128 H / 1

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
31*st March* 1877.

Famine Relief.

No. 937. Read the following letter from Surgeon-General G. SMITH, M.D., Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Fort St. George, 12th March 1877, No. 163:—

WITH reference to Proceedings, Madras Government, No. 955 (Revenue Department), dated 6th March 1877, I have the honor to report, for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council, that after a conversation held with the Sanitary Commissioner, that officer on leaving Madras forwarded to me the appended letter (dated 8th March 1877), expressive of his views regarding the sanitary inspection of districts desiderated by Government.

2. With the views expressed in that communication, touching the objects of the sanitary inspection, I am entirely in accord with the Sanitary Commissioner; but as regards the suggestions in paragraph 7 of the Sanitary Commissioner's letter, in which he desires to have medical officers of the Madras establishment for the proposed work of his own selection in whom he could place confidence, I must explain to Government that the interests of the Medical Department and of Government necessitate that the selection shall be left in my hands. To take medical men from important positions where they are doing excellent work, where they are in charge of important jails, and where their advice is of value alike to the civil authorities and to this department, and to place in their stead men of junior standing utterly inexperienced, would be an objectionable and quite unnecessary step.

3. Six medical officers† are probably on their way‡ from Bengal. Of these one, Surgeon Gray, is a native of Madras. A seventh Bengal medical officer, Surgeon Macdonald, is at present in Madras of which he is a native, and as his services also have been made available by the Bengal authorities, seven medical men become available for duty in connection with the inspection scheme of Government. Moreover, there are already two extra medical officers doing duty in the famine-stricken districts, namely, Surgeon Pedroza in the Kurnool and Surgeon Williams in the Bellary District. This raises the aggregate number available to nine.

4. I propose to place the services of the two Bengal medical officers, Surgeons Gray and Macdonald, both natives of Madras, and of the two Madras medical officers, Surgeons Pedroza and Williams, at the disposal of the Sanitary Commissioner, and to add to these the five Madras medical officers marginally noted, by which addition the aggregate of nine is provided. The pay and allowances I would propose for the four marginal officers in military employ are their actual present receipts with their regiments, together with a deputation allowance of (5) five Rupees per diem, and the

Surgeon C. J. McNally, M.D.
Do. J. C. Lawrenson.
Do. A. N. Rogers-Harrison.
Do. J Lancaster.
Do. A. J. Sturmer.

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† Surgeon W. E. Griffiths.
Do. G. Bomford.
Do. A. Barclay, M.B.
Do. Shibram Borah, M.B.
Do. P. DeHaga Haig.
Do. H. A. C. Gray.

‡ Since drafting this letter five of these officers have reported their arrival.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, *31st March* 1877.

2. His Grace the Governor in Council considers that the scheme sketched out by Dr. Cornish contemplates measures of a more permanent character than it was His Grace's intention to set on foot. What is required is a thorough and prompt inspection of the distressed districts marginally noted, in view to information being furnished to Government, with as little delay as is practicable, of the general physical condition and appearance of the people and the efficiency of the State measures of relief. This end can be best attained by a sufficient number of experienced medical officers being deputed to assist the Sanitary Commissioner in making the inspection.

Bellary.
Kurnool.
Cuddapah.
Nellore.
North Arcot.

Chingleput.
Salem.
Coimbatore.
Madura.

3. His Grace in Council, therefore, requests that the Surgeon-General will nominate the officers, and that the Sanitary Commissioner will arrange with them the details of the inspection. The detailed reports of the inspecting officers will be in the form of diaries, and will be submitted to Dr. Cornish. Brief weekly reports will also be sent by them direct to Government every Saturday. The diaries will be forwarded to Government by the Sanitary Commissioner with any remarks he may have to offer.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
,, the Sanitary Commissioner.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Financial Department.
,, **the Military Department.**
,, the Accountant-General.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

6/11/09

Govt. of (1877) Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The SURGEON-GENERAL, INDIAN
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated March, 31st.

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 31st March 1877, No. 1,284.

MARCH.

Nos. 937-938.

FAMINE RELIEF, No. 874.

Sanitary Inspection of distressed Districts.—Passing remarks on letter from the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, submitting proposals for the —; requesting the Surgeon-General to nominate the officers, and the Sanitary Commissioner to arrange with them the details of the inspection. Giving instructions with respect to the inspection reports.

1284/4

Surg Genl's letter 12/3/77.
No 105.

Propose that the S.C.
[illegible] is in inspection
[illegible] District Dr. deputing
with the Actg Dr. I think
the W.D. specification of
Ranges may be adopted
& that the remainder
Officers both attached
subordinates shd be
placed at Dr Cornish's
disposal & directed to
obey his orders & to
report to him. He being
requested to carry out
the scheme of inspection
sketched in this letter.

I understand that what is contemplated is a rapid inspection & report: not the more or less fixed establishment of a Sanitary dept in each distressed District. In the latter case - subordination & report to the Collr. wd. be proper. but not in the former in my opinion -

Copy of the report shd. go to the Collr.

The District Inspectors diaries shd. go to the Sanity Commr. weekly.

I think the rate of pay named by Dr. Smith is suitable.

Without letters send them forth if or when they want them.

ED 21/3

28/3

I agree generally but think the tendency is to assume too much the form of a permanent organisation - rather than a rapid inspection to guide us in general administration - & I should prefer men of an higher standing - Dep. S. Gen. &c - &

I cannot think that there could be any difficulty in obtaining for the emergency say 2. from British & 2 from Indian Med. D by application to Drs Gordon & Smith -

We want reports which will carry weight with the public & with India & England if we have to take any action thereon

I would therefore suggest

[illegible]

This being granted us
to Dr Smith Gordon
& Cornish — such
men would cover
much ground in a
month - detail them
to town or even village
to village inspection is
out of the question for
this present purpose —

B.C. 28/3

Friday Morning

1284/10

My dear Duke of Buckingham.

I see by the news-paper that Dr Cornish has been deputed to inspect the condition of the people on the relief-works - Considering the importance of this enquiry, it occurs to me to suggest whether much additional weight would not be given to the this being ground

to Dr Smith

Cornish —

Mean would cove

Much ground

Month - detail

shown. or even

village in quest

out of the question

this present —

Br 23

---

act by having or more

Dr associated with Dr

Cornish - and to prevent

possibility of the imputation

of a foregone conclusion, th

an experienced officer of th

British Medical ~~[illegible]~~

Service he [illegible] then employ

Dr Gordon [illegible] I am

be able to find a ma

No doubt - the duty

naturally falls upon

Dr Cornish - but as he has
already written so very
strongly on the subject it
seems possible that this
circumstance might be
taken up by the Simple
party to cast discredit
upon his conclusions, if
adverse to the doctrine
they espouse.

Yours Sincerely

Neville Chamberlain

[illegible]

The being [illegible]

to Dr Smith [illegible]

McCormick – [illegible]

Man would cov

Much ground

Month – detail

Dharm. or even vi

Village in [illegible]

out of the question

this ^present^ measure —

BM 28/3

1284/8

I think with Dr McCormick and the Surgeon General that Sanitary inspections for the present be confined to the more seriously distressed areas of the Country viz. the Ceded Districts, Kurnool, Western Taluqs of Nellore, and the Northern & western parts of North Arcot. The ^[illegible] the more [illegible] [illegible] grouped^ as suggested in the margin, 6 Ranges would I think suffice occupying 6 Commissioned Officers.

District.	Divisions.	No of officers
Bellary	2	2
1&2 3 Cuddapah Proper	1	1
4th Madanapalle Kadiry and Northern & Western parts of North Arcot	1	1
5th Kurnool Proper	1	1.
6th Cumbum & Markapur & Western Taluqs & Zamindari of Nellore	1	1.
		6

To Each officer should be attached at least one Subordinate but I would recommend that the officers in charge of the 4th & 6th Ranges be allowed 2 Subordinates Each – in all 8 – and leave to the Heads of Departments the Selection in both Cases.

I think that Dr Cornish has rightly detailed the objects of the inspection in Para 8 of his letter dated 8th March and I would accept them in general terms

In the Execution of these objects, the functions of the Officers should be those of inspectors of the Conditions of the people and of relief gangs, and of advisors of the local Officers as well as of Collectors of information for the use of the Responsible Officers of the Government through the Sanitary Commissioner.

The Officers & their assistants should be placed in Confidential and personal relations with the District Officers within their Range of observation. To these they should make their report and forward full information likewise to the Sanitary Commissioner by Diary

As regards more detailed rules for guidance I confess that I think that it is scarcely possible for Government to do more than indicate general principles of action or to lay down precise instructions as to the modus operandi. I would therefore leave details to the present able and sound judging Officer at the head of the Department in Communication with the District Officers

Dr Cornish should I think proceed to the Head quarters of Each

District and there in Communication with the District Officers prepare and place in the hands of his Staff a programme of operation and indicate precisely what is required and how the work is to be done with respect to Each Range. A Copy of these instructions should be submitted to Government with the views of the Collector for observation and, if necessary, modification. But in the meantime so far as agreed to by both, the programme should be carried out without delay by the Medical Officers detached for the duty.

Dr Cornish is already in the Districts and in Communication with Each the local officers so

So that the Commissioned Officers and Subordinates – as selected by Dr Smith – might be directed to join him at once. He would then proceed to place them in their Ranges in Communication with the District Officers, and probably would, as suggested by Dr Smith, devote some time to introducing some of them to the duty by taking them with himself on the tour of inspection, on which he is now Engaged.

21/2 Rd

Dr Cornish is ready to come down to Madras, if it be deemed desirable that he should do so, in order to agree arrangements before going on to Bellary

JM

Read letter from the Surgeon General Indian Medical Department dated 12th March 1877 No. and its enclosure

This minute be discussed — there are several points to consider

The Governor in Council approves of the arrangements proposed by the Surgeon General Indian Medical Department for placing 2 Bengal and 7 Madras Medical Officers, and 12 Madras Hospital Assistants, at the disposal of the Sanitary Commissioner for inaugurating the District Sanitary Inspection indicated in G.O. of the 6th Instant No 955 R.D; also of the procedure laid down in Para 7 of the letter above read relating to the keeping and submission of diaries by the Inspecting Officers to the Sanitary Commissioner and of the forwarding weekly abstracts of those diaries by the Sanitary Commissioner to the Collectors of the Districts to which they respectively relate and to Government. A copy of the return sent to Government will be communicated to the Surgeon General Indian Medical Department as soon as possible after receipt.

2. The distribution of the Inspecting Officers will rest with the Sanitary Commissioner in communication with the Collectors of the Districts to be inspected - regarding which the Government observe that the Sanitary Commissioner is apparently under some misapprehension, as the G.O above quoted contemplates the inspection of all the distressed Districts, commencing with the Ceded

Districts

Districts.

3. The Government will be prepared to consider favorably any proposals that may hereafter be made by the Inspecting Officers as to the necessity for detailing Vaccinators to assist them and work under their orders.

4. Of the 9 Medical Officers selected, two, Surgeons Williams and Pedroza, are already employed on famine duty, the former in the Bellary, the latter in the Kurnool District; With the exception of these Officers, whom it does not seem advisable to move from their present posts, the other 7 Officers will proceed to Bellary as suggested by the Surgeon General Indian Medical Department, and place themselves under the orders of the Sanitary

Commissioner, who will, if he thinks such a course necessary, take some or all of them with him on the tour through the Bellary District which he appears to be contemplating.

5. With reference to the objects of the Sanitary inspection as set forth in para 4 of Dr. Cornish's letter which forms an enclosure to the Surgeon General's report, the Governor in Council observes that under existing circumstances it will perhaps be better not to take 1½ lbs. of the cheapest cereal grain for an adult as the basis on which to calculate the sufficiency or otherwise of the money wages paid.

JHL

I doubt whether this need be noticed - orders have already been given on this matter

1284/14

For approval

Referring to the

Desp [illegible]

Secy of State

Consult

Read Letter from Surg^n Genl Indian Med^l Dep^t d/ 12^t March/77 No 163. & its enclosure.

G. O.

The Surgeon General Indian Medical Depart^t in his letter above read proposes to place 2 Bengal & 7 Madras Medical Officers and 12 Madras Hospital Assistants at the disposal of the Sanitary Commissioner for the purpose of ~~maingn~~ making ~~rating~~ the Sanitary Inspection directed in G. O. of the 6^th instant No 955 R. D.

WB
28/7

maintaining
making

2. The Government wish in the first instance that the most distressed districts should be taken in hand and rapidly but thoroughly inspected to this end

N.G. the Govt. sh^d see this. I concur with him in thinking that what we want is a rapid inspection & not a permanent organization This had better be expressed! LH and allot the above Medical Officers and Hospital Assistants as follows:—

	Officers	Hospl. Assts.
To Bellary Distt.	2	2
" Cuddapah with the northern & western parts of North Arcot	2	3
To Kurnool with the western parts of Nellore	2	3
	6	8

This leaves 3 Medical Officers and 4 Hospital Assistants available for other districts who will be allotted by the Sanitary Commr. as he may think most advisable. Of the 6 Officers above allotted Doctors Williaitts and Pedroza are already in Bellary and Kurnool respectively.—

3. The Government consider Dr. Cornish has correctly detailed the objects of the Inspection in para 8 of his letter which forms the enclosure to the Surgeon General's

184/16

General's letter above read, and in carrying out these objects the Inspecting Officers will be under the Sanitary Commissioner's orders and will report to him by diary weekly. ~~A copy~~ Copies of the diaries will be sent to the Collectors of their Districts for information and abstract of all the diaries in will be forwarded weekly by the Sanitary Commissioner to Government, as soon as possible after receipt, with his remarks on the margin. This abstract will be afterwards communicated by Government to the Surgeon General I.M.D.

respective

original

and will be returned after perusal & the views of Govt. has

communicated

4. The rates of pay & allowances proposed by that Officer for the 5 Medical Officers named in para 4 of his letter are approved.

5. A copy of Dr. Smith's letter will be communicated

to the Collector of Cuddapah
with reference to G. O. of the

27/3/77

Recd S 1408
GO 31 March /77
No 1284 -

C 27-3-77 R 28-3-77

S Ctte

1284/77

OFFICE OF SANITARY COMMISSIONER,
No. MADRAS, 9th March 1877.

From
The Sanitary Commissioner, Madras,

To
The Surgeon General
Indian Medical Department

SIR,

As I am just leaving Madras for the North Arcot District, I have the honor to forward Pro: of Government No 955 of 6th instant just received for your consideration.

2 In discussing the subject with you yesterday we came to the conclusion that it might be necessary to take up the Sanitary inspections of the districts as per margin, but I observe the order of Government has reference to the Bellary district alone.

Chingleput
North Arcot
Cuddapah
Bellary
Nellore
Kurnool
& probably
Salem

all districts

3. I understand that additional Medical officers are already employed in the districts of Bellary and Kurnool, and that with the six officers expected from Bengal, there will be eight available

for Special duty in the distressed districts.

4 I should myself prefer to have the Medical officers available, beginning work in the six districts just named. Bellary might be divided into two sub-districts for medical inspection.

5 The objects of Sanitary inspection should be to ascertain and report to the district officials,

(a) The condition of the people employed on relief works and in their own villages so far as the latter can be ascertained by direct inquiry.

(b) The condition of the water-supply and food supplies in the villages inspected

(c) The amount of sickness and deaths amongst the people from disease or privation.

(d) The system of administering relief to distressed persons, as regards uniformity in different localities within the division or districts.

(e) The rate and mode of payments for labor relief works, and the sufficiency or otherwise of the payment, to purchase an adequate food supply, taking the basis

of

of the dietary as 1½ lb of the cheapest cereal grain, per adult.

(f) The arrangements for medical aid to the distressed poor, and the manner in which assistance can be best given with the subordinate staff at the disposal of the local authorities.

6. I have no doubt other points will occur to you, and I shall be glad if you will note them.

7 In regard to the persons to be employed on these duties, I should myself prefer to have gentlemen who know something of the character and habits of the Southern people, if you thought it advisable to relieve some of our own officers by the young Surgeons expected to arrive from Bengal. This is a matter, however, on which you can best advise Government bearing in mind the necessities of the Medical Department as a whole. I feel however that in placing inspectors in the various districts we

necessarily depute to them much responsibility in advising the local authorities and as I have said before I should myself prefer to have officers of my own selection in whom I could place confidence, provided that the general interests of the Medical Dept. and Government would permit of the temporary deputation of selected officers for this duty.

I shall be obliged if you will kindly address me "Vellore" for the next three days

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obt Servant

W R Cornish F.R.C.S.
Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras

Rs 1408
R Gt 31 March 77
No 1284

No 926. 1877. Rev
R Gt
Dec 12 March 77

No 163

Office of Surgeon General I.M.D.
Fort Saint George 12th March 1877.

1284
19

From

Surgeon General George Smith M.D.
Surgeon General I.M.D.

To

The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department.

Sir

With reference to Proceedings Madras Government, No 955 (Revenue Department) dated 6th March 1877, I have the honor to report for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council that, after a conversation held with the Sanitary Commissioner, that officer on leaving Madras forwarded to me the appended letter* expressive of his views regarding the Sanitary Inspection of Districts desiderated by Government.

*dated 8th March 1877.

2. With the views expressed in that communication touching the objects of the Sanitary Inspection I am entirely in accord with the Sanitary Commissioner, but as regards the suggestions in para 7 of the Sanitary Commissioner's letter in which he desires to have Medical Officers

will be posted as follow:–

1 Surgeon W. C. Griffiths – Secunderabad 3rd Regt L. I.
2 – Do – G. Bomford – Bellary – 21st – Do – N. I.
3 – Do – A Barclay M.B. – Cannanore – 25th – Do – Do –
4 – Do – Wm Boalo M.B. – Wing – 21st – Do – Do –
5 – Do – P. de Haga Haig – Burmah general duty.

5. On the arrival of the third levy of 24 Hospital Assistants from Bengal a corresponding number of Madras Hospital Assistants will be available for duty, of whom twelve will be placed under the direction of the Sanitary Commissioner for the special duty referred to.

6. I note that Government request information as to the number of Medical Officers required to make a Sanitary inspection in the first instance, of the Ceded Districts. From the remark of the Sanitary Commissioner in para 4 of his letter, I gather that two will suffice and with this opinion I agree*.

7. I would suggest that the Sanitary inspectors be required merely to keep diaries – that a weekly abridged copy of this diary be sent to the Sanitary Commissioner for communication to Government, and that the Sanitary Commissioner be required to submit a copy of the same for the information of the Collector of the District in which the inspection is being made – The Government might be disposed to favor this Office with a Copy or with an inspection of the returns sent to them by the Sanitary Commissioner.

8. I would further suggest, in order that the duties may be systematically carried out, that the Medical Officers selected be directed to proceed to Bellary and to place themselves under the orders of the Sanitary Commissioner, and that the Sanitary Commissioner be requested to take them with him in his tour through the Bellary District, in order that they may be practically initiated into the work he expects them to perform – Two or three weeks of this practical work, under the direction of an Officer at once so experienced and able, will render their labours, when detached to other districts, at once practical and systematic – The distribution of these Sanitary Inspectors should rest with the Sanitary Commissioner in communication with the civil authorities.

9. It would rest also with the Sanitary

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*I should myself prefer to have the Medica available, beginning work in the six distr just named. Bellary might be divided two sub-districts for Medical inspection.

Commissioner to utilize, as he deemed most advantageous, the services of the Hospital Assistants placed at his disposal; one or more of these Subordinates might accompany the Sanitary Inspector, and Government might be disposed to strengthen their hands when necessary, by the addition to each of one or more Vaccinators.

10. Under the operation of these suggestions my proposal to provide a Medical Officer for the Taluq of Pullumpett must be regarded as withdrawn, inasmuch as the wants of that Taluq will now be included in the arrangements for the district of Cuddapah.

Enclosure to be printed

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
Geo Smith [illegible]
Surgeon General I.M.D.

1784
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Rev. 1877 Dept.
No. 1408
From
Surgeon Genl. G. Smith M.D.
Surgeon Genl. I.M.D.
To
The Secretary to Govt.
Revenue Deptt.

Dated 12th March
Despd. Recd. 13 —

No. 163
Subject
Submits proposed arrangements for the Sanitary inspection of distressed Districts

(27-3-77) (R 28-3-77)

30/3

No 1284

Read letter ~~from Surg~~ Surg: General Indian Med: Dept. d/ 12th March 1877 No. 163 & its enclosure

G. O 31 Mar 1877

The Surgeon General Indian Medical Dept. in his letter above read proposes to place 2 Bengal & 7 Madras Med. officers & 12 Madras Hospital Assistants at the disposal of the Sanitary Commissioner for the purpose of making the Sanitary inspection directed in G.O of the 6th Inst. No 955 R.D.

2. His Grace the Govr. in Council considers that the scheme sketched out by Dr. Cornish contemplates measures

~~inspection~~ of a more permanent character. Take it to be His Grace's intention to set on foot. ~~He~~ ~~[illegible] is of opinion that~~ ~~rather~~ What is required is a thorough and ~~rapid~~ prompt inspection of the distressed Districts marginally noted in view to information being furnished to Govt., with as little delay as is practicable, of the general physical condition and appearance of the people and the efficiency of the State measures of relief. This can be best attained by ~~2 or 3 of the~~ a sufficient number of ~~[illegible]~~ experienced Med. officers ~~at the~~

Bellary
Kurnool
Cuddapah
Nellore
N. Arcot
Chingleput
~~S. Arcot~~
Salem
Coimbatore
Madura

12/VI HV

~~disposal of the Surgeon General being~~ deputed to ~~[illegible]~~ assist ~~with~~ the Sanitary Commr. ~~for the purposes~~ in making of the inspection.

3. His Grace in Council therefore requests that the Surgeon General will nominate the officers & that the Sanit. Commr. will arrange with them the details of the inspection. The detailed reports of the inspecting officers will be in the form of diaries ~~& while~~ to be submitted ~~[illegible]~~ Dr. Cornish ~~[illegible] with any remarks [illegible] to Govt. [illegible] weekly report to Govt.~~ ~~a brief~~ intelligence weekly reports ~~[illegible]~~ sent by the officers direct to Govt. every Saturday — The diaries will be forwarded to Govt. by the Sanit. Commr. with any remarks he may have to offer.

28/3/77 J.H.S.

Issued copy to the Surgeon General for report & orders
5 P of 13 April /77
5 do the Sanitary Commissioner for do
35 the Board of Rev
5 the Finance Dept

100/6