed from the Brig *Reheymain*, had choleraic diarrhoea and recovered.

35. On the Mannar road, on the 29th June, at Kombensange Colom, eighteen miles from Mannar, a fatal case occurred in a cooly who was coming from the coast.

36. On the same day, on the central road at Marudenkeedaveli, an out-going cooly was seized with cholera, and died on the 30th.

37. On the same day, at Terupanne, a cooly girl coming from Sevasinghy, in India, was attacked and recovered.

38. On the same day, at Matakachchee, an immigrant coming from Mannar was found dead near the 110th mile. It is supposed that he died of cholera.

39. On the 2nd July, at Marudenkeedaveli, two immigrants coming from India were attacked with the disease. One died, and the other recovered.

40. On the same day, at Alagamowa, the next station, an immigrant cooly was brought into hospital from a distance of two miles. He recovered, and proceeded to Kandy. On the 11th instant, at the same station, a cooly coming from the coast was attacked and recovered, and proceeded to Kandy.

41. At Kombensange Colom, nineteen miles from Mannar, on the 27th July, a cooly coming from the coast was found dead on the road. He belonged to a gang of fifty coolies, who had slept in the shed the previous night. From the deceased's appearance, there was no doubt that he had died of cholera.

42. From the above statement of facts, elicited during the course of my inquiry, it appears beyond the shadow of a doubt that cholera had not existed on the Mannar and central roads previous to the third day of June last, when the disease first appeared, having been introduced by the immigrant coolies, who had come from India from a place called Puttoocottay, successive gangs as they moved along propagating the infection in the several stations above mentioned.

43. It appears, also, from the records kept at the port of Pesalle by the Health Officer, that the arrivals during June were very numerous, no less than 8755 immigrants having arrived in that month, who, travelling in detached parties, became the means of introducing the disease along the whole line of road leading to the Central Province.

44. It is also a fact that the coolies, on their arrival at the port, quickly move on to the stations provided for them; and, from what I have ascertained, I find that some of them have been able to reach Matakachchee, a distance of fifty-two miles, on the third day. They arrive at the port apparently in good health, but with the disease in a state of incubation; and, as they proceed on their journey, performed very often by hasty stages, the cold and damp of a jungle country, sleeping on the roadside at night, without protection against malarious influences, unwholesome food and water, absence of all cleanliness, these and such like causes tend to develop the germs of the disease with which they are already impregnated, and which breaks out generally at periods, varying from two to five days of their arrival in Ceylon.

45. The immigrant coolies who suffer from cholera, during their journey, infect not only the passengers and cartmen whom they meet on their way, but the bazaar people also at the different stations at which they arrive, whereby they create, as it were, so many centres from which the disease spreads from the central road, by successive outbreaks, into the province.

46. I find that, of coolies returning from Kandy, a very small proportion, amounting to only four in number, were affected with the disease (out of an aggregate of sixty-three attacked), having

become infected on their journey by intercourse with the in-coming immigrants, among whom the first outbreak on the Mannar and central roads occurred so early as on the 3rd June, in which month the largest arrivals from India took place, as already stated.

47. I would further observe that coolies returning from Kandy, receiving the infection from their in-coming fellow-countrymen, whom they meet with on the road, and with whom they freely mix, are not unlikely to carry with them the seeds of the disease to their native land, which may account for the fact of the cholera having appeared at Davipatam among the passengers from Pesalle, the disease not existing at the time at Davipatam.

48. From inquiries I made at Mannar, from the oldest inhabitants of the place, it appears that cholera was introduced among them originally by natives of India crossing over to Talamannar, whence the tappal formerly passed over to Tinnycuddy, in Ramisseram and India. Passengers to Ceylon came by the tappal boats by the same route, as also pilgrims from India, by whom the disease was brought into Talamannar, whence it spread to Pesalle and to the town of Mannar, passing on to Vengala and other places on the mainland. Mr. Bulner, who was Sub-Collector at Talamannar from 1849 to 1859, informs me that it was the general belief that the Indian coolies and pilgrims were instrumental in importing this fatal disease. Gangs of coolies first commenced to come over to Ceylon in 1837. Mr. Bulner recollects that in 1843 cholera first made its appearance at Talamannar with the immigrant coolies proceeding to Kandy, and that it prevailed subsequently in an epidemic form. Coolies had been passing backwards and forwards through Mannar for upwards of thirty years, but no measures were adopted for their protection till 1862, when the immigration service was organized by Government.

49. In consequence of the introduction of cholera, the population in several villages in the vicinity of Mannar has been considerably reduced in number, as testified to by the Assistant Government Agent of Mannar in a communication addressed to the Jaffna Cholera Commissioners, dated 15th April 1867. I quote his own words. Mr. Twyler says, "Year after year has sickness been introduced by the immigrant coolies, and village after village has died out, or been so reduced that only one or two families remain, and the country, for some distance on each side of the Mannar Madawatchy road in the Mannar district, is fast becoming a desert."

50. I must confess that I regard with some degree of surprise that any question should have been raised by the authorities in India as to the importation of cholera into India from Ceylon, when it is universally acknowledged in this province that the disease is brought from the coast of India, the birthplace and head-quarters of cholera.

51. The Cholera Commission appointed by His Excellency the Governor on the 3rd March 1867 to inquire into, and report upon, the causes which led to the outbreak of cholera in the Jaffna Peninsula, after an extended inquiry express themselves in the following terms: "We have established beyond doubt the facts of its having been introduced into the Peninsula from India, both directly by sea and more circuitously by the central road, and of its having spread from village to village by human intercourse, thus confirming the opinion, now generally entertained, respecting the transmissibility and mode of propagation of cholera."

No. 87. ORDER THEREON, 17th November 1870, No. 1486.

Communicated to the Sanitary Commissioner.

(True Extract.)

To the Sanitary Commissioner.

Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. Wright.

Principal Civil Medical
Officer's Office
Colombo 22nd Sept 1870.
N^o 339.

Sir,

I have had the honor
to receive your letter of the 22nd Sept transmitting to
me a copy of proceedings of the
Madras Government dated
the 4th July 1850 on the
subject of Cholera in Southern
India and requesting me to
report on the origin and
progress of the present out-
break in Ceylon.

In explanation of the
delay in forwarding this
Report, I have the honor to
state.

The Honble
The Colonial Secretary

Obdt. of 1870? ~~Madras~~

PUBLIC.

To
THE SANITARY COMMISSIONER.

Dated November, 17th.

Recd.

Enc.

G. O. 17th November 1870, No. 1486.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 86-87.

Communicating letter from the Colonial Secretary
Colonbo, transmitting a copy of a report by the
Principal Civil Medical Officer and Inspector-
General of Hospitals in Ceylon, on the origin and
progress of the present outbreak of cholera in the
island.

that I awaited the receipt of the Report called for from the Colonial Surgeon of Jaffna on the result of his visit of inspection down the Central Road from Jaffna to within a few miles of Dambub and on his return, striking off at Mattakachche along the Road to Mannar which is frequented by the Cooly Immigrants proceeding from the Coast to the Interior of the Island.

This Report with its explanatory maps is now attached and it affords a full detail of the origin and progress of Cholera along the Central Road traversed by Coolies on their

way.

way to the Interior of the Island, and on their return to the Coast.

It also finally settles the question as to the origin of the Disease which has been recently raised by the Government Agent for the Northern Province.

The Letter of the Sanitary Commissioner to the Indian Government, dated 1st July 1869, states that Cholera had been prevailing in the Southern Districts of India for some months past.

The Disease became general in Tanjore in October and November 1869. It then extended to Trichinopoly and

Madurai

Madara Districts. (and lastly
in "Jumvelly" ...)

It has now spread
in Tuticoreen in a minor
degree from 26th April.

With these statements
and the facts brought
forward by Dr. Oudantho
no reasonable doubt can
remain that the Cholera
which appeared in the
North of the Island and
extended itself along the
Central Road, even as far
as Malabar and Maray,
spreading in a few instances
laterally to Amradhapur
and some neighbouring Native
Villages as reported by the
Headmen; locating itself in
some of the Bazaars where
the incoming Coolies were

in

in the habit of resting and
thence re-emerging back
to Danduram by means
of gangs returning to the
coast contracting the Disease
at the halting places
resorted to by the incoming
gangs recently arriving; had
its origin in the Southern
Districts of India and not
in Ceylon.

The first cases reported
at Malabar were Coolies
packed up on the Road
while proceeding towards
the Interior of the Island
on the 19th and 20th June
and the two first cases
which occurred in Maray
were two Canaries also
on their way to the Coffee
Districts who were found

in

in a state of collapse in
the Cooly shed at Mahayana
at a distance of a mile
from the town on the
12th June both dates

being from 9 to 16 days
subsequent to the first
cases reported along the
Central Road.

The disease extended
in Matato and in Kandy
to the inhabitants but
although very fatal in its
results it limited itself
to a comparatively few cases
in both towns and can
nowhere be said to have
assumed the form of an
epidemic.

I have attached an
Table shewing the dates
of the first and last

attacks.

attacks and the number of
cases and of Deaths at
all the stations where it
has made its appearance.

Independently however
of such Cholera as appeared
in the Northern and Central
Provinces in connection with
the Immigrant Coolies and
which has been traced to
India, the Disease arose
spontaneously in a small
cluster of Villages in the
Neighbourhood of Galle as
noticed by the Sanitary
Commissioner in the Para-
graph of his letter.

The first case brought
to the knowledge of the
authorities, for I suspect other
cases had occurred previously
but were not reported, was

a Sinhalese woman on the 16th May at a small village named Callawelle one mile to the north east of Galle. The Disease rapidly extended itself to the small villages in its neighbourhood within a radius of 3 to 5 miles but did not enter Galle.

Thirty three cases in all were reported of which 22 died and the last case occurred on 2nd July.

I am unable to offer any explanation of the origin of this small outbreak. The people were mostly Sinhalese of the Warher caste. There is no evidence of its having been brought to the locality and

and it confined itself within a small limit.

There were local causes in abundance in the shape of filthy compounds and stagnant pools emitting volumes of sulphuretted Hydrogen from decaying Coconut husks. But these evils are to be met with all along the seaboard of the Southern Province without apparently prejudicing the public health.

The next appearance of Cholera in the Southern Province was among the Pilgrims on their return from the festival at Kattagam.

I have received no Report of the health of the Pilgrims during the Festival

Festival itself and they were free from Disease during their progress from Colombo through the South of the Island to Kattugam.

It was on their return that Cholera appeared among them.

There is no evidence to show whether the Disease broke out spontaneously among them or whether it was brought to the spot by Pilgrims proceeding there from the Coast of India and the North of the Island, but it prevailed among them, though not in a very severe form, the whole way from Kattugam to within a few miles of Colombo. It was conveyed in

a

a few instances to the residents of localities through which the procession passed but I believe that the preservation of the public health on this occasion was mainly due to the extraordinary efforts made by the authorities and the precautionary sanitary measures adopted to prevent the spreading of the Disease in the neighbourhood of populous towns.

The first case reported to the authorities occurred in the District of Hambantota where between the 14 and 30th July 9 cases occurred all of which proved fatal.

As the procession advanced to Jangalle 5 cases were reported from that station

Station between the 17th and 20th July of which 4 were Pilgrims and one a resident of the place. Of these 5, two died.

At Matara the next important station on their road 11 cases were reported between the 22nd and 25th July of which 9 died.

These were all Pilgrims and seven were females.

The next report came from Galle where 16 cases were reported from the Pilgrim camp which was not allowed to approach nearer than $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Town.

Of these the medical Officer stated that 5 were treated in a hospital shed

erected

erected on the sight of the camp 3 died and 2 recovered. Two were treated on the verandah of a non-occupied house near which they were found lying.

Five surreptitiously entered the Town and died there and the remainder died in the camp.

One resident of the Town a singalese contracted the disease and died.

It is highly probable that many other cases occurred along the Road which escaped the knowledge of the authorities.

As the procession left Galle they halted at a moor village named Gintota $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles on the Colombo

Road.

Road and here the Disease was conveyed to the residents.

Two cases of Choleraic Diarrhoea occurred on the 27th July and on the 29th nine cases of true Cholera were developed and a little Epidemic of Cholera and Choleraic Diarrhoea was established among the residents of that village which lasted to the 19th August when the last case was reported.

119 cases occurred between the 27 July and 19 August of which 27 proved fatal.

This small outbreak was entirely due to contagion conveyed by the Pilgrims, the

the low sanitary condition of the place encouraging the rapid development of Disease. Like Callawelle the village is surrounded by stagnant pools of water in which the husk of the Coconut is left to decompose emitting a most offensive odour.

As the procession advanced towards Colombo the disease began to exhaust itself. Twenty one cases were officially reported by the Medical Officers appointed to accompany them of which only five died showing that amelioration in the intensity of the attacks which generally occurs as the Disease dies out.

They were detained for

48 hours at a distance of 11 miles from Colombo and as no fresh cases occurred among them during that time they were permitted to enter the Town and no evil consequences followed.

It remains for me now to advert to the other localities appearing in my statement in which Cholera made its appearance.

Colombo. On 15 June a Prisoner who had been confined for some time previously in the Hultsdorf Jail was attacked and died.

On 17 June another long sentenced Prisoner in the Melikade Jail which is at a distance of more than 2 miles from the Hultsdorf

Jail

Jail and has no communication with it, was attacked and died.

On the 18th a Resident of Grand Pass a inhalee was attacked and died.

Solitary cases continued now to occur in different quarters of the Town at periods of a few days from each other and having no possible communication with each other.

Six more cases occurred in the Melikade Jail on the 12th 14th 17th 26th 28th and 30th July respectively when it ceased.

All the cases in the Town were spread about promiscuously the Disease never locating itself in any

one quarter with the exception of one large compound in sea street in which a number of cattle were kept tethered day and night and the grounds were filthy to a degree.

This compound was surrounded by small miserable huts inhabited by moors and Malabars. Between the 13th and 26th August 8 cases occurred 6 of which proved fatal.

The 29th August is the date of the last case reported in Colombo and between that and 15th June the date of the first case, 29 cases were reported of which 23 died.

It cannot be said

to

to have been epidemic at any one period. Cases occurred in every quarter of the Town and in not one instance could any direct contagion be traced. They were all of a very severe type and the Deaths were generally rapid. The appearance of the Disease in the two jails is altogether mysterious. In both instances it was controlled by the greatest attention to sanitation, a lavish expenditure of disinfectants, the immediate segregation of the Patients (in the Melikade Jail each case was removed at once without the walls) and the destruction by fire of every article of bedding and clothing

clothing which has been
used by those infected

In Badulla 12 cases
with 9 deaths occurred
between the 6th and 28th
July.

It is more than
probable that the Disease
was conveyed to this station
from Kandy.

At Batticaloa 9
cases with 5 deaths were
reported - The Disease in
this instance was clearly
traced to two travellers
men who had just returned
from Badulla where it
was then prevailing.

At Kintigala a fatal
case occurred on the 30th June.
The individual had arrived
from Kandy only two days

previous

previous to the attack.

A few cases were
reported in the Peninsular
of Jaffna. Between July 6
and August 25th twenty three
cases were reported of which
11 died.

The Disease became
established in a village
called Vettivoo situated 18
miles to the East of Mannar
where 37 cases occurred among
the Residents between the 12th
July and 26 August of these
23 died.

At Pesallo the Port
at which the Immigrant
coolies arrive from the
Coast the Residents were
attacked. The first two
cases however as reported by
Mr. Ondaatje were Coolies
returning

returning to the Coast on the 23rd June, (and they had evidently contracted the disease along the Central Road,) and a Resident of the place was seized on the same day.

I regret to state that Cholera continues to prevail at Pesalle, 46 cases having been reported from the 23rd June to 21st September the date of my latest report. Of these 25 have died.

Although the disease visited every Province in the Island including its chief Towns it has shown no disposition to spread, the total number of cases have been few and it has now entirely disappeared with the

the exception of Pesalo where it still continues.

Since commencing this Report, I have received a communication from the Colonial Secretary to the effect that it has again made its appearance near Batticaloa.

A reference has been made to the Medical Officer of that station for information on the subject but these Reports are so frequently made by headmen during Cholera seasons without any foundation that I must beg to discredit it.

I have said little on the progress of the Disease along the Central Road as its history has been

ret. Can very fully recorded
the in Mr. Orida's Report
er to which I have the honor
to invite special attention.

I have
to / W. P. Sharkey M.D.
Principal Civil Medical
Officer & Insp. General
of Hospitals

Statement showing the Stations where Cholera has
appeared, the number of cases and Deaths which
had occurred since the beginning of the outbreak
16th May last.

Provinces	Stations	Date of first attack	Date of last attack	No of cases	No of Deaths	Remarks
Southern	Galle	May 16.	July 2	33	22	
	do 2 nd outbreak	July 21.	" 27	17	14	
	do on the Pilgrims	" 29.	Aug 19.	119	28	
	do Guntota	" 14.	July 30	9	9	Pilgrims
	Tangalle	" 17.	" 20	5	2	Pilgrims
	Matura	" 22	" 25	11	9	Pilgrims
	Pilgrims on Colombo Road from Galle	" 25	" 27.	6	2	
	Mannar	June 1.	Sept 12	86	64	
	Central Road	" 3.	July 11	48	29.	
	Mannar road to Matakachche	" 3	" 27.	12	10.	
Northern	Pewale	" 23	Sept 21.	46	25	
	Veretkivoo	July 12	Aug 26	37	23	
	Jaffna	" 6	" 25	23	11.	
	Anuradhapura	June 11.	July 13	5	5.	
Western	Colombo	June 15	Aug 29.	29	24.	
	Kandy	" 12	" 1.	36	28	
Central	Matala	" 19.	July 23	34	25	
	Badulla	July 6	" 28	12	9	
Northwestern	Kurunegala	June 30	June 30	1	1.	
Eastern	Batticaloa	July 17.	Aug 4	9	5.	

Colonial Surgeon's Office
Jaffna, 30th Aug 1870.

Sir,

Having completed
my inspection of the Cooly
Stations on the line of
road traversed by the
Indian Immigrants - from
Pesalo, in Mannar, the
spot of arrival and departure
to Allagannawa on the
boundary of the Northern
Province, an extent of 102
miles, - I have the honor
to submit as required by
the concluding paragraph
of your letter of the 15th
Ultimo,

The Principal
Civil Medical Officer
and Inspector General
of Hospitals

Ultimo, the following Report
which embodies the results of
my enquiry as to whether
Cholera first appeared among
the Coolies arriving from or
returning to the Coast of
India.

Agreeably to your
instructions I proceeded along
the Central Road, arriving
on the 22nd July at Malaksh.
choo the point from which
I commenced to prosecute
my enquiry, which I conducted,
as far as circumstances
permitted, in the mode here
indicated.

The Ganganis and
Patrols who have the earliest
opportunity of seeing the
Cholera patients were required
to be present at the inquiry,

the

the former being directed
to produce their lists of the
names of the Immigrants
who had been attacked with
Cholera, since its first
outbreak, during the present
year, I then proceeded to
take down evidence from
them as to the name, age
sex native Country and
destination of each Immigrant
and also as to the symptoms
from which each suffered.

The statements thus obtained
from the substance of my
diary of inspection; which
is hereto annexed, while the
several stations inspected by
me in the course of my
enquiry are indicated in the
maps attached to the Diary
and the position of each

place.

place where Cholera appeared
as well as of other places
to which reference is made
in the Diary being shown
by certain marks

I communicated also
on the several points of
this inquiry with the
Medical Practitioners employed
by Government on this line
of Road.

It appears that the
first cases of Cholera, on the
Central and Mannar Mata-
Kachche Roads all occurred
on the same day; the third
of June East, in three
individuals namely, two
Immigrants and one Patrol
It seems that a party of
four Coolies coming from
Puttoocottay on the Coast

of

of India took shelter in
the Cooly shed at Periacatto
on the Mannar MataKachche
Road, 29 miles from
Mannar, on the day referred
to on which day the Patrol
of the shed was attacked
with Cholera in the morning,
as also one of the four
Coolies, a woman who had
come Puttoocottay named
Carnachy, who was discovered
having Cholera symptoms on
her while cooking her breakfast
and who died at 5 p.m. of
the same day. The Patrol
Periatamby also died about
the same time

Before the arrival of
the Coolies no Cholera had
existed in the place since
the beginning of the year
and

and the only conclusion to be drawn is that they had communicated the infection, a conclusion which is strengthened by the following fact.

The first case on the Central Road occurred, on the same day and in the same month the third of June at Marudenkudaveli, 136 miles from Jaffna, in the person of a female Immigrant who was one of a gang of incoming Coolies. This leads me to believe that these Immigrants as well as those referred to in the preceding paragraph had all come from one and the same infected locality - one party being in advance

of

of the other.

Cholera next appeared at Jemporro 128½ miles from Jaffna (intermediate between the two last stations) on the 14th of June. The Patient in this case also was an incoming Immigrant a mason, and a native of the same place in India, Puttoocottay. It would thus seem decisive, that the disease was imported in all the foregoing cases from the locality above mentioned, namely, Puttoocottay.

On the 7th June an incoming Cooly, from Talaputty near Trichopoly, and another belonging to the same gang were attacked with Cholera at Allagarrowa, 146 miles

from.

from Jaffna, but they both recovered and were able to proceed to Kandy on the 11th of the month. The appearance of Cholera at this Station led to the infection being communicated, first to the Patrol who attended on the sick Coolies and next to a little girl who lived in the Patrol's house and then to his wife. In all these ~~three~~ cases the disease proved fatal.

The next appearance of Cholera was at Matakachchu, 106½ miles from Jaffna, a Principal Station where the incoming and outgoing Coolies meet. The first case here was that of a moonish girl, who lived in the Bazaar

and

and who had sold certain articles the night preceding to Immigrant Coolies who had then arrived. She was attacked on the 11th June and died on the same day. Another case occurred on the 13th in the Bazaar at this Station; that of a Dhoby who was living near the Bazaar where the first fatal case appeared. A third fatal case occurred on the 13th in a road Cooly who also lived in the Bazaar.

The Bazaar people, and the Immigrants who halt at Matakachchu, resort to a stream which issues from the tank in the place and which runs close to the road, for the purposes of bathing, washing

washing their clothes and
for providing themselves with
water for drinking and
cooking. It is therefore most
probable that the contagious
poison was communicated in
these instances either by the
water so indiscriminately used
or by intercourse with the
Coolies.

Another instance of
infection appeared on the
13th June in a party of
three telegraph Coolies, they
were employed for some time
on the Central Road where
Cholera had broken out since
the 3^d instant, lodging in
the Bungalows occupied by
the Coolies. They had been
in perfect health till two
of them were attacked with
the

the disease when returning to
Mannar, at a place called
Callycattocaddo which is
about 8 miles distant from
that Station.

One died and the
other recovered.

On the 14th of June a
case occurred at Oylancolom,
8 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Mannar, in
the person of a woman
named Cavuspay, outgoing
Cooly, who died in the night.
She was accompanied by
about six Coolies, who had
been travelling through the
infected Cooly stations.

On the 14th June of a
gang of 50 Coolies, coming
from the coast of India one
was attacked with the disease
at a place called Kalaar

or

or Chetty. Colom, about twelve miles from Maanbolam, (43 miles from Manniar) to which station the patient was brought. He died on the same day.

At Marnderbolam, 117 miles from Taffna, the first case occurred in an incoming Cooly who was admitted into the hospital on the 15th June and recovered.

At Mehintalo 119 1/2 miles from Taffna, on the 15 June an Arab trader and a Cooly girl coming from India were attacked with Cholera and were attended by the Medical Practitioner and recovered.

On the 16th June at Matakachche two immigrants
from

from the Coast were brought by their friends to the Hospital and given in charge of the Gangang and Patols, one of the patients had come from Palacottah and the other from Aranthangy. Both cases proved fatal.

Four other cases were also admitted on the 17th June the patients were Immigrants from India. All of them had been seen by the Medical Practitioner, who gave me this information. Three of the cases terminated fatally.

On the 18th June at Rambau, 112 miles from Taffna, two fatal cases occurred among the incoming Coolies. Both were found dead on the roadside and their names and whence they

they had come were ascertained from the mother and wife of the deceased.

Another fatal case occurred in an Immigrant from the Coast at Gulcedom 125 1/2 miles from Tappu, the patient was seen by Mr. Fetz, Superintending Officer of the Roads who gave me this information.

On the 18th June at Alagamara a Cooly coming from the Coast was seized with the disease and was treated in Hospital and recovered on the 21st Instant and proceeded to a Coffee Estate named Nagalwatte in Matabi.

The disease next appeared on the 20th June on the Mannar road at Pulladereham,

23 miles from Mannar among an incoming gang of 50 Coolies, natives of Puttocotty and Perambacuddy or Coxamba-cuddy in Sevainghy near Madura. Two were attacked and recovered.

On the 22nd of the month at the same station, of a gang of 30 coolies, coming from Melasally on the coast, a girl aged 12, was attacked and died. Her brother who accompanied her gave the Patrol this information.

At Pesalo on the 23rd June two outgoing coolies were seized with the disease, one died and the other recovered and proceeded to the Coast.

The disease appeared on the

the Central Road at Serupenne
on the 23rd June in two Coolies
who came from Salapetty
and Muvattur near Trichinopoly.
One died.

On the same day at
Matakachche an incoming
Cooly was carried affected with
the Cholera to the shed by
some of the gang and given
in charge to the Gangang.
The case proved fatal.

On the following day
24th June a child was found
dead close to the station,
supposed to have died of
Cholera.

On the 24th at Maru-
denkadavali two moonish traders
from India were seized with
the disease and died. They
were on their way to Matalé

On

On the 27 of the month
an incoming Cooly was found
dead at Maencolom,
supposed to have died of
Cholera.

On the same day a
Sinhalese who was returning
from Anuradhapura was
seized with the disease on
the road to Maroodencuda
and was brought to the
Hospital at that station and
died.

On the 28 two Coolies
coming from the coast and
both of them natives of
Sevasinghy were admitted into
the Hospital at Serupenne
with the disease, but recovered.

At Pisale on the same
day a Cooly who landed from
the Brig "Reheymain" had

Choleraic

Choleraic diarrhoea and recovered.

On the Mannar road on the 29th June at Kombensange Colom 18 miles from Mannar, a fatal case occurred in a Cooly who was coming from the Coast.

On the same day on the Central Road at Marudentkudaveli an outgoing Cooly was seized with Cholera and died on the 30th.

On the same day at Serupanni, a Cooly girl coming from Serasinghy in India was attacked and recovered.

On the same day at Hatakachchu an Immigrant coming from Mannar was found dead near the 110th mile.

It

It is supposed that he died of Cholera.

On the second July at Marudentkudaveli two Immigrants coming from India were attacked with the disease; one died and the other recovered.

On the same day at Alagannawa, the next station, an Immigrant Cooly was brought into Hospital from a distance of two miles, he recovered and proceeded to Kandy. On the 11th Instant at the same station a Cooly coming from the Coast was attacked and recovered and proceeded to Kandy.

At Kombensange colom, 19 miles from Mannar, on the 29. July, a cooly coming from the

the Coast was found dead on the road, he belonged to a gang of 50 coolies, who had slept in the shed the previous night. From the deceased's appearance there was no doubt that he had died of Cholera.

From the above statement of facts, elicited during the course of my enquiry, it appears beyond the shadow of a doubt that Cholera had not existed on the Marriar and Central Roads previous to the third day of June last, when the disease first appeared, having been introduced by the Immigrant Coolies, who had come from India from a place called Puttocottay, successive gangs

as they moved along propagating the infection in the several stations above mentioned.

It appears also from the Records kept at the Port of Pesalo by the Health Officer that the arrivals during June were very numerous, no less than 8,755 Immigrants having arrived in that month who travelling in detached parties became the means of introducing the disease along the whole line of road leading to the Central Province.

It is also a fact that the Coolies on their arrival at the Port quickly move on to the stations provided for them and from what I have ascertained, I find that some of them have been able

to reach Matakachchu, a distance of 52 miles, on the third day. They arrive at the Port apparently in good health, but with the disease in a state of incubation and as they proceed on their journey, performed very often by hasty stages, the cold and damp of a jungle country, sleeping on the roadside at night, without protection against malarious influences, unwholesome food and water, absence of all cleanliness, these and such like causes tend to develop the germs of the disease with which they are already impregnated, and which breaks out generally at periods, varying from two to

to five days of their arrival in Ceylon.

The immigrant Coolies who suffer from Cholera, during their journey, infect not only the passengers on catmen whom they meet on their way, but the Bazaar people also at the different stations at which they arrive whereby they create as it were, so many from which the disease spreads from the Central Road, by successive outbreaks, into the Provinces.

I find that of Coolies returning from Kandy a very small proportion amounting to only four in number were affected with the disease (out of an aggregate of 63 attacked) having become infected

infected on their journey
by intercourse with the
incoming Immigrants among
whom the first outbreak on
the Mannar and Central
Roads occurred so early as
on the 3rd June in which
month the largest arrivals
from India took place as
already stated.

I would further observe
that Coolies returning from
Kandy receiving the infection
from their incoming fellow
Countrymen whom they met
with on the road and
with whom they freely mix
are not unlikely to carry
with them the seeds of the
disease to their native land
which may account for the
fact of the Cholera having
appeared.

appeared at Davipatam
among the Passengers from
Pisalo, the disease not
existing at the time at
Davipatam

From enquiries made
at Mannar from the oldest
inhabitants of the place, it
appears that Cholera was
introduced among them
originally by natives of
India, crossing over to
Talamannar, whence the Tappal
formerly passed over to
Jennyaddy in Ramissaram
and India. Passengers to
Ceylon came by the Tappal
boats by the same route as
also Pilgrims from India
by whom the disease was
brought into Talamannar
whence it spread to Pisalo

and to the town of Mannar
passing on to Vengala and
other places on the mainland
Mr. Bulmer who was sub-
Collector at Talmanmar from
1849 to 1859 informs me
that it was the general
belief that the Indian
Coolies and Pilgrims were
instrumental in importing
this fatal disease. Gangs
of Coolies first commenced
to come over to Ceylon
in 1837. Mr. Bulmer recollects
that in 1843 Cholera first
made its appearance at
Talmanmar with the Immigrant
Coolies proceeding to Kandy
and that it prevailed subse-
quently in an epidemic form.
Coolies had been passing
backwards and forwards through
Mannar

Mannar for upwards of 30
years, but no measures were
adopted for their protection
till 1862. when the immigra-
tion service was organised
by Government.

In consequence of the
introduction of Cholera, the
population in several villages
in the vicinity of Mannar
has been considerably reduced
in number, as testified to by
the Assistant Government
Agent of Mannar in a
communication addressed to
the Jaffna Cholera Commis-
sioners 15th April 1867. I quote
his own words, Mr. Twynham
says, "Year after year the
sickness has been introduced by
the immigrant coolies, and
village after village has died
out.

65
out or been so reduced
that only one or two
families remain, and the
Country for some distance
on each side of the Manner
Marawatchy road in the
Manner District is fast
becoming a desert.

I must confess that
I regard with some degree
of surprise that any question
should have been raised
by the authorities in India
as to the importation of
Cholera into India from
Ceylon, when it is universally
acknowledged in this Province
that the disease is brought
from the coast of India,
the birthplace and head
quarters of Cholera.

The Cholera Commission

appointed

appointed by His Excellency,
the Governor on the 3rd March
1867 to enquire into, and report
upon, the causes which led
to the outbreak of Cholera in
the Jaffna Peninsula, after
an extended enquiry express
themselves in the following
terms " we have established
beyond doubt, the facts of its
having been introduced into the
Peninsula, from India, both
directly by sea and more
circuitously by the Central
Road, and of its having
spread from Village to
Village, by human intercourse,
thus confirming the opinion,
now generally entertained,
respecting the transmissibility
and mode of propagation
of Cholera."

I have.

(Signed) Wm C. Ordreffe
Actg Colonial Surgeon.

W 32

Colonial Secretary's Office
Colombo 20 Oct 1870.

Sir,

I am directed by
the Governor of Ceylon to
transmit to you for the
information of the Right
Honble the Governor of
Madras in Council copy
of a Report by the Principal
Civil Medical Officer and
Inspector General of Hospitals
in Ceylon on the origin
and progress of the present
outbreak of Cholera in
this Island.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most Obedt Servant.

Wm. P. Loring.
Colonial Secretary

The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George.

In Public 1922/70.

Oct. of 1870 Madras

Public

The Sanitary Commission?

Oct. 17

22024

G. O. 17 Nov. 1870, No. 426.

Nos. 86. 87.

my. Letter from the Colonial
Secy. Colombo, transmitting copy
of a Report by the M.D. Civil
Med. Officer & Insp. Genl. of
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and progress of the present out-
break of cholera in that
Island.