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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

DEPARTMENT

Revenue

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	2725	Press. / Mis.
Dated	14.9.1877	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

14th September 1877, No. 2,725.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 247. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th August 1877, No. 4,008.

Read the following letter from R. BENSON, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector of Cuddapah, to the Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated Kodoor, 14th August 1877, No. 865.

I REGRET to have to report a severe out-break of cholera during the last few days among the Settigunta Road coolies and those employed at the forest fencing at Balpalli.

2. The disease has appeared with some virulence during the past fortnight in all the villages about here, Chujavaram, Anantarazpett, Erraguntla kota, &c., but during the last three or four days, it has settled with peculiar violence on Settigunta and its hamlets.

3. I visited Settigunta yesterday, and then learned that as many as twenty had died on the road during the previous day and about the same number at the forest fencing.

4. The coolies were scattered over some two miles of road in small parties and along a considerable length of fencing work at the Reserves. The disease appeared with equal virulence in the jungle on the road in Settigunta and throughout its hamlets, and attacked all classes alike.

5. Its origin could not be traced, nor could the cause of its peculiar violence at that time and place be discovered. The natives thought it was due to the fact that the coolies have lately eaten a good deal of grain, which is a little cheaper than rice. This grain, which is of the nature of dholl, is very valuable as food if properly cooked, and it forms an excellent addition to rice, as it supplies the nitrogenous element which is deficient in that grain. The coolies, however, only half boil it, and often keep a part till next day, when it becomes sour and infallibly produces diarrhœa in persons weakened by privation.

6. I think this state of things may have prepared the coolies to fall an easy prey to its ravages, but it cannot be regarded as the cause of the outbreak, since the disease appeared at once not only on the road but throughout the villages, and attacked the well-to-do hardly less than the poverty-stricken among the people. I can only suppose the cause was climatic and connected with the great heat and oppressiveness of the previous days.

7. I arranged for the early burial of the bodies of the dead with the usual sanitary precautions, and ordered the village and relief officers to impress on the coolies the necessity of boiling the grain thoroughly and eating it while fresh. I also directed that the coolies should not be pressed to severe exertion, while the outbreak lasted; but I did not order work to be stopped or the parties to be broken up. To do so would have been of no avail. I could not send the coolies to the Kodoor, Chitwail Road, as the distance was too great, and those who might go would be sure to bring the disease with them and endanger the 4,500 coolies at that place. Had I allowed them to go to their hamlets and draw pay as usual, I had no assurance that they would be better off, as the disease was no less prevalent in those places. My experience of former outbreaks leads me to hope and expect that this one may subside as quickly and causelessly as it arose.

No. 442.

SUBMITTED for the information of the Board of Revenue.

2. A dresser has been directed to proceed forthwith to the spot to afford medical aid.

3. Such instructions and suggestions as occurred to me have been communicated to Mr. Benson.

4. It is safer to move the parties a mile or so than to break them up.

CUD[illegible]H,
[illegible] 1877.

(Signed) J. W. JOHNSTON,
Special Deputy Collector,
for Acting Collector.

THE Board concur with the Collector in considering that it is advisable, on the occasions of such outbreaks, not to disperse the coolies. Cremation is preferable to burying for the disposal of the corpses, and should be adopted as much as possible.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

No. 248. ORDER THEREON, 14th September 1877, No. 2,725.

Miscellaneous. RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Erd. A. Raitt.

2725/2

Revenue Deptt

No. 4008

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 28th August 1877.
Read the following;

No. 865

From. The Acting Secretary to the
Board of Revenue

To. The Acting Collector of
Coimbatore

Sir. I regret to have to report
a severe outbreak of cholera
during the last few days among
the Lettygunda pearl fishers
and those employed at the
Forest fencing at Balpallay
2 The disease has also appeared
with some virulence during
the

the past fortnight in all the
villages about here. Mayavaram,
Tiruvalangadu, Eravanallur, Kotta
ur, but during the last three
four days it has settled
with peculiar violence in
Pettigunta and its hamlets.

2 I visited Pettigunta yes-
terday and then learned that
as many as twenty had died
on the road during the previous
day and about the same
number at the foregoing.

3 The active area extended
over some two miles of road
six inside pastures and along
a considerable length of fencing
and at the Pennies. The disease
appeared

with equal ve
in the jungle on the outside
Pettigunta and throughout the
hamlets, and attacked cattle
classes alike,

6 Its origin could not be traced
nor could the cause of its pecu-
liar violence at that time and
place be discovered. The native
thought it was due to the fact
that the Cooley have taken
a good deal of grass which is a
little cheaper than rice straw
which is the nature of which is
very valuable as food if properly
cooked and it forms an excellent
addition to rice as it supplies the
nitrogenous

nitrogenous element which de-
ficient in the to grain. the Coolies
however, only half boil it and often
not even a part till next day when
it is sour and unfallibly
produces diarrhœa in persons
weakened by privations.

6 I submit that the state of things
may have led to the Coolies
not feeding on their rice
wages; but it cannot be regarded
as the cause of the outbreak
since the disease affected at once
not only in the roads but throughout
the villages and attacked the
well to do hardly less than the
poverty stricken among the people.

I can only suppose the cause
was

...olics to the Kadoor, Chitumit
...ed as the distance was too
great and those who might go
...would be sure to bring the di-
...se with them and endange
the 4500 Coolies at that place.
Had I allowed them to go to
their hamlets and draw pay
as usual I had no assurance
that they would be better off
as the disease was no less pre-
valent in their places. By
experience of former outbreaks
I have reason to hope and expect
that this one may subside as
quickly and causelessly as its
arose

I have &c
D. Benson
Agt. Asst. Collr.

Agt. Assistant
Collr. Office
Camp Kadoor
Dated 11th August 1877

No. 1562

Submitted for the information
of the Board of Revenue.

2. A Dresser has been directed
to proceed forthwith to the spot
to afford medical aid.

3. Such instructions and sugges-
tions as occurred to me have been
communicated to Mr. Benson.

4. It was safer to remove the patients
a mile or so than to break them
up.

C. D. Gordon Thomson
Special Duty Collr
for Agt Collr

Cuddalore
Collectors Office
9th August 1877

The Board concur with
the Collector in considering
that it is advisable on the re-
currence of such outbreaks not
to

to disperse the coolies. Incineration is preferable to burying for the disposal of the corpses and should be adopted as much as possible.

I have &c.

(True Copy & Extract)

(Sd) H. Forbes

Ag Secretary

To The Collector of Trankebar &c.

(True Copy)

Ag Secretary

To The Addl Secretary to Govt. of M.D.

2225/7