

ORDINARY, MS.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O., DATED *17-3-93.*

No. *224.*

When given for copying.

[Despatch Abstract.]

*Com the Suppt
to the Collection of
Kistna & Kelling pro
A to despt passing order
on the report relating
to the outbreak of
cholera on the Buck
mgham Canal—*

CURRENT NO.

Public

Pub. Co. No. 48927-5-92

IRRIGATION.

Gobt. of {1893} Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

N
Order of 17-3-93 P. 224
bound: to the Surgeon
General and to the
collectors of Kistna
and Vellore.

Dated February, 24th.

Recd. 14-3-93

Encl.

4.5.13
15/3
16 hands
16/3

G.O., 24th Feb. 1893, No. 190 L.

Sup. Secy to Govt. Rev. Dep't.
for

FEBRUARY.

Cholera

Passing orders on the report relating to the outbreak of — on the Buckingham Canal in six Radaree boats containing the families of the 9th Regiment, Madras Native Infantry, proceeding to Madras.

Sur. Genl.
Govt. of Madras
N. Moore
DESPATCHED
18 MAR 93
IN M.S.

WITH ORDER

BACK PAPER, No.

OF 18

FURTHER PAPER, No.

OF 18

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

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

4.5.13
copy

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL (not paged).

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
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P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.

6. I have also warned the Municipal authorities at Madras to be in readiness in the event of cholera being carried to the Madras wharf.

7. I would point out that both this outbreak and also the one that occurred in 1891 were brought from the Godavari and Kistna canals, and it would appear that stricter quarantine measures are there necessary to stop boats and thus prevent infection being carried over along line of canal.

8. A further report will follow when more definite information has been received regarding the progress of the outbreak.

ENCLOSURE.

From the Sub-Division Officer, North Sub-Division, to the Executive Engineer, Buckingham Canal, dated 23rd January 1893.

In continuation of the cholera report from the wharf superintendent of Kottapatam sent to you yesterday, I have the honour to inform you that the six *Radare* boats referred to in the above report contain 400 souls (*i.e.*, men 110, women 141, children 149), families of the men of the 9th Regiment, Madras Native Infantry, proceeding to Madras in military charge of Subadar Ramasawmy and in medical charge of Military Hospital Assistant Ramasawmy Pillai.

The six boats started from Bezvada on the 15th instant. The first attack of cholera occurred on the 18th January and the first death from the epidemic on the same date somewhere south of Chebrole in the Kistna canal. The boats arrived at Kottapatam on the 20th instant and were promptly detained by our quarantine regulations. The following is detail of attacks and deaths between 18th and 22nd instant.

									Attacked.	Deaths.
18th	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
19th	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2
20th	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	3
21st	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	6
22nd	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	14

There was no information given to the canal authorities between Chebrole, and Kottapatam and no scrutiny of boats appears to exist at the locks in the Kistna canal. On the 22nd instant, in the morning, I inspected these boats and people and found the greatest confusion prevailing. There was no attempt at segregation; cases attacked being kept in the boats and access to them difficult, owing to there being *gosha* or *purdha* Muhammadan women. The hospital assistant was without a tent, and his supply of the needful medicines scanty, barely enough disinfectants and medical comforts. The type of epidemic was virulent and the condition and surrounding promoting the continuance and spread of the same. I at once set about to segregate the people. I procured mats and erected temporary *pandals* or coverings, got the boats cleared of everything and everybody; secured with very great difficulty 12 low caste Pariahs and, after giving them some stimulants and good wages, induced them to cleanse the boats thoroughly using carbolic acid. I secured the assistance of the sub-magistrate and the hospital assistant of Kottapatam, and with my subordinates got all the boats cleansed and ready for fumigation this evening. After thorough fumigation and observation that there are no more cases the boats will be allowed to resume their journey. The hospital assistant of Kottapatam, the military hospital assistant in charge, and the subadar have been warned to carry out all my instructions with care and obedience. Result this evening satisfactory. No fresh attacks; and of cases attacked, one was in a weak state, the others getting better. I got the women to cleanse all their clothing and boxes, &c., and thoroughly fumigated them. There was very little sulphur available; none could be had in the local markets of Ongole or Kottapatam, and supplies in dispensaries limited. I wrote to the Apothecary in charge, Ongole, to send me some sulphur, &c. Tar-fumigation was largely used and is continued all over the camp. I had to send and get some medical comforts and medicines from the Ongole market and gave a supply to the military hospital assistant, as also to the wharf superintendent. The boats are tied far apart in the 177/178 miles. I also arranged with the sub-magistrate to have temporary bazaars in the vicinity to provide these people with provisions and firewood. I anticipate good results from the steps now taken.

The hospital assistant of Kottapatam has been very attentive and worked very hard to alleviate the sufferings of these people. Every help has also been rendered by our staff during this anxious time and I beg to commend all these subordinates to your notice.

It is remarkable how these boats and passengers were despatched so miserably supplied with all that is imperatively necessary to meet such contingencies arising from epidemics.

There was an attack in a top boat on the 21st instant. The boat was isolated and fumigated. The man attacked is doing well. The hospital assistant of Kottapatam visits the wharf limits every day and every boat is stopped and scrutinised before it is allowed to proceed south. I have considered the urgency of the circumstances now existing and am erecting a cholera-shed a little south and to the west of the wharf to put cases under treatment. It will be well if you can send me the following as early as possible or to permit me to purchase them at Nellore:—

15 bottles of omum water.
10 oz. of chlorodyne.
50 lb. of sulphur.
12 lb. of carbolic acid.
9 oz. of sulphuric acid dil.

Cholera pills are useless. There is every possibility of the epidemic spreading. At Ramapatam as already reported, there were two deaths out of three attacks. At the Kottapatam village there were two deaths and at Koppalu, about 5 miles from Kottapatam wharf, the epidemic is raging badly. It is better to be quite prepared for the worst.

The panic is so great this side that it is difficult to get labour at this critical time and even to get men to drag a boat or to approach the vicinity where the epidemic prevails.

No. 343 B.C.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for information.

2. There was cholera in Bezvada a week or two ago and several deaths occurred on the Kistna Bridge works, but at present it is believed there is not much cholera at Bezvada.

7th February 1893.

(Signed) J. W. MARTIN,
Superintending Engineer.

ORDER—dated 24th February 1893, No 190 I., Public Works.

Great credit is due to Mr. H. M. Bond, Sub-Engineer in charge of the North Sub-division of the canal, for his prompt action in dealing with the epidemic.

2. The attention of the Medical Department will be drawn to the apparently insufficient supply of medicines, &c., placed at the disposal of the hospital assistant when the boats left Bezvada.

3. The Superintending Engineer, Second Circle, will see that the rules and instructions for the inspection, &c., of boats for preventing the spread of contagious diseases issued in G.O., No. 291 I., dated 19th March 1892, are in future more strictly observed on the canals of the Kistna delta.

4. The attention of the Surgeon-General and of the Collectors of Kistna and Nellore will be invited in the Public Department to the outbreak.

(True Extract.)

Whishpelt
Under-Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

CHIEF SECRETARY
14 MAR 93
GOVERNMENT

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

„ Superintending Engineer, II Circle.
„ Superintending Engineer, I Circle.
„ Sanitary Commissioner.
„ Public Department.
„ Revenue „
„ Military „

Exd: T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.

Spare Copies

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Irrigation.

READ—the following paper :—

From A. S. RUSSELL, Esq., Executive Engineer, Buckingham Canal, to the
Superintending Engineer, II Circle, dated Madras, 30th January 1893,
No. 2176.

In continuation of my telegram, dated 20th instant, I have the honour to report that cholera is now raging on the northern canal; several deaths have occurred and are daily being reported; corpses are daily found floating in canal, being surreptitiously thrown from passing boats in order to escape detention; the scare is so great that traffic is nearly suspended; labour has deserted the canal; and the supply of medicines and disinfectants is reported to be quite insufficient to cope with the attack.

2. With my endorsement No. 2135, dated 25th instant, I sent a copy of my letter to the Officer Commanding 9th Native Infantry, regarding the steps necessary to stamp out the outbreak that had occurred among the troops at Kottapatam. I now forward copy of a report from Mr. Bond detailing the steps that he has taken to deal with the outbreak in the 9th Regiment. From this report it would appear that this outbreak has nearly been subdued. I consider great credit is due to Mr. Bond for the energetic steps he took in the matter, and but for his prompt action the troops would have suffered far more severely than they have done. All concerned seem to have worked very well, particularly the hospital assistant at Kottapatam.

3. Everything possible has been done to subdue the general outbreak on the canal line and the orders of Government on the matter have been strictly followed. The necessary medicines and disinfectants have been obtained from the Medical Stores, Madras, and have been despatched by rail *via* Nellore. Sulphur is not available at the Medical Stores, and, as it is urgently wanted and is prescribed by Government for use in cholera cases, I have ordered its purchase locally. I request your sanction to this proceeding.

4. Quarantine has been established at several places along the northern canal, viz., at Kottapatam, the Paleru river, cusba, Pulicat, and Shadayancuppam lock. I am in hopes, therefore, that the disease will not be carried to Madras, where in the crowded Madras wharf, situated in the midst of Black Town, the consequences would be most serious. In spite of all precautions the disease, however, is reported to be spreading fast as it did in 1891, when dead bodies were found floating in all parts of the canal.

5. I have also enlisted the aid of the Revenue and Medical Departments, and have suggested that it is high time that a civil dispensary be established on the canal banks at a large village such as Ramapatam, in order to cope with such outbreaks; the existing dispensaries at Kottapatam and elsewhere being some miles off the canal line. It is thus at present difficult for my small establishment to procure medical assistance in time to deal with urgent cases, and to aid in instituting the necessary quarantine and preventive measures to ensure that passing boats shall not carry such epidemics along the entire canal line as happened in 1891.