

ORDINARY, MS.

Public DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED 19-9-92
No. 657

INDEXED.

When given for copying.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Re increased mor-
tality in 1st 9th 192
in the Cuddalore
district & improve
a collection the chief
of seeing that timely
medical relief is
afforded whenever se-
rious outbreaks of
cholera fever oc-
cur —

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 26th July 1892, No. 536 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from W. DUMERGUE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 16th July 1892, Ref. on Current No. 3531 :—

In reference to Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 4638, dated 20th May 1892, I have the honour to state that the question of increased mortality during the months of January, February and March last was referred to the Sub-Collector and the Head-quarter Deputy Collector for personal investigation and report as to the true causes of deaths in their divisions. The Sub-Collector was also furnished with a list of villages in each of which there were five and more than five deaths in it. The Sub-Collector reports that not a single death occurred from starvation and that the cause for the increased mortality was due to the prevalence of fever of a bad type aggravated by bad weather in the Pilér division from the beginning of 1891. The report being very interesting and exhaustive and having been drawn up carefully after personal inquiry by the Sub-Collector, I beg to forward a copy of the same for Board's perusal. The appendix A referred to by the Sub-Collector in the report being a voluminous one is sent in original, which I beg may be returned when no longer required.

2. With regard to the increased number of deaths in the Cuddapah taluk during the month of April last, the General Charge Deputy Collector states that the slight increase of deaths was due to improved registration in the villages of his division.

3. Under the above circumstances I beg to state that no undue proportion of deaths among the poorer classes occurred for want of food. The averages quoted in the statements for January, February and March under reference have been correctly prepared in this office and the mortuary returns concerned in the averages and in the figures for 1892 refer to the same population.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. N. ATKINSON, Esq., Sub-Collector of Cuddapah, to the Collector of Cuddapah, dated July 1892.

I have the honour to submit the report called for in your reference on current No. 3531, dated 1st June 1892, communicating memorandum, Mis. No. 4638, dated 20th May, from the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.

2. The Commissioner drawing attention to the large mortality in the Váyalpád taluk during January, February and March 1892, asks that it should be ascertained—

- (1) Whether any undue proportion of the deaths occurred among the poorer classes.
- (2) Whether the cases of death were normal or special.
- (3) Whether the averages quoted by him have been correctly prepared and whether the mortuary returns concerned in the averages and in the figures for 1892 refer to the same population.

3. The last question I leave you to answer, as the averages are prepared in your office.

4. You have given a list of 27 villages wherein in one month or the other the deaths from fever exceed 5. I take it that my inquiry is to be limited to these 27 villages.

5. In the first place it is worthy of notice that, with the exception of 5 villages, viz., Váyalpád, Pattegada, Gundloor, Gangapuram and Tsakoravupalle, every one of these villages is in the Pilér division, where, as the Commissioner is aware, the season, though far from being generally a good one, was certainly not disastrous. Still more remarkable is the fact that the two or three villages in the Pilér division that had a fair, if not good, season are included in the list. In Pilér, Regallu, Doddepally, the rains were copious, all tanks received full supply, and both wet

and dry crops afforded ample employment for labourers and yielded a very fair outturn. The same is true in a slightly lesser degree of Gudarenupally, Motumallala, Mudupulavemula, Poddamallala, Jaundla, Vepulabyle, Rompicherla and others.

6. These deaths have been ascribed by the Registering officers to fever and I may add that my attention has been continually drawn to the universal prevalence of a fever of a bad type in the Pilér division from the beginning of 1891.

7. On 11th January 1891 the Deputy Tahsildar of Pilér writing from Bommayagaripally, a village surrounded by various villages named in your list, says: "People are very severely attacked with fever." On 19th January 1891 he makes a similar remark of Pilér itself. From 1st August onwards there is scarcely a day noted in the Revenue Inspector's diaries without a reference to the severe fever prevalent in every village visited. During my own tours in the Pilér division and in the central parts of the Váyalpád taluk during August and September 1891, I had noticed the same thing everywhere. Of the villages named in your list, I had found a bad type of fever extensively prevalent in Chinnagottigal, Pattagada, Errovaripolem, Chatta-varipolem, Chittecherla, Motumallala, Poddamallala, Vepulabyle and Rompicherla. I mentioned the fact in several of my season reports at the time.

8. Looking to these facts therefore there was, I submit, every reason on *a priori* grounds to anticipate during 1891-92 a high death-rate in the Pilér division and a death-rate due not to starvation or anything approaching it, but to fever, probably aggravated in type, as usually happens by unseasonable weather.

9. All that I have said above applies *mutatis mutandis* to the five villages of Váyalpád, Pattagada, Gundloor, Gangapuram and Tsakeravupalle. Though these are in an affected tract, it hardly ever attained the seriously affected denomination. In Váyalpád there have been ample means of employment on the railway and elsewhere. The ordinary wage for the day labourer has in the village remained steady at 4 annas. Pattagada is a poor village, situated high among barren hills, but the railway runs within 3 miles, where employment could generally be got, up to, at any rate, the beginning of the current year. Gundloor and Tsakeravupalle are comparatively speaking rich villages lying on the banks of the Bahada river and even in the last disastrous year they grew considerable extent of wet crops. Gangapuram is a poor village near to Gundloor. In the latter there has been a relief work open for three months past, a tank work it is true, given on contract to a ryot, and therefore in my opinion no great test of distress. However that may be, the numbers resorting to the work have never exceeded 50 or thereabouts, and when I inspected the coolies lately they were every one strong and hearty.

10. In every one of the above five villages there has been abundant employment to be had in digging wells, the wage to be earned in which was always 3 to 4 annas for a man.

11. However, to put the matter as far as possible beyond the possibility of doubt, I have either myself made or caused to be made under my superintendence inquiries into the circumstances and cause of death of each person who is registered as having died of fever in as many of the villages as possible. The results are embodied in appendix A attached to this report.

12. My inquiries have extended to the 15 villages marginally noted. Of the remaining 12 the registers in 2 are said to have been lost; in 3 cases the karnams can give no information as to the individual deaths; and in 7 the registers are with the village magistrates who have not turned up and for whose arrival I am unwilling to detain this report.

13. The inquiries have embraced 241 cases, in 204 of which the circumstances of the individual and cause of death have been given. The figures, that is the numbers of deaths in each village, do not tally with those in the statement appended to your reference under reply, as I have taken each death from "fever" in each of the three months, January, February, March, whereas you have noted only those where the figures exceed five for the month.

14. The results of the inquiries in each of these 241 cases are given in the appendix A to this report, and the results are further abstracted in appendix B.

15. In the latter I have divided the cases first into castes showing—

- (1) Brahmins.
- (2) Komaties, Chetties and the trading castes.
- (3) Kapoos, Kammahs, Baligas, Gollas, Ekaris, the weaving castes, and all others employed generally in agriculture, manufactures and the like.
- (4) Muhammadans and Dadokulas.
- (5) Malas and Madigas.

16. Secondly, I have endeavoured to distinguish between the circumstances in life of each individual, as—

- (1) Good.
- (2) Moderate.
- (3) Bad.

1. Váyalpád.	9. Mudupulavemula.
2. Ellamanda.	10. Digavoor.
3. Regallu.	11. Gundloor.
4. Pattagada.	12. Gangapuram.
5. Errovaripolem.	13. Poddamallala.
6. Motumallala.	14. Vepulabyle.
7. Talupula.	15. Maddopalla Mandlapally.
8. Rungannagarigada.	

Of course the whole interest of this classification centres round the last, the "bad" class, and everything depends on whether I have classified the cases correctly. The classification has been made entirely by myself. I have endeavoured to be absolutely fair. Generally speaking among the "bad," I have placed all beggars, of course; all those living solely by daily labour, and all those who, though possessed of a scrap of land, cannot depend on it apart from daily labour for their maintenance. As specimens of cases classed under "bad," I quote No. 2 of Mudupulavemula, a Kumara childless widow, of whom it is said "she was selling arrack till her death and she was living with the second wife of her husband. The second wife used to do cooly work and feed the old woman."

Number 6 of Erravaripolem, a Mala widow, aged 30, of whom it is said was doing cooly work and was getting 1½ annas per diem. She was getting enough cooly work till her death in the fields and at wells dug under Land Improvement Loans Act.

Number 7 of Maddopattavandlapally, a Mala widow, of 60 years, "no sons," was doing cooly work, thereby getting 1½ annas every day. She got continuous employment. Her relations also were helping her. Number 11 of the same village, a Madiga man, aged 25, who "was doing cooly work, and getting thereby about 2 annas every day; he had steady employment till his death."

17. If it be conceded that I have classified the cases fairly, then there were only 27 in bad circumstances as against 117 in moderately and 60 in good circumstances. It is out of the question to suggest that any one of these latter died of starvation. It would be an absurd and indefensible proposition to assert, not only without evidence but in the face of all the evidence, that the 27 in poor circumstances died of any cause other than that assigned.

18. Lastly, I have endeavoured to classify the deaths either as—

- (1) Not due to starvation.
- (2) Due to starvation.
- (3) Doubtful.

I find not the remotest ground for inferring or suggesting that starvation was the cause of death in 198 cases. There is not a single case which I can with any degree of certainty assign to starvation. In six cases only I have thought that there was a possibility for the most captious to entertain doubts. The circumstances of each of these cases are noted in the remark column of appendix B. I fancy that a perusal of these remarks will convince most people that my doubts were unnecessary.

19. In paragraph 6 of Resolution No. 429, dated 13th June 1892, reviewing the fortnightly narrative of the sub-division for the period ending 31st May, the Commissioner has requested you "to ascertain if possible, whether there is an abnormally high mortality in this (Váyalpád) taluk or whether there is reason to suppose that there has been any improvement in registration."

20. My own impression is that there may have been some improvement in registration,

				Births.
April	1891	..	..	180
May	"	..	..	228
June	"	..	..	202
July	"	..	..	266
August	"	..	..	291
September	"	..	..	235
October	"	..	..	276
November	"	..	..	266
December	"	..	..	243
January	1892	..	..	167
February	"	..	..	213
March	"	..	..	174

Number of patients treated in Pflér dispensary.				Number suffered from fever.	
1891.				Totals.	
April	..	..	..	364	70
May	..	..	..	474	83
June	..	..	..	430	100
July	..	..	..	403	79
August	..	..	..	282	71
September	..	..	..	300	84
October	..	..	..	418	130
November	..	..	..	500	230
December	..	..	..	410	261
1892.					
January	..	..	..	538	264
February	..	..	..	376	139
March	..	..	..	410	218
April	..	..	..	518	321
Total				5,573	2,050

but not enough to account for the large increase in the mortality figures. The births show no corresponding increase. Indeed there has been a falling off since the beginning of the year as the marginal figures will show. The cause of the high death-rate is that the Pilér division, in which the increase is most marked, is always unhealthy, being hemmed in on two sides by jungle-clad hills, with many minor groups and ranges of hills cutting and crossing it in all directions, while last year the very unseasonableness of the weather, the parching winds through July, August and September, followed by the excessive rainfall of October, were certain to increase every unhealthy condition. The badness of the climate is notorious to those who dwell in the neighbourhood. The late Tahsildar of Váyalpád told me once that he never went to Pilér without falling sick. Two Deputy Tahsildars since I joined the division have been debilitated by the climate. Those of the Railway Engineers stationed at Pilér were prostrated one after the other, one of them dying within a month or two of leaving the place. The Local Fund salary results school of Rompicherla lost half of its pupils last cold weather on account of the scourge of fever. Finally the statistics of attendance at the Pilér dispensary tell the same story. I give them in the margin.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

Village.	Caste.						Circumstances at death.				Cause of death.				Remarks.
	Brahmins.	Komties and traders.	Kapus, kammias, cultivators.	Mahomedans and Judekulias.	Males, Madigas.	Unknown.	Good.	Moderate.	Bad.	Unknown.	Not starvation.	Starvation.	Doubtful.	Unknown.	
1. Vayalpád.	..	1	14	..	3	..	6	7	5	..	18	..	..	..	(a) I enter two cases as doubtful as they were beggars, but it is said that they died at the time of ragi harvest when they got sufficient alms. One was a child aged 5.
2. Ellamunda	..	..	12	..	1	..	5	7	1	5	14	..	..	..	
3. Regalla	..	..	9	..	3	..	1	7	..	..	9	..	..	..	
4. Padagada	..	..	7	..	..	..	2	5	..	1	7	..	..	..	
5. Eravaielam	..	..	11	..	..	..	7	6	..	16	10	..	..	..	
6. Motumallala	..	..	13	..	1	..	4	6	3	2	11	..	..	..	
7. Talupua	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
8. Rangannagarigada	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(b) The doubtful case is a Mahomedan shepherd only. The village magistrate, himself a Mahomedan, says he ceased did not die of starvation. He was being water from a channel, fell into it because sick and died 15 days afterwards. Probably death from internal injury.
9. Undupalavenka	..	..	7	..	..	..	1	7	1	..	9	..	..	..	
10. Diganoor	..	..	16	..	..	..	1	14	1	..	16	..	..	..	
11. Gundloor	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	3	..	4	3	..	..	..	(c) The two doubtful cases are those of two beggars, mother and daughter, aged 25 and 9, respectively, of Jayam caste, strangers to the village. They died at the time of ragi harvest. It is most unlikely that they died of want.
12. Gungapuram	..	..	5	..	2	..	1	4	2	..	7	..	..	..	
13. Pedamallala	..	..	39	..	8	..	10	31	4	2	43	..	..	..	
14. Vepnabye	..	..	6	..	2	..	3	5	..	3	8	..	..	..	(d) The one doubtful case is that of a child, 4 years old, son of a beggar woman. It is stated that the mother got enough by begging to feed herself and child.
15. Madappatia, Nandapally.	..	..	9	..	3	..	7	7	3	1	16	..	..	..	
Total ..	1	9	175	5	28	20	60	117	27	37	198	..	6	37	

Resolution—dated 26th July 1892, No. 536.

Mr. Atkinson's interesting report on the increased mortality in Váyalpád will be submitted for the information of Government.

2. Ever since July last, the number of deaths reported in Váyalpád has been in excess of the average, and Mr. Atkinson shows—

(1) that the excess is due to fever and to fever only, and was not due to want ;
 (2) that the fever was most severe in, and was mainly confined to, the villages never seriously affected ;

(3) that the increase is correctly reported and not due to improved registration.

A statement is appended showing that, during the whole of the 15 months ending in March last, the birth-rate was lower than usual, and especially so during the first six and the last three months of the period, and that the births reported in the last three months of the period were only six less than the number in the corresponding months of 1891.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
 Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Collector of Cuddapah, with enclosure returned.

Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.

APPENDIX.

STATEMENT showing the number of births and deaths reported in Váyalpád from January 1891 to March 1892 as compared with the average.

Month.		Number of deaths.		Number of births.	
		Average.	1891.	Average.	1891.
January	1891	181	172	249	220
February	"	140	139	208	176
March	"	161	127	217	165
April	"	153	100	200	180
May	"	141	131	309	226
June	"	127	138	233	202
July	"	160	169	281	266
August	"	149	187	278	291
September	"	162	213	307	235
October	"	175	245	301	276
November	"	187	302	262	266
December	"	192	418	248	243
Total ..		1,918	2,431	3,159	2,745
			1892.		1892.
January	1892	181	343	249	167
February	"	140	328	208	213
March	"	161	361	217	174
Total ..		482	1,032	674	554

ORDER—dated 30th August 1892, No. 912, Revenue.

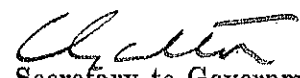
Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

2. With reference to the remarks of the Sub-Collector and the Collector regarding the great mortality from fever in the

Váyalpád taluk, His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that steps should have been taken by the Collector of the district to afford medical relief to the inhabitants of the villages affected by the disease, by applying to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras for the assistance of a Hospital Assistant or two to itinerate with medicines and also by supplying heads of villages with suitable medicines for distribution in the villages. Measures of this nature appear to be the most suitable under the circumstances and should in future be adopted whenever serious outbreaks of illness such as cholera, fever, &c., occur. The Board of Revenue will issue a circular to all Collectors impressing upon them the duty of seeing that timely medical relief is afforded in such cases.

(True Extract.)


Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
„ the Public Department.

Exd. J. Moses.

60 Copies.

Public Sept.

Govt. of {1892} Madras.
REVENUE.

N
Order, 19th Sept/92. No. 657

*bound. to the Surgeon
General and to the
Sanitary Board.*

*S.D.B.
16/9*

*X
1884*

Issued

Recd.

Encl. "

15 SEP 92

G.O., 30th August 1892, No. 912.

AUGUST.

Increased mortality.

Board's Proceedings submitting report of the Collector of Cuddapah on the question of — in the district during the months of January, February and March 1892, recorded with the remark that the Board of Revenue should issue a circular to all Collectors impressing upon them the duty of seeing that timely medical relief is afforded whenever serious outbreaks of cholera, fever, &c., occur.

*Surgeon General
Sanitary Board*

RECEIVED

23 SEP 92

IN M.S.

21/9

BACK PAPER, No.

OF 18

FURTHER PAPER, No. *2836/92.*

OF 18

READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
18, No. , MISCELLANEOUS.

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

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